



Masthead design by Joelle Tomossone

Packages for the Patriots

By Joseph Graziano, Markus Higgins and Robert Camlet

We interviewed the Builders Club of the East Islip Middle School to learn about how they support our country. Two of the many citizens who care about our country are Karina Gallagher (8th Grade) and Jacob Arens (6th Grade). It is clear that they are proud of our country. Jacob Arens states, “We can show that without these people, we would not be here. They give us hope and love. These guys are our heroes.” In addition, Karina Gallagher declares, “I love knowing that I will prosper in the U.S.” Furthermore she says “There is nothing better than supporting yourself and your country!” We thank you for taking time out of your day to read this article. The Builders Club is a great cause!

- Builder’s Club Officers**
President: Emma Mendolia
VP: Mackenzie Horton
Secretary: Jacklyn Schiano
Treasurer: Megan Durso



ABOUT THE CLUB

The Builders Club is about boys and girls who care for the troops fighting in the military. They do this by sending care packages. They decorate the packages to make the troops feel special and wanted when no one else in their family is with them.

Upcoming event for Builder’s Club:
field trip on 5/17/15 to Islip Macarthur

THEN AND NOW

by Joelle Tomossone

After celebrating the 80s during spirit week at EIMS in March of 2015, I was inspired to write this article. Kids will be kids but how much do they change over time? How many times have you heard an adult say “when I was a kid...”? This made me wonder if things really were that different 30 years ago. In 1982, the typical teenager was wearing a Walkman, listening to Olivia Newton-John, Survivor, and Joan Jett & the Blackhearts. Today, the average kid has a cellphone in his/her pocket to download music by Rihanna, Katy Perry and Adele. Teens of the 80s watched movies like ET and The Breakfast Club. Teens of today also watch movies including these favorites: Twilight, Harry Potter and the Divergent series.

Video games are a popular pastime for kids of today as they were for kids of the 80s. The technology has changed but the interest is the same. In 1982, ColecoVision was released and became the popular system. Today it is PlayStation and Xbox. Kids were interested in sports in the 80s and followed baseball players like Pete Rose. Today, LeBron James and Kevin Nelson are among the popular NBA stars that kids admire. The high school graduation rate has decreased from 77.5% in the 80s to 72% today. Minimum wage has increased though, from \$3.30 an hour back then to \$8.75 today.

The 80s are referred to as the “me decade”. It was a time of big hair and wildly colored fashion and it was a decade of possibility. People felt they could achieve anything. They were pre-occupied with making money and spending it. The 2010s, unfortunately, will be known for financial crisis, war and natural disasters. Hurricanes Sandy and Katrina took a toll on coastal areas and there were also damaging blizzards and earthquakes. However, we still have time to make a difference and have our decade known for something wonderful!



Tie Dye Day



Renaissance Club

By Marie Tohill

When you hear the word *Renaissance*, you probably think of getting prizes and getting your ID card punched for your astonishing grades. Maybe you're thinking about medieval times and history textbooks. Well, you should know we are not a group of kids who get together for a medieval dinner. If you considered the first option, then you were thinking about *making Renaissance* (see sidebar).

If you are wondering who is behind the prizes and raffles, the answer is the Renaissance Club! You can thank us for your fun gift certificates and card punches. Club members go to the places that you get your certificates from and ask for them ourselves. We also put together the exciting letters you receive, the fun gifts you get (like the writing pads you got in the 3rd quarter!), and the raffle packets. We currently have many new members, and we work super hard! We take so much pride in our work, and it makes us so happy to see your excited faces coming to get your good grade rewards.

There are 3 levels of criteria to be considered for prizes: Red, Black and White. For details, check your agenda or our school's website.

Renaissance Officers

President: Noelle Naccarato

VP: Marie Tohill

Treasurer: Katie Schaefer

Secretary: Maggie King

From the EIMS website:

DEFINITION:

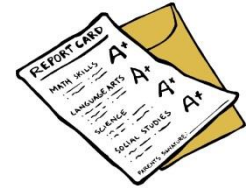
Renaissance is a concept developed by the Renaissance Education Foundation. The foundation is a resource for the ideas and a clearinghouse for information for the approximately 4,500 schools nationwide with Renaissance programs.

PURPOSE:

The intent of Renaissance is to encourage academic growth through positive reinforcement of strong work habits, accountability and responsibility.

GOALS:

- To increase grade point averages
- To improve attendance
- To reduce disciplinary referrals
- To improve homework completion



This program is made possible by funding from the EIMS PTA and the donations of local merchants.

Internet Raises \$150,000 for Detroit Man Who Walks 21 Miles to and from Work

By Emily Gargano

A 56 year old Detroit man, James Robertson walks 21 miles every day to and from work. He has never missed a day in 12 years at his factory job where he molds parts. He takes buses every day but they don't cover the whole route. He has to walk 8 miles to work from the bus stop and then 13 miles after his shift. When college student Evan Leedy heard about this, he created a GoFundMe site with a goal of \$5,000 so that Robertson could buy a car. He ended up going over his goal and raised almost \$350,000 as of May 4, 2015. Robertson was featured on ABC News and a local Ford dealer donated a car to him.

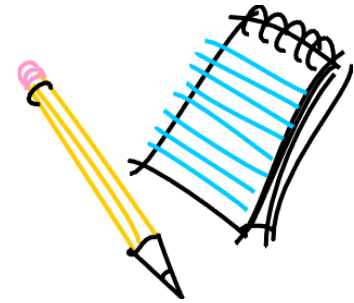


James Robertson of Detroit, MI





The Redmen Reporter wants to give a shout out to Genevieve Imhof who had her head shaved in honor of St. Baldrick's Day. Bravo, Genevieve!



**Redmen Reporter
Staff List
Advisor: Mrs. Avella**

- Tarynn Boesch
- Robert Camlet
- Emily Gargano
- Joseph Graziano
- Markus Higgins
- Maggie King
- Justin Martinez
- Phoebe McCann
- Kate McGaugh
- Victoria Miller
- Olivia Pause
- Nicole Piazza
- Megan Reynolds
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- Kaili Sperling
- Sam Stember
- Padraig Thompson
- Marie Tohill*
- Joelle Tomossone
- Kasey Turtell
- Shannon Dodenhoff*
- Julianna Hrubes
- Sophie Bingham*
- Anna Langman
- Emma McGaugh

**Many teens wear braces. Don't feel embarrassed!
Here are some tips:**

- Be proud and positive!
- You totally don't have to be shy or walk with your head down so no one notices you.
- When you first get your braces on don't get a bright color get like a light purple or a light color. Still cute but you don't have all the attention on your teeth.
- Be careful with the colors you get-- white or clear might get easily stained, yet they do minimize the attention of the brackets!
- If you're going to do two colors or more, make sure they are in the same family (warm/cool) or that they are not opposites.
- Experiment with colors and see which colors look best for you and don't attract eyes to your teeth.



Source: <http://www.wikihow.com/Look-Great-With-Braces>

* Editor

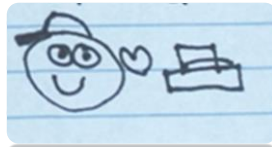
**Cast photos from
Once on this Island, Jr.
February 2015**





Director: Mr. Murphy, Art Design: Mrs. Mannino

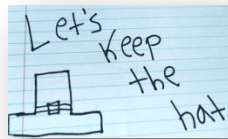
Dear Red Girl,
I think that schools should let kids wear hats. I'm trying to protest.
What do I do?
From,
Super Striker
P.S What did the hats do wrong??



Dear Red Girl,
I'm afraid of the people who want hats in school (I'm in newspaper too) and I need answers. It's my job to investigate. Anyway, I wanted to know how to raise awareness for hats. Please Help!!
From,
The Hats on Newspaper Rebel

Dear Red Girl
I am backing up super striker with the hat letter. Hats are a fun way to express who you are. Also teachers have told students to take off hats even though they don't count as hats. My mom said the school she went to allowed hats. Let's bring hats back.

From,
Right Rebel



Dear Super Striker, Hats on Newspaper Rebel and Right Rebel,
I am all for wearing hats at school but, that rule is there for our safety. I spoke to our principal, Mr. Bernard, and he gave me 3 good reasons why hats should stay off:

- 1. Some people don't respect property. If someone takes your hat and throws it to someone else, this leads to bigger problems.*
- 2. It can become a big distraction in class. If you have a hat, you could distract your fellow students, which leads to stealing their education. And that's a crime no one should face!*
- 3. We have security cameras at school so we can identify people in the hallways. Hats can block your face. Let's say two students get in a fight -- if one is wearing a hat, we would be unable to identify them and they could hurt someone else.*

That said, if you really feel strong about wearing hats, maybe we can do what they did at RCK Elementary School one time: you pay a dollar and can wear a hat all day for one day. The money would go to charity and you get to wear your hats. We may need to get some signatures and start a petition.

Your Hat Loving 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 on the door of Room 118 or give it to Mrs. Avella.

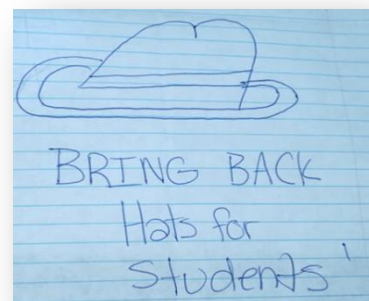
Dear Red Girl,
I'm having a hard time making friends. What do I do?

From,
K.C. Blue

Dear K.C. Blue,

Hi, the first thing to do is start a friendship. Try to start a conversation with someone and see if you have anything in common. Try joining a club or starting a new activity.

From your new friend,
Red Girl



Tech Reviews

Apple 2015: Check out what Apple has to offer this year.

By Justin Martinez



Polaroid Cube: The New GoPro?

By Robert Camlet

The Polaroid Cube is a mini compatible action camera that you can basically take anywhere. One of the features of this camera is the 124 degrees wide angle lens. The camera also has 1080p HD video and picture.

One of the greatest features on this camera is the magnet on the bottom. The magnet is so strong it can basically attach to anything and stick really well! Sadly, it doesn't come with an SD card so you have to buy your own.

When you buy this camera, it's only the camera. Other accessories include the waterproof case with suction mount, the bike mount, the tri-pod mount, the strap mount, and many others. It comes in three colors: blue, red, and black. The controls are some of the simplest controls for a camera I have ever seen in my life. You can buy this camera for \$99. This is a high price for a camera like this but it is worth the purchase, in my opinion.



Apple has just released two new major products for the year. We went to the Apple store and spoke to an employee who told us about a new product called the Apple Watch. This new product can do many of the things that your iPhone does like text, call people and of course, tell time. It also has many other useful features like health apps that keep track of things like your heartbeat, how long you've been sitting down and when to exercise. Right now, if you want to buy it, the cheapest model is the Apple Sport Watch costing \$349. The employee let me try on the watch and told me how it has all day battery life and that you must have an iPhone 5 or newer in order for it to work. It is available to buy as of April 24, 2015 but if you want, you can try it on at any local Apple store.

Another product that Apple announced is the new MacBook laptop. The new laptop features a larger screen about 12" inches wide and the whole thing weighs about 2 pounds. The images you'll see on the MacBook will be more hi-def and clearer. Another advantage is the extremely long battery life, up to 9 hours of use before having to be recharged. You can buy it in any Apple store now or try it out at the Apple store. If you really like it, it is available for \$1,299.



To test or not to test? That is the question.

By Joelle Tomossone

Controversy surrounding education reform continues to swirl through our state. For some, common core exams seem to be the state's way of taking power away from the local school district. But for those involved in writing the standards, it has been a long hard process designed to raise achievement levels of students across the country. The common core standards are supposed to tell what students should know and be able to do by each grade. According to Dean Lynn, Vice President of the Business Round Table, who oversees its education and workforce committee, the entire purpose of these standards was to determine what a student needs to know and demonstrates the ability to do in order to be prepared for an entry level college course. This statement assumes that all students will go to college. But for those students who choose a different path, what are the tests preparing them for?

PROS

- test results can be used to create a learning plan based on child needs
- data is available for parents to see how child has performed
- with yearly testing, kids improve test taking ability

CONS

- teachers feel pressure to teach to the test they lose creativity and innovation
- pressure on parents and students can be negative to a student's performance
- test anxiety can cause stress and illness

These pros and cons must be looked at carefully and a decision made whether or not implementing testing standards has helped or hurt students. I polled 20 students at EIMS to see how they felt about the Common Core State Assessments. Results: 5 agree with importance of testing 15 disagree with importance of testing.

Is opting out of the state test a good idea?

By Emma McGaugh and Anna Langman

The New York state tests were given in April. According to Newsday, about 67% of students opted out of the ELA exams, and 74% opted out of the math exams in East Islip. We interviewed 71 students from our own school. Of that group, 41 of them were opting out and 30 of them were taking the tests. More than half of them opted out because of two reasons: they don't want to take another test or are worried about being put into A.I.S. classes (every-other day extra help during school). However, the others who took the tests said it is good practice for finals/other tests or their parents were forcing them to.

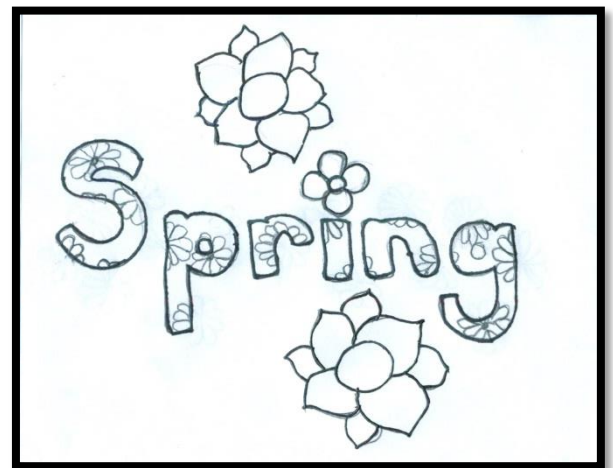


Illustration by
Emma McGaugh and Anna Langman

Fun with Puzzles!

Baseball Word search

By Joseph Graziano

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

BASEBALL
 BAT
 DOUBLE
 GLOVES
 GRAND SLAM
 HIT
 HOMERUN
 SINGLE
 STEAL
 TRIPLE
 UMPIRE



Random Words

By Sam Stember and Markus Higgins

ACTOR
 AIRPLANE
 CAR
 DOG
 GUMMYWORMS
 MOVIE
 NOSE
 PLAIN
 SCHOOL
 SHIRT
 SPORTS

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