



Masthead design by Robert Camlet/ Read our newspaper online at: eischools.org

Steered Straight Assembly

By Shannon Dodenhoff, Joelle Tomossone,
Taryn Kilrain and Hailey LaMacchia

The Steered Straight Assembly took place for all grades on March 15, 2016. There were also presentations outside of school for parents and staff. We heard from Michael DeLeon and Aly Amour who told us about how they have abused drugs in the past but were able to turn their lives around. Both of their stories were heartbreaking.

Michael DeLeon grew up and still lives in New Jersey. He missed very important lessons in life because he didn't pay attention. He had 2 children and a wonderful wife but he let them down by being involved in drugs, gangs and criminal activity. He spent nearly 14 years in prison and halfway houses, missing out on all that time with his family.

The punishment didn't end when he got out of prison. His job opportunities are now limited because of his criminal record. He has been a drug counselor for the past several years, counseling 26 kids. At one point, he lost 4 of them due to a heroin overdose over a 10 day period but he refuses to give up. He is committed to changing the future for as many youths and adults as he possibly can. He has also helped to produce many documentaries with the goal of trying to prevent kids from getting started with any substance abuse.

Continued on Page 2



Michael DeLeon
www.steeredstraight.org



- *Be yourself
- *Focus on education
- *Have positive friends
- *Make positive decisions
- *Avoid alcohol/tobacco
- *Stay drug free

“Steered Straight” from Page 1

Aly also grew up in nearby New Jersey. Sadly, when she was in 4th grade, her father committed suicide. Her mother brought her and her brother to a therapist to deal with the loss. Aly made her first bad decision - she lied to the adults in her life claiming she was fine when in reality, she felt abandoned by her father. Over the years, everyone thought she was ok because her grades were good and she was still involved in school.

Sometime during high school, she started smoking marijuana and drinking alcohol. She thought she was fine because she wouldn't touch the “hard stuff”. The pressures of high school were hard to handle. She thought she always had to be perfect and get invited to all the parties.

One day her friend Chris and best friend Al were outside smoking marijuana. Al was on the hood of the car and Chris was behind the wheel. Chris thought it would be funny to scare Al by starting the car and moving it forward a short distance to scare him. Unfortunately, Al lost his balance, fell off and died from a head injury.

After losing her friend, Aly was so upset. She started thinking of ways she could die. The next time someone offered her heroin, she tried it which eventually led to problems with school. She quit high school and ended up going to night school for her diploma. Despite becoming a student at a local community college, she just kept feeling sorry for herself. Her drug use increased. One day she drove out of town, got some heroin and on the way home ended up in a car crash, killing a man. She was sentenced to prison for six years. That's when she realized she had to turn her life around.

Aly wants everyone to know that no one is exempt from the dangers of drugs. For more advice, see sidebar.

Maggie Ulrich shows off her new t-shirt.



“I always thought the drugs were helping me, making me feel better. The truth is, they were making things worse.”
~Aly

Interview with the Presenters:

Why are you giving this presentation to MS students?

I don't want anyone at this school to travel on the path I took. Problems can start at a young age. The best way to stop an addiction to drugs and alcohol addiction is to never start in the first place. (~Michael)

What advice would you give to middle school students to be successful in life?

It is really important to share your feelings. Find someone in your life to talk to, speak up. Be an ear to listen or a shoulder to lean on for a friend. (~Aly)

Is the drug problem really that bad on Long Island?

That's a really good question. Yes, the drug problem is very bad on Long Island. Don't think it is not happening here. Heroin use had doubled in Suffolk County since 2010. (~Michael)

WHAT WE LEARNED FROM THE PRESENTATION:

- *Don't even start to smoke or do drugs.
- *Surround yourself with people that make good choices.
- *When someone offers something that looks suspicious, walk away.
- *People may say drugs are cool but they could end up ruining your life.

OPINION: Is YouTube Replacing TV? **By Toniann Santamaria**

YouTube has different categories of videos. From comedy skits and vlogs to music videos and much more, YouTube definitely has it. TV doesn't always give you an option and it seems that you always wind up saying "There's nothing on TV!"

With YouTube, you can watch as many videos you want from whoever you want. Not only can you watch videos made by other people, you can even upload your own. Shows on TV are usually hard to get on and everything is scripted (most of the time). YouTube gives you the freedom to say what you feel in videos or in comments. Netflix, Hulu+, Amazon, and more TV subscriptions cost money to watch shows you might not even like! On Smart TVs, they treat YouTube like any other TV subscriptions.

YouTube has its own community. Subscribers make art, fandom accounts, memes, and edits for their favorite YouTubers. People connect with each other over a common interest. When you watch YouTube videos, you feel like the YouTuber is talking directly to you. They make merchandise for "fans" and participate in meet-and-greets. YouTube is a little more personal than TV.

As far as which is better, YouTube or TV, it really depends on what people prefer. If someone prefers 1-on-1 personal entertainment, they might go with YouTube. If someone prefers watching situations rather than being involved in them, you might choose TV. I asked the Newspaper Club and almost all staff members agree that YouTube has definitely replaced TV.



The EIMS PTA 3rd Annual Talent Show **By Marie Tohill and Hailey LaMacchia**

The 3rd Annual EIMS Talent Show was held on March 4th, 2016, in the middle school auditorium. Plenty of students and parents attended to support their friends and family. About 20+ students performed, some in groups, some going solo. There were various acts such as singing, dancing, and comedy. The audience was extremely supportive to each and every act.

Taryn Kilrain and Samantha Tursi performed a duet on viola, **Flow Gently Sweet Afton**. When asked about her experience, Taryn replied "It was fun and scary!"

Congratulations to all students involved for a great show. Thanks goes out to the talent show organizers: Mrs. Bocamazo, Mrs. Gieseler and Mrs. Micalizzi.



Isabelle Snyder, Hailey LaMacchia,
Phoebe McCann

Islip Animal Shelter By Taryn Kilrain

The Islip Animal Shelter rescues abandoned animals, takes care of them, and finds them nice homes. I got my dog Barney from this shelter. When I first saw him, he was very shy. Since my family got him, he is so friendly. This shelter has many cats and dogs so if you're looking for a cat or dog, this is the place for you!

If you want to donate to the shelter, see the link below for more information. When you click the link, it takes you to a Town of Islip webpage. There is a big blue button that says "To Donate click here." The blue button brings you to their amazon.com wish list.



The shelter is looking for Pedigree dog food. They would also like liquid detergent, disinfecting wipes, and antibacterial hand soap. A variety of collars are needed, which are listed at the website. For making sure the animals don't have fleas, they need Frontline Plus for cats and dogs. They want toys like tennis balls, squeak toy, and stuffed animals. More information about donations can be found by visiting this link:

<http://townofislip-ny.gov/departments/environmental-control/animal-shelter>

Tonee Marino's New Music Video By Robert Camlet

On Monday, February 29, 2016, seventh grader Anthony (Tonee) Marino posted his third music video on his YouTube channel covering "It Will Rain" by Bruno Mars. Anthony's video was choreographed at DADC (Dance Arts Development Center). It took about two to three weeks to get the lyrics and dance moves on target. In the video, Anthony sings and dances with eighth grader Gabrielle Orobello, who is also a student at the East Islip Middle School. In only two days, his video received over 5,500 views! Currently it has almost 32,000 views. The most inspiring part of this video is that Anthony does what he loves and puts himself out to the public not worrying about what other people think. Check out the video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6iZT-D-cYA>



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17	5	+	4	X	3
	+		-		/
8	2	/	9	+	7
	-		+		+
49	1	+	6	X	8

#TURNUPFORALGEBRA Solution

Mother's Day DIYs

By Ava Smith

Most kids want to show their mother how much they mean to them in a great gift, but they don't have the money. Try doing DIYs (do it yourself projects). You can show how much your mother means to you with something you can afford. You can also make something special for an aunt, grandmother, stepmother or someone special.

The first DIY is a hand-shaped card. You will need colorful paper (preferably cardstock), scissors, glue and printed words (or you can draw them). Trace your hand twice on a piece of paper and cut with scissors. Make a long strip so you can fold accordion style. On one of the hands write "I love you..." and on the strip of paper, write "this much". Take the long strip of paper and glue to the back of the hand. Next, take the other hand and glue the long strip to the back of that one. When you are done, you have a lovely card that you can customize to your own style.



www.diycraftsmom.com

The next DIY is really simple – a "mom" mug. You will need a white or plain color mug, metallic gold paint pen (not a sharpie) and an oven. Grab your mug or cup and draw a nice picture or some special words. Allow to dry for a few minutes, then place in the oven at 350 degrees for 30 minutes to set the paint. Hand washing is recommended instead of placing it in the dishwasher.



www.laurenconrad.com

Finally, the last DIY is a coupon book. You will need colorful paper or cardstock, scissors, string/ribbon and a hole punch. Cut out rectangular sheets of paper the same size and hole punch each one in the same spot. On each paper, write coupons like "free hug" or anything you would like. When all your papers are filled in, tie a string in the holes you made or use a metal binder ring. Your mom can use them whenever she likes. Printable patterns are also available at the website listed. Good luck making a DIY craft!



www.ishouldbemoppingthefloor.com

Keyboarding at the Middle School

By Emily Gargano and Joelle Tomossone

We asked Mrs. Frend and Mrs. Zeffiro some questions on the new class, keyboarding. Keyboarding was brought into the middle school just this year, replacing Character Development for the 6th grade and reducing health for the 8th grade. After next school year, only 6th graders will have keyboarding class. Mrs. Frend came here from EIHS after teaching business classes there for many years. She teaches 8th grade keyboarding and Mrs. Zeffiro teaches 6th grade. Mrs. Zeffiro used to teach Character Development for 6th graders.

What is keyboarding?

Keyboarding is a fun-filled, educational 10-week course designed by Mrs. Zeffiro and Mrs. Frend for middle school students who have little or no training in typing or keyboarding. This course introduces students to techniques that will allow them to progress past pecking at the keys. Students memorize the order of the keys and practice typing for speed and accuracy. The course stresses typing without looking at the computer keyboard or backtracking to fix mistakes. The course also incorporates music, exercise, ELA skills, and educational games into the curriculum.

Why do kids need to take it?

Today, efficient keyboard and computer operation is a necessary skill for the majority of occupations and an expected tool for communication throughout one's life. It is considered as important a skill as being able to print and write well. Touch typing allows students to key much faster, and they don't tire as quickly. Learning to use the keyboard competently should be viewed as learning to use a tool that assists a student to work in the technological framework of the 21st century. It is a natural extension of the writing process.

What are the benefits?

Keyboarding skills are necessary for much of the data entry done with computers. Advances in voice recognition and scanning technology are still not to the point where use of a keyboard is unnecessary. Good keyboarding skills will aid students as they write, do research, solve problems, communicate with others and achieve competence throughout their educational career.

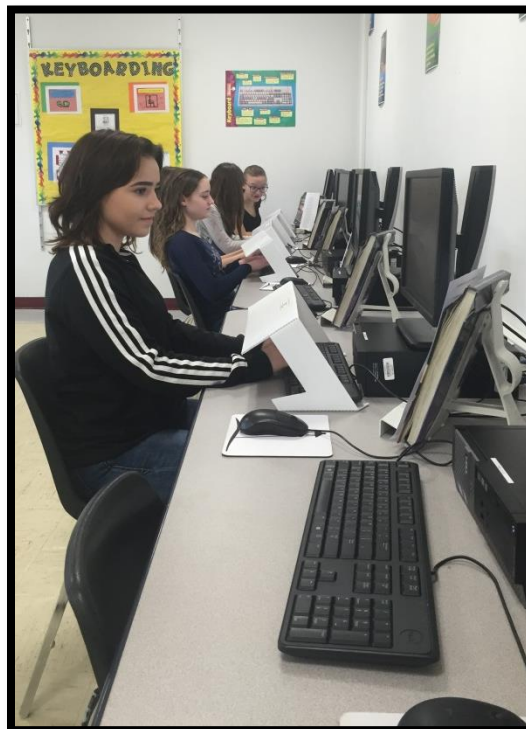
Have you taught keyboarding before?

We have both taught keyboarding at East Islip High School. We are excited to teach it middle school students.

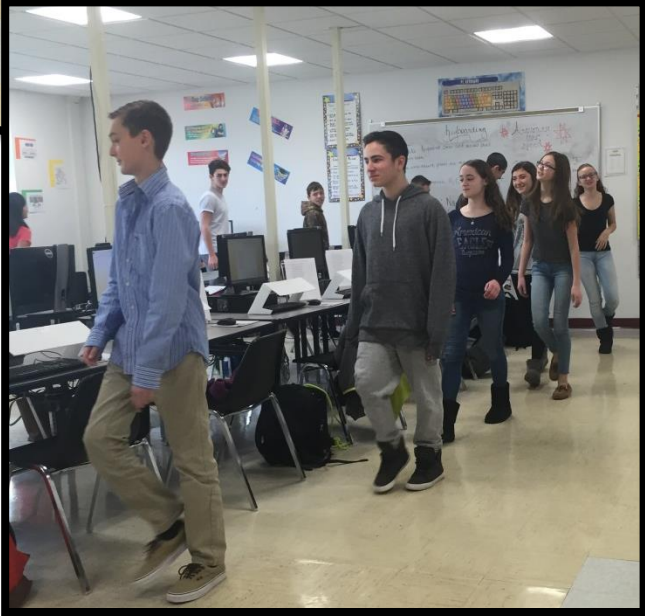
Do you think kids like keyboarding better than character development?

We believe the all courses offered to EIMS students are challenging, motivational, and highly educational. Former students have told us how much they enjoyed character development, and current keyboarding students constantly express to Mrs. Frend and Mrs. Zeffiro that keyboarding is one of the most enjoyable classes they have.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON THE NEXT PAGE.



Keyboarding Class – Room 112



Students often march around the room reciting the order of keys on the keyboard, in the style of boot camp.
Photos taken by Mikayla Kneisel

Hoops for Hope, March 23, 2016
Fundraiser for Special Olympics



Will driving in the future change our lives?

By Sarah Haanraadts

Some companies are starting to make cars that drive themselves, known as autonomous cars. Legislation has been passed in four U.S. states and Washington, D.C. allowing driverless cars. The four states are: Florida, Michigan, Nevada and California.

If there are cars that can drive themselves in the world, it will create less car crashes and people will get hurt less often. These cars can give people more free time because they can do other things while in the car. There would be less traffic congestion since driverless cars would not need a large safety gap in between each other.

Companies are starting to put these cars out to the public in some parts of the world. People may not need to learn how to drive in the future, although, it would still be important to know how to drive in case of an emergency. In a few years, these cars will be available to the public. Some of the companies creating these cars are Toyota, Ford, BMW and Google.



Google driverless car
<http://rhucs.com/alternative-energy/driverless-cars/>

Upcoming Events:

Apr 11 MS PTA Meeting
 7:30 p.m

May 2 - MS National Junior Honor Society Parent & Student Meeting 6 p.m.

May 3 - MS Incoming Sixth- Grade Parent Orientation 6 p.m.



Redmen Reporter Staff List



- Chelsea Dodenhoff
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- Wendle Huang
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- Emily La Morte
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- Marie Tohill *
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- Vice-President: Wendle Huang
- Co Secretaries: Padraig Thompson
 Marie Tohill
 Robert Camlet (acting)
- Treasurer: Toniann Santamaria



**Dear Red Girl,
Why can't we use our phones in school?
-Confused 7th Grader**

*Dear Confused 7th Grader,
It would be very nice if we could use our phones in school, but sadly we can't. Some students might try to use their phones to cheat on tests and it wouldn't be fair for the students who try their best. Also, it could disrupt some students in class when you hear the notification go off for a new text or when you hear Siri. Another reason is students could take pictures of other students without their permission and you could get in trouble for that, especially if it was posted on social media. There may be an opportunity in the future where teachers allow smartphones to be used for school-related assignments.*

Your friend,

Red Girl

**Dear Red Girl,
Why do we have homework?
-Curious Student**

*Dear Curious Student,
We need to review what we learned in school at home. Otherwise we might mess up on a test. In addition, homework helps us further our knowledge of topics. Would you rather have a longer school day and no homework?*

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 does the dress code make us not show our shoulders?
-7th Grade Feminist**

*Dear 7th Grade Feminist,
I, too, am a feminist. There is no specific rule that says you can't show shoulders. The requirement is that a tank top should not have thin spaghetti straps. The width of the straps should follow the two finger rule. As a student, your job is to attend school. This is your workplace. At the workplace, everyone should dress appropriately. Save the other clothing items for the beach or your backyard.*

Your friend

Red Girl,

**Dear Red Girl,
Why can't we ride hover boards in school?
-The Coolest Kid Ever**

*Dear Coolest Kid Ever,
It's not that the latest technology isn't awesome but riding hover boards in school is a serious safety issue. Would you like being bumped into at 80 mph by a hover board? Also how would people get upstairs? Not everyone can use the elevator because, injured students need it. Not to mention, hover boards are banned from certain public places because they might catch on fire. Those are just a few of the reasons hover boards and schools do not mix.*

Your friend

Red Girl,

**Dear Red Girl!!,
How are you? I'm horrible; sometimes I think I should leave home. I am not good at school. Help!!!
B.T.W. Who are you?
-Blue Girl**

*Dear Blue Girl,
First off I'm well thank, you for asking. I don't think you should leave home. If things are really that bad, please speak to a trusted adult ASAP. There is always someone at school you can talk to such as a teacher or guidance counselor.*

If you are struggling in school you could go to extra help sessions and try studying with a friend. I know it's easier said than done but anyone can raise their GPA with some extra effort. You could also ask your guidance counselor about possibly getting a tutor.

There are two things that always make me feel better: always have a funny joke in your back pocket and be around people that make you feel good.

I am just someone trying to help. Hope I was able to help you.

Your friend,

Red Girl

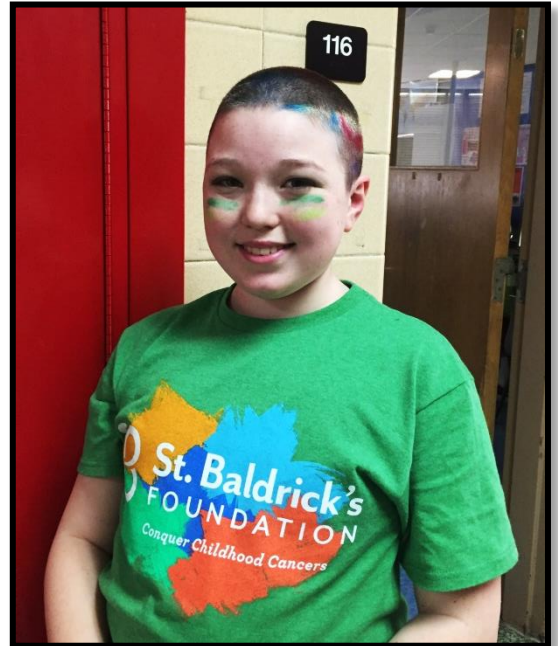


St. Baldrick's Day

Every year in March, EIMS students participate in local St. Baldrick's Foundation events by volunteering to have their head shaved. Their friends and family donate money to support childhood cancer research. This page highlights just a few of our students.

At left:
Christopher Rykert, Robert Moore,
Jake Abrami and Lucas Piano

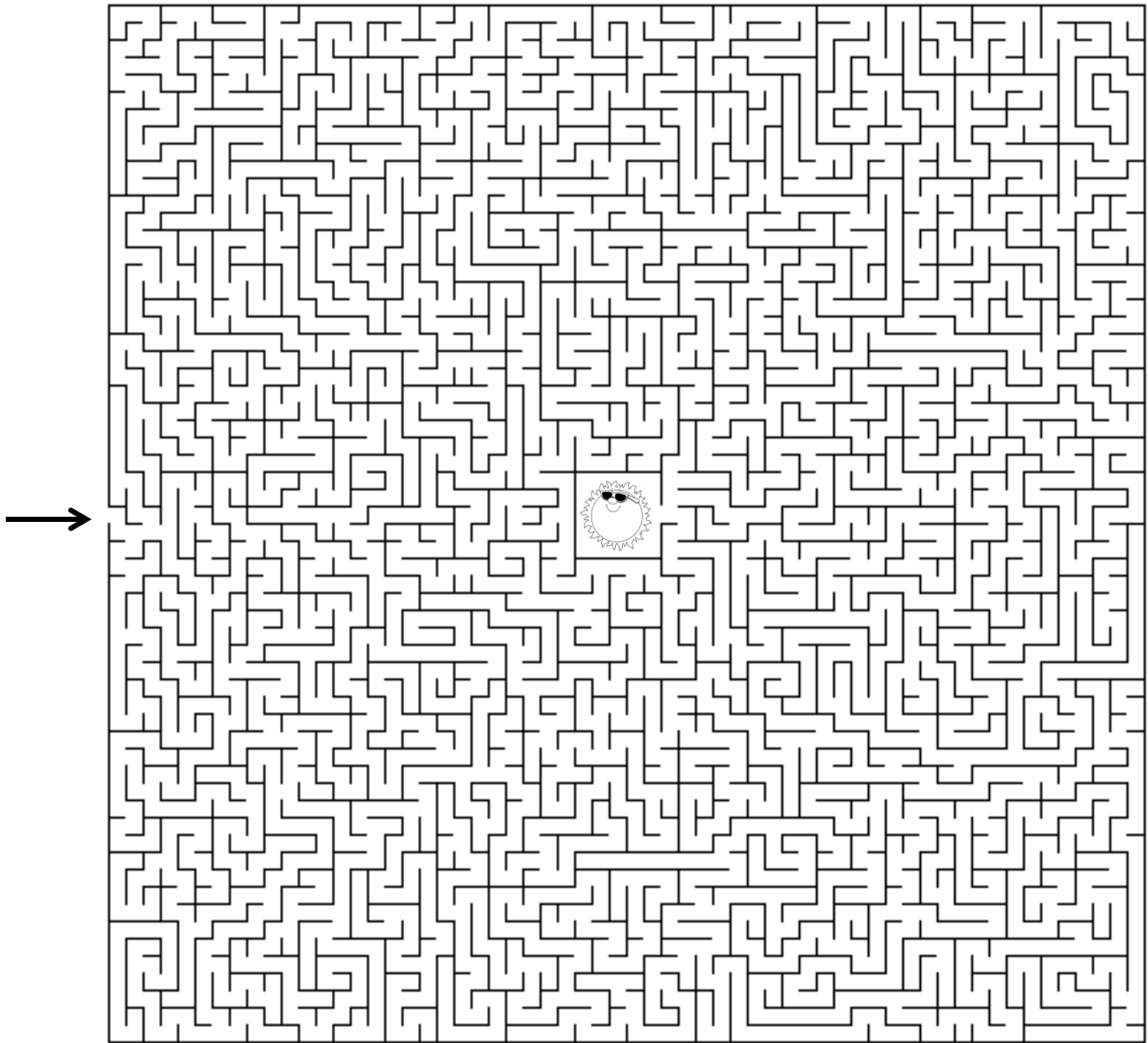
Sixth grader Johanna Donohue also had her head shaved for the second time!



Article contributed by Mrs. Avella.
Photos are courtesy of Mrs. Mazzarella.

FUN WITH PUZZLES AND COMICS

Maze: Find the Sun By Markus Higgins



Original Artwork
By Emily Gargano

Comic Strip: Mr. Ed and his Friend, By Kelcie Alba



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Math Squares

Directions: Try to fill in the missing numbers.

Use the numbers 1 through 9 to complete the equations.

Each number is only used once. Each row is a math equation. Work from left to right.

Each column is a math equation. Work from top to bottom.

Solution is on page 12.

Word Search: Spring Baseball

By Markus Higgins



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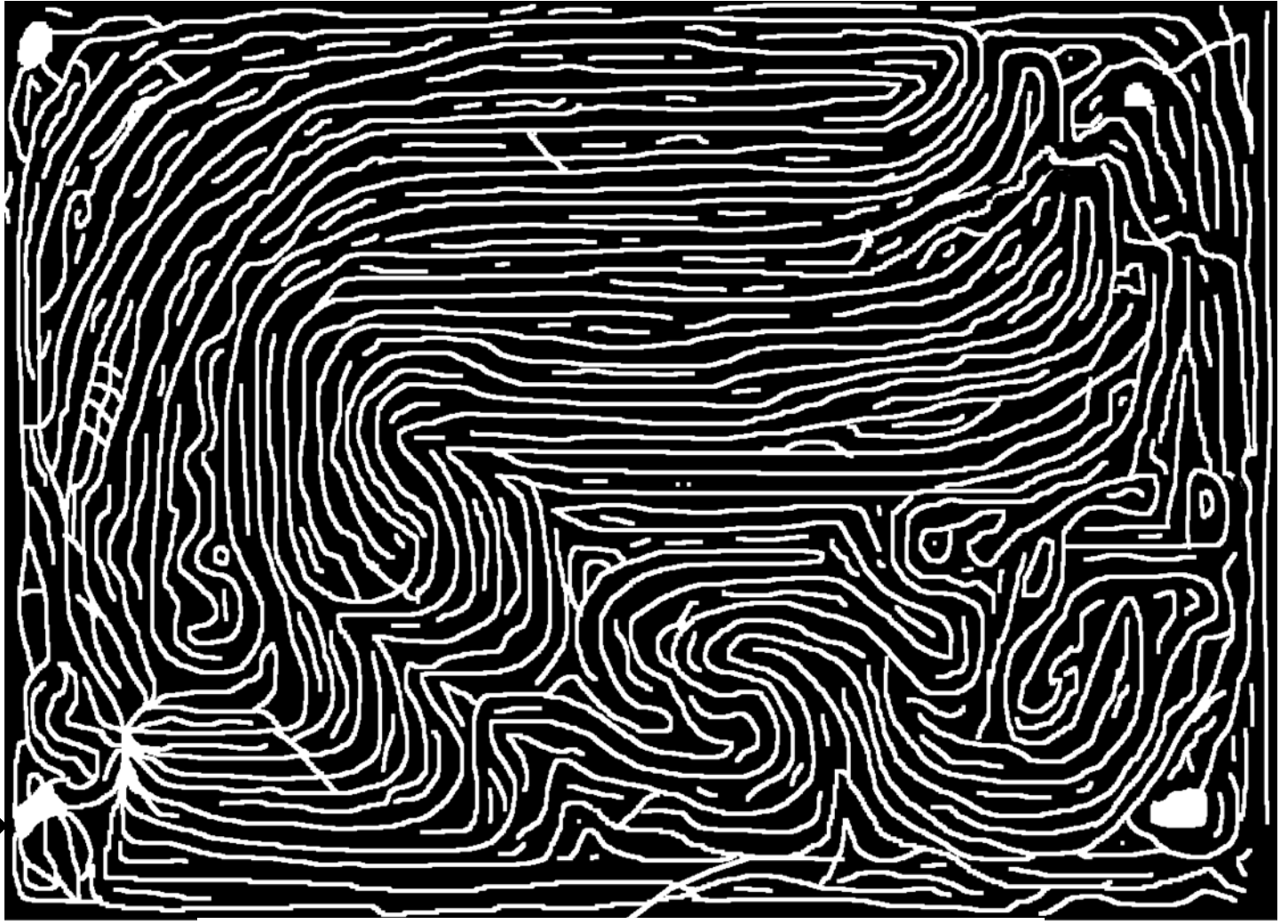
BASEBALL
CLEATS
HELMET
PITCHER

BAT
COACH
HOMEPLATE
UMPIRE

CATCHER
GLOVES
OUTFIELDER
UNIFORM

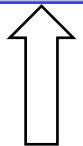
www.discoveryeducation.com/free-puzzlemaker

Maze By Wendle Huang

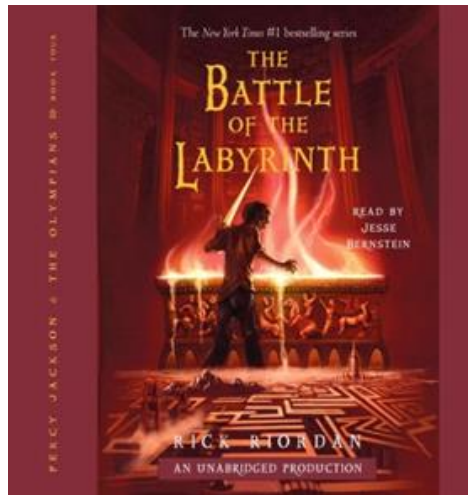


START

THE BATTLE OF THE LABYRINTH



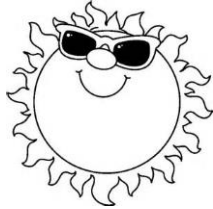
FINISH



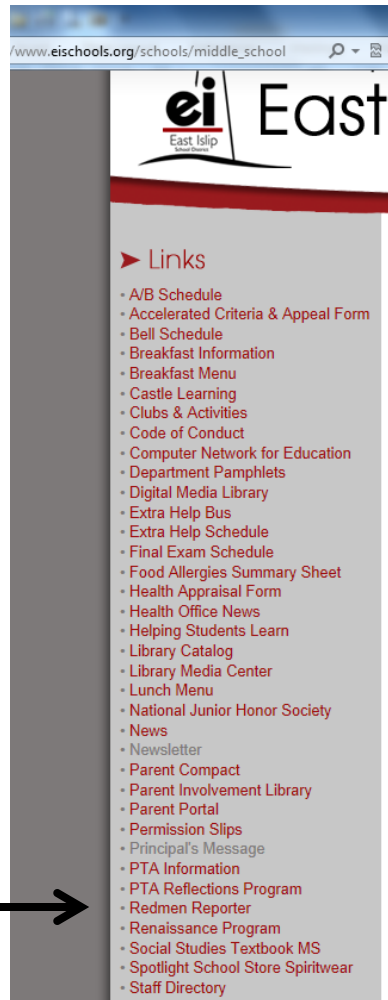
Newspaper Club

To see our photos in color,
read the **Redmen Reporter** online at:
eischools.org/schools/middle_school

Our next issue
will be out in
June of 2016.



Look for
Redmen Reporter
under the
“Links” section.



www.eischools.org/schools/middle_school

ei East
East Islip
Schools

► **Links**

- A/B Schedule
- Accelerated Criteria & Appeal Form
- Bell Schedule
- Breakfast Information
- Breakfast Menu
- Castle Learning
- Clubs & Activities
- Code of Conduct
- Computer Network for Education
- Department Pamphlets
- Digital Media Library
- Extra Help Bus
- Extra Help Schedule
- Final Exam Schedule
- Food Allergies Summary Sheet
- Health Appraisal Form
- Health Office News
- Helping Students Learn
- Library Catalog
- Library Media Center
- Lunch Menu
- National Junior Honor Society
- News
- Newsletter
- Parent Compact
- Parent Involvement Library
- Parent Portal
- Permission Slips
- Principal's Message
- PTA Information
- PTA Reflections Program
- **Redmen Reporter**
- Renaissance Program
- Social Studies Textbook MS
- Spotlight School Store Spiritwear
- Staff Directory