

### STUDENT REPORTERS

### FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

Katherine Boudinot  
Emma Brainard  
Jessie Briones Herrera  
Jaylynn Douglas  
Tori Evangelista  
Isla Feldman  
Luna Flores  
Annabelle Her  
Jae Johnson

Anna Larsen  
Mariah Martinez  
Alex Martinez Beltran  
Lauren Oswald  
Divya Ohneswere  
Eshani Ohneswere  
Aniyah Spears  
Audrey Tix  
*Staff Editor: Ms. Maloney*

## IGHMS CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

by Mariah Martinez, grade 7 & Ms. Maloney

February is Black History Month (BHM). Throughout the month Inver Grove Heights Middle School worked to acknowledge and celebrate black history. IGHMS believes in the contributions of all people and wants to combat racism.

Racism is the belief that different races possess distinct characteristics, abilities, or qualities, especially so as to distinguish them as inferior or superior to one another.

Students and staff at IGHMS celebrated Black History Month in a variety of ways. A weekly quiz on BHM trivia was posted during advisory, and any student who

participated won a prize. During first hour, facts about a BHM figure were described and classrooms competed to be the first to call in and correctly guess the BHM figure. The classroom that guessed the most number of figures

biographies and pictures were displayed in the school.

One of the biographies created was about Kobe Bryant. He was born August 23, 1978 and he died January 26, 2020. Kobe was a student at Lower Merion High School which is

located in a suburb of Philadelphia. As an outstanding basketball player, he earned a number of awards, including the National High School Player of the Year and recognition from Naismith Memorial

Hall of Fame. Kobe tragically died in a helicopter crash, along with his daughter and seven others.



correctly will win a donut breakfast at the end of the month. Students also worked to created biographies on BHM figures and the

## SHOULD PLASTIC BE BANNED?

by Annabelle Her, grade 7

I know the thought process most people go through when they hear the question "should plastic be banned?" It's a tough question. On one hand, our world has been polluted by plastic, it is killing marine life, clogging pipe lines and more. According to OECD.org, plastics have a remarkable carbon footprint and emit 3.4% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Plastic plays a huge role in killing our planet.

It seems like banning plastic would only be a good thing, but what you don't realize is that practically

everything we use is made out of plastic: from the plastic bags we use to carry our groceries to the layer of plastic in paper cups to not burn our hands. It seems impossible to get rid of plastic after all the things we already use it for. It would be more expensive for every coffee shop to have reusable cups, which then had to be washed. It would also be hard if you had to stop buying plastic bottles - many people don't have good tap water.

Maybe the real question is: are we willing to make our lives just a little bit harder to save our planet? Are we willing to make some people just a little less rich to make the air a little more clear? So far it looks like no. Experts say by 2030 climate change will be irreversible, and many people don't care. There is only one Earth, what can you do to save it?



# THE HISTORY OF VALENTINE'S DAY

by Isla Feldman, grade 7

Valentine's Day is a celebration of love and romance. Valentine's day is celebrated annually on February 14th. It is also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine. So what is the history of this holiday? Why is it so shallow? Why is there no deeper meaning?

The holiday we call Valentine's Day was actually created by Pope Gelasius I in order to replace the ancient Roman festival Lupercalia. Lupercalia is a celebration of fertility dedicated to the Roman god of agriculture, Faunas, and Roman founders Romulus and Remus. Saint Valentine's day began around 1800, but Valentine's Day goes all the way back to the 6th century B.C.

You might think that Valentine's Day is innocent and wholesome but you would be wrong. Roman priests would sacrifice goats and dogs and use their blood-soaked hides to slap women on the streets, as a fertility blessing.

Now we know the past of Valentine's Day and how it came to be and changed.

# TEACHERS AS CATS

by Jaylynn Douglas, grade 7

Mr. Xiong



Ms. Hamilton



# VOTE FOR ANIMAL OF THE MONTH & TEACHER OF THE MONTH

by Luna Flores, Jae Johnson, Anna Larsen, grade 7



# ANIMAL & TEACHER OF THE MONTH

by Luna Flores, Jae Johnson, Anna Larsen, grade 7

Normal cat: Meow  
Texan Cat: Meowdy



In a survey taken of students at Inver Grove Heights Middle School, the following teacher was voted teacher of the month:

MS.  
KONSOR



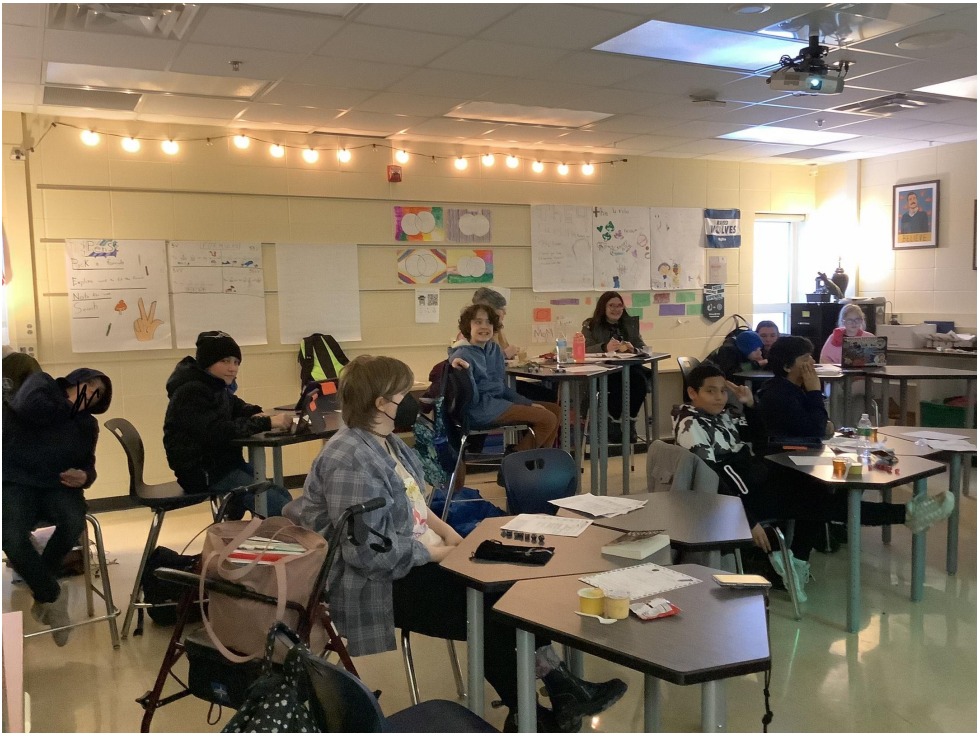


BOYS BASKETBALL

by Jae Johnson, grade 7

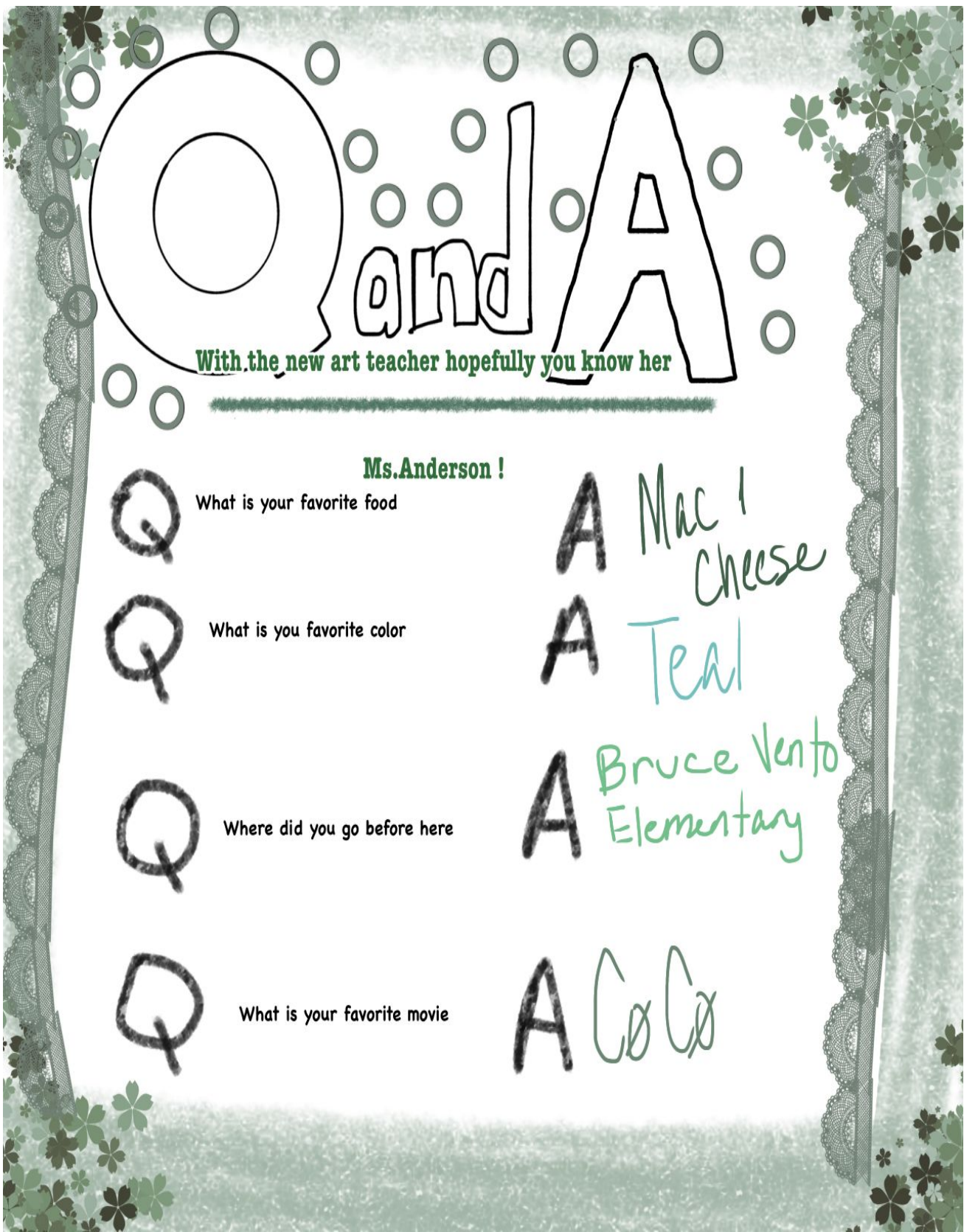
D & D CLUB

by Jae Johnson, grade 7



Q & A WITH MS. ANDERSON

by Tori Evangelista, grade 7



WHY ARE  
THERE SO  
MANY  
KIT KAT  
FLAVORS?

by Divya Ohneswere, grade 7

Can someone please tell me why there are so many different types of Kit Kats?

You may not have noticed it at first because everyone usually eats the milk chocolate Kit Kat, which is probably the original flavor. There are over 300 different kinds of Kit Kats.

I'm definitely not an expert on Kit Kats, but I can't possibly be the only one who has noticed that Kit Kats come in so many flavors.

Here are the top ten weirdest Kit Kat flavors:

- 1.) soy sauce
- 2.) wasabi
- 3.) red bean soup
- 4.) apple vinegar
- 5.) gatorade
- 6.) sea food
- 7.) ocean salt
- 8.) baked potato
- 9.) salt watermelon
- 10.) corn

I think there are even more rare Kit Kat flavors.

Maybe after reading this article, or while eating your next Kit Kat, you will think about all the other Kit Kat flavors out there.



# AN INTERVIEW WITH PRINCIPAL WENDEL

by Eshani Ohneswere & Audrey Tix, grade 6



# JAVAN RHINOS: EXTINCT

by Emma Brainard, grade 6

Javan rhinos are a type of Rhinocerotidae. They live in Ujung Kulon National Park in Java, Indonesia. The unfortunate fact is that Javan Rhinos are almost extinct. They started to be considered endangered around 1986 and their population continued to decrease.

Javan Rhinos are one of the most poached animals in



the world. There are only around 60 Javan rhinos in the world, and the last Javan Rhino in Vietnam was killed in 2010. One reason people are killing them is for their horns. People even put Javan rhino horns up for auction because they are so expensive. Javan rhino horns



can go for more than \$50,000 on the black market! The Javan Rhinos are so vulnerable that they are expected to actually go extinct around 2036. If people stop hurting Javan Rhinos and taking their horns, they might be able to live much longer.

# GOOD GRADES ARE IMPORTANT

by Emma Brainerd, grade 6

*Getting good grades and doing your work is great for many reasons!*

- you will have a more successful future
- school will be easier for you
- you will have less homework
- school will be less stressful

*And there are even more amazing reasons if you listen to the teacher and try to get the best grades you can*





# DON'T TOUCH THE BUTTON PT. 2

by Jessie Briones Herrera, grade 7



## ANGER

by Anna Larsen, grade 7

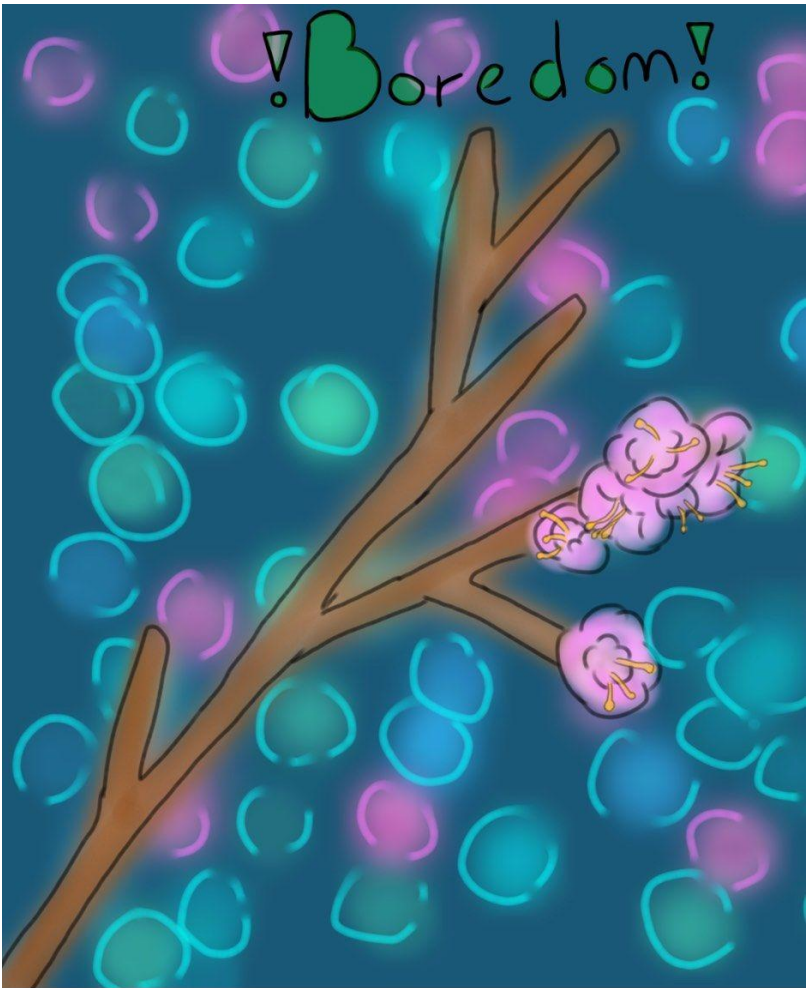
A volcano  
Building up  
Waiting to explode  
Gets harder to control  
The longer it's locked up

Finally  
Exploding  
Letting it all go  
Like a never ending river  
A weight leaving your heart  
Finally gone

Until next time,  
Anger

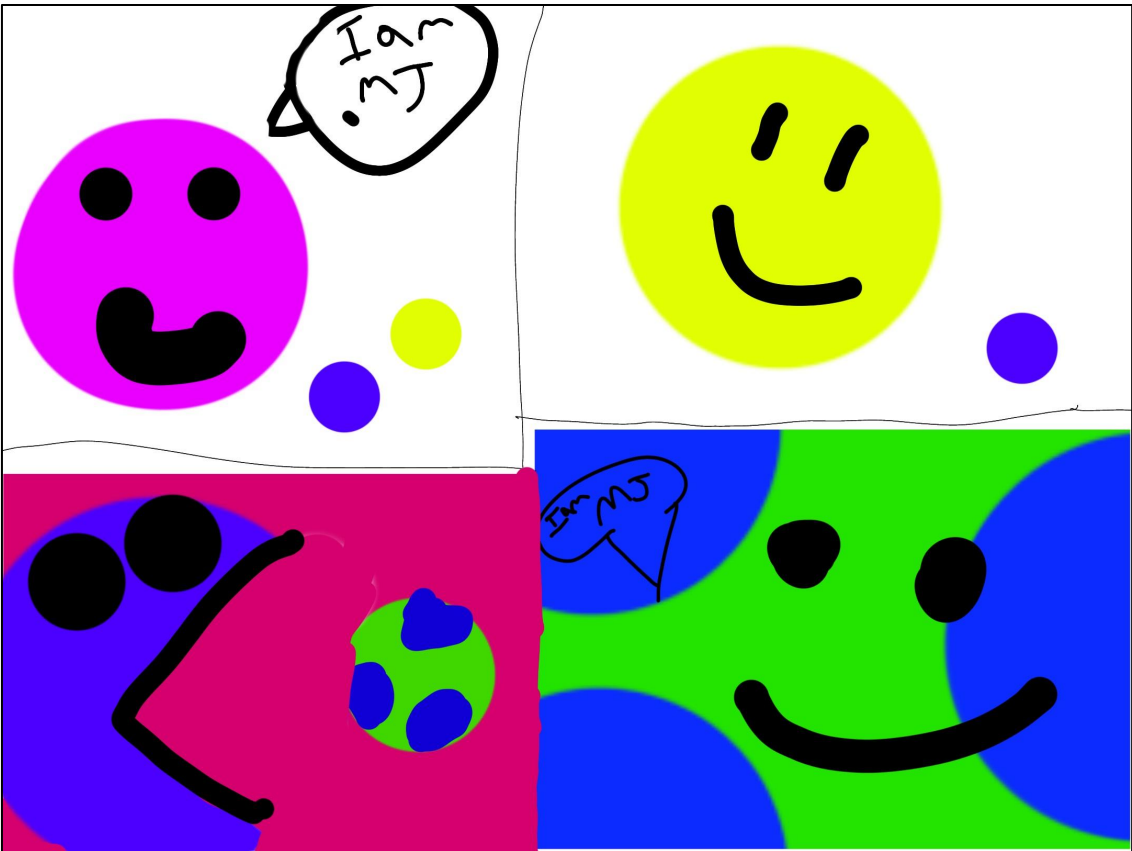
## BOREDOM

by Katherine Boudinot, grade 6



## I AM MJ: PT. 2

by Mariah Martinez, grade 7





# HOW RECORD PLAYERS WORK

by Lauren Oswald, grade 7

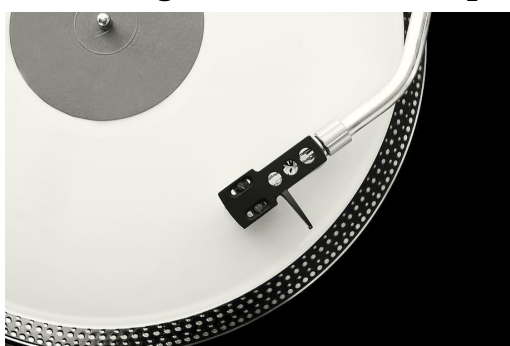
For Christmas this year, I was gifted a record player as well as various vinyl records. After playing my records numerous times, a question still sparked in my mind; *how do record players actually work?* You've probably seen them in many different places before, or even just as symbols of music. After doing some research, I finally understand how tiny little grooves can create music!

Let's start off with the different parts of a record player: some of the parts include the stylus (or needle), the turntable, the counterweight, and the tone arm. Record players' designs may slightly differ, but all record players typically include all of the parts listed above.

When you play a vinyl record, the record spins on the turntable and the stylus is carefully placed in the record's tiny grooves. As the record spins around and around, the stylus

vibrates from the grooves. Those vibrations are known as sound vibrations or sound waves. The stylus picks up these sound vibrations and converts them into electrical signals that are fed into amplifiers so you can hear the music. How are the different pitches of the music created? Well, the frequency of the sound wave determines how high or low the sound will be. So when vinyl records are played, the sound waves create the many different pitches of the music.

In conclusion, record players are electromagnetic devices that pick up sound



has come; from record players, all the way to digital music streaming. I wonder what the future of technology will hold!

vibrations and turn them into electrical signals. It's crazy how far technology

# DIY CALMING JARS

by Eshani Ohneswere, grade 6

You will need: clear glue, food coloring, water, a mason jar or any other bottle, and glitter.

First, fill up your bottle with glue a  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the way.

Second, add food coloring and add glitter, LOTS OF GLITTER!

Third, fill the bottle the rest of the way with water.

Fourth, you will need to seal it TIGHT.

Finally, you ARE DONE!  
HAVE FUN. SHAKE IT UP AND WATCH.



# Q & A: AVID STUDENT BRIELLE LEHMAN

by Anna Larsen, grade 7

Q: Why did you join AVID?

A: I joined AVID because my cousin did it and she's like 'It's really cool' and I'm a very big college supporter. I'm excited to go to college and I already know what college I want to go to. It just seemed exciting.

Q: How would you describe AVID?

A: AVID is a community. It's welcoming and there is no judgment.

Q: What is the best thing about AVID? Why?

A: The best thing about AVID is the relationships you make because it's like a bond. Most people continue AVID and don't drop it unless they want to, so you usually will stay with the same people.

Q: What is your favorite assignment that you have had so far?

A: 7th grade was my college presentation and emailing a college. My favorite in 8th grade is my AVID one pager.

Q: Do you enjoy AVID? Why?

A: I enjoy AVID because I believe very strongly in going to college. I feel like it pushes me a little bit to not really give up on school because I have been at the point

where I am like "ugh, school."

Q: Do you think AVID is important? Why?

A: You don't have to do AVID if you don't want to but it is really helpful with the organization, support you get and how you're not really judged

Q: What is one skill you learned in AVID that you have used outside of that class?

A: Teamwork and since I am in WEB also I do a lot of the role modeling and stuff like that. It's taught me how to be a good student

Q: What advice would you give students (who are not a part of AVID)?

A: Push yourself because even if you applied and didn't get in (or not apply at all) it's not because you're not smart or anything but because there wasn't enough room. They pick the students who they see could use the help and AVID is a big helping family.

Q: Why should other students sign up for AVID?

A; I think other students should sign up because one: it is exciting to hear the news that you got in and two: is because it structures you and that is very helpful.



THE CASE OF  
ALEXANDRA ALVAREZ & LUCY HILL

by Aniyah Spears, grade 7

**Chapter one:  
The unusual night**

"Ally wake up you're gonna be late" Mom yells from downstairs. "OK, I'm up" I yell back. I get ready for school in a rush so Jax doesn't yell at me. "I'm here" Jax texts me. "OK, I'm coming down" I text back. I get in the car and he drives off. We get to school and see a missing poster on the bulletin board. We hear whispers in the hallways. I listen in to one of the convos, "yeah that sucks but I didn't like them anyway" the "popular" girl says.

*I go up to her and say "hey that's not ok to say. They're missing and you say terrible things about them. What is wrong with you?" "Who do you think your talking to?" she says. "Never mind" I say because I don't want trouble. "That's what I thought nerd" she says. Jax and I walk away to our lockers while she just laughs. The bell rings so Jax and I go to class so we're not late. We are sitting in the lesson when our principal, Mrs. Jackson, walks in and says "Ally, Jax, and Carla - come with me please."*

*We walk outside the classroom and she walks us to the office. We get there and she talks to us one by one. Mrs. Jackson says "so I heard that Clara was saying really mean things about the missing girls. Is that true?" "Yes it is true" I reply. She asks me more questions then she tells me I can head back to class. I get to class and everyone is staring at me. I sit in my seat but the stares don't go away.*

*I get uncomfortable but try to ignore it. The bell rings and I speed walk out of there. Clara and her friends walk up to me. I tried walking around them but they followed me around the school. Eventually a teacher stops them. The rest of the day Clara and her friends harass me. The school day finishes. Little did anyone know, Jax and I were the ones who would solve this case.*

**Chapter two:  
The shadow**

That night Jax and I snuck out and met up in the wood. We snuck to the crime scene to try and find out what happened to Alexandra and Lucy. We took pictures and looked around for a bit. Then we heard something in the trees. We looked over to try and see what it was but we saw nothing. Then out of they darkness I saw the shadow of a person in the distance. "Jax" I call out!

*I hear nothing for a second then I wake up. "Was it all a dream" I thought. "Ally" Jax calls my name. "Yes" I say back. "You passed out" He says. "Thats when my heart dropped." I think to myself "what made me see that?" "You ok?" Jax asks me. "Yeah I'm fine" I say back so he doesn't panic. "Ok well we better get out of here before we get caught by someone" Jax says in a worried voice. "Yeah ok I guess."*

RELATABLE THINGS:  
PART 1 - DISHES

by Alex Martinez Beltran, grade 6



A four-panel comic strip featuring a character with blue hair. Panel 1: The character looks at a poster of a girl with red hair. Panel 2: The character says, "Imma do the dishes". Panel 3: The character says, "Mark, do the dishes." while another character looks on. Panel 4: The character looks sad and says, "I don't wanna do them anymore".

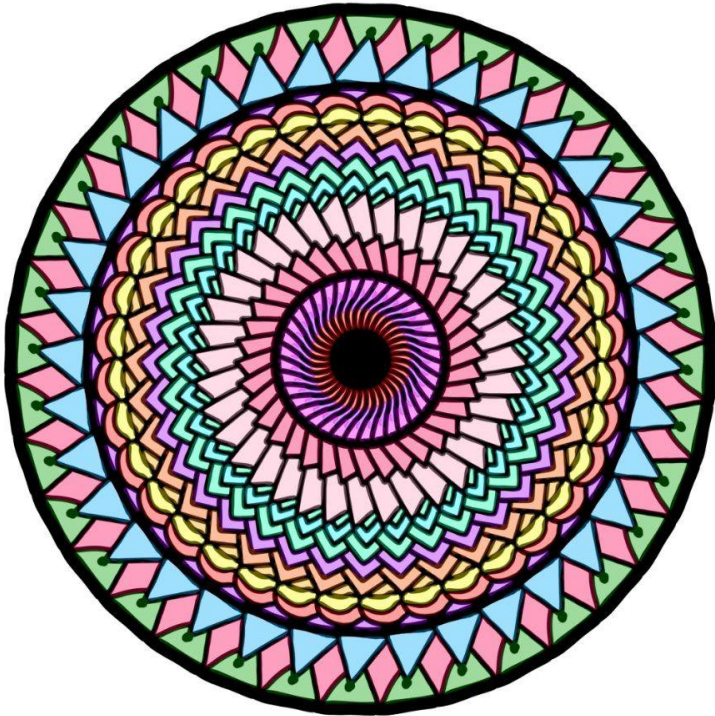
Relatable things

Part 1 dishes

By Alex martinez Beltran

CREATE

by Katherine Boudinot, grade 6



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