

### STUDENT REPORTERS

### FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

Avannie Anderson  
Carissa Armstrong  
Kaycee Bahnemann  
Finnley Bain  
Angelica Benson  
Chloe Bollman  
Peyton Butler  
Georgie Dahmeh

Juliet Fillmore  
Kali Fisher  
Emily Gonzalez  
Maya Green  
Isla Gruebele  
Alice Hager  
Hunter Hallermann  
Elizabeth Hanson  
Nolan Henry  
Aisha Jama  
Aili Keran  
Kayla Lakhamone  
Edmundo LaMadrid

Vee Larsen  
Xavier McDonald  
Lou Mensah  
Ivan Meza Rojas  
Yangel Morales Del Rio  
Mira Oswald  
Emilynn Parent  
Fernando Ramirez Gonzalez  
Abigail Schwab  
Wyatt Strese  
Elliana Terlinde  
Naimah Thomas  
Giana Uebel  
Viviana Wanner

## A NEW LEADER OF THE PACK: PRINCIPAL DRUGG

by Nolan Henry, grade 7

Inver Grove Heights Middle School has a new principal, Matthew Drugg. I had a chance to sit down with Mr. Drugg and ask him a few questions. Our conversation follows with minor editing to ensure clarity.

Q: How long have you been working in schools?

A: I've been working in schools since I was 15 years old. My very first job was mowing lawns at school buildings during the summer. When I turned 16 I started working as a paraprofessional to help support students during the summer. I've never really taken a break from working in schools since.

Q: Why did you want to become a principal?

A: Becoming a principal was a goal of mine for a very long time. There's something about being able to impact change on both a building and system wide level that is very intriguing and inspiring for me. I also really like to support people. Working to help people through tough situations is very bucket-filling for me. I find a lot of satisfaction being able to influence

positive change and getting the right people to collaborate together.

Q: What would you like your students to know about you?

A: I think what I want students to know about me is that I'm still a kid at heart. I really do enjoy the silliness of middle school. Everyone's using this as a great opportunity to start figuring out who they are. I still kind of see that in myself. I think middle school is great and you get to try so many different things and you go from being a little kid to a young adult.

Q: Are there changes you want made to the school?

A: There are some changes that we are looking to make. We're really looking to incorporate a lot more student choice during the day. We're excited to be able to start bringing some more opportunities to students. Beyond that we're really just trying to get a culture of high expectations. We want a good solid student community who is really empathetic of the needs of their peers so that everyone can have a positive experience here. We want students to

be successful however that looks for them.

Q: What do you see as the schools biggest strength?

A: Easily our biggest strength is our school community. We have a tremendous staff here that works exceptionally hard to meet the needs of our students and to provide them fantastic learning opportunities. Our students are wonderful and do a really nice job rising up to meet those expectations and taking care of one another.

I appreciate getting the chance to speak with Mr. Drugg and get to know him better. Looking forward to the new opportunities Mr. Drugg will provide.



## ESSA'S: EMOTIONAL SUPPORT STUFFED ANIMALS

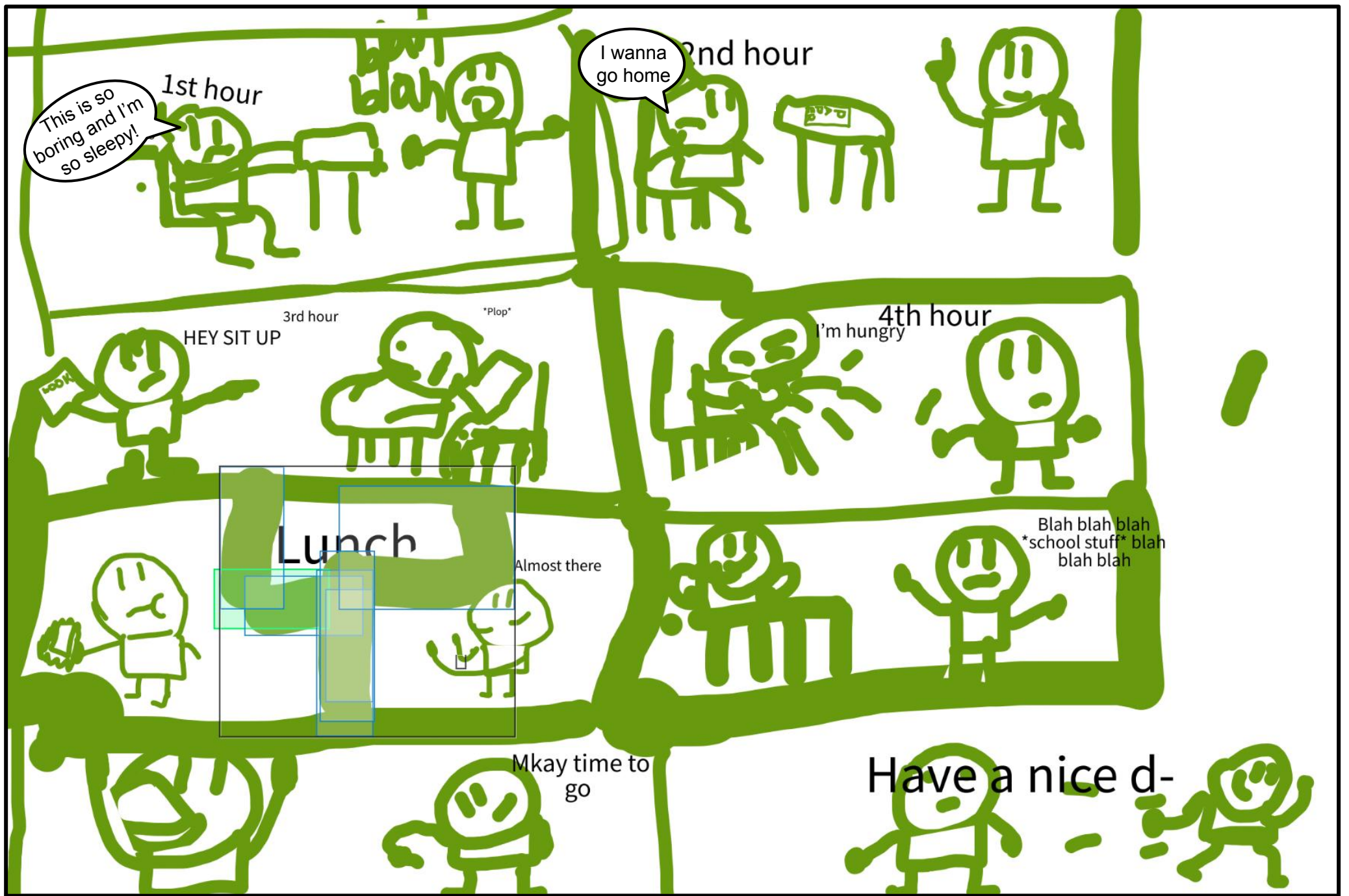
by Emilynn Parent, grade 7



Emotional Support Stuffed Animals (ESSA's) can help teens in many ways. Life can be hard, and our stuffed friends can help us!

"My ESSA helps me sometimes when I have panic attacks or when I just need to hold something," says Robin B. ESSA'S really help teens, and there are many reasons why they should be allowed in schools. One reason is that teens might need them to get through the day. Having their ESSA with them would really help with stress. Another reason would be that ESSA's can help students focus on work without worrying about panicking.

Overall, ESSA's are very important for mental health and help teens in many ways.



Comic by Ivan Meza Rojas, grade 6

## MUSICAL SPOTLIGHT: RADIOHEAD

by Finnley Bain, grade 8

Radiohead is a British rock band led by Thom Yorke, lead singer and guitarist, Radiohead adopts experimental methods of music & instruments along with traditional rock to craft a sound unique to them. Making use of guitar, bass, drums, along with glockenspiel & various synthesizers to achieve the unique sound.

Their debut album, *Pablo Honey* (1993) was met with mixed reviews, at the time it was seen as a generic “alternative rock” album by some kids who’d never make it big, one song on the album, “Creep” — initially released as a single in 1992 would

make waves in certain communities in America and other places around the world. The band would later go on record to say *Pablo Honey* was their worst album. During the time after *Pablo*

*Honey*, the band released 5 singles, all later to be re-released on their 1995 album *The Bends*.

*The Bends* was a much more experimental album compared to *Pablo Honey*. The lack of a “Creep-like” song disappointed certain audiences, but the band continued to experiment with their music and create unique sounds. The

album’s name represented the band’s quick rise to success, ‘the bends’ being another name for the phenomenon of decompression sickness, characterized by the quick rise in pressure caused by ascending from deep waters too quickly. Opinions on *The Bends* had been largely positive, being praised for its emotional depth and complexity.

Their third album, and arguably most influential is *OK Computer*. This album was at the time their most experimental album, utilising various unique instruments unlike those seen in more mainstream music. This was a

revolutionary album, mixing various genres and sounds to create a truly unique album, unlike anything ever heard. Even at the time, critics acclaimed it, nominating it for album of the year

and Best British Album at the 1998 Brit Awards, and it won Best Alternative Music Album at the 1998 Grammy Awards.

The band would go on to release many more albums, some notable being *KID A*, *In Rainbows*, and *Hail to the Thief*. In conclusion, Radiohead is a band that I believe everybody should at least give a quick listen to.



**K-POP  
DRAMA**

by Kaycee Bahnmann, grade 7

**IDOLS:**

Recently NewJeans has lost a court case against their company ADOR. They will be unable to make music until their contract expires in 2029, making many bunnies (fans) upset. NewJeans was trying to break away from the company ADOR and start their own company. Somehow accusations of them being mistreated by ADOR and ILLIT were debuted by Hybe in an attempt to copy them. Of right now not much is known when it comes to the future for the girls, other than they will not be making any new music anymore

**COMPANIES:**

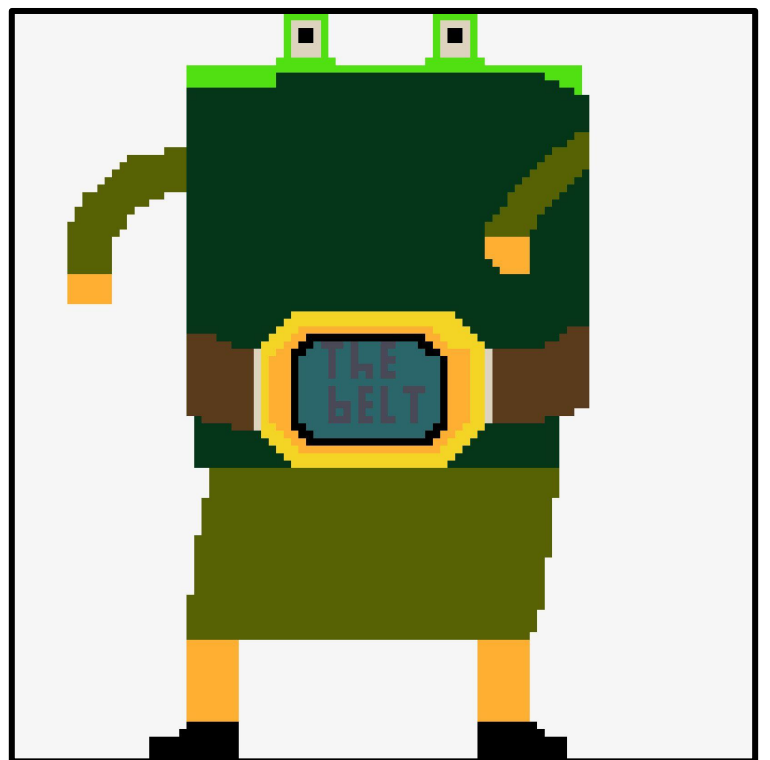
BTS member V has become a brand ambassador for a Korean makeup brand Tirtir. Hybe has expanded into India. MAMAMOO is planning a full comeback and world tour for 2026. Also, Twice has an upcoming tour in August 2026

**GLOSSARY:**

Ambassador - a person who acts as a promoter of a particular brand.  
Accusation - a charge or claim that someone has done something wrong.  
Mistreated - treat (a person or animal) badly, cruelly, or unfairly.



Meme by Yangel Morales Del Rio, grade 8



Cartoon by Georgie Dahmeh, grade 6

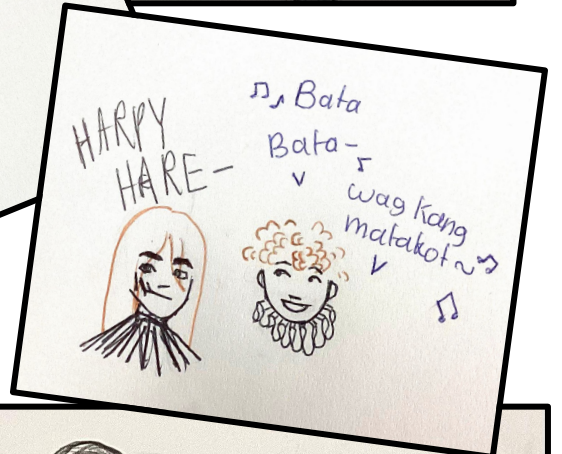
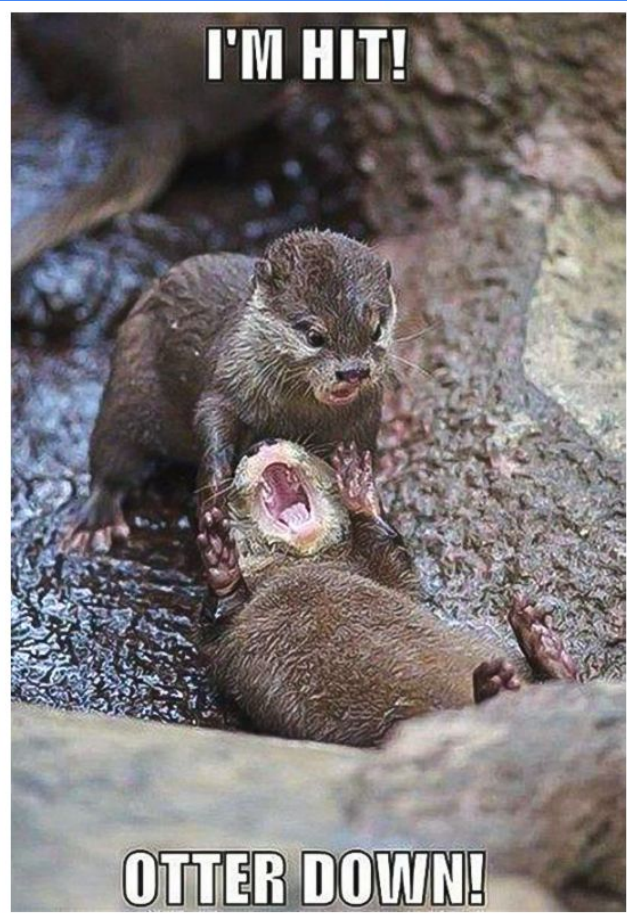


Drawing by Fernando Ramirez Gonzalez, grade 7

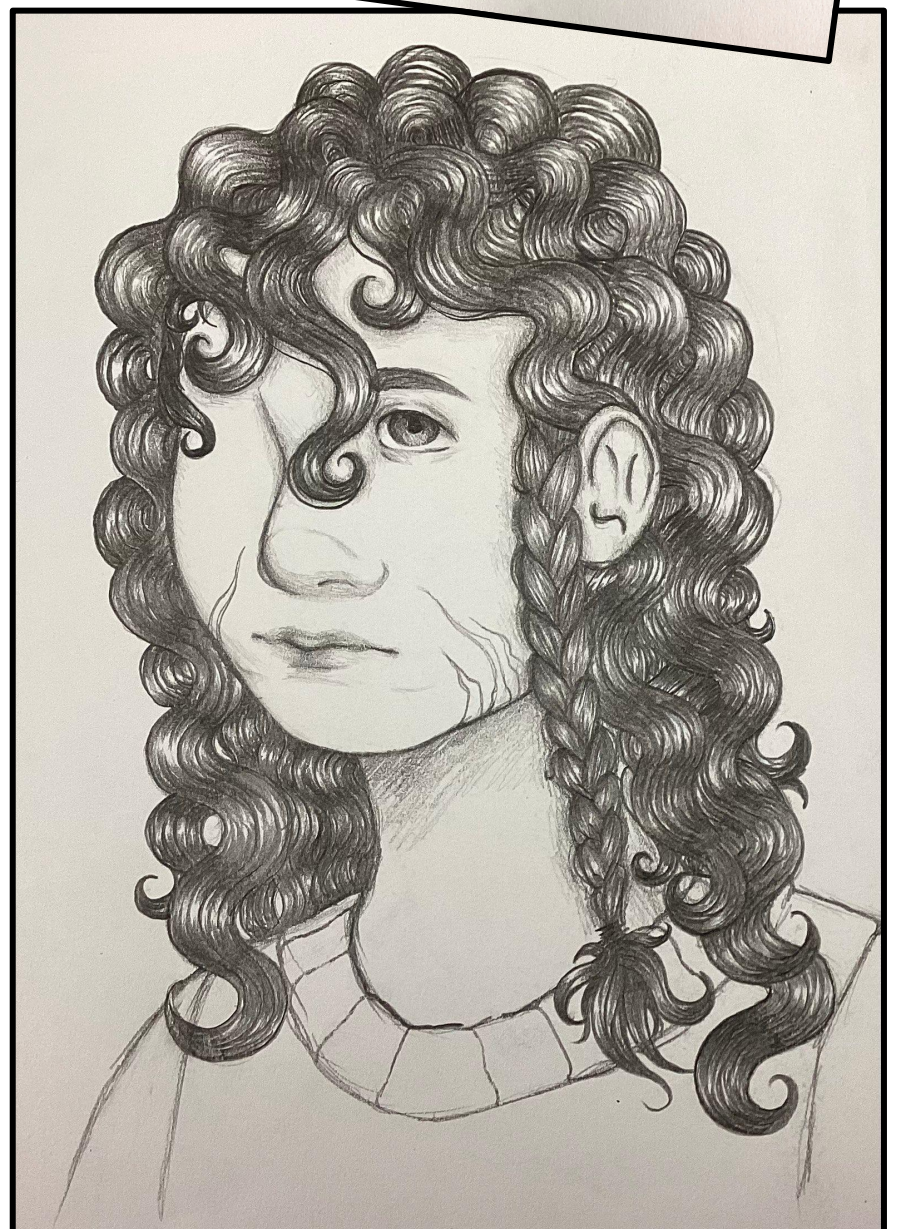
# ANIMAL OF THE MONTH

by Juliet Fillmore, grade 7

Vote for the next  
animal of the  
month by  
scanning the QR  
code:



Drawings by  
Lou Mensah, grade 7



# THE HOLIDAYS ARE HERE

GET READY TO BUDLE UP THIS WINTER SEASON!

NO MATTER IF YOU CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS OR NOT  
EVERYONE CAN GET INTO THE HOLIDAY CHEER.

SOME CHRISTMAS MOVIES TO WATCH:

- ELF
- THE GRINCH
- HOME ALONE
- THE CHRISMAS CRONICLES
- CHRISMAS STORY
- POLAR EXPRESS
- RUDOLPH



Poster by Chloe Bollman, grade 7

## A SNIPPET OF SCIENCE

by Aili Keran, grade 7

What is a black hole? When I looked it up, I went down a rabbit hole of more and more questions. What is space time? Could we create a black hole? What happens when black holes collide? We will be answering all these questions and more.

Black holes often contradict themselves. For example, black holes are infinitely big, yet also infinitely small. They are considered supermassive entities. The black holes are invisible to the human eye, the only thing we can see is the gas and space dust surrounding it. It absorbs all light around it, which led me to the question, what is inside a black hole? We don't know what is inside a black hole, (as anything that enters never comes out) so anything could be in it.

Black holes are formed when stars collapse. Our sun is too small to ever

collapse. Our sun is too small to ever become a black hole. Once I figured out how black holes were made, I wondered if we could create black holes to experiment on. It's not likely to be possible, but I could not find a clear answer (It all just said that it was too dangerous, which it is, but it would be so cool!).

During my research, I found out that there is often a supermassive black hole at the center of every universe. I then found the image of two black holes colliding, a process called a ringdown. When black holes collide, it sends off gravitational waves, ripples in the space time continuum.

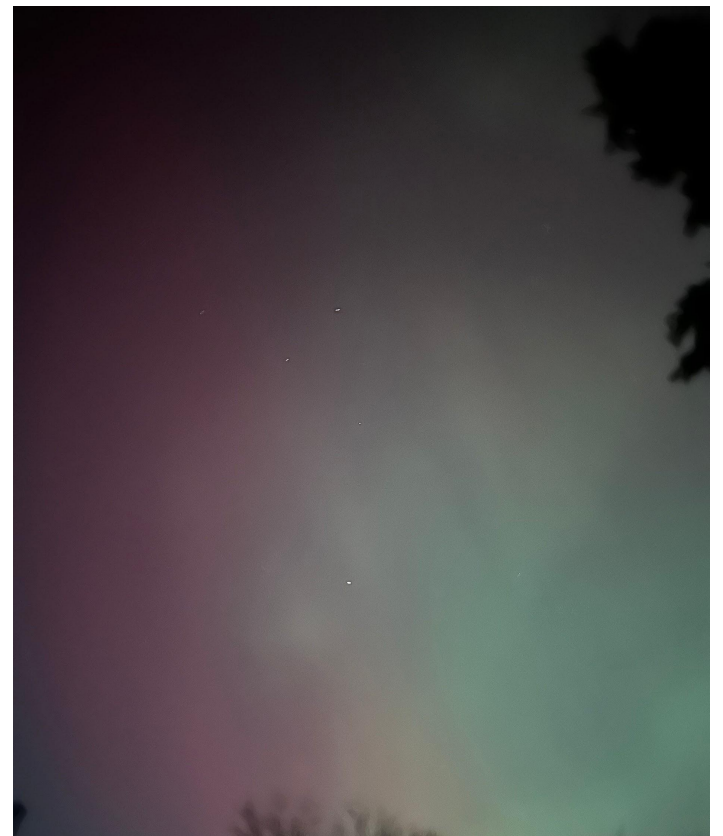
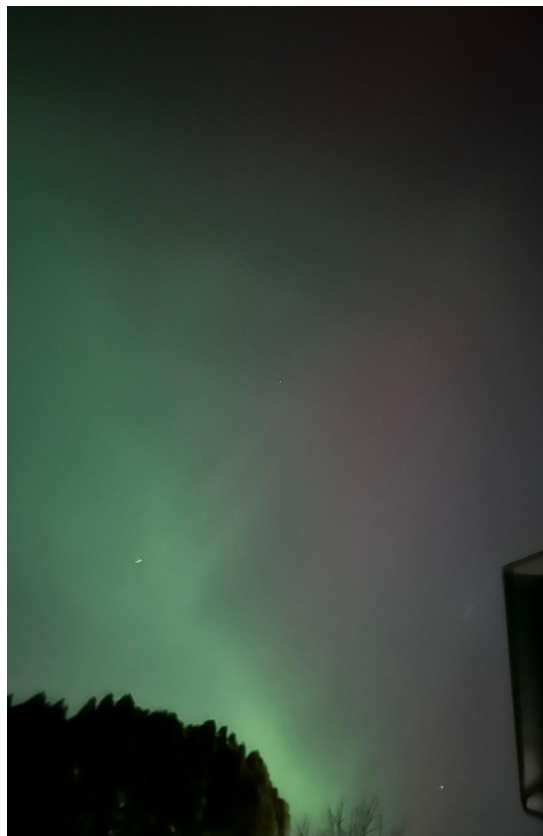
This leads me to my final question, what is space time? When looking into black holes, it got mentioned a lot. It was referenced as an object, a thing that could be moved around. I

found out that space time is the fourth dimension, one that we cannot see with our eyes.

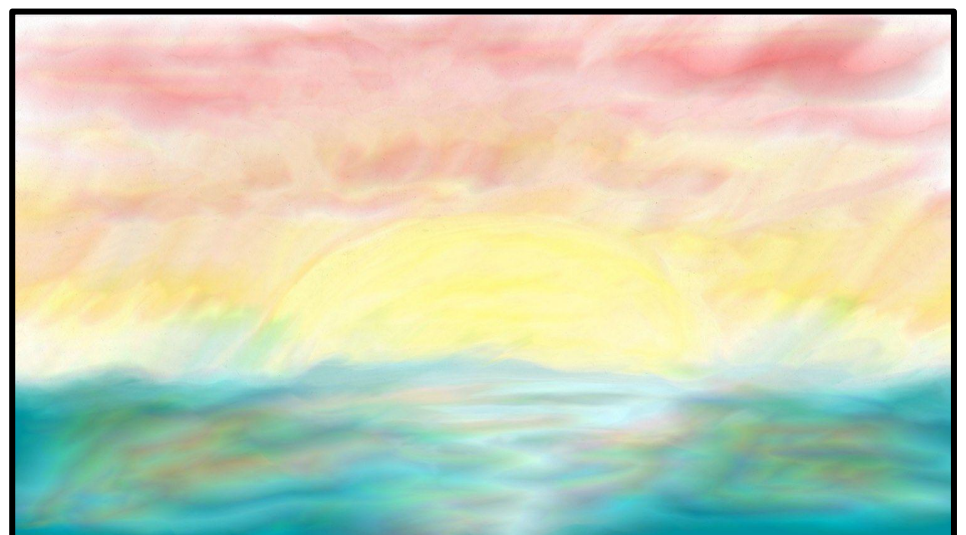
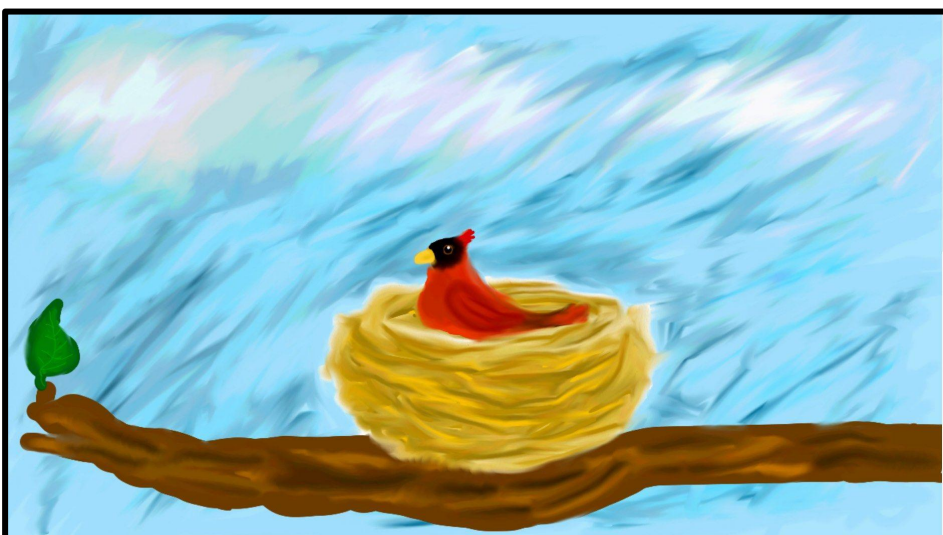
Picture a bed sheet that you stretched out. If you put a bowling ball in the middle of the sheet and then drop marbles on it, the marbles will roll towards the bowling ball. That's what space time is, gravitational pull affecting other objects in space and time, pulling itself throughout our timeline.

Black holes have such a large gravitational pull, that they can literally change time. We move along its time line, not the other way around. They can bend time, and send ripples throughout the continuum when they change.

That's just a Snippet of Science for you, hope you enjoyed it!



Northern Lights Pictures by Wyatt Strese, grade 6



Art by Abigail Schwab, grade 6

# TECHNOLOGY AND OUR HEALTH

by Alice Hager, grade 6

Have you ever wondered why you're so grumpy after playing Roblox with your friends? Have you ever wondered why you feel frustrated when you lose a game? Well, this is all a part of Electronic Screen Syndrome (ESS). ESS is when you feel grumpy, irritable, or stressed after using technology. Some examples of this include being short-tempered when you have to turn off your phone, iPad, or game system.

Another way technology affects your health is if you're playing your video games late at night, you could have trouble falling asleep afterwards. Those games affect your mood and how much sleep you get. Test this the next time you stay up really late playing games: what is your mood while playing the game? What about after playing the game? Do you feel the same or different? Did you have trouble falling asleep after playing? Are you really tired the next morning? Are you ready for a day of learning?

The Mayo Clinic in Minnesota recommends that "Middle schoolers should only have 2 hours of screen time a day."

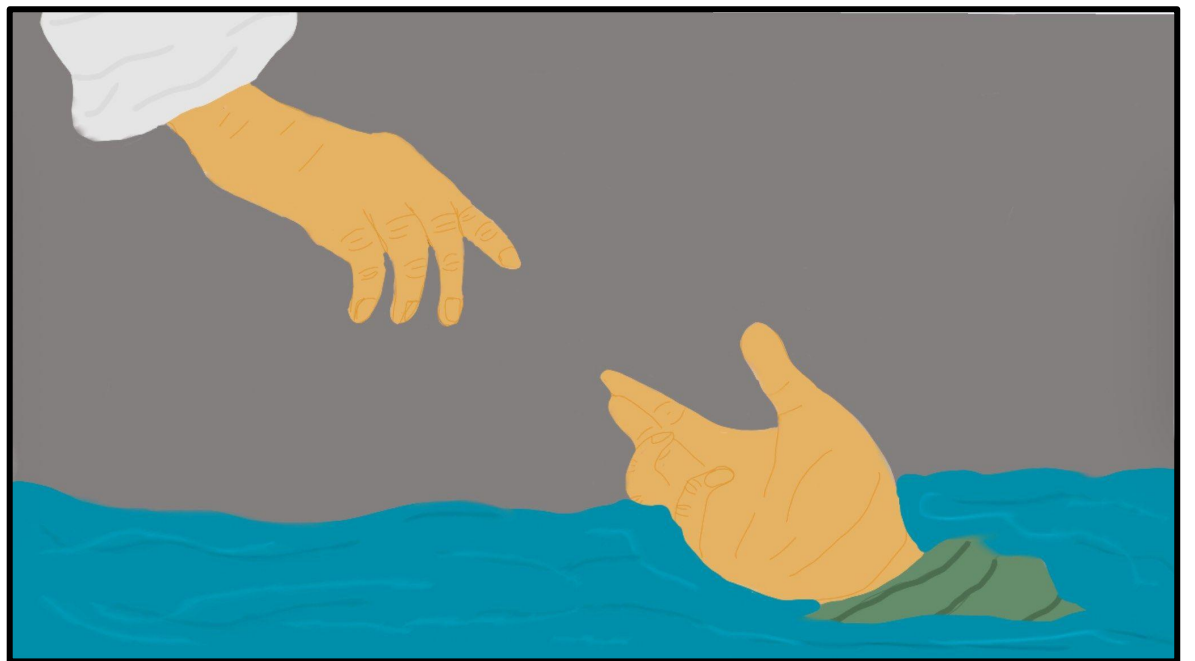
Next time you feel grumpy or tired after using technology, just do something different or take a break for a little while! Some things that you could do instead of video games are reading, arts and crafts, exercising, or taking a walk.

Technology can also prevent you from getting enough exercise or getting outside. It's ok to play a little bit of video games during the day, but at night, limit your access to technology. If you can't get yourself to put limits on screen time, try doing something or going somewhere that takes your mind off technology. Spending time with your family or exercising are two ways to get your mind off technology. You can also try yoga, meditation, and even dancing to your favorite song!

We use technology at school, and most of us play on it a lot at home. This much technology has a big impact on our health! It's like junk food for our brains. We need to make sure we limit screen time for our health and to be happier people!



Art by Abigail Schwab, grade 6



Comic by Fernando Ramirez Gonzalez, Hunter Hallerman,  
& Edmundo Lamadrid, grade 7

# THE MARKED DIARY

by Kali Fisher, grade 8

## Chapter 2

### The Turning Point

I walk into Honors Science already knowing it's going to be my least favorite class. The fluorescent lights hum overhead, and the smell of hand sanitizer clings to the air. Mrs. Birch stands at the front, her usual stack of papers in hand, smiling like she's way too excited for a Monday morning.

She starts taking attendance and dives into her "welcome back to a year of discovery" speech, but I barely hear her. All I can think about is seeing George again—what he'll say, if he even noticed I texted him good morning.

"...and your first project," Mrs. Birch says suddenly, snapping me out of my thoughts. I sit up straight.

She's writing on the board in her neat, slanted handwriting: *"Family Heritage Project – Building Your Family Tree."*

There's a small murmur of groans around the room, but I feel a spark of excitement.

"You'll be researching your family history," Mrs. Birch continues. "Interviewing relatives, collecting photos, stories—anything that helps you understand where you come from. You'll turn it into a presentation and a short reflection about what you discovered."

For once, it doesn't sound boring. It sounds... important.

Ever since Mom passed away, no one in my family really talks about her anymore. It's like everyone's afraid that saying her name will open some door we can't close again. But maybe this project could be my excuse to ask questions—real ones. About her life.

About what happened. About why no one will tell me everything.

I start doodling in the margin of my notebook—little branches and names that might fill my family tree. *Mom – Lily Jones*. Even just writing her name feels strange, like whispering a secret to myself.

Maybe this project will finally help me understand her. Maybe it'll help me understand everything.

Two hours later, when the bell rings, I head outside and spot George by the courtyard—on his phone. The moment he sees me, he hangs up.

"Oh hey! Didn't see you there," he says quickly, slipping his phone into his pocket.

"Hey," I reply lightly. "Sorry I was late. You know how it is—everything's on the other side of the building."

"It's fine," George says, but his tone has that familiar mix of teasing and protectiveness that makes me roll my eyes.

"Who were you texting?" I ask, just curious.

George frowns a little, but it's playful rather than sharp. "Just checking on something. Don't worry about it."

Before I can ask more, I hear a voice behind me.

"Emmy! You dropped your notebook!"

I turn around to see Liam, my lab partner, jogging toward me with his usual grin. His messy blond hair flops over his forehead as he hands me my notebook.

"Oh—thanks, Liam," I say, smiling.

"No problem," he says. "You heading to the café later? Sophia said everyone's going."

George steps a little closer, resting a hand on my shoulder lightly. "We're heading that way together," he says.

Liam nods, a little uncertain, and walks off.

I glance at George. "You really don't have to worry about him," I say lightly.

"I know," he says, shrugging. "Just... keep it in mind."

We start walking toward the café. The air is warm, the sunlight bright, and for the first time today, I feel a little lighter.

At the café, George goes in to grab our drinks while I wait outside. I watch people pass by, scrolling through my phone to distract myself. When he returns, he hands me a small cup and keeps a larger one for himself.

"Here," he says.

"Thanks," I murmur, taking it.

We get back in the car and drive toward home. The radio hums quietly, and we talk about nothing in particular—plans for the weekend, what classes we have next. It's calm, normal.

When we pull into my driveway, I see Jenny's car parked out front. "Hey, Em!" she calls, smiling. "Sophia told me to say hi."

George smiles faintly. "Guess that's my cue to go."

"Guess so," Jenny says lightly, and George waves. "Text me later," he calls as he drives off.

I watch him disappear, then turn to Jenny. "Everything okay?" she asks.

"Yeah," I reply quickly. "He was just being... George."

Jenny shrugs and grins. "Perfectly normal then. You hungry? I made mac and cheese."

I manage a small smile. "Perfect."

Inside, Timmy is on the floor with crayons. "Emmy! You're home!"

"Of course I am," I say, scooping him up in a hug.

He shows me his drawing—four stick figures under a bright yellow sun: me, Jenny, Dad, and him.

"Perfect," I whisper.

Jenny leans against the doorway, smiling softly. "Told you she'd love it."

I take my bowl of mac and cheese and fill my fork with noodles, feeling normal again. For a moment, I almost forget how tense the morning had been.

Felt Art by Avannic Anderson, grade 6



Doodles by Xavier McDonald, grade 7

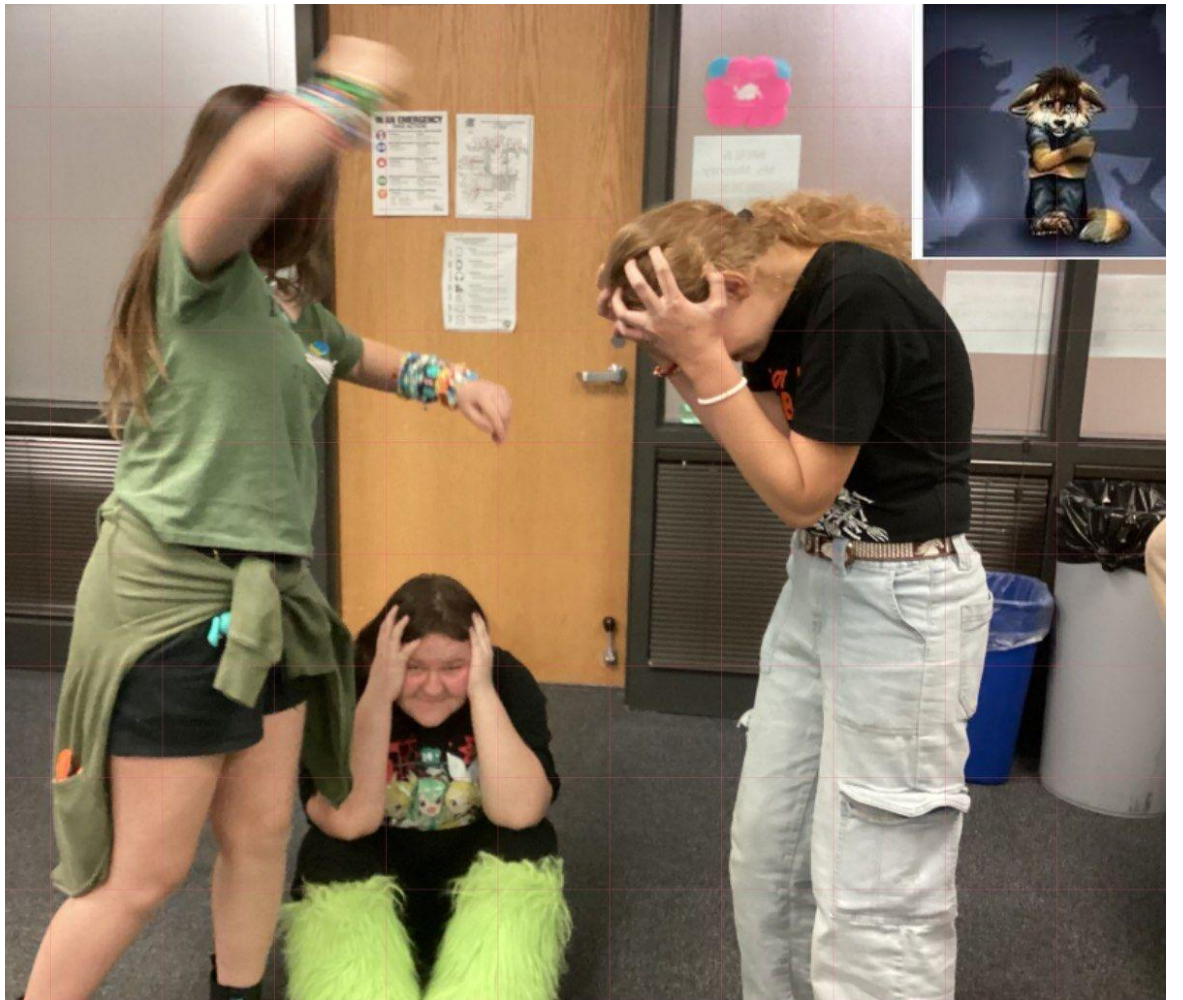




Skateboard Art by Carissa Armstrong, grade 7



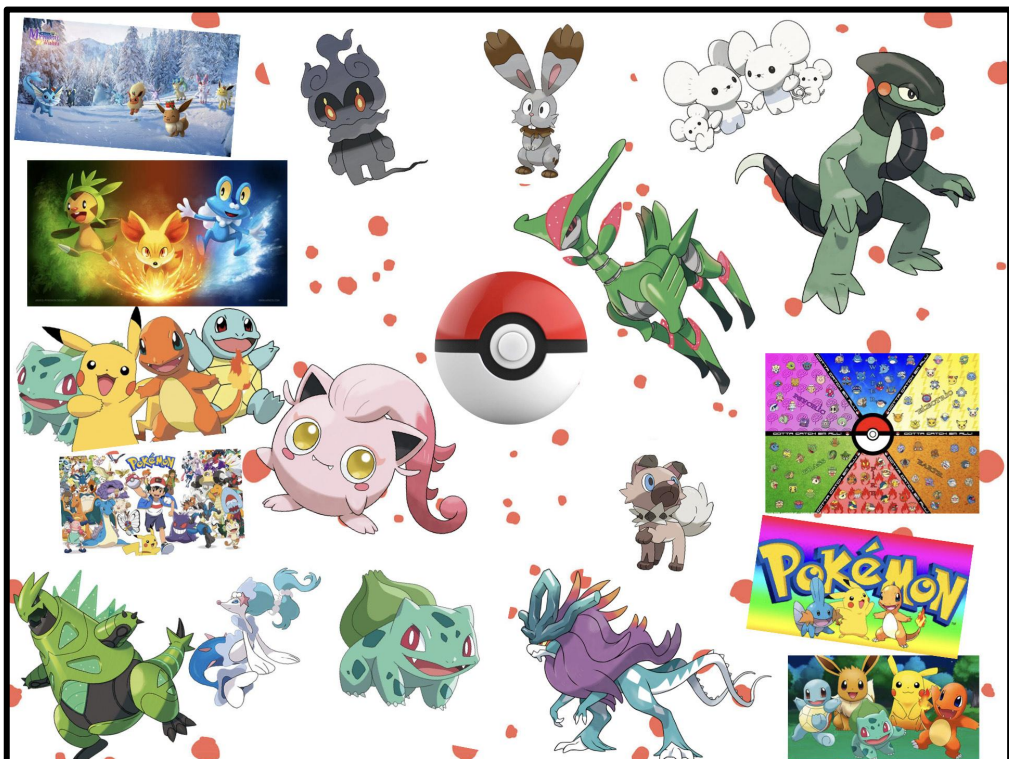
Arm Art by Peyton Butler, grade 7



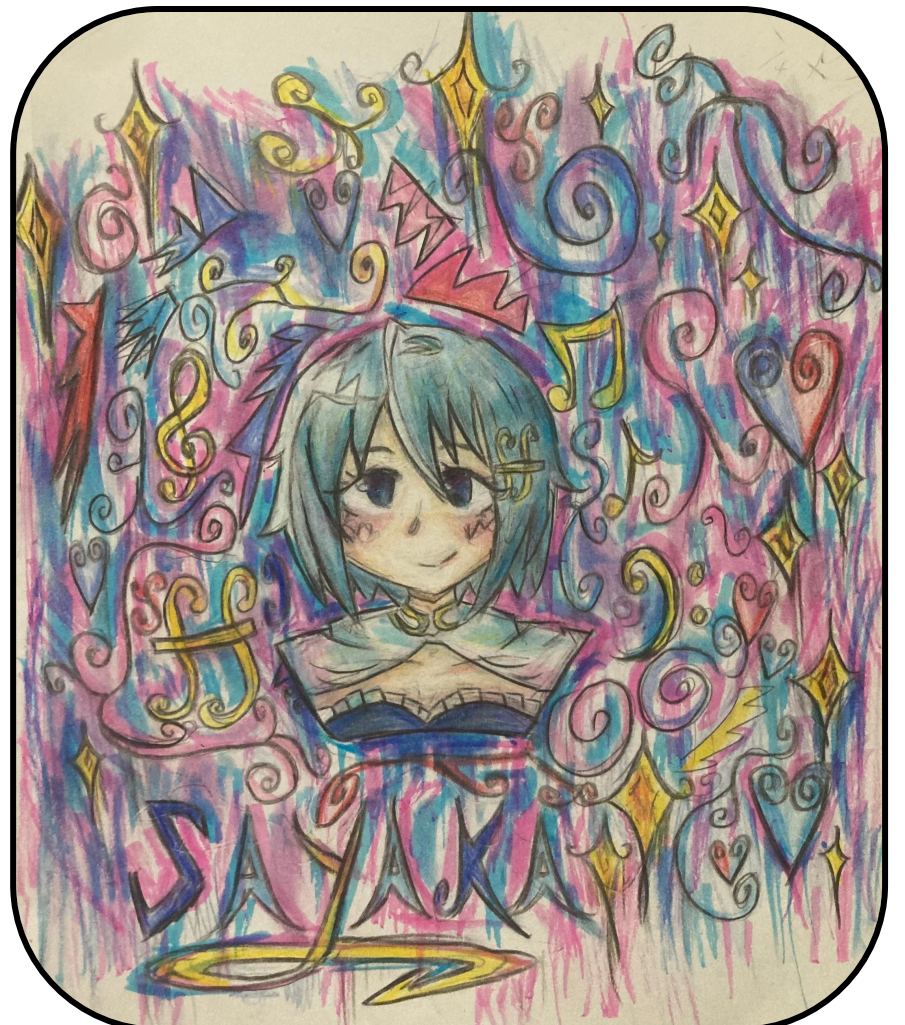
Reenactment by Vee Larsen, Ollie Hull, and Elliana Terlinde, grade 8



Drawing by Kayla Lakhamone, grade 7



Collage by Isla Gruebele, grade 7



Sayaka by Vee Larsen, grade 8

# THE TEDDY

by Mira Oswald, grade 7

Camilla stepped into the abandoned house. It had dark, peeling paint and jagged wood. You could hear the creak of the floor every step she took. Spider webs hung in every corner, and glass was shattered throughout the house. Camilla ended up in this bad situation in a stupid kind of way. She lost a bet with her friend. Now she has to risk her life to go into a ghost-infested abandoned house. She slowly crept down the dark hallway. It was silent. Almost too silent. Cold shivers danced down her back as she got closer and closer to the bedroom where Alice disappeared.

Alice was a little girl who was always nice. She lived with her grandma and grandpa after her parents left her when she was little. She never hurt anyone's feelings, and was always there for the sad, lonely kids. She would ride her bike every night after school and would greet everyone as she passed by. Every kid in the neighborhood knew her as the "nice kid." But one day, she just disappeared. No one knew where she went. It's like she just vanished out of thin air. Her grandparents disappeared along with her. People have been looking for them for years, and no one even dared to go into her room.

When Camilla entered the room, there was a small pink teddy bear on her bed. Its fur was going all different directions, and it had a missing black eye. Her soft pink

walls were peeling and her metal desk was rusted. The whole room was as dark and dreary as a huge cave in Colorado. Camilla slowly picked up the pink bear and examined it. Suddenly, the bear jumped out of her arms and started running towards her! Camilla stood in the dark room for a second in shock. Was she just imagining it? Did this teddy bear really just come to life? Once she got back to reality she nearly sprung off her feet. The bear got ten times bigger than before, and it was limping from one foot to the other towards her. Camilla ran down the narrow hallway with lights flickering as the bear chased her. She quickly glanced behind her shoulder and realized the pink bear was right behind her. Camilla practically dove out of the front door and ran as fast as she could back to her house.

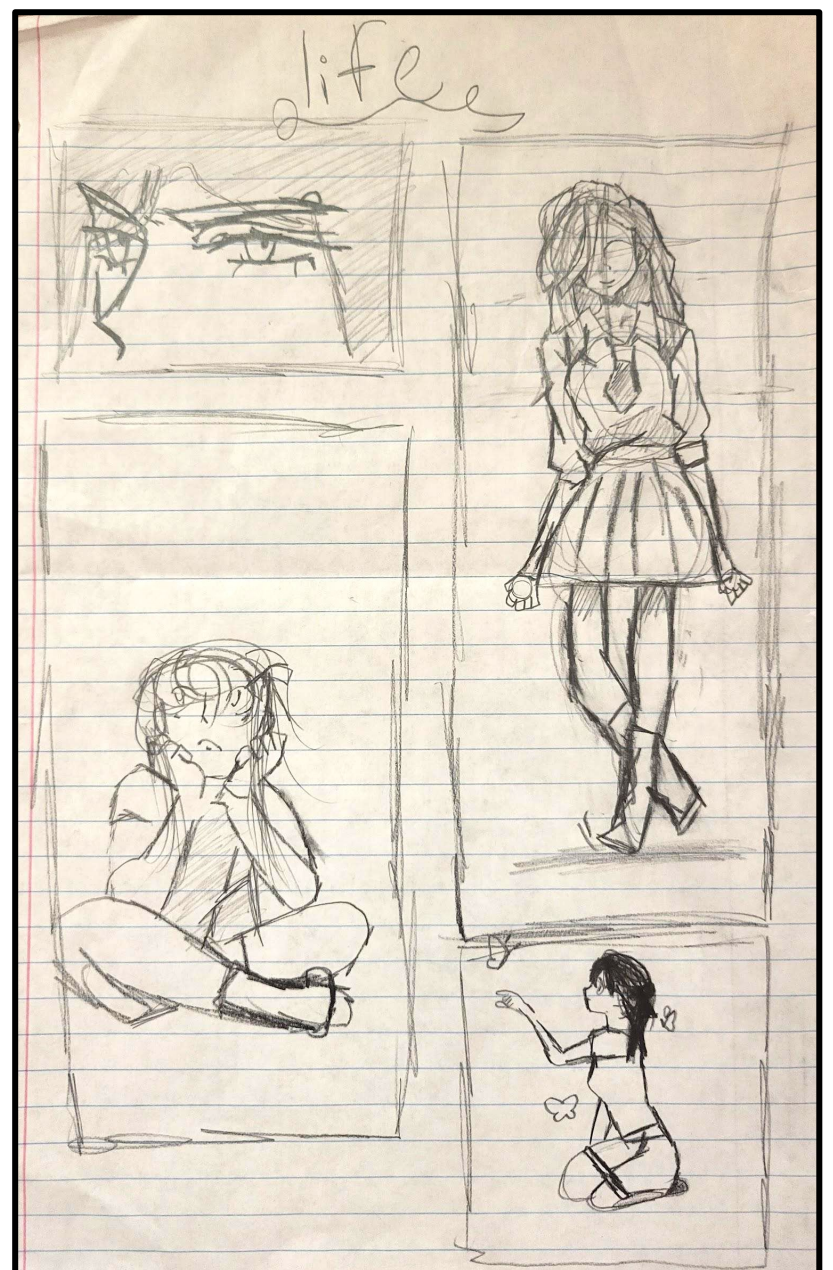
"AHHHH!" Camilla exclaimed as she sat up from her bed. Her mom came rushing into her room.

"What's going on, Camilla? Are you ok?" Her mom said.

Camilla looked around her room. She realized everything was just a dream and smiled. "Nope! Nothing wrong here!" she said. Relieved, she pulled her soft comforter over her body and went back to sleep.

The End

Comic by Maya Green, grade 6



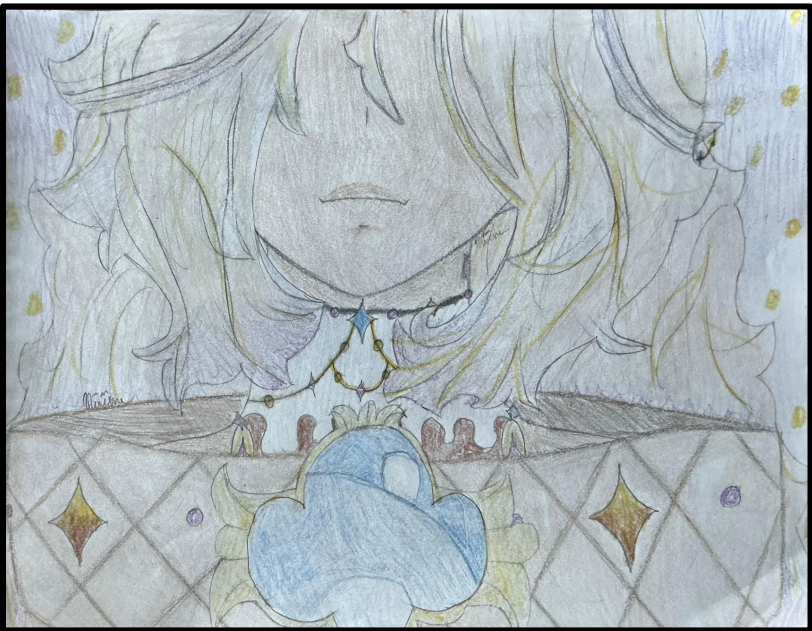
Life by Aisha Jama, grade 6



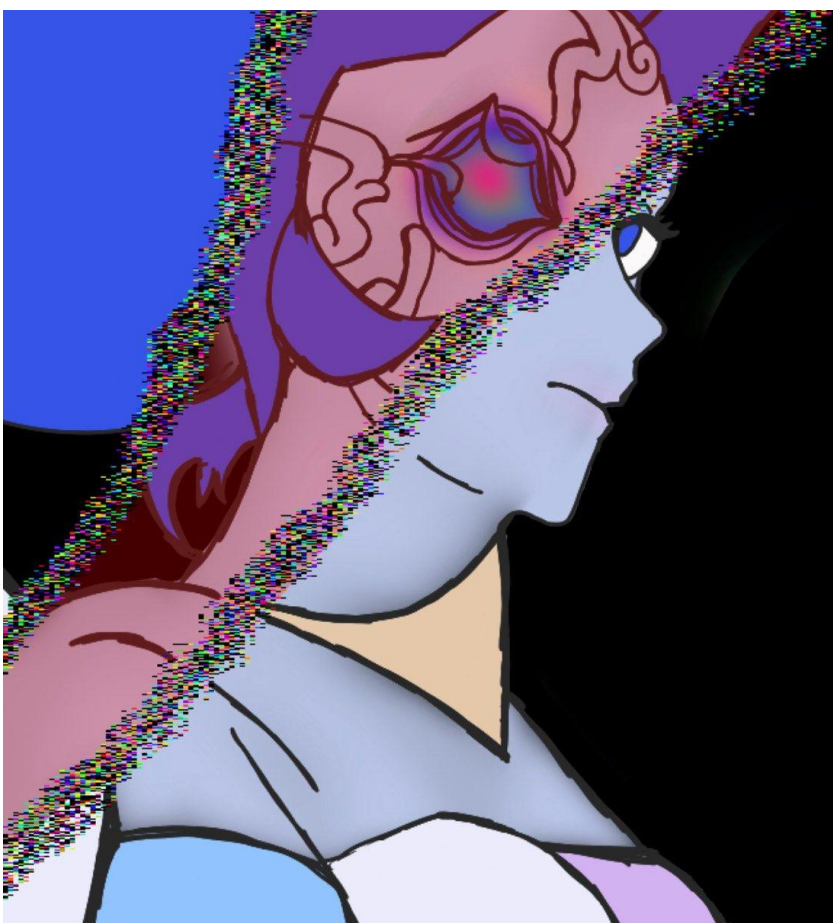
Drawings by Viviana Wanner, grade 6



Comic by Elizabeth Hanson, grade 6



Art by Fernando Ramirez Gonzalez, grade 7



Art By Naimah Thomas, grade





Drawings by Angelica Benson, grade 7



Drawing by Giana Uebel, grade 7



Comic By Emily Gonzalez, grade 6