

Holiday 2019

Chalfont, PA

Unami Middle School



The Unami Times

Newspaper

“The liberty of the press is essential to the security of the state.”

The First Pep Rally of The Year!

Gianna Grumer

This year’s first pep rally was a huge hit! Students were asked to wear their grade colors: 7th- White, 8th- Black, and 9th- Orange.

Unami’s Boomerang nominees were announced for October. Congratulations to 9th grader Samantha Rosinski for moving into the district level! Students were recognized for their contributions to Unami’s fall sports as well. This included Unami’s first volleyball team! After all of the announcements had been made, they began the student-teacher knockout game. 7th Grader Addy Geary beat Mr. Beal at the end of the game. After basketball, students and teachers went head to head in a game of rock, paper, scissors, shoot, with a twist. Players would hop the hoola hoops until reaching their opponent, in which they would play the game. Once a player lost, they would walk back to their team as another player would start hopping over to the winner. Students were super invested in the contest and were cheering from the bleachers. This continued until 9th Grade was titled the winner. To wrap up the assembly, Dr. Watters and Mr. Boyle led our schoolwide chant, “Warrior Strength, Unami Pride!”. After a fun-filled half-day, students went home to enjoy their day off. Thank you to Student Council and the Unami Teachers for making the Fall Pep Rally a blast!



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La Luna– Dancing into New Culture

Vibha Iyengar



On November 7th, 2019, all students in Spanish 2 were offered the option to take a field trip to La Luna Dance Studio. La Luna is in Bristol, approximately 45 minutes away from Unami. On this trip, students got to watch two professional salsa dancers perform. They then learned about salsa and learned some basic salsa dancing. Afterwards, they participated in a question and answer with Jose, one of the instructors. During this segment, students would ask Jose a question in Spanish. He would then respond in Spanish. If the student who asked the question could translate both the question and answer into English, then they won a prize. After the question and answer segment, students ate a traditional Latin American lunch where a variety of Latin American foods were served. After they ate food, students finished off the day by learning a little bit of bachata – another kind of Latin American dance – and then they partook in a small dance party with the disco ball.

Then, they got back onto their buses and returned to Unami for the end of the day.

Unami Times

2019-2020

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Unami and Community News

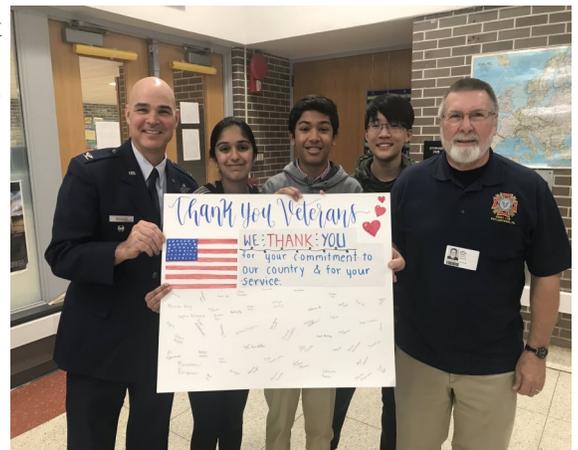
The Assembly to Remember

Roshni Srikant

November 11th was Veterans Day, and this year was the 100th anniversary. Veterans Day celebrates the end to “The War to End All Wars” or World War One and honors those that have served in war or peace. At Unami, they have a presentation for 7th, 8th, and 9th grade along with a special guest.

At 8:20 it was 7th grade’s presentation time, so the resource teachers took their classes down to the auditorium. Ms. Prendergast gave a speech, introducing us to Colonel Boquist. 7th grade chorus performed “America”, also known as “My Country Tis of Thee”, directed by Mr. Beal, the new music teacher. Colonel Boquist, a pilot from the Southern states, was there to talk to us. This year he did not have a presentation to show us. He asked if anyone had questions and answered them; he also talked about himself a bit. He talked about D.I.M.E and what it means to be a soldier. D.I.M.E means democracy, information, military, and economy. That’s what most civilizations need: a form of government that helps the people, information to base attacks or plan for the future, a good military to defend, and an economy that functions properly. To be a soldier means that you will defend the constitution. That’s the oath all members of the military swear to. Colonel Boquist had wanted to be a spy and took German in college, but the military wasn’t looking for kids out of college. He asked if anyone had any questions about the military, and there were about five questions that were asked- Are drill sergeants “mean”? What are the badges on your uniform? Is it hard being a trigger puller? Did you ever kill anybody? What was your scariest experience? He answered all those questions, and then the time was up. We had to leave, yet most of the students gave him a handshake before leaving.

8th grade’s experience, likewise, was begun with the choir singing “America the Beautiful” and then an introduction by Mr. Fischer to Colonel Boquist. He began by telling us about his hope to answer some of our questions about veterans today, and proceeded to answer the question “Why do we have a military?” He explained that the military is only for use to defend the Constitution, rather than the people. The people are protected by the government, the police, etc. The military, he said, was only used for federal purposes and for international attack and could not be used to protect people—then the government would have too much power. He then asked if we had any more questions and reminded us to never ask any veteran if they had killed anyone. Then, when someone asked about his badges and what they meant, he said that each color and pattern pertain to a different achievement, like a specific set of stripes for valor. Soon, time was up, and we all thanked him for the interview. This was definitely an assembly worth remembering.



Indochinese Tigers are in Danger

Rishi Raghav Suresh

The Indochinese tiger is a subspecies of tiger that is found in Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Burma. They once inhabited China too, but none of these stunning creatures have been seen there since 2007. It is estimated fewer than 1,500 Indochinese tigers are left in the wild. Since there are only a few hundred of these animals left, the remaining specimens are sometimes prone to inbreeding (breeding with immediate family members). This leads to weakened genes and defects.

They are naturally elusive animals, making them particularly difficult to study and observe in the wild. The Indochinese tiger prefers a life of seclusion. They choose forested areas in which they are concealed and camouflaged. They also prefer mountainous regions to flat ones. The Indochinese tiger will eat the prey that is available to it within its natural habitat. This should comprise medium and large deer, birds, etc. With only a few hundred Indochinese tigers thought to be endangered, the situation is critical. The poaching of tigers as well as of their prey is the most significant contributing factor to the depletion of this species. The key factors for the Indochinese tigers decline are hunting for trophies, poaching by farmers, and the growing demand for tiger bones in Oriental medicine.

Habitat loss due to population growth is also a major concern. According to some reports, almost three-quarters of the Indochinese tigers killed end up in Chinese pharmacies for medicines. Today, these animals can only be found in parks and reserves. There are a few programs and initiatives underway to promote and rehabilitate the tiger numbers. However, this subspecies remains in critical danger of extinction. It is thought the Indochinese tiger is disappearing faster than any other tiger sub-species, with one tiger being killed every week by poachers.



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Saugus High School Shooting Leaves Country in Disbelief

Katherine He

On Thursday, November 14th, a student at Saugus High School in Santa Clarita, California opened fire on his classmates before shooting himself. The morning of his 16th birthday, Nathaniel Tennosuke Berhow arrived at school after getting dropped off by his mother and walked to the quad area alone before classes began. He then pulled a 45-caliber semi-automatic handgun out of his backpack and shot three rounds of bullets within 16 seconds. He appeared familiar with the weapon, although it did temporarily jam after the first shot was fired. The students followed their training procedures, running and hiding from the active shooter. The first report came at 7:38 AM, and within minutes, officers were on the scene tending to the victims. A 16-year-old girl, Gracie Muehlberger, and a 14-year-old boy, Dominic Blackwell, were killed, and the another three were wounded and hospitalized. Berhow died in the hospital on Friday, succumbing to his injury.

Nobody suspected him to be capable of such atrocities, and he was described by his classmates as a quiet, normal student. He was a cross-country runner, a boy scout, an academic scholar, a chess player, and had a girlfriend. His neighbor recalled, "He always had a smile on his face." There seemed to be no warning or motive for the shooting; there was no bullying, no connections to the victims, and no known negative influences. He did not leave behind any suicide note or manifesto to provide reasoning for his actions. His father, who owned firearms, did die of a heart attack in December of 2017, but he did not seem depressed to his peers. Those close to him were left in shock and disbelief that he had such violence within him. This incident urges the question: how well do we really know the people around us? The Saugus Shooting fuels the debate over gun control, marking at least 30 fatal school shootings and 365 mass shootings in 2019 thus far. The entire country will continue mourning and honoring the victims of yet another school shooting.



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Sports

The Baby of the Family: Unami's Newest Athletic Event

Alexa Haidacher

Unami Middle School has been home to many different clubs, sports, and after school activities. This year, Central Bucks School District has taken on a new challenge. Twenty of Unami's seventh and eighth graders formed the district's first co-ed volleyball team. I had the pleasure of interviewing two of Unami's newest athletes. The team competed throughout the district and their season—which lasted from September to late October—was full of competition and team building. They suffered only one loss to Lenape's team throughout the entirety of the season. Each member supplied a different aspect to the two teams formed, and the wide range of skill levels let every athlete learn something new. This year's team did an amazing job of growing every member's skill levels, and new friendships were made along the way. Overall, the Unami volleyball team is a new, exciting addition to the Unami community, and congratulations to every one of the new players! The coaches look forward to another spectacular season next fall!



Freshmen Football Interview

Lynn Choi

Football is an extremely popular sport in America and in our very own Unami community. After the season ended in late October, I had the opportunity to interview a former player of the Unami Football Team, who has now moved onto the South Freshman Football Team, Skyler Speak. Skyler plays on the offense as a right tackle, where his role is to block the lineman. The South Freshman Team is actually one of the best in their division, and they ended their season very impressively, with a 6 and 2 record, where they lost to only CB West and CB East. A few strengths in the plays of the team that Skyler noted was that they had a good defense and that the players blocked well. He also noted that there were many running plays, which was an additional strong point for them. As someone who has never taken a great deal of interest in football or many other sports, I find it inspiring that this sport actually unifies a group of kids who may otherwise not care for each other. No matter how problematic the outside world is, the game is unchanging, it makes sense, it's a distraction, even if it's temporary. Having the team to support you both as a player and as a member of the group is comforting and gives the players something to depend on. It is a great way for students to share common interests and creates a community in our school.



The Alarming New Terms of Service Policy on YouTube

Cassidy Fisher

YouTube has given viewers and content creators access to the new and supposedly improved Terms of Service Policy. This new policy is being set into action December 10th, 2019. All of these new guidelines are alarming content creators on the platform, but why? One popular area of the new Terms of Service Policies is labeled *Your Use of the Service*. Under this section YouTube states, “Content is the responsibility of the person or entity that provides it to the Service. YouTube is under no obligation to host or serve Content.” What this means is that



YouTube could take down any content at any time. Many creators’ channels could lose thousands of minutes-worth of content for no reason and at any time. Another shocking thing in this new policy under *Permissions and Restrictions* states that “You are not allowed to access, reproduce, download, distribute, transmit, broadcast, display, sell, license, alter, modify or otherwise use any part of the Service or any Content except: (a) as expressly authorized by the Service; or (b) with prior written permission from YouTube and, if applicable, the respective rights holders.” This means that the download button under every video that allows you to access the video through your own media files will no longer be in use. You may no longer get permission from the content creator themselves to use their media, but the actual platform must give you permission! These are just a few of the red flags that the new Terms of Service Policy give to content viewers and creators. YouTube CEO, Susan Wojcicki has and most likely will be getting backlash for these new changes, but how will YouTube change when these terms are set into motion?

Taylor Swift Fights For Artists’ Rights

Diya Hundiwala

Taylor Swift is one of the most successful artists of the decade. With all this success comes the occasional criticism, but she constantly chooses to use these hurdles to make a positive difference in the world. Recently, Swift has been speaking out against her former record label, Big Machine Records. After Scooter Braun and Scott Borchetta gained control of the Big Machine Label Group, Taylor Swift has been denied access to the master recordings of her first six albums. In other words, she does not own the first six albums of her catalog. Swift has since switched record labels prior to the release of her newest album, *Lover*, and made plans to rerecord all six of her previous albums in November 2020. She still made this issue public through social media in order to raise awareness for other artists within the music industry. However, this issue grew more problematic when it was announced that Swift is going to be honored with the Artist of the Decade award at this year’s American Music Awards.



Several artists within the music industry came forward on social media in support of Swift and praised her for her courage to publicize the matter. Unfortunately, avid Swifties took Swift’s plea for help a little too far. Fans of the hit singer were allegedly attempting to find personal information belonging to Big Machine Record’s employees, not just executives Braun and Borchetta, and leaking it. Nevertheless, Big Machine Label released a statement shortly after Swift’s online plea, stating that Swift was free to perform any of her songs at the AMAs. If this is true, Swifties across the globe would be thrilled to see Swift perform some of her biggest hits at the awards. However, conflicting statements from the producers of the American Music Awards state that they made no such agreement with Big Machine, and any final decisions to be made would have to be made with Taylor Swift’s team. Amid all these contrasting reports, one thing is certain. Taylor Swift is and will remain an influential advocate for artists’ rights throughout the world.

Elon Musk: The Real-Life Iron Man

Varun Rao

The man, the myth, the legend. Everyone knows who I'm talking about; it's Elon Musk, the inventor/genius who single-handedly built one of the most successful electric car companies in the world, created a company that implants solar roofs in your shingles, and founded a company that is going to take us all to Mars. But who really is this man, and why has he had so much success innovating in our generation?

Elon Musk was born on June 28, 1971, in Pretoria, South Africa. He lived there till he was 17, when he moved to Canada to study at Queen's College. He then transferred from there to attend University of Pennsylvania, where he earned Bachelor's degrees in economics and physics. Musk then co-founded Zip2, which was bought by a company for \$340 million in 1999. He also founded an online bank company which turned into PayPal and was bought by eBay, so Musk enjoyed entrepreneurial success very early on.



In 2002, Musk founded SpaceX, an aerospace company that is responsible for trips to Earth's orbit and even Mars. Musk has said from the beginning that the colonization of Mars is the future of humanity, and it is even more important now due to climate change. But the cost of building a settlement on Mars is very expensive, so Musk came up with the idea of reusing rockets after they launched. Currently, SpaceX is conducting tests where their rocket launches into the atmosphere and delivers the payload into orbit. Afterwards, the rockets use propulsion systems to slowly lower back to Earth, where they land in an upright position. Musk is also working on a rocket, "Starship", that will take humans all the way to Mars and land on its surface.

In 2003, Elon Musk founded the electric car company, Tesla, one of the most popular electric car brands ever. The four car models released are the Tesla Roadster, the Tesla Model S, the Tesla Model X, and the Tesla Model 3. But Tesla is currently working on making and releasing more cars, such as the Model Y, an electric 18-wheeler, and a Tesla pickup truck. Musk focuses on helping the environment in a stylish way which is why Tesla is such a sought-after car brand. The luxury of the cars are a big reason why they are seen almost everywhere. Musk has places charging stations around America, almost 14,500 to be exact. This allows for easy charging and long-distance travelling. But Musk stresses that the main importance of the company is to help the environment.

Other projects are also being brought into the life by Elon, or his associates. SolarCity was a solar roof company brought into existence by Elon's cousins in 2006. These roofs are known to generate a great deal of power and are innovating to make them look more visually appealing. HyperLoop is another project that Musk is working on. HyperLoop is a series of tunnels underground with magnetic rails so that instead of rolling on the rails, the trains will float. Floating will allow for less friction and more high speeds so that people can get to where they need to be faster.

Elon Musk is an innovator and someone who is changing the course of technology in America and around the world. His personality is appreciated all around the world and his projects are earning world-renown. We just have to keep watching and let Elon Musk do his thing.



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Image 2 - "[Tesla Model S Sedan # VIIIb](#)" by [Wolfram Burner](#) is licensed under [CC BY-NC 2.0](#)

Reviews

Last Christmas Review

Vibha Iyengar

Last Christmas is a romance movie that was released on November 8th, 2019. The movie follows a girl named Kate (played by Emilia Clarke) who lives in London and works as an elf in a Christmas shop. She has dreams of being a singer, but she is struggling to get success. She is the survivor of a heart disease after getting a heart transplant. She is also an incredibly depressed and an alcoholic. She then meets Tom (played by Henry Golding), a mysterious man who is constantly cheerful. Over the course of the movie, the two spend time together and she eventually becomes happier and manages to work through her issues.

The movie may call itself a romance, but there was hardly anything romantic about it. The main pairing, Kate and Tom, weren't interesting in the slightest. We learned practically nothing about Tom, and everything about Kate. For the majority of the movie, Tom acts more like a therapist to Kate than a love interest. Both of the characters were lovely, but I didn't find the pairing romantic. Their dynamic had plenty of potential, but it was disappointing. As a result of that, the majority of the movie was boring. At the end, there was a somewhat interesting plot twist, but until then, the movie was uninteresting. The performances of Emilia Clarke and Henry Golding were good, but the plot was dull. I didn't find myself invested in the story at all. In the end, it is revealed that Tom is dead, and has been for many years. He was the heart donor that gave Kate her heart, and she has been seeing him a ghost. All of the things that she has been doing with him, she has actually been doing on her own. Instead of a romance story, the story reveals that it is about reinvention. The final plot twist is the reason the movie is named *Last Christmas*, since it fulfills the classic lyrics "Last Christmas I gave you my heart". The plot twist surprised me, and I enjoyed it, but it didn't make up for suffering through the rest of the movie.

Overall, the movie wasn't the worst thing I've ever seen. However, it was boring and a waste of time. The performances were all excellent, but they didn't save the movie from being uninteresting. I wouldn't recommend anyone watch it unless you have absolutely nothing else to watch or do.



["Free Movie Theater Mockup"](#) by Blake Compton is licensed under [CC BY 4.0](#)

'Tis The Season of Christmas Movies

Lynn Choi

5. The Polar Express

A vaguely disturbing animated take on the children's story, the Polar Express has definitely received some mixed reviews. However, this movie was too iconic to not include on this list. This is a whimsical story of a young boy who takes the train the night of Christmas Eve to the North Pole. We follow him in the crazy journey where he discovers the true meaning of Christmas. When he is left the next morning to wonder if it was all a dream, he finds a knick-knack that lets him know that it was all a reality.

4. A Charlie Brown Christmas

Though this is not technically a movie, it was impossible to create the list and not include this Peanuts TV special. This fan-favorite Christmas short story follows the beloved characters of the Peanuts comic-strips in a classic, feel good, and iconic tale of the holidays. For its brief 30 minutes, it is sure to feed its worldwide audience a bright and nostalgic story that is sure to get all back into the innocent, childlike excitement of the holidays.

3. The Holiday

This 2006 romantic-comedy is a holiday movie that gives you that magical Christmas touch while also making you believe in love again. After two women, Iris and Amanda, end up in the same, depressing situation in their romantic relationships, they talk briefly online and decide to make the spontaneous decision to move into each other's homes for the holiday. When Iris moves into Amanda's huge California mansion and Amanda moves into Iris's quaint cottage in England, they meet two men that make them realize they've been looking for love in the wrong places. You're sure to be charmed by the two leading ladies, played by Kate Winslet and Cameron Diaz, as you watch their take on love, heartbreak, and independence: all under the snow.



2. The Nightmare Before Christmas

This iconic film from the imagination of Tim Burton follows Jack Skellington, the Pumpkin King of Halloween, as he gets bored of the same, repetitive routine of scaring people. He stumbles into Christmas town, a world of happiness, laughter, cookies, and lights, and he discovers things that he never thought possible. He decides to embark on a new mission, to take over Christmas town. But he soon discovers that the transition may not be as quick or as easy as he thought, and with the mess that he makes, we are left with one question: who will save Christmas?

1. Elf

This film has become a cult classic since its release in the early 2000's and has become the most quotable Christmas movie ever. This comedy follows Buddy, an orphan that was raised by Santa and his elves from his toddler years into adulthood, to New York City, where he searches for his real father. Will Ferrell, who plays Buddy, recreates the child-like mystic of Christmas time and he encourages the viewers of every age to be a child this December.

Reviews

Air Pods Pro: Are they a big improvement over normal Air Pods?

Abhirup Dey

This year, people saw many groundbreaking devices from Apple, and on October 30th, 2019, Apple released AirPods Pro. At first, AirPods Pro didn't look all that revolutionary since they only looked a little different from the normal AirPods. The Pro version comes in the same type of case as the normal AirPods, but they cost a lot more than the regular AirPods, around \$250.

Although a lot of things with the AirPods Pro are similar to regular AirPods, AirPods Pro still have many groundbreaking features. To start with, AirPods Pro has noise cancellation. The cancellation in the AirPods Pro is a big improvement from Apple compared to other noise-cancelling earbuds or headphones and the regular AirPods and AirPods gen 2, which do not have noise-cancelling features. In addition to this AirPods Pro also comes with audio transparency, meaning that you can lower the volume of the AirPods Pro with your hand to listen to what is going on around you or if you are talking to someone. It also comes with an adaptive Eq, or an adaptive equalizer, meaning that it adapts to time-varying properties of communication channels. Finally, AirPods Pro come with an in-ear design with three sets of tips. This means that AirPods Pro are designed to easily fit in your ear, and you can customize it with the tips so that it fits into your ear even better. Overall, things are looking excellent for Apple with their AirPods Pro gradually gaining popularity.

Cozy Fall Drinks

Zenub Umer

The cold and crisp season is here, and with that comes the season-based drinks! I always love drinking seasonal drinks because it just puts me in the holiday spirit. I have many favorites, but I'll try and narrow it down for you! My favorite drinks are the Peppermint Double-Shot Chocolate Chip Frappuccino, the Pumpkin Spice Latte, Toasted White Chocolate Mocha, and the Eggnog Latte. All these drinks have a certain flare to them, and they taste delicious. The Peppermint Double-Shot Chocolate Chip Frappe has java chips, peppermint, cream, espresso, and milk. This drink is mouthwatering if you're craving peppermint and chocolate and get this drink so many times during the chilling seasons. The Pumpkin Spice Latte has steamed milk, espresso, sugar, and traditional fall spices to top it off. It reminds me of fall and pumpkin festivals, and the smell fills up my nose every time I choose to get it. The Toasted White Chocolate Mocha tastes like melted white chocolate, and it's the perfect amount of sweetness. This drink always gives me a cozy internal feeling, like a blanket of warmth during the snowy season. It's made out of milk, chocolate, and espresso. The last drink is the Eggnog Latte and it's made with strong brewed espresso, steamed eggnog, and milk as well as sugar and nutmeg. This drink is so tasty, and it tastes like heaven in a red cup! All of these are only available at Starbucks, but



you can find seasonal drinks almost anywhere. You can also choose to alter any of the ingredients—just tell the baristas. If you're in the mood to try some new drinks, I would recommend these. Enjoy this holiday season with some new flavorsome and flavorful drinks!

Reviews

A Model Like No Other—The iPhone 11

Roshni Srikant

The iPhone 11 came into stores on September 20, 2019. The new iPhone has many updates, including a new wide-angle and ultra-wide angle lens, six new colors, and an Apple-patented A13 Bionic chip, which gives the phone Apple's fastest processor ever—this is according to 9To5 Mac. Apple also gave the iPhone 11 a battery life that lasts one hour longer than the iPhone XS. It currently costs \$699, which is a great price for anyone who's looking for a new phone to start with.



The new iPhone has some counterparts as well: the iPhone 11 Pro and Pro Max. These are more advanced and come with new features; they cost \$999 and \$1,099 respectively. These models come in more colors, which include midnight green, space gray, and gold. The cameras are greatly improved, as they have an advanced ultra-wide lens and a new Night mode for taking low-light images. The front camera is also wider so you can fit more people into a selfie. And finally, the big one—slo-mo setting is finally available in the front camera! Time to take slo-mo selfies!

Sometimes, you may need an upgrade on what phone to get. If you don't feel like paying much for the newest models, last year's iPhone X, XS, XR, and XS Max are similar. The updated features on the iPhone X which also are carried on to the iPhone 11 include the absence of a home button, Face ID, live Animoji, and newer swiping controls. Apple's most recent software for iPhone 6s and newer—iOS 13—includes Memoji stickers which are compatible even with models that don't have Animoji, a new Dark mode to help reduce eye strain, and more detailed and even 3D maps of certain areas in Apple Maps, which was a feature previously available on Google Maps and Google Earth.

Overall, the iPhone 11 is a great phone to start out with. However, if you want to take more high-quality photos, the iPhone 11 Pro or Pro Max may be a good fit if you're willing to spend on them.

Image - "[iPhone 11 / iPhone 11 Max / iPhone 11R / iOS 13 Concept](#)" by [Ran Avni](#) is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND 4.0](#)

Charlie's Angels

Lakshmi Iyengar

Charlie's Angels is a movie about an organization of crime fighting women that go on all sorts of different missions. Elena Houghlin finds out that Callisto, the technology that she worked on to create clean energy, can kill people with an EMP pulse and her boss, Fleming, won't let her fix it. Elena gets advised to get help from the Angels, so she turns to the Angels to help her get an audience with the head of the company, Brok. But when an attempt is made on her life and Fleming steals Callisto with the intent of selling it, Sabina Wilson, Jane Kano, and two of the Bosleys – a Lieutenant rank in the industry – help her recover the technology. The movie is filled with humor and action. Along the way there are twists and surprises that will keep you hooked on the plot. The movie has excellent performances from Kristen Stewart, Naomi Scott, Elizabeth Banks, and Ella Balinska. I didn't enjoy the start of the movie and a scene closer to the end as much as I did the rest of it because those scenes made me a little confused and uncomfortable. Towards the middle of the movie we got a little description of the background of the main angels, but I wish that we got to learn more about them and their pasts. If you don't enjoy movies with violence and death, then you might not enjoy Charlie's Angels.



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Teacher Interviews

Ms. Zablocki

Iris Liu

Where did you go to college?

“I went to Bucks County Community College to save money for 2 years. Then, I transferred to Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia.”

What was your major?

“It was professional writing and English, with a second major in secondary education.”

What middle school and elementary school did you go to?

“I went to Seylar Elementary School and Central Middle School.”

Why did you become a teacher?

“I realized while teaching dance for a couple years--I used to teach hip hop— that I loved teaching kids. I realized that I read a lot, more than most people, like I carry a book around with me everywhere I go. I learned about myself through reading and through writing and I wanted other people to learn that skill. So, because I love working with kids so much, I realized that teaching was for me and I wanted to inspire kids and help kids through their education journey because for me school was hard and I didn’t have that mentor. I knew my teachers cared, but they didn’t show me how much they cared, nor did they try to help me learn about myself as a person. I wanted to do that for others.”

What subject do you teach?

“I have always taught English.”

What grades have you taught?

“Ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, and now seventh.”

What do you like to do in your free time?

“I rock climb, snowboard, run, practice yoga, and I love to crochet.”

What is your favorite book?

“I don’t have a favorite book. It’s like asking who your favorite child is. I love *Into the Wild* by John Krakauer. I love the *Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne. I love them all. I love the classics. So, I love 19th century American literature, so anything from that era.”

Do you have any siblings?

I have an older brother and two older sisters. So, I’m the baby.

Do you have any pets?

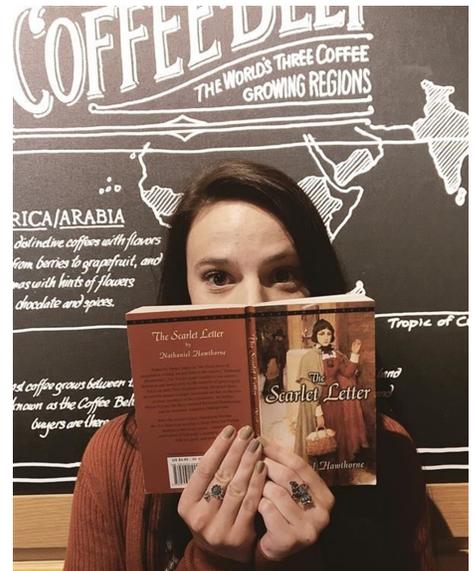
“I have an adorable puppy named Meeko. I named him after the racoon in Pocahontas.”

Why do you like being a teacher?

“Because I get to inspire kids every day. I get to see them overcome challenges, grow into themselves. I get to develop relationships with kids that I hope will last a lifetime. I always tell my kids, “My door is always open. You can talk to me even if I’m not your teacher, you can still come in and talk to me.” I love being able to see my kids everyday and develop that strong student-teacher relationship.”

What is the most difficult part about being a teacher?

“Probably ... the long hours, because it doesn’t stop when students go home. It’s also very challenging when you see students go through difficult times, and you want to do everything in your power to help them and help them overcome whatever the challenge may be, whether it’s academic related or not.”



Teacher Interviews

Mr. Trafford

Samuel Kim and Carter Forman

- 1. Why did you decide to come to Unami?** There was an opening in the district, and because I love working with kids, especially middle school kids, I took it.
- 2. What is your educational background?** I have a certification in PE/Health and Tech Ed. Also, I used to be a dean in a high school. I have a degree in business too.
- 3. Why did you decide to become a teacher?** I have a business degree and I realized that was boring to me, just sitting around, so I realized that I wanted to work with kids. So what better to do than be a teacher?
- 4. What do you like most about teaching?** I love it because I love to see kids smiling and light up when they learn and figure out something. And I like learning. Believe it or not, I learn at my job every day.
- 5. What do you think is important about your subject, and why should it be taught?** It teaches kids that when something doesn't work, you need to fix it and try again, and you keep trying until it works while following the problem-solving process.
- 6. What is your personal favorite subject?** Principles of Engineering and Engineering Processes.
- 7. What do you think is the biggest challenge for kids today in the school system?** I think these days kids get so worried about the test and the final grade, so they don't enjoy the process of getting there.
- 8. If you had the ability to do so what would you change about the school system?** Not to change it, but keep making projects that are enjoyable for the students so they can learn while having fun.

Mrs. Jones

Ritvik Sindia

Ritvik - How long have you been teaching?

Mrs. Jones - I started at Unami in April of 1983, a month after graduating from Penn State, who used to have trimesters back then. I recently reached my 35-year mark, an accomplishment I am happy to share!

Ritvik - Out of all of those years, was there a student impacted you the most on how you taught?

Mrs. Jones - Probably the first year, when I realized how difficult it is to be a really good teacher, and I've been working on it ever since! It's funny with teaching, since each year is so different (as each class is unique), but I love that teachers (and students) get a "fresh start" every year!

Ritvik - Have you ever taught anything else besides art?

Mrs. Jones - No, art has always been my passion. If I had to teach another subject, I always thought I would enjoy the experimental and investigative aspects of teaching science.

Ritvik - What do you like to do during your free time?

Mrs. Jones- I enjoy taking walks and spending time outside, especially at the beach. I love connecting with friends and family, and it doesn't really matter what we do, just spending time and being together is what's important to me. I also enjoy making art and crafts, and love traveling, as well as fishing and going to concerts and Phillies games with Mr. Jones.

Ritvik - What were you planning to become when you were little?

Mrs. Jones- We had a subscription to National Geographic magazine when I was young, so I dreamed of traveling the world as one of their photographers, taking amazing pictures of exotic people and places. I also wanted to be an astronaut and travel in Space because my father worked for GE's Space division and with satellite technology back in the 1960's. To this day I love movies about space and enjoy Science fiction in general.

Ritvik - Will you be planning on coming back as a substitute, like Mrs. Cohick?

Mrs. Jones- I got some good advice from a friend who retired to not make any plans for the first three months, but after that, we'll see! After all of these years, Unami does feel like home to me, so it'll be strange not to get up and come here every day!

Climate Change

Jasmine Liu

Recently, what is known as the climate change crisis has been gaining more attention. News reports about dangerous rising sea levels, devastating hurricanes, the extinction of many species, and more have become increasingly prevalent in current society. However, there is conflict pertaining to whether climate change is actually an issue and if the human race is responsible for it. I believe that the climate change crisis needs to be addressed seriously and that if it does not become a top priority for us as a human race, it will ultimately lead to our demise. Many influential and powerful figures, like Donald Trump, are climate skeptics and don't use their platform to help battle the climate crisis.



According to the IUNC Red List, there are currently over 28,000 species threatened with extinction. Habitat loss caused by humans, poaching, and other atrocities like overfishing all contribute to this issue. If actions are not taken immediately, many more species' will be threatened, and our ecosystem will be permanently affected. Not only does climate change hurt animals, it also has a direct negative impact on us. For example, Hurricane Dorian, which resulted in 70 total casualties, was made so devastating by the increase in greenhouse gas emissions, which intensified the hurricane as tropical storms draw their energy from ocean heat. Many more incidents and statistics prove that human actions are harming Earth, and consequently, life on Earth. Studies suggest that if we do not act now, the negative effects of climate change will soon become irreversible. I think that solving the climate change crisis and working on becoming carbon neutral needs to be prioritized by all countries. It is our responsibility as inhabitants of Earth to save our planet while we still can. If not, our careless and selfish actions will catch up to us.



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Image 2 - "Sat Map" by [Mangrove Mike](#) is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)

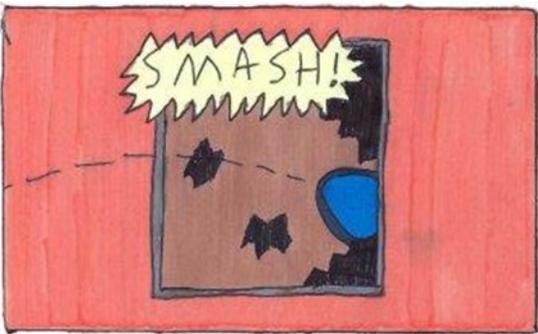
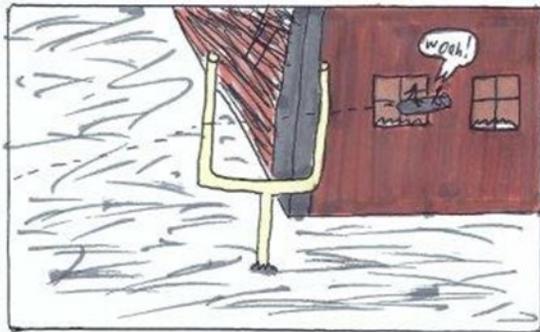
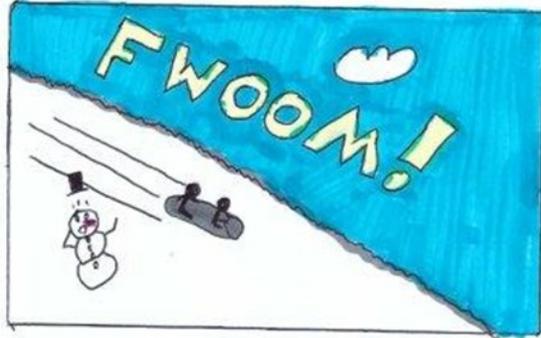
Holiday Comic

Anders Jacobson

UNAMI

By Anders Jacobson

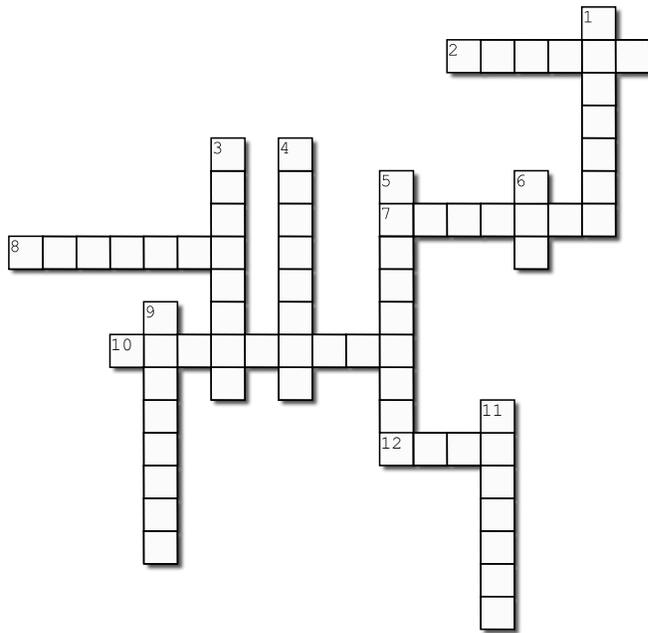
Though the football season was over, two eighth graders felt the need for one last field goal...



Games & Comics

Holiday Puzzles

Lynn Choi & Anders Jacobson



Across

2. a traditional dish eaten during Hanukkah
7. who's got a big red shiny nose?
8. what makes Santa so fat?
10. kiss me under the...
12. white falling from the sky

Down

1. it is lit on the eighth day
3. what we give and receive
4. the month of festivities
5. decorations hung on a tree
6. Santa's little helpers
9. ask and you will receive
11. an African American celebration of life

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

CANDLE
COOKIES
GIFTS
JOY
LATKES
PRESENTS
SLEIGH
TREE

CAROL
FAMILY
HANUKKAH
KINARA
MENORAH
SANTA
STUFFING
TURKEY

CHRISTMAS
FOOD
HOLIDAYS
KWANZAA
NEWYEAR
SEASON
THANKSGIVING
WINTERBREAK