



Masthead Design by Kimberly Masaya

OCTOBER  
2025

## Interview With Our New Principal

By Geovanni Valenti & Matthew Rosand



East Islip Middle School has a new principal this year, Mrs. Tara Scully! Mrs. Scully worked in the Sachem School District for the past 22 years of her career, serving as a principal's aide, a classroom teacher, and an AIS math teacher. In her most recent position, she was an assistant principal at Samoset Middle School. We asked her a series of questions that are listed below.

### 1. Why did you become a principal?

"I became a principal because I've always believed in the power of education to change lives. For me, becoming a principal is about being able to influence the culture of our school, support our amazing teachers, and ensure every student has the tools and opportunities they need to succeed."

### 2. What did you do before becoming a principal?

"I received my degree in Sports Marketing from Syracuse University. So, I worked for many sports companies. One of my favorite jobs was working for the PGA Tour. I traveled to different Tour stops in the United States. Some of my responsibilities were to facilitate setting up the pavilions, tickets, and transportation for the players. I also taught 3rd grade, AIS math, and was an assistant principal."

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Your school  
newspaper is now  
called:

**"EI Spotlight"**

Interview continued

**3. What changes, if any, do you plan on implementing at EIMS?**

"This is a question I would like to ask the students, what changes do you think are necessary? I would like to have students more involved; in special events, announcements, and assemblies."

**4. Do you have a particular vision or goal for this school year?**

"My goal for this school year is to build as many meaningful connections with faculty and students as possible. I believe strong relationships are essential to creating a positive school environment where students and staff are excited to come through the doors each day."



**5. What are your thoughts on the cell phone ban?**

"The cell phone ban has really helped create a better learning environment in our school. Without phones out during the day, students are more focused in class and more connected to what's happening around them. It's also been great to see students talking and hanging out more during breaks instead of staring at screens. This change is helping build a stronger, more positive school community."

**6. How do you plan on supporting students and teachers in achieving academic success?**

"I believe academic success comes from the teamwork of students, teachers, and families all working together. So, I'll be spending time in classrooms, talking with students, and collaborating with staff to make sure we're building on our strengths and giving everyone the best chance to shine."

**7. How can students share their concerns or feedback with you?**

"I really want students to know that their voices matter. Since I'm new here, hearing your feedback is one of the best ways for me to learn what's important to you. Students can share their concerns or ideas by stopping to talk with me in the hallways, visiting the office, or even leaving a note if that's more comfortable."

## Pokemon Legends Z-A

**By Matthew Rosand**

Pokemon Legends Z-A (pronounced ZA) is a new game coming out on October 16th for Nintendo Switch 1 and 2. It is a sequel to Pokemon X and Y which was released in 2013.

In this game, you play in a brand new battle mechanic. You decide your move's accuracy. Mega evolutions have not been in a mainline game since Let's Go, Pikachu and Let's Go, Eevee, released in 2018.

Some of the new megas include: Mega Dragonite, Mega Victreebel, Mega Hawlucha, Mega Malar, Mega Greninja, Mega Delphox, Mega Chesnaut and in the DLC, Mega Raichu X and Y.

Many leaks have revealed that we will get a Mega Feraligatr, Mega Meganium, Mega Emboar, Mega Faliks, Mega Clefable, Mega Starmie, Mega Froslass, Mega Skarmory, Mega Excadrill, Mega Scolipede, Mega Scrafty, Mega Elektross, Mega Chandelure, Mega Pyroar, Mega Dragalge, Mega Floette, Mega Barbaracle, Mega Zygarde and Mega Drampa.

This game takes you on an adventure in Lumiose City where you climb the ranks from Z-A. You will encounter some wild Mega Pokemon. The starters for this game are Chikorita, Tepig and Totadile. This game is shaping up to be a new, exciting challenge!



## East Islip Redmen

**By Salvatore Tringali  
& Matthew Rosand**



This school year, a new state law takes effect banning the use of names for mascots and sports teams that are Native American themed. The official reason is that some Native Americans may find these names to be offensive.

As a result of this law, East Islip school district is no longer using the name ~~Redmen~~ for their mascot and sports teams. In the NFL, the Washington ~~Redskins~~, now the Washington Commanders, decided to change their name back in February of 2022 for the same reason.

The decision for NY schools goes back to April of 2023. At that time, the New York State Board of Regents approved a policy that said that all public schools must stop using Native American themed mascots by June 30, 2025 or risk losing state aid. This includes images, labels, and symbols for their schools, mascots and sports teams.

On May 30, 2025, the US Office of Civil Rights (OCR) claimed that New York State Board of Regents violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act by implementing the ban. They were ordered to drop the ban. The US Department of Education has asked the Department of Justice to investigate the situation.

The District has not decided on a new name or mascot for their sports teams yet. For now, we are just called East Islip. We can all demonstrate EI Pride by showing appreciation for our community. Stay tuned for more information.



# The Halloween Costume Debate

By Arya Brabazon

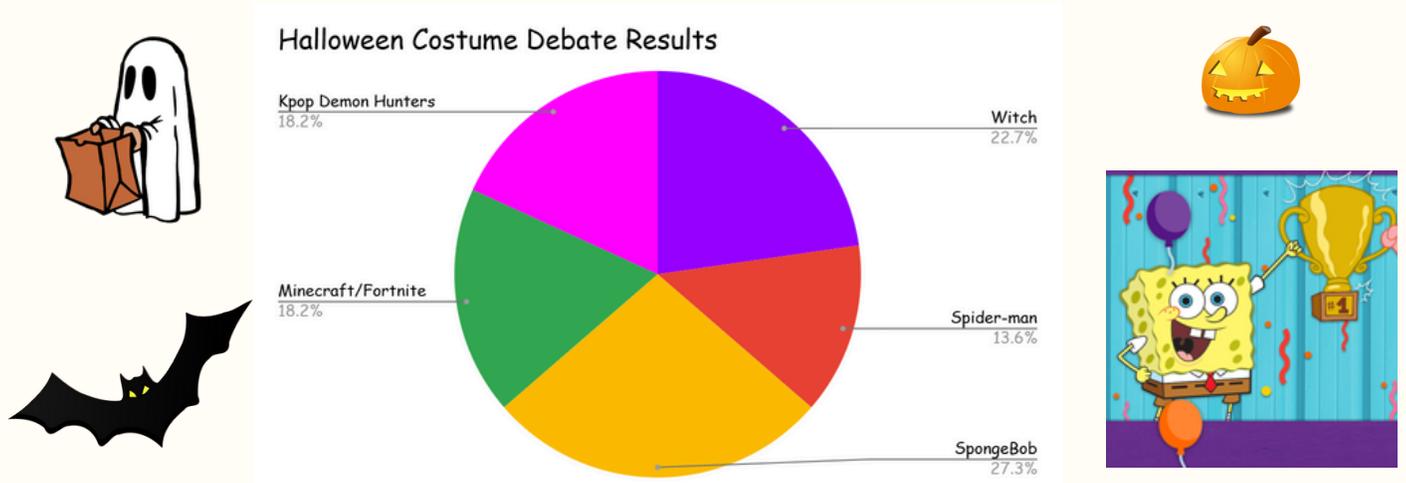


We have all seen great Halloween costumes - dinosaurs, skeletons and even blow-up costumes! But which one is the best? I have researched the most popular costumes in America. I asked 22 students at our school to vote for their favorite. The five costumes to choose from were: any "KPop Demon Hunters" characters, a witch, Spiderman, a Minecraft or Fortnite costume, and any SpongeBob character. Thanks to those of you who voted. These are the results.

For the highly popular movie, "KPop Demon Hunters", 4 people voted for this costume (3 of the voters were in sixth grade and 1 voter was a teacher). Secondly, we have the classic but fun witch. This was a popular choice among the girls. In total, this costume had five votes: 3 sixth graders, 1 seventh and 1 eighth grader. This was the only costume with at least one vote in each grade. For those of you who are superhero fans, the Spiderman costume wasn't a very common choice, with 3 votes in total (1 seventh grader and 2 eighth graders). Video game lovers voted for the Minecraft/Fortnite category, coming in with a total of 4 votes (3 sixth graders and 1 seventh grader). Lastly, we have SpongeBob, a cartoon classic scoring six total votes, 5 votes from the sixth grade and 1 vote from the eighth grade.

Now that you have seen the votes, it's time to reveal the winner! In fourth place, with the least amount of votes (still a great costume choice) was Spiderman. In case you forgot, Spiderman had 3 votes in total. Coming in close, two costumes tied for third place with 4 votes each. These costumes were Minecraft/Fortnite and "KPop Demon Hunters". Second place is the witch with 5 votes. Now, for first place, the costume with the most votes is ... SpongeBob characters!

The most votes by 6<sup>th</sup> graders alone was for SpongeBob characters. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders all voted on different costumes, resulting in a three-way tie: witch, Spiderman, and the Minecraft/Fortnite category. Lastly, 8<sup>th</sup> grade's favorite was the Spiderman costume. Thank you for reading this article. Happy Halloween!!!!





## The Popemobile

**By Katherine Li**

Everybody has heard of the Batmobile, but do you know what a Popemobile is? The Popemobile is what the Pope rides in during a religious ceremony or public appearance. The Pope is the head of the Catholic Church and Bishop of Rome. The Popemobile may sound silly, but it's much deeper than that.

Originally, the Pope sat in a transportable ceremonial throne called a sedia gestatoria. It had a long pole on each side held up by twelve attendants, like a sedan chair. A smaller version carried by eight attendants was called a sediola. Another two attendants would hold up two fans made with ostrich feathers. This helped the Pope stay cool and swat insects away. It was last used by Pope John Paul I in 1978. Since then, Popes have used all sorts of automobiles such as the Graham Paige and the Nürburg 460 limousine.

In 1979, during Pope John Paul II's visit to Ireland, he rode around in a van that looked like a parade float car. Suddenly, a Turkish nationalist shot him. Pope John Paul II survived the incident and even forgave the man. However, the attack changed how the Pope would be transported.

The Popemobile now features bulletproof glass, armored plating, a sealed cabin, and special tires. Pope Francis became Pope in 2013. He opted for humbler vehicles with partial openings or simply walking among the crowds.



BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



Wednesdays in October



## The Legacy of Art Tatum

By Kimberly Masaya

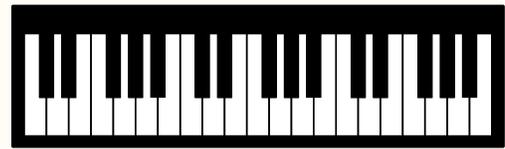
Back on October 13, 1909, one of the most influential and famous jazz pianists was born in Toledo, Ohio. His beautifully swift playing and amazing technique earned him much recognition and fame, and his talent was mind-blowing.

**The Early Years of Art Tatum:** Despite being born half blind, Art Tatum could play well beyond comparison to others. He mostly taught himself to play the piano, but he also attended music school and received proper training at the Toledo School of Music. Some of the songs he played were by Fats Waller, another famous jazz pianist. These songs had special meaning to Tatum.

Tatum made his professional debut in the 1920s, not knowing this was the beginning of one of the greatest legacies in jazz pianist history, or in piano history in general.

**Getting the Fame:** As time went on, Tatum started to attract fans and gain popularity, and so did his songs. One of his most renowned works, “Tiger Rag,” is a masterpiece of speed, technique, and beauty. It sounds as if he had at least 15 fingers. “Tiger Rag” was one of his first hit songs, first performed by the Original Dixieland Jazz Band.

Even though Tatum was not a composer himself, he played songs so amazingly that it didn’t matter that he wasn’t the first to create them. His unique style earned him much respect in the music world. He performed in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and more in the 1930s. He also recorded with Decca Records at that time. In the 1940s, he signed a contract with Capitol Records.



**The Fun Ends Here:** With aging comes great fun but also sickness in some cases, and in Tatum’s fate, it was no different. His health started to decline, even though he was only in his 40s. Near the end of his life, Tatum recorded music many times in the 1950s. On November 5, 1956, he succumbed to complications caused by kidney failure, ending the legacy of a lifetime.

Although there is no precise date on when Tatum was diagnosed with his illness, it is likely that doctors discovered his kidney failure before his death. At the seemingly young age of 47, we lost a musical genius. And that is where the story ends.



*Art Tatum posing for a picture in the 1940s.*

Unity Day, October 22nd

Photos by Mrs. Avella



OCTOBER is National Bullying Prevention Month



**WINNER**

**Congratulations to the Unity Day Raffle Winners!**



**6th Grade: Nathan Nowak & Ava Pagon**

**7th Grade: Lexi Anderson & Gwyneth Ludwig**

**8th Grade: Collin Grieve & Victoria Kohler**

*Each student won a gift card to Starbucks, Five Guys, Roblox or Target*



## Global Girl Group Katseye

By Eleanor McRedmond

Hybe and Geffen Records came together back in 2021 and decided to make a girl group competition. They wanted this group to be diverse, with people from different ethnicities and countries. They created a show was called “Dream Academy” and it aired in 2023 (currently available on YouTube).

Contestants competed by singing and dancing to various songs in different “missions.” They were each placed with different people for each mission. There were over 120,000 entries but only 20 contestants got picked. Six girls were chosen for the group. Viewers got to choose the group’s name, and they decided on Catseye.

The 6 girls that got chosen were Sophia Laforteza, Lara Raj, Daniela Avanzini, Yoonchae Jeung, Megan Skiendiel, and Manon Bannerman (in the order they placed on Dream Academy). After they were selected, Lara got an idea to change the C in Catseye to a K. The members all agreed it looked cooler. Sophia was born in Queens, NY and is Filipina. Lara was born in Los Angeles, CA and is Indian. Daniela was born in Atlanta, GA, and is Latina. Yoonchae was born in Seoul, Korea, and is Korean. Megan was born in Honolulu, HI, and is Chinese. Manon was born in Sweden and is Swedish.

Katseye debuted on June 28, 2024, with their song “Debut”. Later that summer, they released “Touch,” “My Way,” “I’m Pretty” and “Tonight I Might”. Then they took a yearlong break.



*Katseye During “Touch” Era*



On April 30, 2025, they released the song “Gnarly.” After that, they got a lot more popular and followed up with their song “Gabriela.” In June, Katseye got the opportunity to perform at Nickelodeon’s Kids Choice Awards. They performed “Gnarly” and got slimed! A couple of days later, they released their EP Beautiful Chaos.



*Katseye during Dream Academy*  
 Top: Yoonchae, Lara, Megan  
 Bottom: Dani, Manon, Sophia

In July, Katseye and Mattel announced they were teaming up. Katseye did a music video for the Monster High theme song “Fright Song.” In August, they performed at the music festival Lollapalooza in Chicago. They performed several of their songs including “Gameboy” and “Tonight I Might.”

These accomplishments just shows how far a group can go. They weren’t well known at first, but then one popular song resulted in more fans. Later, after they released more songs, they got to perform at one of the most famous festivals ever!

In August, they performed at Summer Sonic Tokyo. Then in September, they performed at MTVs Video Music Awards and won the Push Performance award! They have been to some of the most popular events and festivals ever and they only debuted a year ago!

Katseye has been part of many more collaborations, including Fendi, Pandora, Lush, Glossier, Coach, Jolibee and Takis. The most popular one, that really got Katseye’s name out there was a denim campaign with Gap, doing their own choreography to Kelis’ song “Milkshake”.

In conclusion, Katseye is a very diverse group with lots of potential. Maybe one day they’ll win a Grammy Award! This just shows that anyone can be a star if they work hard. Maybe one day it could be you!



## Jurassic World Evolution 3

**By Trent Perry and Dahian Genao**

Jurassic World Evolution 3 (JWE3) is coming out on October 21, 2025. The game evolved from a number of Jurassic Park building games, such as Jurassic Park III: Park Builder (2001), Jurassic Park: Operation Genesis (2003), Jurassic Park Builder (2012), and Jurassic World: The Game (2015). Actor Jeff Goldblum is voice acting for his character from Jurassic Park, Dr. Ian Malcom. This game will have new things that were not possible in the other two games without mods or glitches like the overlapping rocks glitch (which is where you place rocks on a hill and then you flatten the hill, leaving the rocks over each other).

In JWE3, there is a company that is trying to work with and save the dinosaurs called the Dinosaur Integration Network (DIN). DIN is non-canon, so don't worry if you think you're missing any important details. There is also another company trying to take down DIN by releasing your dinosaurs and wreaking havoc all over the place.

This game has advanced terrain tools that allow you to make any type of landscape you want. It also includes the addition of 72 new types of tours. One of them is called the cretaceous cruise, which is basically a two-seater kayak. It allows guests to get even closer to the animals than the other attractions. The other new addition is the balloon tour, which is returning from Jurassic Park: Operation.

In the game, you will be able to place things on top of other things because most hitboxes have been removed. Hitboxes are when 2 objects, say a tree and a sign, are not able to go over each other. The balloon tour has no hit boxes which means that it can go over its own path.

The game also features male and juvenile dinosaurs and reptiles, something not seen in the previous games. However, hybrid dinosaurs will not have any juveniles. Juveniles can only be made by the dinosaurs reproducing and not by releasing them from a hatchery. The only way to make dinosaurs reproduce is to have a nest that corresponds to that dinosaur. A T-rex would need a large nest, marine reptiles need underwater nests, and flying reptiles will also need nests like dinosaurs.

There are marine reptiles like Mosasaurus and Megalodon, along with others. There is also modular building, which means that you can customize buildings to your specifications. You are also able to create things for other players by turning your build into blueprints and sharing them. You can also use blueprints that someone else made to use in your own park. You can now also make and place custom text.

**continued on next page**



*Some of the advanced terrain/building tools*

## Jurassic World Evolution 3

### continued from previous page

The graphics for JWE3 are expected to be better than the previous games, depending on what system you play on. For example, the newest PCs will offer the greatest visual performance, followed by current consoles. Old hardware will provide a less-detailed experience.

JWE3 was developed and published by Frontier Developments, the company who made all of the Jurassic World Evolution games. There are 4 dinosaurs from Jurassic World Rebirth, which is the fourth highest grossing movie of 2025 so far, with over \$860 million worldwide. They are Mosasaurus, Spinosaurus, Quetzalcoatlus, and the return of the Tyrannosaurus Rex.

JWE3 will launch on Xbox Series X|S, PlayStation 5, and Windows 10 (PC). The price is \$59.99 for the Standard Edition, and \$74.99 for the Deluxe Edition. The Deluxe Edition has more content like 4 additional dinosaurs (Protoceratops, Guanlong, Thanatosdrakon, and Concavenator), bonus skins (Mosasaurus skin and three ATV skins for the maintenance team), and scenery pieces (unique Clark County scenery pieces).

If you're a Jurassic World fan and like creating to the finer details, then you should buy this game.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.jurassicworldevolution.com/>



*The 3 Jurassic World Evolutions*



*The Cretaceous Cruise, a new addition to the video game franchise but was seen in one scene in Jurassic World (2015)*



# Autumn Word Search

By Savannah Pabon

## Word Search

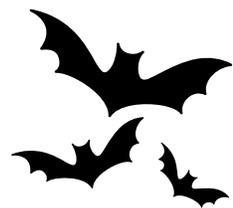


Find the following words in the puzzle.  
Words are hidden →, ↓, and ↘.

CRUNCHY LEAVES  
 THANKSGIVING  
 BACK TO SCHOOL  
 PUMPKIN PIE  
 MIGRATION  
 HALLOWEEN  
 COSTUMES

PUMPKIN  
 SWEATER  
 WITCHES  
 ORCHARD  
 LEAVES  
 GLOVES  
 CHILLY

AUTUMN  
 CANDY  
 SCARF  
 FALL  
 RAKE  
 BATS





### Staff List

Colin Belrose  
 Peter Blumenauer  
 Arya Brabazon  
 James Denniston  
 Dahian Genao  
 Katherine Li  
 Kimberly Masaya  
 Eleanor McRedmond  
 Savannah Pabon  
 Trent Perry  
 Matthew Rosand  
 Zoey St. John  
 Salvatore Tringali  
 Giovanni Valenti

### EIMS Administration

**Principal:** Mrs. Scully  
**Asst. Principal:** Mr. Spiegler

### Newspaper Club Officers

**President:** Colin Belrose  
**Vice President:** Matthew Rosand  
**Co-Secretary:** Katherine Li  
**Co-Secretary:** Arya Brabazon

### Design/Editing

**Club Advisor:** Mrs. Avella  
**Graphic Design:** Kimberly Masaya

*Photos of Library decor  
 by Zoey St. John*

