



The

Unami Times

Spring 2017

Unami Middle School

Chalfont, PA

Reading Olympics

Shreyas Ramkuar

Reading Olympics is a competition that involves reading about 45 books across your whole team. Teams pick their own name and t-shirt design, creating multiple identities. The Olympics part is when you have to answer questions about the books, which may be tough if you forget the plots of the books. Currently, four teams are competing for Unami. The competition will take place at



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our own school this year. This makes it especially important for Unami's teams to win because of the fact that we are competing with others at our home base. Reading Olympics is a fun competition to take part in because you can read many books and test your knowledge about them in a friendly competition and the winner may get bragging rights. (The competition being friendly is debatable.)

Science Rocks!

Grace Neumann

Science Olympiad is a regional competition in which students explore the amazing world of science. On March 1, 2017, for South-eastern Pennsylvania, the competition was hosted at Neumann University. There were a variety of events that students could compete in, 23 to be exact. These events were split into two categories: building events, and study events. Building events included 'Hovercraft', 'Bottle Rocket', 'Bridge Building', and more. Study events included 'Anatomy,' 'Crime Busters,' 'Meteorology,' and more. In order to qualify for the Unami team, pupils went to the informational meeting in November, and chose one or more events that they were interested in trying out for. Then, they took a test to determine the two students with the highest scores for the category who would then go on to compete in the regional competition. About 50 students tried out, yet only 22 made the Unami team. So, the Unami team, coached by Mr. Scheck and Mrs. Gillespie, studied and worked extremely hard until the day of the competition. Unami competed against 24 other schools, and won medals in five categories. Our medals were in: 'Keep the Heat (1st place), 'Rocks and Minerals' (3rd place), 'Reach for the Stars' (3rd place), 'Write It/ Do It' (3rd place), and 'Fast Facts' (3rd place). In addition, we were very close to medaling in a few other categories including, 'Anatomy', 'Optics', 'Disease Detectives,' 'Ecology,' 'Dynamic Planet,' and 'Towers.' Unami tried their best and did great, winning 11th place overall! Personally, my favorite thing about Science Olympiad, was waiting in suspense when they were announcing the winners. It was exciting to go up and get the medals, too. Good job, Unami!



Exploring the World of Science

Unami Times

2016-2017

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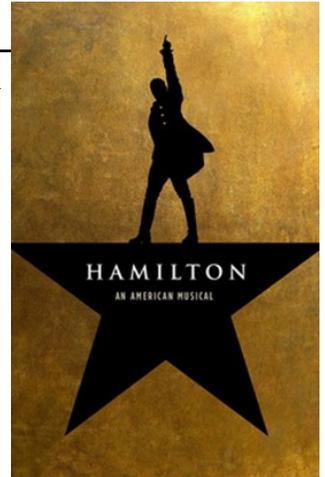
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School News

Hamilton Fan Club

Holly Mirales

“What’s your name, man?” Alexander Hamilton is the inspiration of the hit Broadway musical *Hamilton*. Combining hip-hop and rap with the early days of the United States makes *Hamilton* appeal to all kinds of people, people that would join Unami’s HamFam club if they went to Unami Middle School. Unami has started its own fan club for the Broadway musical *Hamilton* where fans can sing along to their favorite *Hamilton* songs, watch videos of the performances, and meet fellow fans. Students have watched videos of the cast performing at the White House, animations made by artists who also enjoy *Hamilton*, and have had loads of fun with other *Hamilton* loving students. The *Hamilton* club combines education about American history and fun with friends making it a great addition to the myriad of Unami clubs. So, talk less, and listen to *Hamilton* more.



Students for Pets!

Tommy Balkir

Do you like animals? Do you have a pet? Do you want to make a difference in your community? If so, then you’re



in luck. My name is Tommy Balkir and I am starting a club at Unami called Students for Pets.

The purpose of this club is to raise funds and awareness for shelter animals. At meetings, we will be educated on the growing issue of shelter animals, make posters and other advertisements to attract more members, and form programs to raise money for shelters.



We will also have the opportunity to do other projects and activities outside of school, such as volunteering at a shelter and helping care for the animals. We may also have the chance to invite a guest speaker, such as a member of the ASPCA or PETA, to one of our club meetings.

According to the ASPCA, there are about 7.6 million companion animals that enter animal shelters nationwide every year. By joining this club, you will be helping to make a difference in the lives of these innocent creatures.



Peer Leadership

Mehir Badlani and Tommy Balkir

Peer Leadership is a club that tries to foster kindness in others and spread positivity. The basic goal of the club is to build a community where everyone respects each other and is kind, no one is mean, you help others, and bullying isn't a thing. Peer leadership has a focus that believes that no matter who you are, you should be treated the same as everyone else and that you should respect others' religions and personal opinions no matter how different they may be from yours.

When Peer Leadership was first advertised to the students of Unami, we jumped on the opportunity to join such an incredible program. To join the Peer Leadership program, we had to send an email to Mrs. Lang explaining why we wanted to be Peer Leaders. Afterward, a group of about 30 students were selected to take part in the Peer Leadership learning experience. As a part of the program, the selected Peer Leaders were trained for two days during school in the Auxiliary Gym by two members of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), an organization that works to eliminate hate and bullying and spread kindness and promote respect for everyone. During our time in the Peer Leadership training, we learned about diversity, social equality, and respecting each other's differences. We felt it was a rewarding experience because we learned a lot about each other. We started out with simple trust exercises, but went on to deeper topics that we wanted to make a difference in, including hate crimes, gender equality, and social media and diversity concerns. We also talked about things that you might remember talking about in Elementary school, like bullying and who is the offender, bystander, upstander, and victim in situations and what to do about it. Some simple ways to eliminate the threat of bullying was as simple as having a group of friends near you who are supportive. We also did group activities in which the members of the ADL gave us a scenario in which bullying or another mean act was occurring and we had to choose what we thought was best to do. There were many various opinions among the group members, so we all had a chance to see the different ways in which we can handle scenarios like these and be an upstander.

The Peer Leadership learning experience was an incredible one that we will never forget. It taught us how to be upstanders and promote kindness and diversity. But most importantly, it prepared us with the knowledge and courage we needed to go out and make a difference in our school and our community. The Peer Leaders will continue to meet to improve the Unami community by making it kinder and more accepting school. If you are interested in becoming a Peer Leader and making a difference in your school, then be on the lookout for any announcements about opportunities to receive the Peer Leadership training. Please contact Mrs. Houpert, our Peer Leadership administrator, with any questions.



French Club Fundraiser

Anshul Shukla

French Club did a fundraiser to support kids in Haiti to get school supplies. We sold goodies like desserts and candy for a week for one dollar and raised so much money. The French Club president helped us do that. When we did sell them, lots of people did come and buy our goods. Our students helped our friends in Haiti receive money for their schools and it was successful. We have not received word from Haiti but we know it is good. Kids will now receive, books, pencils, backpacks, and erasers to help their learning experience. French club is a fun club to join and they do so many things to benefit our neighbors near and far. If you are interested in the details, contact Madam Cooley. If you have any other ideas for fundraisers, contact Student Council or French Club. Au Revoir!



Meet the Staff

Getting to Know Miss Safran

Elizabeth Zuerblis



Recently, I got to know Miss Safran, a new teacher here at Unami. She is currently a substitute for Mrs. Pizzi, teaching ninth grade English. Not only does Miss Safran teach English, she is also a passionate social studies teacher and has been for almost 3 years. Before coming to Unami, Miss Safran has taught at one other school after she graduated from Penn State in 2015. However, when she was in middle school, Miss Safran aspired to be a marine biologist later taking an interest in English in her ninth grade year. Miss Safran's favorite part about teaching is seeing the pride in her students after working to their best ability on an assignment. When asked about her time at Unami so far, Miss Safran replied that it was wonderful: "All of the teachers are very kind and all of the students are extremely hardworking!"

Interviewing Miss Timko!

Jessica Tanhauser and Mia Mason

1. What subject(s) and grade(s) do you teach?
Answer: I teach 7th grade Algebra 1 and Math 7.
2. When did you start teaching?
Answer: I started 4 years ago.
3. When did you start teaching at Unami?
Answer: I started to teach at Unami 3 years ago.
4. Why did you choose to teach math?
Answer: It is my favorite subject, and I am really good at it.
5. What is your favorite thing about math?
Answer: I like numbers, solving things, puzzles, and how there are right and wrong answers.
6. Where did you go to college?
Answer: I attended Millersville University.
7. What do you like best about Unami?
Answer: The students are hardworking and kind. The teachers are there to help each other and the students.
8. What is your most important advice to math students?
Answer: Work hard, try your best, and always ask questions.
9. What do you enjoy doing when you're not at work?
Answer: Shop, read, and hang with "the fam".
10. Do you have any pets?
Answer: No.
11. If you could travel anywhere, where would you go and why?
Answer: Australia because it's warm, sunny, and I like Australian accents.
12. What is your favorite food?
Answer: My favorite food is Chicken Parmesan.



Meet the Staff

Fun Facts With Mr. Swanson

Grace Neumann and Julia Schofield

We decided to interview one of our favorite teachers: Mr. Swanson. He had so many interesting things to tell us about his job and his life.

Grace: What inspired you to be an engineer teacher?

Mr. Swanson: Two things. First and foremost, I like to work with kids. Second, I find myself to be gifted to work with my hands. When joined together, it was a perfect fit.

Julia: Do you have any other hobbies?

Mr. Swanson: I make lures for salt water fish and also enjoy salt water fishing.

Grace: Did you have any other jobs before teaching here? If so, which was your favorite?

Mr. Swanson: I worked in the mental health field with adolescents, but I didn't enjoy that job. I enjoy my job now.

Julia: Do you do any engineering at home?

Mr. Swanson (laughing): Yes... mostly household improvements. I do enough engineering as a teacher.

Grace: What is your favorite class project?

Mr. Swanson: I like the woodworking because there is so much that the students learn, and I feel good because of how much they're learning!

Julia: What is your favorite food?

Mr. Swanson: Anything Chinese/Asian.

Grace (suppressing a laugh): Finally, if you could change your name, what would it be?

Julia: First name?

Grace: Yes!

Mr. Swanson: Hmm... (after much thought) Diesel.

Julia: Why?

Mr. Swanson: Because Diesel is a name that has to do with mechanics, and diesel engines are very powerful; the kind used in trucks and construction vehicles. Also, it just sounds manly!



President Trump's First Few Months in Office

Kirsten Cluett, Reilly Monson, and Nicole Bruno

President Trump has been in office for just a few months. What are some of the things that he is focusing on?

During his campaign, Trump promised to stop illegal immigration. His plan is to build a wall between the U.S. and Mexico. On January 25, he signed an executive action directing federal resources toward building that border wall. Although specific plans have not been made, Trump has suggested a 1,000-mile-long physical barrier made of concrete. It is still unclear who will pay for the wall, but it seems unlikely that the U.S. will be able to make Mexico pay for it. Plans are also in place to hire 5,000 more Border Patrol agents and 10,000 more Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers. The goal is to remove 2-3 million people with criminal convictions, and there are already reports of ICE agents targeting undocumented immigrants.



President Trump has also talked about his plans for public schools, especially ones that are not performing well. He chose Betsy DeVos as Education Secretary, and she supports charter schools. Charter schools are publicly funded schools, but they are independently run. Charter school supporters say that charter schools are especially helpful for troubled schools and allow a more flexible, innovative curriculum. People who are against charter schools say they lack oversight and accountability and that they do not perform better than public schools. Also, having charter schools can mean that the poorest school districts lose money to charter schools.

Trump has also promised to make America safe from terrorists by stopping refugees from entering the U.S. until a more thorough “vetting” (careful investigation) process can be implemented. On Jan. 27, he signed an executive order that suspends for 90 days the entry of people from seven heavily Muslim nations -- Syria, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. This order has been temporarily stopped by a federal judge, but appeals are expected.

Another thing which President Trump has focused on is ending or changing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). NAFTA allows companies in the United States to send raw materials to their plants in Mexico for assembly and import the finished product back to the United States, without paying import taxes (duties). Many U.S. manufacturing workers blame NAFTA for job losses, declining wages, and companies moving their manufacturing to Mexico. Economists say NAFTA has benefited the United States and that raising taxes could cause a trade war with Mexico. It is unclear what the Trump Administration will actually do.

President Trump has also signed several executive orders trying to make America safer. In one, he is providing new resources and equipment to strengthen the U.S. military and directing Defense Secretary James Mattis to evaluate the country's military and nuclear capabilities. In another, he is trying to make legislation to better protect federal, state and local law enforcement officers. The action is a response to increased attacks against officers in the past year. In a third, Trump ordered Attorney General Jeff Sessions to create a new federal task force to share information among agencies, improve current laws, evaluate criminal data and make recommendations for greater safety of U.S. citizens.

All of these activities have both supporters and critics. Many actions can be taken without the Congress approval. Other actions will require laws. Since both the House of Representative and the U.S. Senate both have a Republican majority, it is likely that many of the laws which President Trump would need will be approved by the Congress.

Sports

Super Bowl Run-Down

Sam Quinn

The game begins with the Patriots walking out of the locker room proudly and ready to play. Then there is the famous coin toss, which former President Bush and his wife show up for. Surprisingly, the former president flips the coin. The Falcons win the coin toss, so they decide where the ball goes first. The Falcons later decide that the ball will first go to the Patriots.

The first five seconds of the game don't go well for the Patriots with a failed pass. The pass was to the famous Tom Brady, but as we know the pass was a fail. The Falcons first play was a "long run play", and I'm sure you can figure out what that means. Not long after that play Patriots sack the quarterback of the Falcons. The Patriots are performing well, until Brady gets sacked twice in a row. By the end of the first quarter, neither team gained any points.

The second quarter goes very well for the Falcons. The round starts off great with a successful 13 yard pass! Later the Falcons also recover from a fumble, but the Falcons running back gets a touchdown. These are the first points won in the entire game. At that point, the Falcons have 7 points in the game. The Falcons a second touchdown. By the way this third touchdown might not have occurred without the 82 yard interception that they caused. Later the Patriots receive a field goal. The final score of the first half is the Patriots having 3 points and the Falcons having 21.

At the beginning of the third quarter the Patriots receive a long play. Coleman receives a touchdown for the the Falcons, who receive an extra point. Tom Brady manages to carry the ball for 15 yards, before the play ends shortly after. There is also another touchdown for the Patriots. The third quarter ends with the Patriots having 9 points, and the Falcons having 28 points.

At the start of the final quarter of the game the Patriots receive a field goal, so they receive three more points. A fumble occurs for the Patriots, but they manage to hold on to the ball, and the Patriots are in a good place for a touchdown. The Patriots score a touchdown, and also a two point conversion. According to this information the Patriots have 20 points and the Falcons have 28 points. The Patriots score another touchdown, and a two point conversion. Then the game goes into overtime for the first time in super bowl history. The final score is 34-28. The Patriots win the Super Bowl!



Women's Marches

Abagael Havkin

Millions of people around the world gather at various cities for an event that will have an impact on generations to come, an event that is now an important part of history. Even though everyone was so diverse, there was a moment of unity. The most intriguing part? It was all nonviolent. Sources have said that there was nearly 3 times more people at the women's march in Washington DC than at President Donald Trump's inauguration. Although, it was not just women. It was kids, teens, LGBT+, POC, disabled, Jews, Muslims, and other groups that felt they had been treated unfairly by Trump, Pence, and other government officials. Some also came to support friends and/or family that required love and care in a time of difficulty. Countries other than America had also felt concerned about Trump's win and decided to join in on the marches, considering how harmful he could be to many people. With fascism being such a major threat on the uprise, it was decided that now is the time to take action. Many are unsure where this presidency will take our community, country, and world, but we can only hope for the best.



Most recent Women's March in Washington, D.C.

Technology and Entertainment

Let's Get Creative!

Tommy Hetrick

Recently, I bought a subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud; this is a subscription computer application service that gives you 29 computer applications, for Windows and Mac, each for a different use... as well, and it also gets you over a dozen mobile apps! If you are thinking about buying this, it's your lucky day, as a student, you get 60% off! That's all of the desktop apps and mobile apps for \$20 a month! That's quite the deal. As I have said, there are many apps that come with Adobe Creative Cloud, but I will list some of my favorites, what they are used for, and why I'm excited to have them.



After Effects

What is it used for? After Effects is used for Video production and special effects, it is a great platform to make creative and visually appealing videos.

Why am I excited to have it? With After Effects, I can make videos that's I couldn't make with the free video program I had before, I am very excited that After Effects has a very good build it 3D Camera tracker, to make some really cool effects, like the one I made in the picture.



Dreamweaver

What is it used for? Adobe Dreamweaver is a great piece of software to incorporate HTML and CSS skills in order to make beautiful websites.

Why am I excited to have it? With Dreamweaver, I can make websites to be proud of, with a super easy interface, and live webpage preview, it is a great website creation tool. I am planning currently on working on my website, which I will create inside of Dreamweaver.



Illustrator and Photoshop

What is it used for? Illustrator and Photoshop are very different in a way, Photoshop is an image manipulation tool, while Illustrator is for make images and art from scratch. Whichever you want to do, you can create pieces of art,

and create pictures of anything you can imagine.

Why am I excited to have it? I am excited to use a professional grade program to make great edited images and make anything I can possibly think of.



Muse

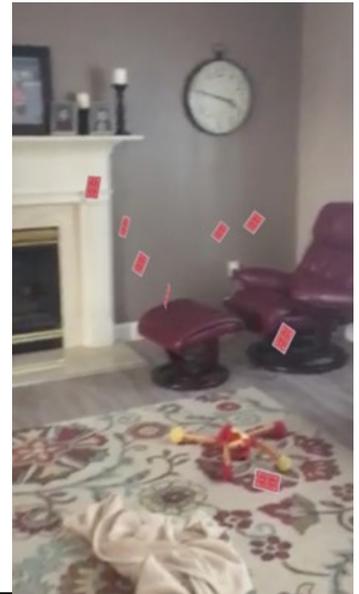
What is it used for? Muse is yet another website creator, but much different than Dreamweaver. Instead of writing HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, Muse used a more drag and drop style interface to make websites that are good to look at, and functional.

Why am I excited to have it? If I do not feel like writing HTML code at any point, I can use muse to make a simpler website where writing code is not fully necessary. Muse makes it easy to for example, put a table on your website, by dragging it on.

Links:

Adobe Creative Cloud Full Software List:

<http://www.adobe.com/creativecloud/catalog/desktop.html>



In A Movie Theater Not So Far Away...

Kush Lalwani and Ethan Nieves-Sosa

Star Wars Episode VIII will hit theaters on December 15th 2017. The Cast is the same as episode VII, Daisy Ridley, John Boyega, Gwendoline Christie, Adam Driver, and The Famous Cat(BB-8). Everybody must be wondering who the last Jedi really is. Is it the classic and original hero Luke Skywalker, also known as Mark Hamill? Is it one of the new kids on the block, Rey or Finn, also known as Daisy Ridley and John Boyega? Can it possibly be the dreadful Kylo Ren also known as Adam Driver? The last Jedi could be anybody in this amazing cast, for all we know it is Jimmy Vee also known as R2-D2, could you imagine that? We are sure that all Star Wars fans are eager to find these actors and actresses in the next movie. Actor Carrie Fisher died in December 2016, and sadly her role as Leia will end. The director must find one way or another to end the character. The crew working on the movie have released an extremely detailed synopsis of the Movie; the further adventures of Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill), Leia (Carrie Fisher) and Rey (Daisy Ridley), as you can see the crew has put lots and lots of effort to the synopsis. In the end, we are all excited for the release of this movie, Lightsaber fights, Jumps to Light Speed, more tragic deaths, and More Kylo's rage moments.

Bonus How to use Roman Numerals. I = 1, V=5, X=10, L= 50, C= 100, D= 500, M=1000. If a smaller numeral comes after a bigger one, you add them together. For example, XII, would be 10+2=12. If a smaller numeral comes BEFORE a larger one you must subtract. For example, XL, would be 50-10=40. Let's see If you can figure out these 3 ones, CD, LXIV, and MDCLXVII. Now you know Roman Numerals so you can understand Star Wars titles!

Reviews

La La Land



Miranda Song

La La Land is a drama/romantic film in the sense of a musical, starring Ryan Gosling as Sebastian and Emma Stone as Mia. The two characters both have huge Hollywood dreams, and claim that they are not falling for each other but do by the end. Unfortunately, the dreams and aspirations of the two characters in Hollywood pull them apart. They both end up successful in their own ways, but you'll have to watch to find out if they end up together.

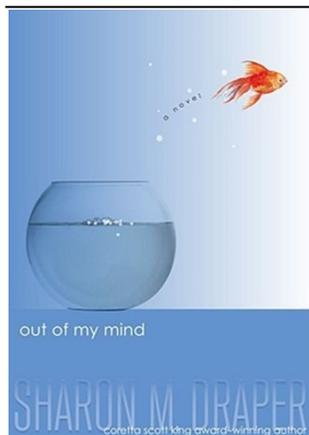
This is the story of Mia, an aspiring actress, and Sebastian, a dedicated jazz musician, struggling to make ends meet while pursuing their dreams in a city known for destroying hopes and breaking hearts. With modern day Los Angeles as the backdrop, this musical about everyday life explores what is more important: a once-in-a-lifetime love or the spotlight.

In my opinion, the best part of the entire movie was its unique soundtrack that included lots of piano and orchestra for the silent or heartbreaking moments in the movie, but also it included jazz and upbeat tunes for the happier moments in the movie, such as the opening song, "Another Day of Sun". Both actors sang very well and worked hard to perfect the choreography in the movie, as one of the scenes is during sunset, so they needed to nail the dancing in that short amount of time when the sun went down. In addition, Gosling needed to learn how to play the piano for this movie, so before the movie, he practiced the piano for 3-4 hours per day for four months straight, as there was no hand double for the piano playing in the movie. La La Land is an incredible movie, and I highly recommend seeing it while it is still in theaters!

A One of a Kind Book: *Out of My Mind*

Safiya Dodoo

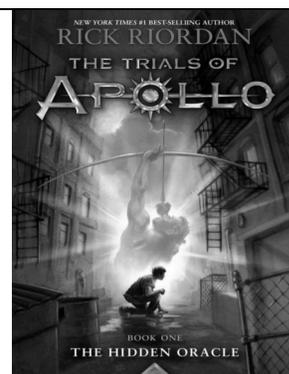
Out of my Mind is one of my favorite books. The main character is a girl named Melody Brooks who happens to have cerebral palsy. The disease affects her ability to talk, walk, and speak; because of this, she is labeled disabled. Despite this, Melody is an extremely intelligent girl. Her mom believes she is smart also and enrolls her in public school. However, the class they put her in contains other disabled students and baby-like courses and class material. Melody is 10 years old and in 5th grade, so when they sing the ABCs and Old McDonald had a Farm for the hundredth time, she loses it. They call her mother who sees the calamity and convince the school to put her in normal classes because she is very smart. Although the school is hesitant, Melody Brooks is now in a normal 5th grade class. She makes new friends, but also finds trouble and discrimination along the way. This book is recommended for 5th-8th graders or 10 years old and up. I read this book in fifth grade, but I read it over again because I loved it so much! It has succeeded and won many awards such as the New York Times best seller and the Black-eyed Susan book award. I hope you decide to pick up the book from the library and try it!



The Book for You: *The Trials of Apollo*

Mehir Badlani

Did you enjoy the *Percy Jackson Series*? Or *Greek Gods*? Then, this is the perfect book for you! This book builds on and continues what we have learned in the *Percy Jackson series*-- in a far more interesting way! The main character is a god named Apollo who was supposedly blamed for something by Zeus and turned into a Mortal. Now his greatest enemies are loose and all of the oracles but one have been captured or destroyed. Apollo has some unique perspectives on being a mortal and living life calmly. He knows that being mortal includes: knowing you will die, including remarks about time, how you look, and not being able to change into different animals/shapes. Follow Apollo in his quest to regain immortality and discover what really happened in the *Percy Jackson Series*.



“Moana” Sails Into Our Hearts

Tessa Miller



Disney's newest movie "Moana" was certainly one for the ages with its catchy songs, engaging plot, and strong heroine. Moana herself was a very progressive character indeed, as she had no love interest, protected herself, and was a person of color. The songs were wonderful and held a variety of styles, emotions, and plot points. Some of the catchiest songs were "How Far I'll Go" sung by female lead Auli'i Cravalho, "Where You Are" by Christopher Jackson and the "Moana" cast, and "Shiny" by Jemaine Clement. Disney has definitely outdone itself this time and if you haven't seen it yet, I recommend watching it because it's a great movie for all ages.

Reviews

“The 100”



Nandini Kasibhotla

“The 100” is a post-apocalyptic science fiction drama TV series written by Jason Rothenburg. Ninety-seven years ago, a radioactive explosion caused the Earth to be inhabitable although not every human being perished. Some survivors took a spacecraft into space to wait out the radiation. The spacecraft was estimated to be able to provide oxygen for a century, but the people inside discovered they were running out of oxygen only 97 years in. A set of one hundred teenagers who were imprisoned for acting against the spaceship leadership rules were sent down to Earth to determine if it was habitable. Once it was discovered that there was no radiation left, or so they thought, everyone else followed. The problem they had to face was the people who were already living on the Earth before the people from space took over. This show is about how modern humans have to adapt to their new environment and fight to stay alive. They make many sacrifices, especially letting their loved ones die for survival.

Pets' Other Side...

Shreyas Ramkumar

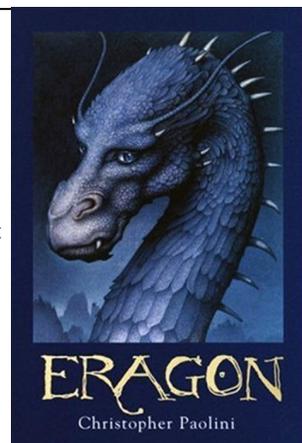


Have you ever wondered about what your pets do when you leave them alone in your home? You might expect them to just stay put and wait for you. But sometimes, your pets might do some things that you will not foresee. Illumination Studios (*Despicable Me*, *Sing*) answered that question in their movie, *The Secret Life of Pets*. A Jack Russell Terrier named Max and his owner, Katie, live in New York. One day, Katie adopts another dog named Duke. Duke develops a loathing for Max. Then, they go on an adventure which makes them see another perspective of themselves. I really like this movie! One reason is that Max's dog friends, who accompany him in his adventure, are so cute. The animations are also very good, which is important because this is an animated movie. If you like this as much as I do, I would recommend *Sing*, *Minions*, and *The Lorax*.

An Underrated Book: *Eragon*

Jackie Wells

Most people have heard of books like *The Hobbit* and *Lord of The Rings*, but there are many awesome unnoticed books like *Eragon*. *Eragon* deserves respect for the extraordinary vocabulary and perfect descriptions used in the book. It is one of my all-time favorite books! Although, it is pretty long. If you don't enjoy lengthy books, I would not recommend it. However, the book's plot is very exciting. It starts off with a peek into the life of a farm boy, Eragon, whose parents died a long time ago. Suddenly, a mysterious blue stone appears, and along with it brings trouble- unknown strangers that may be spies from the leader of the Empire, Galbatorix! Nonetheless, Eragon figures out that the blue stone isn't really a stone at all, but a dragon egg. A life-changing event occurs, Eragon and his new dragon set out on a journey. I would say that the plot is like that of other books and movies, but I would give it a ten out of ten over all. This book is a great read, and I recommend that you check it out. (Our school library has it.) This is a book you will never forget reading!



The Lego Batman Movie Review

Mehir Badlani

The newest and most trending movie is, you guessed it, *The Lego Batman Movie*. It has lots of funny jokes and references to the Lego movie and old songs that you will probably remember. Pay attention to Batman's carefully placed jokes, for example, (spoilers), in one part of the movie his password is NaNaNaN-Batman!!! Also, watch Joker with his amazing comebacks while helping a few recognizable characters including Voldemort, The Eye from *Lord of The Rings*, and *Godzilla*. This is a great movie and I would highly recommend watching it!

Top 10 Movies to Look Forward to in 2017

Mia Mason, Jessica Tanhauser, Marissa Pereira, and Abigayle Dwyer

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Star Wars: The Last Jedi</i> (12/15) | 5. <i>Pitch Perfect 3</i> (12/22) | 8. <i>Before I Fall</i> (5/3) |
| 2. <i>Cars 3</i> (6/16) | 6. <i>Wonder Woman</i> (6/2) | 9. <i>Gifted</i> (4/12) |
| 3. <i>Despicable 3</i> (6/30) | 7. <i>Fast and Furious 8</i> (4/14) | 10. <i>Guardians of the Galaxy</i> (9/1) |
| 4. <i>Wonder</i> (4/7) | | |

Game Page

Top 10 Excuses for Not Doing Your Homework

Sydney Kang

Have you ever had that awkward moment when you get to school, and you realize that you forgot to do your homework or left it at home? Well, here are my top ten excuses for not having homework:

#10 I'm a ghost, and ghosts cannot do homework because we can only pick up ghost homework, and the homework you gave me was normal homework.

#9 I wasn't feeling like myself and I was out of snickers, so I couldn't do my homework.

#8 My computer ran away from home.

#7 I'm allergic to paper.

#6 I was busy digging a tunnel to China.

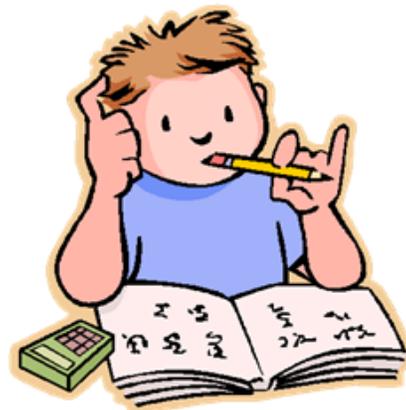
#5 My sibling stole all my pencils.

#4 I was absorbed into another dimension.

#3 I was busy studying for my potions quiz for Professor Snape.

#2 I didn't know we had homework last night because I sent my robot clone to school yesterday.

#1 My dog/cat/other pet ate my homework.



St. Patrick's Day Riddles

Anna McMoil

1. Why did St. Patrick drive the snakes out of Ireland?
2. Why was the Irish River so rich?
3. Do leprechauns get angry when you make fun of their height?
4. What do you call a leprechaun's vacation home?
5. Why do people wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day?
6. What do you call an Irishman who keeps bouncing off walls?
7. Why do so many people live in Ireland?
8. Where would you find a leprechaun baseball team?
9. What do you call a fake stone in Ireland?
10. Knock knock! Who's there? Irish! Irish who?



1. Because it was too far for them to crawl.
2. Because it had 2 banks
3. A little.
4. A Lepre-condo
5. Because regular rocks are too heavy.
6. Rick O'shea.
7. Because the capital is always Dublin.
8. The little league.
9. A Sham Rock!
10. Irish you a Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Answers:

Game Page

Spring Word Search

Anna McMoil

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

ALIVE APRIL BIRDS BLOSSOM DAY
EARTH EASTER FLOWER GROWING
KITES MARCH MAY MOVEMENT PATRICKS
RAIN SAINT SPROUT STORM
SUN WARM YOUNG