



Masthead design by Emily Gargano / Read our newspaper online at: eischools.org

The Gingerbread House Competition
By Kaitlyn Donnelly

On December 14th, 2016, the Student Government hosted a gingerbread house decorating competition in the cafeteria. Students worked in teams and were given the same kit to get started.

There were three main categories: best overall, best use of materials, most creativity. Once the houses were decorated, they were placed in a showcase for the staff to vote on. The official winners are listed below. All teams did a wonderful job with their houses. Congrats to the winners!

Team 19 - Best Overall
Frank Nacarrato, David Smith

Team 6 - Best Use of Materials
Kenneth Scholl, Olivia Viteri, Mariella Batista, Lilly Scholl

Team 4 - Most Creativity
Sofia Costarelli, Abby Rice, Emma Rivera, Gianna Sanchez



Photos taken by Sarah Haanraddts and Kaitlyn Donnelly. See next page for more photos.

More Photos from the Gingerbread House Competition



EIMS School Spelling Bee By Emily LaMorte

The East Islip Middle School Spelling Bee took place on January 6, 2017 during periods 1-4 in the auditorium. To get into the spelling bee, a “mini spelling bee” was held in each ELA class period. The best speller in each class was given a list of words to study for the actual bee.

There were a total of 44 contestants. It took Nina Walsh, 6th grade-first place winner, 11 rounds to be the victor. Second place went to seventh grader Isabelle Irizarry-McAdam, and third place went to seventh grader Daniel Locke. Last year, a sixth grader won the bee with two seventh graders in 2nd and 3rd place. What a coincidence!

The teachers in charge of the spelling bee, were, once again, Mr. Deedy, Mrs. Mingione, and Mrs. Wagner. The spelling bee only briefly went into 4th period to determine the 2nd and 3rd place winners. Many students, staff and parents were there to see the spelling bee in action.

Congratulations to Nina, Isabelle, and Daniel! ☺



Alice in Wonderland. Jr
February 10 and 11, 2017
Photos courtesy of the Tohill Family



GAME CHAT

with Frank Cuoco and Connor Bolster

In this issue – *Ark: Survival Evolved*



Connor: Hello everyone! Frank couldn't be here today but as they say, let the show go on. In this issue, we are talking about *Ark: Survival Evolved*, a game that is still in preview on Xbox One and PlayStation 4.

In the game, you are dropped into a world full of dinosaurs where you have to survive and beat the three bosses. To access these bosses, you have to find certain types of artifacts which are located in many caves. The caves are full of bats, spiders, snakes and much more dangerous creatures.

The recent update for *Ark* added many new features like armor and weapons that you can earn for beating the bosses. The bosses are a giant spider, a giant monkey, and a giant dragon. Boss battles have 3 difficulty levels: easy, medium and hard. Take them on if you dare.

You can tame the dinosaurs by ether passive taming or regular taming. Tranquilizer darts or arrows, which can make them fall asleep, are important. After that, you feed them food, depending on what type they eat. When they wake up, they are tamed and you can craft a saddle to ride them if you think you're ready.

The game is a blast and I hope everyone can try it. See you next time!

The dinosaurs differ in size from huge to tiny.



Photos from <https://www.vg247.com>

The Quarterly Gamer Corner By Johnathan Yankus

Hey guys, I'm back! I've been thinking why not do something a little old, yet new? I know, you're confused. I'm just talking about the NES Classic Edition, released by Nintendo in November of 2016. The retail price is \$59.99. The original NES console came out in 1985. For this issue, I'm going to list the pros and cons of this new system.



Photo from <http://iwasasuperhero.com>

I'll start with the pros first. This console has many pros such as nostalgia. Lots of old timey gamers search for this just to remember what it felt like to hold that controller again. Some newbies might want to actually play with this system since there are no more originals being made. Another pro is the compact size since the original system was about 5 times bigger.



Photo from <http://pop-critica.com>

Now for the cons. How do you say bad things about something people have loved since 1985? Well, wish me luck. One of the negative aspects have been all of the fist fights people have gotten into over this console. Another con would be that it only has 30 pre-downloaded games on the console and that's it. Some people have complained that the controller cord is too short.

Well I guess that's all for now. See you in the next issue.



Welcome Adam Gidwitz By Maggie Ulrich

On December 8, 2016, author Adam Gidwitz came for a visit to our school and to the East Islip Public Library (EIPL). Our librarian, Ms. Ware, arranged this visit with help from For the Kids Foundation (FTK). The Master Readers Book Discussion Club and a few others had a writing workshop with Mr. Gidwitz. At this event, the students were able to write their own stories and share them.

Two 6th grade students won a writing contest and were able to have dinner with Mr. Gidwitz at Shandon Court. The two boys, James Buonicontri and Gabriel Smester, were winners of the “Create an Alternate Ending” contest. This author visit was made possible through the time and contributions of FTK, EIMS PTA, EIPL and the East Islip Teacher’s Association.

If you are interested in reading Mr. Gidwitz’s books here are a few titles to look up: *A Tale Dark and Grimm*, *In a Glass Grimmly*, *The Grimm Conclusion*, and *The Inquisitor’s Tale*. Beware, the Grimm series is only for people who like blood and gore!

Photos courtesy of Ms. Ware



Guest speaker: Mrs. Denise Alba
By Emily LaMorte and Chelsea Dodenhoff

On December 20, 2016, Mrs. Laube had a guest speaker come in to visit her two 6th grade ELA classes. The topic was adoption and foster care as it relates to the 6th grade novel **Bud, Not Buddy**. This was the third year in a row for Mrs. Alba to come here as a speaker.

The novel, **Bud, Not Buddy** was written by Christopher Paul Curtis and published in 1999. The story takes place in 1936 during the Great Depression. Bud Caldwell is a ten-year-old orphan, living in Flint, Michigan. Since the death of his mother four years earlier, Bud has been living in an orphanage and several foster homes.

Mrs. Alba shared her story of how she was in a foster care and was adopted. Mrs. Alba also talked about her daughters and how she adopted all of them.

In the novel **Bud, Not Buddy**, kids learn to really appreciate the fact that they have a family who loves and cares for them. Mrs. Alba also explains a lot of adoption myths. For example, parents don't have to be biological to love a child as their own.

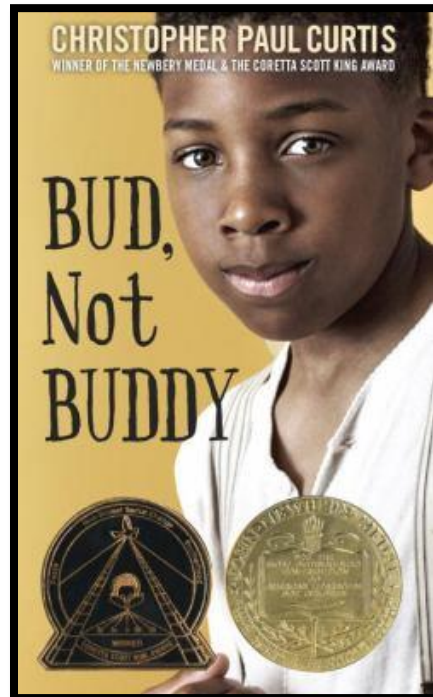
For more information, visit her website:

<http://denisealbaadopt.com>

Photos courtesy of Mss. Laube



Denise Alba
ADOPTION CONSULTING & ADVERTISING



<http://www.betterworldbooks.com>



The legend of the Easter Bunny By Taryn Kilrain



The legend of the Easter Bunny is a mystery. There are many theories about the Easter bunny out there. To children, the Easter Bunny is just a rabbit that comes to your house to hide eggs and leave baskets full of candy. The Easter bunny is actually a folkloric figure and symbol of Easter. Among German Lutherans, the Easter rabbit originally played the role of a judge, checking whether boys and girls were good or bad at the beginning of the season of Eastertide. The legend says that the Easter bunny carries colorful eggs in his baskets, candy, and sometimes toys to children's houses.

Another theory is that the idea of the bunny comes from early pagan traditions, specifically the festival of Eostre. The Celts used the rabbit as the symbol for this festival. Eostre is the goddess of spring.

Eggs also represent new life and it's believed that egg decorating dates back to the 13th century.



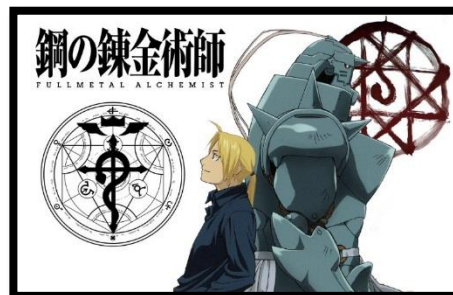
Photos from <http://www.freejupiter.com>

Upcoming Anime and Anime Movies By Maggie Ulrich

Anime is a diverse art form, dating back to the early 1900s that includes Japanese hand-drawn or computer animation.



There are many anime movies and shows around today such as Attack on Titan, Fairy Tail, One Punch Man, Fullmetal Alchemist and Tokyo Ghoul. This year offers no exception to more anime movies and shows including Attack on Titan season 2, Yu-Gi-Oh!: The Dark Side of Dimensions, Sword Art Online the Movie, Clockwork Planet, Boruto: Naruto Next Generation, Fukumenkei Noise, and Sakura Quest.



If you want to find out what some of these anime shows are all about, you can look online and on apps like Crunchyroll and Funimation. You can read what fans are saying and experience the world of anime entertainment.



Photos from <http://www.animaxtv.co.uk>

The “Andy’s Coming” Trend

By Jenna Thompsett

As many people know, Internet trends are changing every day. The “Andy’s Coming” trend is particularly popular, and many people are asking why. It came out in November of 2016, a few days after the also popular “Mannequin Challenge,” where you stay still as music plays in the background. The Andy’s Coming challenge has an interesting backstory. The challenge is inspired by the popular animated Pixar film, *Toy Story* from 1995. In the film, living toys must go limp any time their owner Andy comes into the room. Now, whenever somebody yells the phrase “Andy’s coming,” people are supposed to fall to the floor.

It may sound silly, but this trend is sweeping schools across the world. You can find videos all over the Internet of people doing this challenge. If you’re interested in watching people fall over hilariously, just look up “Andy’s Coming Challenge” on YouTube. However, the inspiration for this challenge did not just come from the original movie, but a Vine posting in 2013 of *Toy Story* characters in Disneyland falling over. These characters used to respond to the challenge by stopping and dropping, but the practice has since been discontinued by Disney for safety reasons.

Some people do not get the joke. Many people, even people who have participated in the trend do not know who Andy actually is, or just don’t put two and two together. This has spawned some funny Internet posts of people asking who Andy actually is.



Photo from <http://rebloggy.com>

What do you think about this challenge? Students responded:

“I think it’s a fun idea and a fun thing to do with friends.”- Taryn Kilrain

“It’s weird, but I know it from *Toy Story*. It can be fun, but pretty weird.”- Sarah Haanraads

“I like it, but trends can be so stupid so I probably won’t partake in it.”-Katie Donnelly

“It’s funny but gets boring and annoying quickly.”- Jake Thompsett

So all in all, this challenge is pretty fun despite it being a bit silly. Many people like the challenge, but others say it is dangerous. If you’re wondering if you should drop to the floor when you hear “Andy’s coming”, just make sure it is a safe place to drop.

For more information, visit this link:

<http://elitedaily.com/social-news/andys-coming-challenge-painful-internet-trend/1684644/>



Beauty Tips

By Melissa Lubitz

Valentine's Day is over, but you can start thinking about who your Valentine will be for next year. Here are some hacks to get you to look your best.

- 1) **DON'T GO CRAZY.** This sounds strange, but if you only stick to a bit of cosmetics, your inner beauty really shines through.
- 2) **PICK MATCHING COLORS.** This also means to pick natural browns, beiges, and black. **NEVER** go colorful. This ruins the maturity of your look. It makes you look five years old.
- 3) **DON'T GO CRAZY, part 2.** For clothes, don't go plain. However, do not pick a dress that makes you look like a disco ball. Stay simple, but not too simple.
- 4) **STAY COMFY.** Do not pick a dress that scratches you every second. Trust me, would you rather look elegant but be itching your body every 5 seconds or wear something relatively good and be able to look mature? Comfort is key.

These were a few of my girl tips and tricks. Good luck!



Hey! Look! Is that a bird or an airplane? No, it's a delivery drone from Amazon!

By Sarah Haanraadts



Amazon is planning on using drones to deliver packages in the near future. They want to have the drones deliver items in thirty minutes or less. These drones will be able to deliver small packages that are less than 5 pounds, such as a 3DS XL or a plushy.

As a trial run this past December, they delivered popcorn and an Amazon Fire TV Stick to a customer in Cambridgeshire, England. The flight took 13 minutes to travel 13 miles. They are planning to have two more trial drone deliveries in this area soon before expanding this service.

There are several things to consider when using drones: aviation rules, weather restrictions and the weight of the package. It will take some time for the drones to become a regular occurrence but this is a big step for Amazon and the world of technology.

Website used- *New York Times*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/14/technology/amazon-drone-england-delivery.html>



Skiing, snowboarding and more By Taryn Kilrain

Do you want to have fun in the snow? You should try skiing, snowboarding or tubing. These activities are very fun to do with your family and friends. I'm going to tell you about local ski resorts and places to tube, including price and trail information.

The first ski resort is Shawnee Mountain in the Pocono Mountains, Pennsylvania. Ski rental and snowboard rental fees during the day are \$35 and at night, fees are \$28. Helmet rentals are \$12 for day and night. If you don't know how to snowboard or ski, take a lesson. Private lessons for 1 hour are \$90 and each additional person is \$60. Group lessons are \$35. Snow tubing is \$22 for a two hour session and \$37 for a four hour session. They have more than 20 skiing, snowboarding and snow tubing routes available.

The second resort is Camelback Resort in Tannersville, Pennsylvania. Regular ski rentals and snowboard rentals from open to close are \$39, high performance rentals are \$49, and night rentals (after 3 pm) are \$29. (These include skis, boots and poles.) Helmet rentals are \$12, ski pole rentals are \$16 and partial rentals are \$25. Snow tubing rentals for all ages is \$25 and for military, the fee is \$23. There are more than 30 trails at this resort.

The third resort is Mountain Creek in Vernon, New Jersey. Ski and snowboard rentals are \$49.99 plus tax (includes helmet). Poles and helmets alone are \$11.99 plus tax and ski boots or snowboard boots are \$25.00. Snowboarding tickets are \$30.00 from 4pm to 8pm.

Enjoy the slopes!



Photo from <http://thatsitla.com>

Upcoming MS Events

Mar 10

MS Talent Show 6 p.m.

Mar 13

MS PTA Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Mar 28–30

New York State Grades 3-8 English Language Arts Assessments

Apr 17

MS PTA Meeting 7:30 p.m.

May 1

MS National Junior Honor Society Parent & Student Meeting 6 p.m.



				17
4	3	7	1	15
0	1	8	1	10
0	8	2	9	19
0	6	9	4	19
4	18	26	15	11

Solution to number block puzzle on p. 15

Dear Red Girl,

If you're late to class all the time, what can you do to be on time?

-Lily

Dear Lily,

If you are having trouble getting to class on time you should try to plan your day out and see what you need from your locker before your next class. Instead of chatting with your friends between classes, you can save the talking for lunch and focus on getting to your class. Make sure you know if it's an A day or B day to prevent confusion making you late for your class.

Your friend,

Red Girl

Dear Red Girl,

My brother gets into trouble a fair amount. However, he'll always throw a fit every time he does! It puts both me and my parents in a horrible mood and spoils the day. Is there any way I could avoid it without getting involved?

-Annoyed to No End

Dear Annoyed to No End,

I understand the pain of having a sibling. It's truly frustrating when your sibling makes the whole household upset and annoyed. My advice is for you to ask your brother to try and not get into trouble. Easier said than done; however, maybe if he realizes that you're affected by it, he'll try to act better. If you do not want to get involved at all, just try and listen to music with headphones and distract yourself.

Your friend,

Red Girl

Need advice? Submit your questions for the *Red Girl* to answer in our next issue of the *Redmen Reporter*. Write your letter and sign it with an alias (example: "Stressed Out 6th Grader"). Place your letter in the box at the school store or give it to Mrs. Avella in Room 118.

Dear Red Girl,

Why do we have 40 minutes for each period? -"Lisa"

Dear Lisa,

We have 40 minute long periods because we need to be in school for seven hours and our area chooses to split these hours into forty minute intervals. This has been a tradition for many years. Some educators argue that students can't stay focused in a class that is longer than 40 minutes. In other states like Georgia, they have four long periods for their main courses and two connection classes, such as FACS or physical education. In my friends' school, they have a 20 minute study hall at the beginning of the day. So, although it does vary, we have 40 minute periods because our school officials believe this is the best way for us to function at this time. Hope this helps!

Your friend,

Red Girl

Dear Red Girl,

I beat the champion in Pokemon Sun/Moon but I don't have all the Z stones. Where are they?

-Z Hunter

Dear Z Hunter,

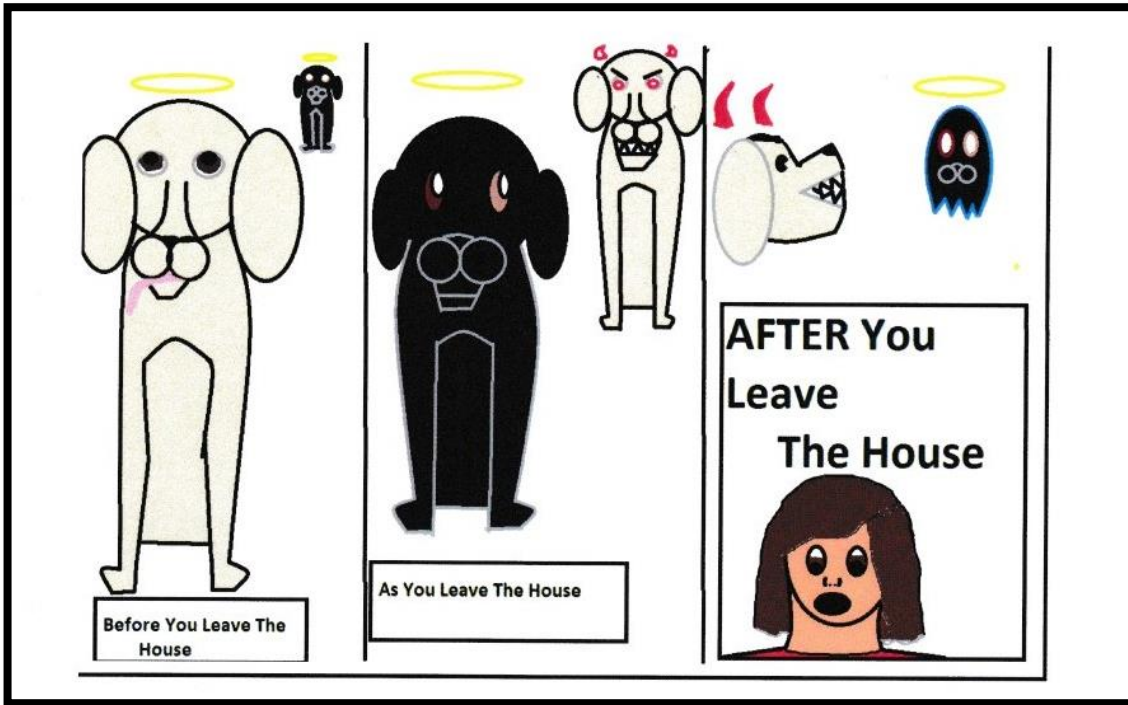
Thank you for your follow-up question on Pokemon Sun/Moon. Congrats on beating the champion! There are way too many Z crystals to discuss here but there is a lot of help on the Internet. Check out this website for an article: www.usgamer.net

Your friend,

Red Girl



Comics




Angel to Evil, By Chelsea Dodenhoff



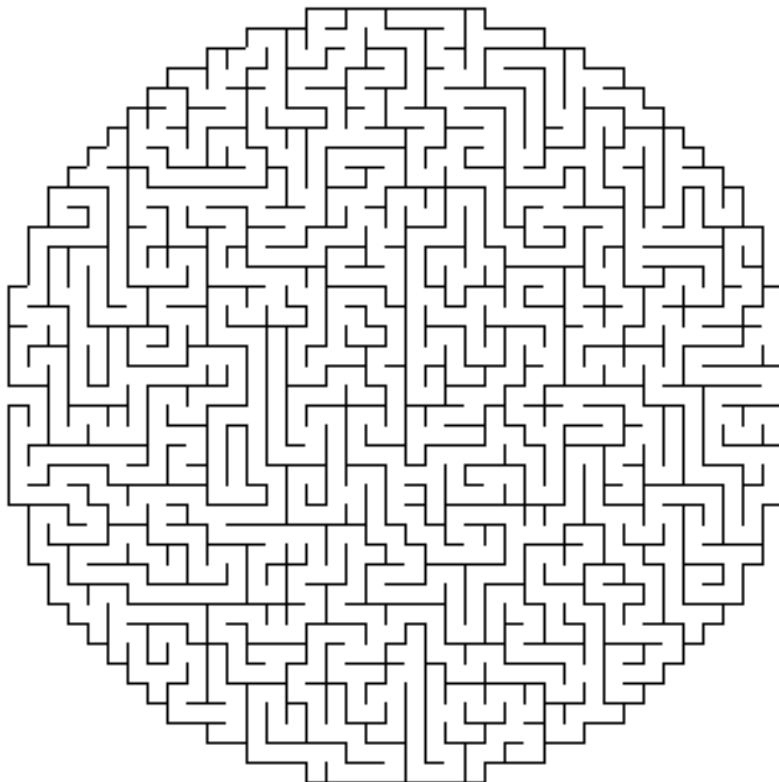
Winter Catastrophe
By Kelcie Alba

St Patrick's Day Word Scramble

By Robert Graziano

GIBPAPE	□ ○ □ □ □ ○ □	
VOLCER	□ □ □ □ □ □	
NERGE	□ □ □ □ □	
READEML	□ □ □ □ □ ○ □ □	
GDLO	□ □ □ ○ □	
LUKC	□ □ □ □	
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Maze
By Markus Higgins

Word Search: Winter Activities
By Markus Higgins

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H	S	G	I	G	C	Z	J	V	R	V	D	K	T	N
L	O	S	N	O	W	B	O	A	R	D	I	N	G	O
D	X	C	G	S	P	G	Y	X	I	H	S	I	M	W
M	E	Z	K	U	K	E	N	N	M	A	N	R	W	B
C	V	L	C	E	K	A	G	I	K	Q	W	E	H	O
Y	O	K	S	C	Y	T	T	W	T	W	H	C	H	A
D	H	G	O	X	K	S	R	E	A	A	D	I	B	R
R	I	H	S	I	K	S	T	Q	S	S	K	R	V	D
S	K	I	I	N	G	W	D	I	H	M	L	S	U	F
D	P	M	G	D	S	C	Q	K	C	O	W	U	U	E
T	W	M	Q	C	A	U	N	J	T	K	E	Y	O	I
O	T	H	S	U	B	R	S	J	V	E	E	O	W	O



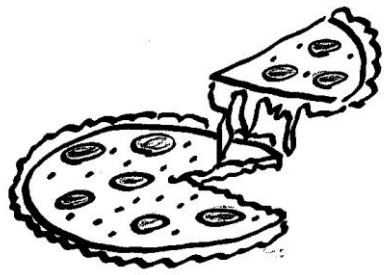
HOCKEY	HOCKEYSTICK	ICERINK
MOUNTAIN	PUCK	SKATES
SKATING	SKIING	SKIS
SLED	SLEDDING	SNOW
SNOWBOARD	SNOWBOARDING	TUBING

Food and drink Scramble

By Joseph Graziano

REGAUHBM	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	2
SOAD	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	1
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NAABAN	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	
TUGRYO	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	7
SICOKEO	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	4
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KILM	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	
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PAZZI	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	6
SATCO	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	5

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	



Number Block Puzzle By Markus Higgins

				17
4	3			15
0				10
	8		9	19
			4	19
4	18	26	15	11

Try to fill in the missing numbers.

- The missing numbers are integers between 0 and 9.
- The numbers in each row add up to totals to the right.
- The numbers in each column add up to the totals along the bottom.
- The diagonal lines also add up the totals to the right.

Staff List



Kelcie Alba
John Boccalupo
Connor Bolster
Robert Camlet
Jonathan Cirillo
Julian Covarrubias
Frank Cucco
Chelsea Dodenhoff
Katie Donnelly
Emily Gargano
Robert Graziano
Joseph Graziano
Sarah Haanraads
Sebastian Higgins
Markus Higgins
Taryn Kilrain
Hailey LaMacchia
Emily LaMorte
Melissa Lubitz
Ruelin Man-Martinez
Justin Martinez
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Caitlin Morales
Olivia Pena
Sarah Piccinini
Amanda Romano
Toniann Santamaria
Taylor Sturtz
Jake Thompsett
Jenna Thompsett
Padraig Thompson
Marie Tohill
Joelle Tomossone
Maggie Ulrich
Johnathan Yankus

ADVISOR: *Mrs. Avella*

Officers:

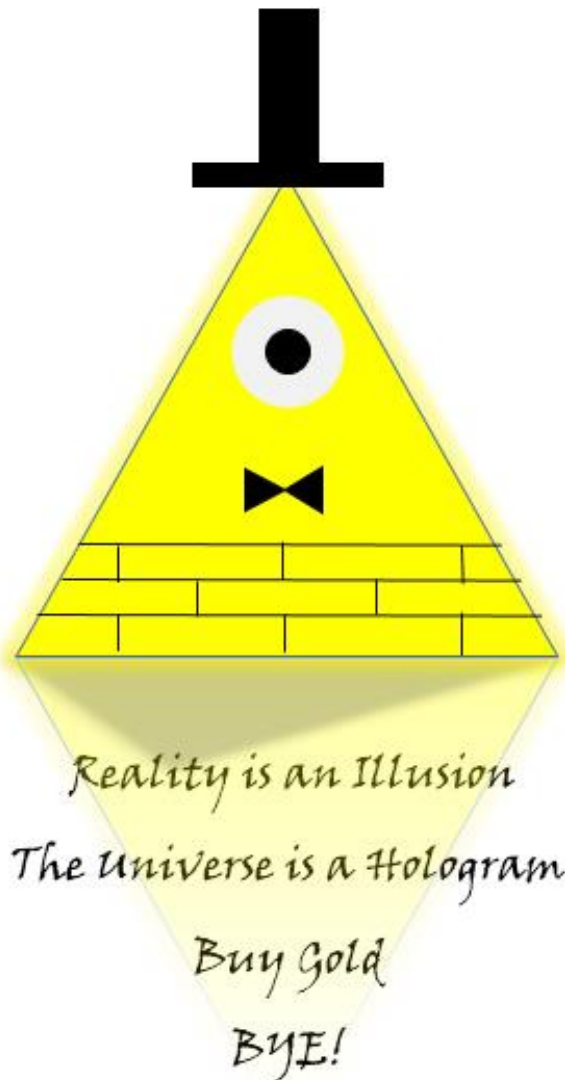
President: Kelcie Alba

Vice-President: Sebastian Higgins

Secretary: Hailey LaMacchia

Treasurer: Maggie Ulrich

Original
Artwork
By Emily Gargano



Original Artwork
By Johnathan Yankus