



Masthead design by Sarah Piccinini/ Read our newspaper online at: eischools.org

☺The EIMS Spelling Bee☺

By Marie Tohill

On January 8th, 2016, the annual Scripps National Spelling Bee took place. The competition went on during school in the auditorium during periods 1-4. The 42 contestants competed in a “mini spelling bee” in their ELA classroom. Classroom winners were given a list of words to study and be familiar with for the bee. Mr. Deedy and Mrs. Mingione were the coordinators of the bee. Mrs. Wagner served as the announcer.

Here’s what went down: Toniann Santamaria, 6th grader, came in first place, along with 7th graders Jillian Bradley in second, and Mia Lembo in third. Everybody put in their best effort!

The words were definitely hard and you could tell that everyone studied to the best of their ability. Toniann says that she won in the 13th round. She also says that it was extremely nerve-racking, but it was all worth it in the end. The participants would like to thank every class that put the time in to stop and watch them. The 2016 annual spelling bee was a success, and we cannot wait for next year!



Congrats to Jillian,
Mia, and Toniann!

Biggest New York Powerball jackpot in history! **By Markus Higgins and Joe Graziano**

Back in January, a very large Powerball jackpot developed in the U.S. The constantly growing truckload of cash led to the development of a \$1.5 billion giveaway. It was reported by CBS News that about 9,810 tickets were sold per second. The jackpot began back on November 4th at \$40 million. The prize grew because no one matched all six numbers in 19 straight drawings.

It is no surprise that the jackpot took so long to win due to the fact that any certain player’s chances of winning are 1 in 292 million. That is a lesser chance of winning than getting attacked by a shark (1 in 11.5 million) and getting struck by lightning (1 in 210 million) combined, and being killed by a falling vending machine. But then, on January 13, 2016, three lucky winners realized that they had won the most historic Powerball jackpot in history! The winners were located in California, Florida, and Tennessee. They split the money and each received about \$500 million but due to taxes and fees, unfortunately less.

Better luck next time for the rest of us!



Valentine's Day DIYs

By Ava Smith

Are you stuck on what to give someone for Valentine's Day because you don't want to spend a large fortune? Try doing some Do It Yourself projects (DIYs). You can make a gift worth \$1000 for only \$10. I have tried DIYs before and I think it's a blast! It's fun and not expensive for anyone in the family. This past Christmas, 90% of my gifts to others were DIYs and all resulted in happy smiles.

The first gift is heart shaped arrows. All you need are toothpicks (or wooden skewers), colorful paper, scissors and a hot glue gun. Use the scissors to cut out paper hearts and small paper rectangles. Glue the hearts to the bottom of the toothpicks and the rectangles at the top. You can use the arrow for a book holder or a card holder or anything your sweetheart desires.

The next DIY is a candle in a decorative candleholder. Get a small jar or an old candle holder. Make sure to clean out the jar if you are reusing an old jar. Get some pink or red sprinkles or beads and fill the jar halfway. Put a small battery powered candle or a real candle in the sprinkles. When you are done, you have a great centerpiece or gift.

The last DIY is a heart tree. Get a jar or pitcher, sticks or twigs, colored paper and a hot glue gun. Cut little hearts out of the paper and hot glue as many as you want on to your sticks and put them in your jar. You can also purchase small hearts at a craft store to save the time of cutting them out. It makes a beautiful centerpiece or decoration.

I hope you enjoy these DIY projects if you choose to make them. Happy Valentine's Day!



<http://www.youplusstyle.com/2013/01/diy-valentines-day-arrows/>



<http://www.decoist.com/2012-01-27/diy-valentines-day-candles-look-ad-are-special>



<http://www.moneyhipmamas.com/2014/01/cute-and-cheap-diy-valentines-day.html>

Art Tips

By Emily LaMorte

Whenever you are doing anything in art, start with a pencil sketch, never with pen. When you're done with your sketch, make sure you like it before you move on. When you are sure that you like it, you have two options. You could either outline with a sharpie or any other permanent marker of your choice, or you could just start coloring.

If you choose to outline, carefully go over all of your lines. The best technique is to move the marker very slowly with the steadiest arm movements you can make. When you are done outlining, get a big eraser and go over the whole project to remove pencil marks to make it look neater.

If you want to color, just start coloring! Try to stay in all of the lines you made, unless you pretty much want to scribble scrabble. Try to use colors that look nice together, such as complementary colors. Examples of complementary colors are: red and green, yellow and violet, blue and orange.

When you are done with your hopefully beautiful art piece, you can pretty much do whatever you want with it. You can give it to someone, frame it, etc. Have fun with your project!



Anthony (Tonee) Marino's New Music Video By Robert Camlet

Seventh grader Anthony Marino uploaded a video to Youtube on Sunday, January 24, 2016. It is a music video covering Justin Bieber's hit, "Sorry". In less than two days, the video had over 2,000 views. It is currently up to more than 7000! The video filming was done locally and at Dance Arts Development Center (DADC) in Islip Terrace. According to Anthony, the video took 2 weeks to make and put together. He is planning more videos to come in a few weeks.

Everglades

By Sarah Haanraadts

The Everglades is an endangered swamp located in Florida. According to the National Wildlife Federation website, it is a "two million acre wetland ecosystem that reaches from central Florida, near Orlando, all the way south to Florida Bay." It is a home to a diverse group of animals, such as crocodiles, bobcats, panthers, snakes, frogs, birds and many more. As more people keep moving into the area, the Everglades get smaller. This means the animals could possibly go extinct. It would be sad to see this one of a kind place go away. There is no other ecosystem like it in the world. People should be more aware of what they could possibly be taking away.



EIMS Chess Club By Wendle Huang



There are many students who joined Chess Club at our school this year. Mr. Croteau is the club advisor. Chess is a game that really makes you think. Many people enjoy it and know how to play.

At Chess Club, sixth, seventh, and eighth graders all join together to verse each other at a chess game. When someone loses, no one is too upset. All they say is something like “Good game, good game I will try to beat you next time all right!” Then as easy as possible, they just walk away to play another game with someone else or they just play again with the same person.



Finding Dory comes out June 2016

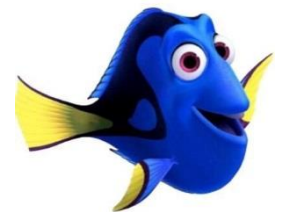
By Emily Gargano

In June of 2016, the fish we all know that just keeps on swimming is coming out with her own movie. In *Finding Dory*, Dory remembers something about her family and tries to find them again. She is accompanied by Marlin and Nemo on her great journey. Here is a link watch the official teaser.

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2277860/>

CAST

Ellen DeGeneres ... Dory (voice)
Albert Brooks ... Marlin (voice)
Hayden Rolence ... Nemo (voice)
Eugene Levy ... Charlie (voice)
Kaitlin Olson ... Destiny (voice)
Diane Keaton ... Jenny (voice)
Ed O'Neill ... Hank (voice)
Ty Burrell ... Bailey (voice)



Disney · PIXAR
FINDING DORY
SUMMER 2016

THIS FILM IS NOT YET RATED ©2016 Disney/Pixar

I'm Stumped

By Chelsea Dodenhoff

You know how it feels when you can't think - when you have to do something important and you just can't do it? Maybe it is only important to you and you feel like you need to do it but you can't. Well, that happens to me a lot. Sometimes I feel like my future depends on it but I find ways for what I like to call "inspiration".

Some of you may know I'm a sketch artist. Well, more like tortured artist. It takes me forever to know what I'm even doing. And if you're going through the same thing I am going through, I would like to help.

Here are some things you can do to get inspiration:

Close your eyes. If you close your eyes, take a nap, or even go to sleep, your mind makes up stories, inspiration, and gains strength.

Focus on your day or life. What was interesting about your day? Did you do anything special? If you did, use that to your advantage. If nothing happened today, use another special day.

Look for current events. Current events can be found in the newspaper and on TV. These types of things are crawling with inspiration.

Think about your favorite movie. Movies are basically inspiration in motion. I use this method all the time. I would say this is the easiest method of inspiration.

I hope I helped you and I hope you come up with more ways to escape what I always am...



QUIZ: Valentine or Valenwhine:

How to know if someone is your true Valentine!



By Shannon Dodenhoff

Hey, all you lovebirds out there - are you Valentines or Valenwhines? Are you one fight away from splits-ville? Take this quiz to find out.

1. Do you listen to each other?

- a) No
- b) Yes

2. Do either of you use cheesy pickup lines?

- a) Yes
- b) No

3. Are you with the person because you think you can change them?

- a) Yes
- b) No

4. Have you changed because of the other person?

- a) Yes*
- b) No

5.*if yes to #4

- a) For the better
- b) For the worse

If you got all A's (not including #4), you are Valenwhines!

If you got a combination of A's and B's, you are in the Friend Zone!

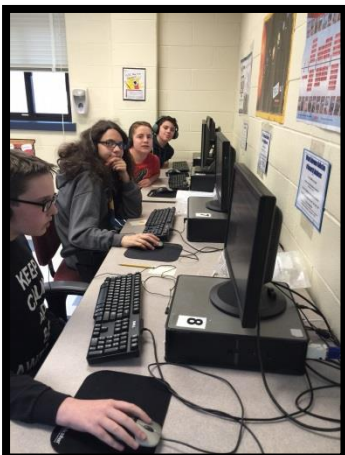
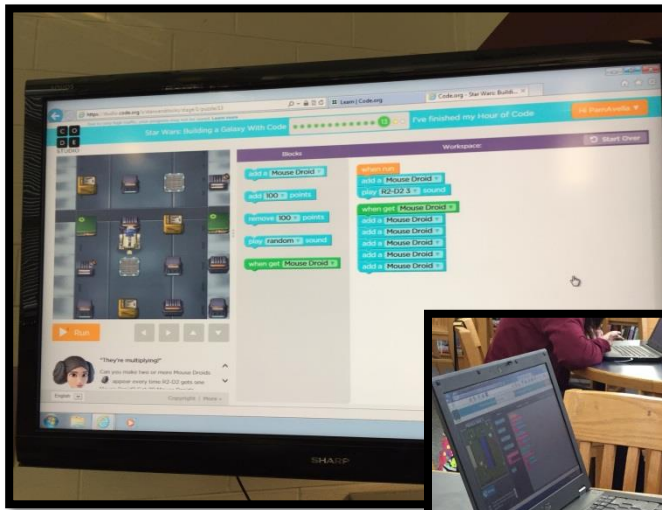
If you got all B's (not including #4 and #5), you are Valentines!

HOUR OF CODE

Hour of Code By Julian Covarrubias

“Every student should have the opportunity to learn computer science”. This is the belief of the foundation behind the website code.org. Our library had a fun Hour of Code where students stayed after school for an hour on December 10, 2015. The students learned how to program and make characters on the computer talk, move, and interact. This is only one of the great programs presented by the E.I.M.S library. Ms. Ware organized it and Mrs. Avella helped out with this event.

If you ever want to go to the website, the web address is: code.org. There are courses to satisfy everyone’s interest, including Angry Birds, Frozen, Star Wars and Minecraft. All students are encouraged to try it out!



Movie Review:

Star Wars: The Force Awakens By Kelcie Alba

The movie *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, directed by J. J. Abrams, came out on December 18, 2015 in movie theaters across the country. The action-packed movie began pre-production on October 30, 2012. *The Force Awakens* is the seventh film in the Star Wars series and takes place approximately 30 years after the events of *Return of the Jedi*. Including original characters like Han Solo and Luke Skywalker, the movie also introduces new characters like Finn, Rey and Poe.

Thirty years after the defeat of the Galactic Empire, there is a new threat from the evil Kylo Ren and the First Order. After the character Finn crashes onto the desert planet Jakku, he meets Rey, whose droid (BB-8) has a secret map which may be helpful in locating Luke Skywalker. Luke, the last of the Jedi Knights, seems to have disappeared. Finn and Rey join together with Han Solo to make sure the Resistance receives the information about Luke's location. This adventurous movie is rated PG-13 and all Star Wars fans should watch it!



Upcoming Events:

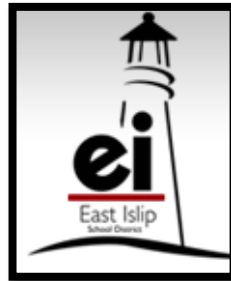
March 4th
MS Talent Show @ MS
Auditorium 6 p.m.

March 8th
MS Breakfast of Champions
8 a.m.

March 14th
MS PTA Meeting 7:30 p.m.

March 16th
MS Tri-M Music Honor
Society Induction 7:30 a.m.

March 25th
NO SCHOOL – Easter
Recess



Redmen Reporter Staff List



Jennifer Brzostek
Chelsea Dodenhoff
Sarah Haanraads
Wendle Huang
Taryn Kilrain
Emily La Morte
Jonathan Lopez
Caitlin Morales
Toniann Santamaria
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Julian Covarrubias
Emily Gargano
Joseph Graziano
Markus Higgins
Hailey LaMacchia *
Justin Martinez
Sarah Piccinini
PadraigThompson
Marie Tohill *
Joelle Tomossone
Shannon Dodenhoff *

* Editor

EIMS Newspaper Club

Election Results

President: Kelcie Alba
Vice-President: Wendle Huang
Co Secretaries: Padraig Thompson
Marie Tohill
Treasurer: Toniann Santamaria



Dear Red Girl,
I'm stressed out about my grades because I want to do good in high school. Can you give me any advice?
-Stressed Out 8th Grader

Dear Stressed Out 8th Grader,
I totally get it. I am stressed about my grades 24/7 and I can never seem to satisfy my standards. Try to relax, make some flashcards and most importantly, let go of the outside world. Turn off all your devices, starting with your phone (except your computer if you are using it to study). Have your friends quiz you during lunch and go to all available extra-help sessions. Yes, middle school determines your starting path in high school but it doesn't determine where you stay. Relax, study hard and remember, it isn't the end of the world if you don't score so high on one test after working so hard. Good luck!
Your friend,

Red Girl

Dear Red Girl,
Why are all the lunches made with whole wheat? Why is it so expensive for cheap, poor quality food?
-Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,
Those whole wheat lunches are helping your body to be healthy. You may not find the school lunches appetizing but, they're healthy and hit all the major points of the food pyramid. If you are concerned about the prices for lunch and don't like what you're eating, pack your own lunch. The school cafeteria has a limited budget and has to follow specific nutritional guidelines. Bon appetit!

Your friend,

Red Girl

Dear Red Girl,
Why is your name like my friend's hair?
-Stressed out 7th Grader

Dear Stressed Out 7th Grader,
I chose the name Red Girl because I am a Redmen girl who is full of school pride and I thought it would be cute. I did not intentionally think of any particular student when I came up with the name. BTW, my hair isn't red.
Your friend,

Red Girl

Dear Red Girl,
Why can't we have food for birthdays?
-Stressed 7th Grader

Dear Stressed 7th Grader,
I do think birthdays are worth celebrating with cupcakes and food and a bunch of candy. However, with so many allergies that students' have today you cannot intentionally put someone in danger. You don't know what students are allergic to and in some cases, allergies can be fatal. That's why we have rules against people having food in school. Hope this sheds some light on the birthday food ban.
Your friend,

Red Girl

Dear Red Girl,
Red girl, who are you???
-Curious 7th Grader

Dear Curious 7th Grader,
I'm one (or more) in the crowd. Maybe we have met before but you didn't know it was me.
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.

Dear Red Girl,
I'm a seventh grader, and school is getting harder. What are some study tips that can help me and other people study?
-Super Stuck Seventh Grader

Dear Super Stuck Seventh Grader,
If studying is a problem for you, try to find a quiet space to study. If that doesn't work, you can try to put on headphones and listen to music you like. These two techniques can help you to concentrate. When you study, you can make flashcards, home-made study guides, a practice test, etc. Just make sure you have all the right facts. When you hear you have a test or quiz, don't wait until the day before to start studying. Use all the time you can at home, at lunch or during study hall. You can also stay after school at the library or go to extra help. If you are worried about pop quizzes, go over your notes as often as possible. I hope this helps!

Your friend,

Red Girl

Dear Red Girl,
Why aren't we allowed to chew gum in school?
-Curious George (and others)

Dear Curious George (and others),
We are not allowed to chew gum because it disrupts the class and it is unsanitary. When you step in gum that was on the hallway floor or stick your hand in chewed gum that was under your desk, how does that make you feel? Imagine you walk into class talking to your friends, getting ready for your class and sit down to find someone else's disgusting chewed gum on your seat. Maybe when our generation is more responsible and people throw out their gum in the garbage, then we can have gum in school. But until that time, we just have to live with the no chewing gum in school rule!

Your friend,

Red Girl

Sports

Girls Soccer

By Joelle Tomossone

The middle school’s girls soccer team had an outstanding season this past fall, going undefeated and ending the season with an 8-0 record. The team, led by Ms. Huether, who has coached for the past 15 years, did a fantastic job. The girls worked very hard, went to all the practices and gave it 110%.

Several of the girls were asked about their experience by the **Redmen Reporter**. Peyton Dattero (#7) said “it was a great experience and I enjoyed playing with the girls.” Julia Lepano (#21) said “I enjoyed working with Ms. Huether and all the girls in the fall season”. Ryann Youngberg (#28) said “I loved being on the team with great players and a great coach.” Sophia Nelson (#14) said “it was a really fun experience and I had fun with all the girls.”

EIMS girls soccer has been undefeated for three years in a row. This year is extra special because they won the “Sportsmanship Award”. Congratulations to Coach Huether and the entire team!

Sports

Girls Volleyball

Contributed by Coach O’Donnell

The East Islip MS girls’ volleyball team finished their 2015-2016 season undefeated. This is the second consecutive year the team has finished undefeated, winning matches against neighboring teams such as Connetquot, Bay Port-Blue Point and Sayville.

“The girls that played last year came back strong and set the tone for the first time players this year. Each of the girls brought their talent and determination to every competition. I think the secret of their success was a well-balanced season of hard work and fun”, said team coach, Mrs. O’Donnell.

Nikki LaFrancesca, a second year player, said, “Being undefeated once was great, but being undefeated two times in a row is unbelievable.” Samantha Winegard, a first year player, added, “As a team we came together, we practiced together, we improved together, we chanted together, we won together, we were undefeated together! We are East Islip Volleyball!

Coach O’Donnell, says of the team, “The girls worked hard from the first practice to the final match, the earned every win”.



Why are people doing this?

By Taryn Kilrain

Illegal drug use on Long Island has increased in recent years, specifically heroin. The heroin problem on Long Island is the worst in US history. Many people between the ages of 12 to 25 have died of drug addiction. Surprisingly, babies can also be addicted to heroin. If a woman is addicted to a drug when she is pregnant, the drug goes into the baby's system. According to Newsday, the rate of babies born addicted to heroin in Suffolk County is up 60% from 2014.

According to the Federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC), drugs were the 9th highest cause of death in the US in 2013. The Long Island Expressway has been called the "Heroin Highway" because of the amount of heroin being transported out to Long Island from New York City. Nassau County Human Services reports that the percentage of heroin related deaths rose 38% from 2011 to 2014.

A new substance was made to reverse an overdose on drugs, specifically opioids. It's called Narcan. It's used by injecting it in the thigh or inhaling it as a nasal spray.

A report from 2014 gives this information about teens (Monitoring the Future Survey – see box below for more information):

8th graders: 9% use e-cigarettes, 9% drink alcohol and 6.5% use marijuana
10th graders: 16% use e-cigarettes, 24% drink alcohol, and 16.6% use marijuana
12th graders: 17% use e-cigarettes, 37% drink alcohol, 21.1% use marijuana

There are many websites that can help people with their addiction. For example, Long Island Council On Alcoholism And Drug Dependence (LICAADD) is an organization that offers help to individuals and families (<https://licadd.org>). Anger management is just one of the programs people can join as well as group support and individual counseling.

"Monitoring the Future is an ongoing study of the behaviors, attitudes, and values of American secondary school students, college students, and young adults. Each year, a total of approximately 50,000 8th, 10th and 12th grade students are surveyed. In addition, annual follow-up questionnaires are mailed to a sample of each graduating class for a number of years after their initial participation. The Monitoring the Future Study has been funded under a series of investigator-initiated competing research grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, a part of the National Institutes of Health."

<http://monitoringthefuture.org/>



Interview with Mrs. O'Donnell, EIMS Physical Education/Health teacher:



1. Why do people do drugs?

Kids have the pressure of fitting in. They don't want to be the odd person out. Sometimes, they don't have the confidence to say no or they don't realize the danger of doing drugs.

2. What do you think schools can do about this?

Provide more educational programs about drug prevention and have health classes in all grades. Kids usually don't start out using heroin but those that use heroin started with smoking, drinking and using marijuana.

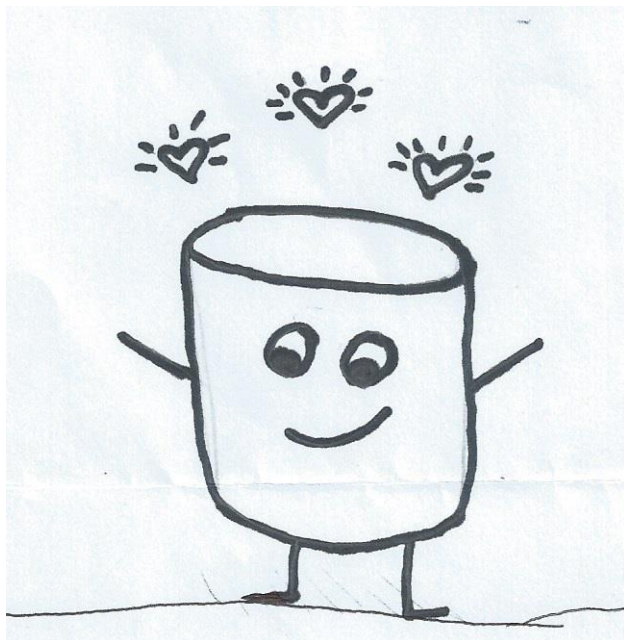
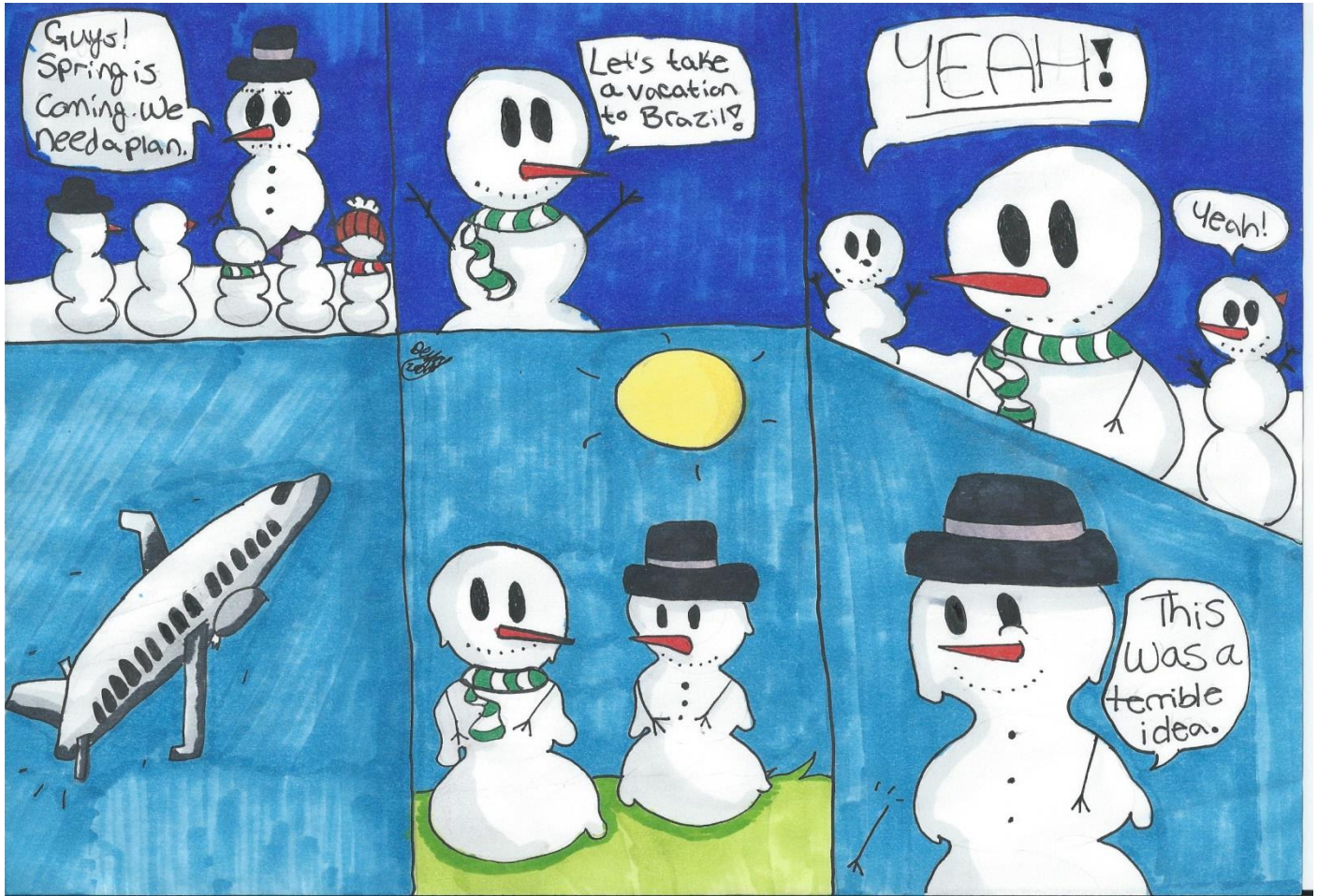
3. What can you tell us about Narcan?

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department and the Suffolk County Health Department both offer Narcan training and supply this anti-opioid overdose medication to community members.

4. What is synthetic marijuana?

Synthetic marijuana, known as Spice or K2, is a very dangerous drug that has sent over 2,300 New Yorkers to the ER in just weeks. K2 and other synthetic drugs are illegal in New York.

Comic Strip: Snowmen Struggles
By Kelcie Alba



Original Artwork
By Emily Gargano

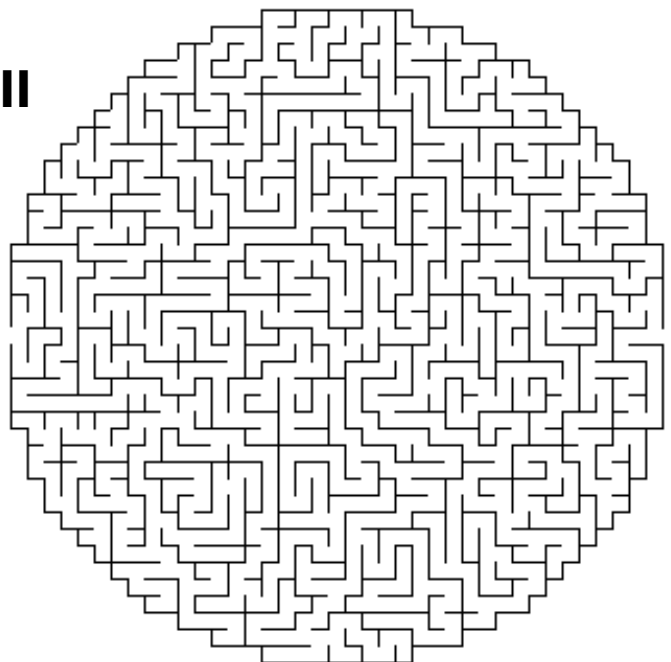
Word Search: Volleyball

By Joe Graziano

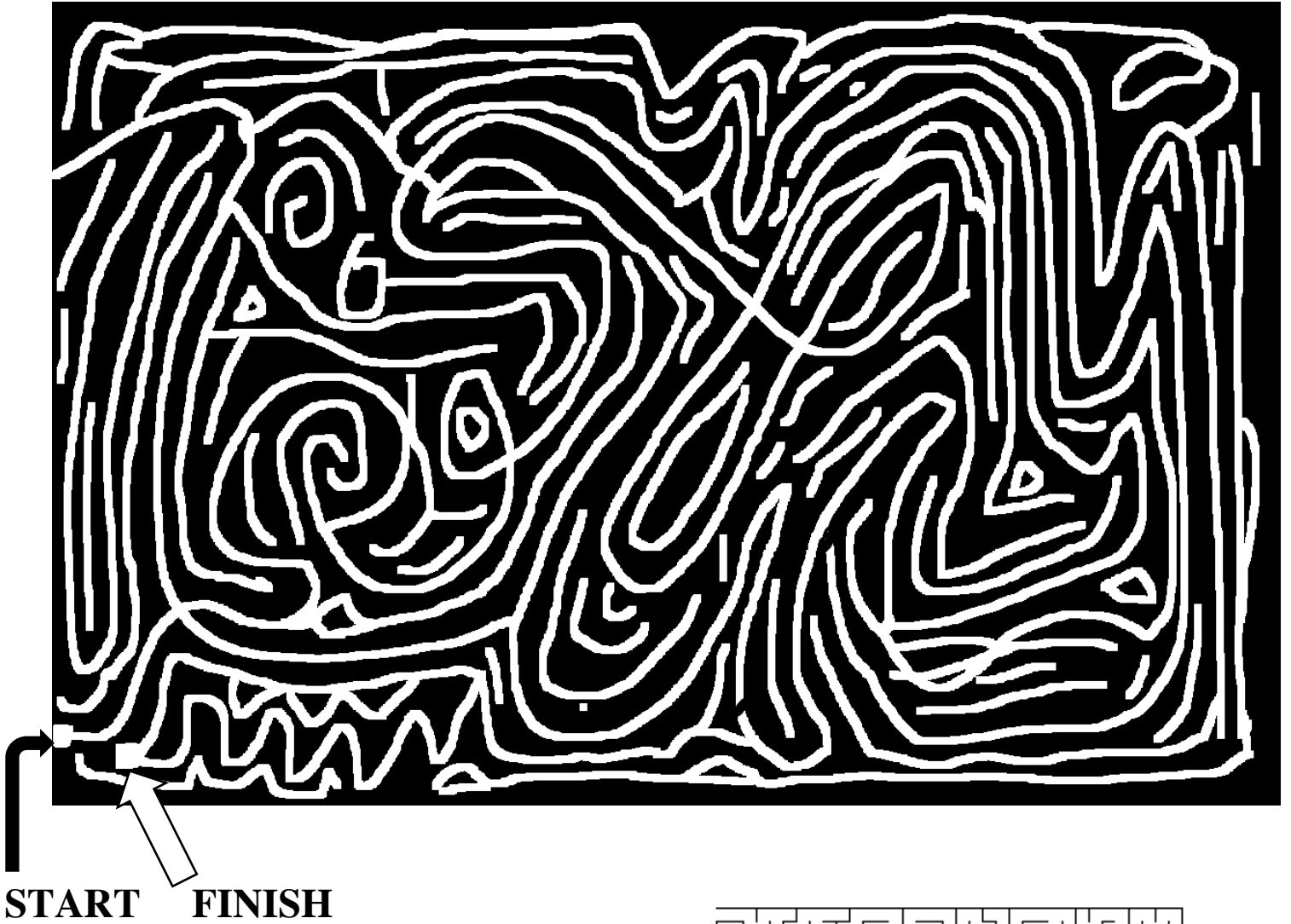
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UNDERHAND SERVE
VOLLEY

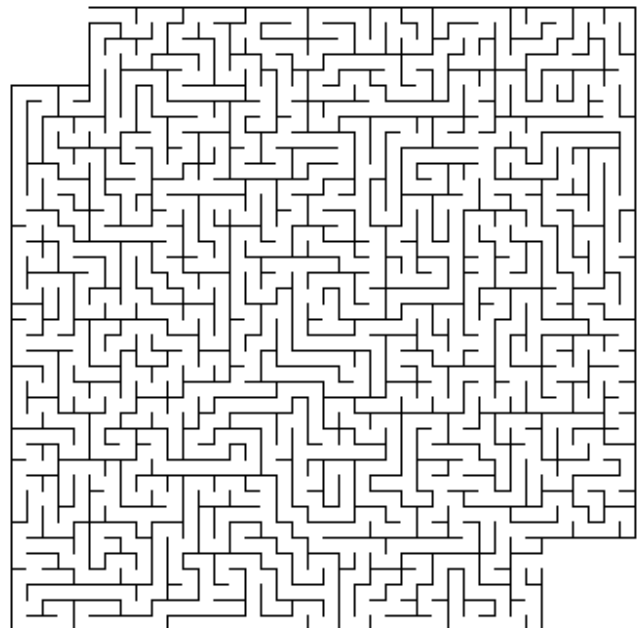
Maze:
Snowball
By Markus
Higgins



Maze By Wendle Huang



**Maze: Happy New Year
By Markus Higgins**



Word Search: Winter

By Markus Hggins

O C G S S W A T B Z A G Y N N
W F H N A R V L Q O U A G I E
H H O R O N A U C Q D K N A W
D W I N I C T O Q S D H I T Y
N H A T K S C A E N K L I N E
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BLACKOUTS
HOLIDAYS
KWANZAA

SANTA
SNOW
TUBING

CHANUKAH
HOTCOCOA

MOUNTAIN
SKI
SNOWBALL
VALENTINESDAY

CHRISTMAS
KINARA
LIGHTS
NEWYEARS
SKIING
SNOWBOARD
WHITEOUT