



PawPrints

December Edition

Administration:
Principal Ian Murray
Cheryl Reep- 6th grade
David Malca- 7th grade
Kalebra Jacobs-Reed- 8th grade



WISH LIST OVERVIEW

By: Rayne Abadie and Kylie Manasseh

The winter holidays are coming up quickly this year and people have started to create their wish lists. Wish lists have evolved significantly over the years. It used to be just writing the things that you wanted on a piece of paper and a pen or pencil. These lists were usually short and handwritten; people didn't expect to get everything on them. But now it has become more sophisticated. Now, many apps have been made that have blown up across social media.

These apps allow you to shop online and from anywhere. Apps can give you recommendations, ideas, and organization. These apps include GoWish, Giftful, Wish List, Locker, and Things to Get Me. This can make wish lists easier to share with others.

Riley Socol (7) stated, "I use an app called Locker and it has recommended things to add on my wish list."

Mrs. Jassem, a civics teacher, said, "My kids create Amazon Wishlists every year, they look at different options like toys and clothes. Having

Amazon Wish lists makes it easy to know exactly what my kids want every year."

Wish lists are important because they help people plan, communicate, and you can control your budget. While teachers wish for other things like class supplies and quiet classrooms, kids wish for the latest sneaker trend or makeup product. Wish List is a platform designed to make sharing and organizing gift ideas easier than ever.

While some people think apps are easier, some think that the old fashioned lists are better than the digital ones for many reasons. Some of these could be that it's harder to forget because its always there, there is no glitches, and it could even make some feel like its more thoughtful.

Also, instead of juggling multiple lists or forgetting what friends and family want, Wish Lists allows people to create gift suggestions instantly. Whether it's for birthdays, holidays, or special events, these apps are very helpful. They are simple and perfect for everyone.

Photo credit: Rayne Abadie



Miyah Pierre (7) said, "When I see things that are inspirational on social media and then if I like it will add it to my list."

Photo credit: Kylie Manasseh



Riley Socol (7) stated, "I listen when they talk about what they want, and then I just go off their list a little bit. I also get one thing that they want and one thing off the list."

Let's Can Hunger!

By: Kaitlin Benggio and Tara Adler

From Friday, Nov. 7 through Wednesday, Nov. 19, students and staff donated to the Harvest Drive.

Ms. Nortmann runs the Harvest Drive. She said, "My role in the Harvest Drive includes checking the dates on everything, counting our items, and transporting everything from here to Western High School." IRMS and Western partner up for the Harvest Drive.

Maryam Elmilki (7) said, "I donate [to the Harvest Drive] because it is giving to the people in need." The donations received at Harvest Drive go to families who can't afford to buy food, especially during the holiday season.

Indian Ridge was able to raise 1,206 items this year during the

drive. Considering SNAP (supplemental nutrition assistance program) benefits were being held or reduced, it is more important than ever to help people in need.

Brian Chunowitz said, "If there was no prize, I would say, yeah [people would still donate food], because there are still some good people out there."

The teacher that won in sixth grade was Mrs. Wheeler. The teacher that won in seventh grade was Ms. Nortmann. The eighth grade winner was Mrs. Kannal and the mixed grade winner was Ms. Golembowski. Ice cream reward parties will be held on Monday, Dec. 15 during second period.



Photo Credit: Tara Adler

Ms. Nortman and a few other students this year are working hard to collect and properly document donations. Student volunteers from NJHS handed out raffle tickets for all mac and cheese donations!

Sides or Main?

55 students were asked about their favorite Thanksgiving food. They had to choose between stuffing, mashed potatoes, cornbread, mac and cheese, and turkey/ ham. Here are the results.

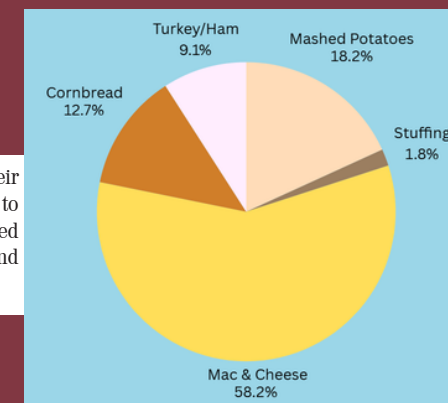


Photo Credit: Kylie Manasseh

Brian Chunowitz, (7) said that he brings in specialty items to Harvest Drives. He brings in specialty items to gain points and donate to the people in need.



Photo Credit: Rayne Abadie

Maryam Elmilki (7) says that she donates to the Harvest Drive every year, and she said that she does this to help the people that are in need. She said, "It is helpful for people in need, because a lot of people just throw things they could donate away."



Photo credit: Tara Adler

Ms. Nortmann says that SNAP benefits will have a big impact on the Harvest Drive. She says that there will be a lot more families in need this year than in previous years.

Volleyball at IRMS

By: Julia Jones and Kayla Snyder

School volleyball tryouts are an exciting chance for students to play the sport they love and possibly make the team. This year the boys volleyball tryouts were October 29, 30, and November 4th, while the girl volleyball tryouts were November 3, 5, and 6.

At volleyball tryouts the students practiced setting and passing so the coaches, Ms. Finer (girls) and Mr. Bosgic (boys), could see their skills. Then, for those students selected for callbacks, they practiced scrimmaging. A scrimmage is when the coaches split the players into groups and have them play the sport. This lets the coaches see how they play a game against other

people. Volleyball is a team sport played by two groups of six who hit a ball over a net trying to score against the other team.

"We practiced hitting, serving, and passing at tryouts," said Tyler Leblanc (8). Volleyball is one of the most popular sports at IRMS with about 150 girls trying out and only approximately 16 making the team.

"The thing I enjoy most in volleyball is spending time with the girls, working on their form and skill, and most of all the games," said Ms. Finer, the girls volleyball coach. Ms. Finer encourages everyone to try volleyball because it is a great sport that teaches valuable team work skills.



Ms. Finer states, "I'm looking for girls who are hardworking and have good coordination."



Tyler Leblanc said, "I would describe the sport as fun and energetic."

IRMS Basketball Team

By: Charlotte Chapnick and Kali Wheeler

From practicing since he was three like Cooper Bosse (8), to just starting this year like Dior Barthelemy (8), everyone starts somewhere. Basketball holds a special place in both of these student's hearts. Barthelemy started this year to follow in her sister's footsteps.

"My sister does basketball, so I just wanted to try it out," she said. While Bosse on the other hand wanted to try out because he already had experience.

"I thought I did really good at tryouts because I already played before," Bosse said.

Tryouts are always nerve-racking and for Dior,

she did not think she did her best. Dior explains that she was scared at first but when she realized that the coaches were chill, she felt better. The coaches do seem scary but they are only trying to help improve all of the players. Both Bosse and Barthelemy appreciate when the coaches are hard on them because it helps them learn.

Barthelemy loves playing because it makes her feel like she is getting better. Bosse loves basketball because he has been playing basically his whole life. Basketball at Indian Ridge allows both students to do what they love at school with their friends.



Dior loves to practice her basketball skills during PE.



Cooper Bosse thinks about basketball even while he is in science class.

Flag Football

By: Kayla Snyder and Julia Jones

Jaguar flag football tryouts are still in the process of choosing who will be on the team, with Coach Vestal, the boys coach, and Coach Gurto, the girls coach. Last year the girls team won the championship, so can we achieve that again?

At tryouts you had to complete sets of drills to prove your athletic ability. The team teaches the players way more than just how to play the game. Being on the flag football team helps students learn how to work with each other to reach a set goal. Sixth, seventh, and eighth

graders are able to tryout to earn a coveted spot on the team.

Whether they're scoring touchdowns, pulling flags, or cheering from the bench, the team shows how strong the school spirit is at Indian Ridge. Every season comes with new memories, new challenges, and great wins.

Overall, the flag football team at Indian Ridge brings students together and makes the school proud!

Purple for Cancer Awareness

By: Kali Wheeler and Charlotte Chapnick

The Florida Panthers NHL team is wearing purple! But why? The Panthers are supporting cancer awareness throughout the month of November. They got custom made purple jerseys and raised \$50,000. The fans that are attending the game on November 15 and 16 were encouraged to fill out "I fight for" cards and wear purple rally towels.

Panthers celebrate Hockey Fights Cancer with Baptist Health Cancer Care to raise

funds and awareness for cancer research. The Panthers hope to help many people understand the impact of cancer on others by wearing purple in their games.



Photo credit: NHL

Dupe or OG

By: Yelyzaveta Savina and Alexa Brand

Trader Joe's Chile Lime Tortilla chips have been going viral for their irresistible taste and clean ingredients. But are they better than the real Takis?

Sophia Di Dinato (7) said, "Trader Joe's Rolled Corn Tortilla Chips are better than the original because the flavor and the ingredients are better." Real Takis have a lot of unhealthy ingredients like artificial food dyes such as Red 40, high amounts of sodium, and the

preservative TBHQ which stands for tert-butylhydroquinone. This became popular after making many appearances at schools, public places, and of course, Trader Joe's.

According to a Trader Joe's employee, Trader Joe's restocks the chips about every hour due to their popularity and the public's desire for them. Based on our research at IRMS, 67% of students prefer Trader Joe's over the real OG snack.

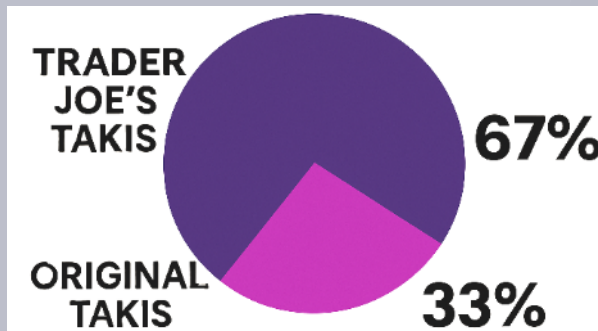


Photo Credit: Sophie Rusu

Sophia Di Dinato says "I like Trader Joe's takis better than the original because they have more flavor and they are healthier."

The Bearista Riot

By: Sophie Rusu

Most people have had a Starbucks drink at least once in their life, plus the trending cake pops, holiday flavors, and tasty bakery treats. But the most popular of all? Apparently, the BEARISTA CUP.

It all started when Starbucks decided to sell this new 20 oz. cup in the shape of a bear wearing a green beanie for thirty dollars! It made its debut on Nov. 6, 2025 and starting to

sell out by the end of the day. Some people were even camping outside of Starbucks at two in the morning!

People are reselling it on eBay at the inflated price of five hundred dollars, with some sales at almost one thousand dollars.

This cute little bear cup sure did start some drama during the Starbucks holiday lineup.



From Imagination to Screen: Sora in Action



By: Sophie Rusu

Ever since AI was created, it has had an impact on the entertainment industry, social media, and schools. Many people have used it for schoolwork such as homework or help with solving math equations. Some people even use it to study for exams.

But now there is a new AI called Sora AI, and it's used to scan your face or make any object do anything with artificial intelligence. You can put in any prompt and make people do things using the facial scan that they have never done before.

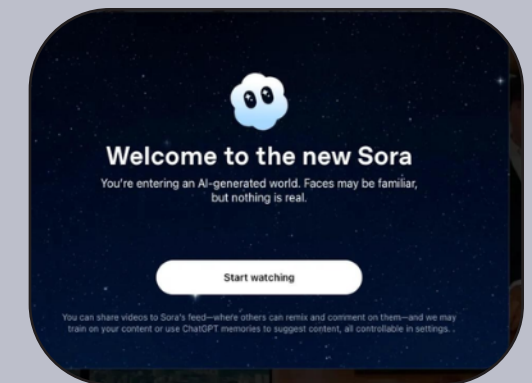
Many people are using it now to make their friends and family do crazy things! However, people are starting to wonder if it's just a fun silly thing to use or something dangerous that can impact society.

People like Ryan William Tello stated, "I think it could be dangerous in the wrong person's hands." For now nothing's happened, but many people are looking closely to see what future Sora and artificial intelligence will bring.



Photo Credit: Sophie Rusu

Ryan William Tello (6) stated, "I think Sora can be very dangerous to political figures, social media, and could possibly fry kids brains." He also said that we should watch out for bad people using it because once it gets in the wrong hands it could be too late.



41: A Better Meme?

By: Peyton Mucha

The popular meme "67" has appeared on Halloween costumes, annoyed teachers, and confused parents. But what about another number? A less said digit: 41.

With all these number memes, some have become tired of the overuse. The popular restaurant chain In-N-Out Burger has even removed #67 from its order

rotation to avoid customers from filming viral videos.

Emma Di Benedetto (7) has caught on to these trends saying, "I like saying 67, but I do think 41 is said a lot to. 'Maybe 67 is becoming more annoying with the use of it in classrooms and how many times kids are saying it, so I do think 41 will get more popular."



Photo Credit: Sophie Rusu

Emma Di Benedetto said, "I do kind of think 41 is going to be more well liked later in the school year maybe."

The Start of Future Journalists

By: Samuel Lenchus

On Nov 1, 2025, student journalists all across District 7 went to the Florida Scholastic Press Association (FSPA) at Nova Southeastern University for their annual journalism and yearbook conference.

At the FSPA convention, there were many workshops, and contests for students. One student from IRMS, Samuel Lenchus (7), won a contest for News Writing. There was even a presentation

by Sun Sentinel photographer Sean Pitts.

Kara Toussaint (8) said that out of all the workshops offered, her favorite was "Insights from a Nationally Recognized Student Journalist" because, "It gave a lot of instructions on how to be a better writer." Overall, students across District 7 gained much information to bring back to their school.



Photo credit Dominic Rodriguez

Luke Swanno (8) stated that he attended the FSPA convention because, "I really wanted to grow and expand my knowledge in this field of journalism."

Imagineering Adventure

By: Dominic Rodriguez

With an early morning chill in the air, Yearbook, Journalism and TV Production students experienced the magic of the Imagination Campus Workshop: Technology of Disney Parks in EPCOT on Nov.10, 2025.

The students were given a behind the scenes tour of many of the attractions throughout the park, including insight into how certain rides, like Remy's

Ratatouille Adventure, were created.

Amy Ben-Dayan (8) stated, "I learned that technology can be used in many ways and it can benefit so many people."

After the two-and-a-half-hour workshop, the students had a chance to explore the technology in action as they played in the park the rest of the day.

Photo credit Samuel Lenchus



Liam Franck (7) said that his favorite attraction in EPCOT was Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind.

Fundraiser Madness

By: Samuel Lenchus and Dominic Rodriguez

The APEX Fundraiser held a pep rally on Nov.10, 2025, which included games, prizes, music, and snacks. Its purpose was to get students excited about their upcoming obstacle course event that will be held on Dec. 19.

The APEX program is designed to help students become better leaders in their community. While raising money for the school, APEX keeps about 40% to 50% of raised funds, depending on the contract agreement.

Jasmine "Princess" Cox stated, "This

school is trying to raise funds for school upgrades, and so they are bringing the obstacle course to their students."

The APEX Fundraiser helps students have fun while supporting their school.



Photo credit Julia Murphy

Students gathered in the gym during the APEX pep rally, and some even participated in a relay race to get kids excited about their upcoming obstacle course event.

Photo credit Samuel Lenchus



Cox explains that the main goal of APEX is to, "Build leaders within schools," and to "support schools with their major fundraising."

Skilled Speakers

By Julia Murphy

On Tuesday, Nov. 4, at Everglades High School, the first speech tournament of the year began. The seventh grade speech class is taught by Mrs. Kannal, while the eighth grade debate class is taught by Ms. Munoz.

Seventh graders participated in categories such as prose and poetry, impromptu, and storytelling. The students practiced over a period of about three weeks in order to prepare for the competition. Seventh graders either had specified areas, or were put into a group, to practice. Kids participating in the storytelling category utilize a chair during the performance of a children's book. Poetry and prose use gestures to perform a story or a poetry program. Those in impromptu practiced for competition by drawing random quotes, planning their speech,

and then speaking for up to seven minutes.

The eighth grade debate class went to the tournament, as well as an earlier one in October. They participated in extemporaneous speech, in which you have 30 minutes to plan a speech citing sources and research. They also did public forum, a team crossfire debate, and categories like prose, poetry, and impromptu.

Ms. Munoz stated, "I really like having these higher level conversations with students, and there's a lot of critical thinking that goes into it." She also recommends the seventh grade speech class for sixth graders looking for electives next year. Sixth graders do not compete but it's good preparation for seventh and eighth grade.

"It's a great way to also learn how to hone in on your public speaking skills," Munoz said.

A Grateful Grandparents Day

By Lily Silverman

On Tuesday, Nov.18, Indian Ridge held their annual Grandparents Day breakfast. Students were able to invite their grandparents to have breakfast with them at the school. The grandparents were provided a variety of breakfast food and could have cookies and fruit. The band played music while grandparents were able to enjoy their meal with their grandchildren. The cheerleaders welcomed the grandparents with a routine and fun cheers.

The event lasted approximately an hour and a half. Grandparents were able to take pictures

with their grandchildren in front of a balloon arch backdrop. Many children believe it was a great way for their grandparents to have fun while relaxing. The music and food added to the perfect experience for grandparents who just want to have a good morning.

Ariel Jhafar (7) stated, "It was extra fun to do that and spend time with my grandparents during school hours."



While at the breakfast, Ariel and her grandparent talked and took photos. "It was nice to show them our school and around our school" she said.

Photo credit Lily Silverman



The band students played music while the grandparents enjoyed a great breakfast.

Forgotten Tradition or a Memorable Holiday?

Forgotten Tradition

By: Aksel Andersen-Ellis

Thanksgiving is a holiday that celebrates being grateful for things you usually take for granted, but, it has had a downward trend in popularity, and it doesn't look like it's going to stop. People have stopped celebrating Thanksgiving, and one reason may be because of the increasing price of groceries.

Hannah Lenchus (7) stated, "Some people I know like to skip Thanksgiving because the food can get expensive," which is just one of the causes of the dying holiday. Another reason people might have been abandoning Thanksgiving is the need for religion over tradition.

Adrian Alvarez (8) stated, "Religion is something that you believe in and represent, while tradition is just something you do." Winter holidays have also been a huge factor in the decrease in popularity for Thanksgiving, as they typically are much more popular.

Hannah Lenchus also stated, "Winter holidays seem to be more popular because people have more time for giving and spending time with family."

This indicates that people just don't have the time for Thanksgiving, and it has become somewhat of a chore for them instead of a cherished time.

Photo credit: Aksel Andersen-Ellis



Hannah Lenchus (7) stated that "Thanksgiving is getting expensive."

Memorable Holiday

By: Mason Chunowitz

Many believe that Thanksgiving has been going downhill in popularity and that is without a doubt, completely untrue. In today's world, many believe that if something hasn't happened in a long time, it is presumed "dead" kind of like what happens to memes. Don't forget to include that most people in the world don't celebrate Thanksgiving, so is it really dying?

In short, no. It is not dying. Many people are very impatient when it comes to holidays since they take a very long time to come back around.

It is something to take into play that winter holidays such as Christmas, Hanukkah and New Years follow right after.

Adrian Alcaez (8) stated, "Thanksgiving hasn't lost its importance but it is being overshadowed by holidays like Christmas."

While it is understandable that the holiday is on the decline of popularity, it is still as memorable and respected as always and will be for generations to come.

Photo credit: Aksel Andersen-Ellis



Adrian Alcaez (8) claims, "Thanksgiving celebrates our independence and union together."

Keeping shopping personal in a virtual world

In person shopping

By: Olivia Krac

Oh no, the ugly christmas sweaters say they are going to be delayed! The best solution to shipping issues is in person shopping. What's the point of stressing if the pajamas won't fit or if the turkey won't arrive on time, when everybody can just stop by their favorite stores and get the stuff they need for the holidays that day?

Carter Hall (6) said that he loves to go to Target for food and items he needs during the holidays, and especially if he needs to get people gifts. He stated, "I like in person shopping because for clothes you can know what the deals really are and get help from people who work

there if you need it."

It also can be more enjoyable and can feel better than just scrolling through screens. The online world has been taking over a lot of lives, especially students in school. Why not spend some time being in the present and take a stroll to find the products everybody needs with their loved ones and make it more convenient, too!



Photo credit: Mason Chunowitz
Carter Hall (6) stated, "Shopping in person is easier because I can get clothes and make sure they fit before purchasing it. I also think it's fun."

Online Shopping

By: Aaron Londono

Shopping online is just a new and better way of shopping worldwide. Everywhere you're going to shop in person, you have to deal with that person in line who has a hundred things in their cart while you have not even half of theirs. These inconveniences are the clues that let you know that next time you should shop online.

Nick Vestal (PE teacher) states, "In person shopping gets a little crazy and hectic, especially around the holidays. So, it's much easier to be prepared and order early so you don't have to deal with any lines."

He prefers Cyber Monday instead of Black Friday because of how wild

Black Friday can get. When you're online, you don't get a rude attitude from the cashier; you just wait a day or two, depending on which app you bought from, for your purchase to arrive.

When shopping online, you have the choice of having unlimited variety at just a click of a button. While shopping in person could add some difficulty to this task because most shops, including Hollister, Sephora, and Best Buy, are mainly focused on their own genre. Why not just go find a website which sells merchandise and buy from there instead of going to a store? Your comfort is most important!



Photo Credit: Mason Chunowitz
Nick Vestal (Teacher) stated "I think online shopping is better than in person shopping."

The Return to the Wilde Streets

By Alyssa Grahn

Disney is welcoming audiences back to the amazing city of Zootopia with the sequel movie, "Zootopia 2", out in theaters Nov. 26. The film brings back Judy Hopps and Nick Wilde as they continue to be partners and explore new areas and adventures. They will be taking on challenges that test whether they really are good partners in anti-crime.

Although Disney had not released much except for ads, the sequel is expected to have the same humor, adventure, and lessons as the original movie did along with some new characters, expanded worlds, and fresh new story lines on the way.

Olivia Hoopes said, "I think it will be good because the first did so well and was amazing."

People are really looking forward to seeing how this new chapter continues with the already loved original story. Fans like Eva Lazar (7) say, "I liked the original because of how the plot changed, and the sheep was the bad one all along." This production is making old fans and new ones find a common interest.

In addition, the sequel prompted Disney's Animal Kingdom theme park to convert the 3D show "It's Tough To Be A Bug" to a Zootopia themed "Zootopia: Better Zoogether".



photo credit :Alyssa Grahn
Leilani Reid (6) says the movie is going to be funnier than the first one since they have more people.

The Upside Down Isn't Finished

By Jaylinn Ruiz

On Nov. 26, Netflix released the first four episodes of Stranger Things season 5 with the next three episodes coming out on Dec. 25 and the final episode on Dec. 31.

Season 5 will be the final season for the show. Many fans believe that one of the characters is not going to make it to the end of the season and Ayla Castro (7) says that she thinks Lucas is most likely to not make it. Castro also says she is excited for the new season to come out. She

said she didn't think the show would be scary but when she started watching it, she realized it was and she likes scary shows.

Stranger Things plans to release a new show called Stranger Things: Tales From '85 which is an animated series that takes place between seasons 2 and 3. The show will be released after season 5.



photo credit: Amanda Salvin
Ayla Castro (7) says her favorite character from Stranger Things is Eleven.

Pink and Green Go Well Together

By: Cecilia Moraes

"Wicked: For Good" came out November 21 in theaters and the "Wicked" fans are going crazy. When the original "Wicked" came out, fans were obsessed, especially fans of the Broadway show. "Wicked", the 2024 film, ends on a cliff hanger.

"Wicked" and "Wicked: For Good" both have a connection to the old film "The Wizard Of Oz" from 1939 based off the book by Frank L. Baum. This left fans wanting more to the story.

Gladly they soon announced "Wicked: For Good", the finale. One fan, Eva Lazar (7) says, "I am super excited for 'Wicked: For Good'. I am planning to watch it the week it comes out!"

"Wicked" was an entertaining movie with fun songs, but "Wicked: For Good" will be different. Some fans are leaving the theaters sad, but changed for good. Overall the movie is different from the first but still a great interpretation, and finish, to the story.



Photo credit: Cecilia Moraes
Eva Lazar (7) Loves the wicked movie and her favorite character is Glinda. She thinks the movie will be amazing. She is super excited for the movie to be complete

FNAF, the sequel, has arrived.

By: Amanda Salvin

On Dec. 5th, 2025, the sequel to the popular movie "Five Nights at Freddy's", also known as FNAF, will be coming out to theaters. FNAF is rated as a beginner level horror movie that contains some jump scares as well as some scary moments.

People are excited for the new movie to come out because it has been a long awaited two years for the sequel. "Five Nights at Freddy's" fan, Juan Nardi Bernal (6) thinks that the movie was

good, and he is excited for the new one to come out. Juan is pretty sure he is going to see the new movie in theaters and expects it to be creepy. He thought all of it was good and does not have a favorite part.

"It's a classic, and it has good characters," he stated. Jaun's favorite character out of Five Nights at Freddy's is Bonnie because he thinks she looks cool; Bonnie is an animatronic rabbit.



Photo credit: Amanda Salvin
Juan Nardi Bernal (6) a "Five Nights at Freddy's" fan is super excited for the new movie to come out.

Behind the Scenes

By Alexa Kaplan, Alessia Cruz, and Juliette Rodriguez

With the recent rumors of bullying allegations on the set of "Stranger Things" between Millie Bobby Brown (Eleven) and her costar David Harbour (Jim Hopper), there has been a greater focus on the physical and emotional safety of actors, especially young actors, over the past few years.

Another harassment case that happened with a very public feud was on the set of 'It Ends With Us'. Blake Lively sued her costar Justin Baldoni for sexual harassment, which was followed by a public smear campaign by Baldoni to "ruin" her reputation.

The case began with a discrimination lawsuit in California, where a meeting was held to discuss Baldoni's alleged misconduct. In Lively's complaint, supported by texts and reports on Dec. 21, 2024, reported by The New York Times, outlined how Baldoni supposedly organized a smear campaign.

In addition, the young Nickelodeon stars have filed cases where actors from the shows "All That," "The Amanda Show," "Drake & Josh," "Zoey 101", "iCarly" and "Victorious" sued director, Dan Schneider.

This case includes allegations from actors saying Dan Schneider sexually harassed them and verbally abused them. Some actors like Drake Bell came out and explained the harassment on a documentary called "Quiet on

Set," where most of the allegations came out.

Drake said, "The abuse was extensive and it got pretty brutal. I don't know how to elaborate on that on camera really."

After the documentary came out, Dan Schneider apologized for his behavior. Many people like Ben Chen (8) think he didn't mean the apology, that he is just saying it to take the heat off things.

There are many legal aspects to harassment cases like this, especially in the entertainment industry. There are state and federal laws in place, such as Title VII and state human rights laws. Title VII prohibits employee discrimination due to race, gender and religion, in a work environment of 15 or more employees.

One California human rights law is the Urch Civil Rights Act. This prohibits discrimination in businesses in California. Another example is the New York State Human Rights Laws, which prohibit discrimination and harassment in employment, housing, and public places. These types of cases are usually settled in civil courts.

Jasmine Apel (8) states, "The challenges actors may face when taking legal action against a harasser or an abuser is when their harasser can use the media against them." These cases are profoundly serious and unfortunately happen to actors more than they are reported.



Food stamps are being snapped away

By: Sophia Bauza and Gaby Espinosa

This year was the longest government shutdown in history from Oct. 1 to Nov. 1. It stripped away SNAP benefits, also known as food stamps, from millions of Americans in the U.S. Low income households have used SNAP benefits since 1934. The most recent shutdown took away food stamps that benefited 42 million people.

During the shutdown, many people around the community helped to support people they know.

Jade Apel (8) states, "We can help by donating to the fundraiser that's being held by our school, the Harvest Drive."

Even though the shutdown is over, its impact is still being felt. Families are still trying to recover from weeks without support, and food banks across the country report higher demand than usual. Many schools and local groups continue to hold donation drives to help those affected.

Many people were affected by this government shutdown. Andrew Mirsky (8) believes, "Air traffickers, government workers, and others, too." are some of the most affected by this government shutdown because they are not getting paid. He believes that when the food stamps are getting taken away it is not fair to the families because, "If

you don't have food you can't learn," Mirsky said. In all, he believes almost everyone is affected by this shutdown.

The situation has also sparked conversations about how important government programs like SNAP are for millions of Americans. It showed how quickly families can be put at risk when these programs stop, even for a short time.

Overall, the shutdown revealed how much communities rely on each other during tough moments. Whether it was donating food, volunteering, or spreading awareness with protests, people realized how the government can react during a national crisis.



Photo Credit: Sophia Bauza

Andrew Mirsky (8) explains how "Food stamps are what the government gives you when you need food based on insurance, food plan, etc."



Photo credit: Gaby Espinosa

Jade Apel (8) says, "The working class are the people affected when the government shuts down."



Photo credit: Alexa Kaplan

Ben Chen (8) says that when he rewatches shows from Nickelodeon, he realizes that it was obvious about what was happening behind the scenes.



Photo Credit: Alessia Cruz

Jasmine Apel (8) says, "I think this happens so often because of a lack of watching over what's happening with directors and between the actors."

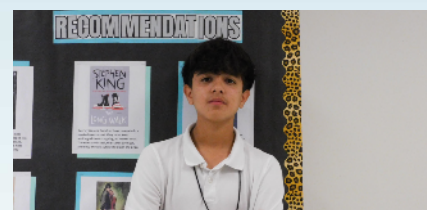


Photo credit: Alexa Kaplan

Gabriel Ranaoslaverenae (8) thinks that no one should benefit from a sexual harassment case.

Silence In Sudan

By Kayleigh Smith and Khaily Loomis

After the horrors of the Holocaust, the world promised "never again" to genocide. Today, that promise is being tested in Sudan. Decades ago, the area experienced a previous genocide, and now the world is witnessing this again, as the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) war against each other for power.



Power Over Peace

Imagine having to leave your home, your school, and everything you know, with only what you can carry in your bare hands. For millions of children and families in the Northeast African nation of Darfur, Sudan, this is a reality. This civil war has forced over 12 million people to flee their homes, making it the world's largest displacement and humanitarian crisis, and has led to what the U.S. government has formally declared an ongoing genocide.

This war started in April of 2023, when the RSF wanted to

make the SAF militia, an armed force composed of civilian volunteers who respond to emergencies secondary to the military, part of the official military. General Mohamed Hamdan Dagola, who was the leader of the RSF, refused to comply with the SAF. They disagreed on the timeline and leadership of the unified force, and General Dagola feared losing his substantial political power, financial autonomy, and influence.

On the other hand, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the SAF leadership demanded swift

integration, meaning that the combining of the RSF and SAF would be within the two-year timeframe of the planned transition to civilian rule. They argued that having a parallel military force was a violation of the law and posed a national security threat because if an outsider threatened the country, it would be harder to work together for one common goal.

Sadly, this war for power has continued up until 2025 because of support from outside countries such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia and supposedly the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Fueling Sudan's Flames

Many countries like the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, want the war in Sudan to continue for strategic, natural resources, economic, and political gains prioritizing their interests over the urgent need for peace in Sudan.

Sudan's wealth in natural resources- including gold, agricultural resources, and strategic port/trading access on the Red Sea- attracts outside interests. Sudan's economic structure has many agricultural products including cotton, sugarcane, peanuts,

livestock, and sesame seeds. In addition to third party countries fueling and exploiting Sudan, the current government is also exploiting their own people.

Their citizens are being kept from having drinkable water, food, and housing and women, children, and men alike have died because of these reasons as well as the conflict between the SAF and RSF.

An estimated number of 150,000 people have died from the warring alone as of October 4, 2025.



Photo Credit: Kayleigh Smith

Roberto Matinez (8) says, "It's really devastating and they shouldn't be going through that."



Photo Credit: Kayleigh Smith

Taylor Kius states, "It's not right and it is sad that they are going through this."

The Impact of Hurricane Melissa

By: Ella Segadio and Mia Calle Cure

Hurricane Melissa was a Category 5 storm that made landfall in Jamaica on October 28, 2025. It was the strongest hurricane ever recorded to make direct landfall on the island nation.



On Oct. 21, Hurricane Melissa transformed into a tropical storm, yet it wasn't until Oct. 28 that it intensified into a Category 5 hurricane and impacted six islands, with Jamaica being the most affected.

Officials urged the locals to evacuate before the storm hit, however, some were obligated to stand their ground. The heavy rain caused the towns to flood, causing severe destruction to the island. The hurricane damaged multiple complexes including homes, schools, and buildings.

An estimate of up to 6-8 million people were affected by this natural disaster. In result, about \$9.5 billion dollars will be needed to rebuild and recover from the storm. There have been at least 102 deaths across the region, with the highest numbers in Jamaica and Haiti. Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced from their homes, with millions affected across the impacted regions. The destruction of crops, particularly in Jamaica's "breadbasket" region, has led to

food shortages. Access to clean water has also been severely impacted, though restoration efforts are underway. Officials also stated it would take a while with everything being destroyed. There were 48 deaths confirmed.

Now people have come together to make a dedicated Hurricane Melissa Recovery Task which is helping to restore the land, and most importantly clean up debris and give out humanitarian aid. This plan to help also focuses on powering up hotels, airports and any attractions back online as soon as possible.

Little by little, Jamaica is slowly recovering. Families are getting supplied with food, water and shelter after losing their homes. Schools are reopening, hospitals and community centers are being fixed.

Florida has helped Jamaica tremendously, with the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) helping people evacuate from Jamaica, and a relief flight from the Miami International Airport sent

over food, water, and aid needed to the island. New York also helping by making a support page to help fund Jamaica. Many states came together help and support Jamaica successfully.

Volunteers have helped incredibly, also with the help of emergency crews too. Funds from schools, including Indian Ridge have helped by donating water and medical aid. Rebuilding plans continue to take shape as Jamaica is recovering.



Sabrina Byron (8) stated "It's not great about what happened in Jamaica, I feel very bad for the people that live there."



Amy Ben-Dayam (8) said, "I feel bad for the people that weren't taken care as much as other people when the hurricane hit."

Veterans Day

By: Angelina Robles

Veterans Day is a really important holiday in the United States. It is always on November 11. This date comes from the end of World War I. The fighting stopped on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918.

At first, the holiday was called Armistice Day. Armistice is another word for peace. President Woodrow Wilson made the first Armistice Day in 1919. It was mainly for people who served in World War I. After more wars happened, people wanted the day to honor all veterans. Veterans are people who served in the military. This includes the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Space Force. In 1954, the name changed to Veterans Day. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the law that made the new name official.

Now Veterans Day honors all veterans, no matter what war or time period they served in. The website WhiteHouse.gov shares official messages from the President about Veterans Day each year. Other countries have similar holidays. Canada calls it Remembrance Day. People there wear red poppies to honor soldiers who died. Great Britain also celebrates Remembrance Day. Their ceremonies are usually on the Sunday closest to November 11. People there have moments of silence to honor the fallen. Even

though the names are different, the meaning is similar. All these countries honor military service.

Veterans Day is not the same as Memorial Day. Memorial Day is for people who died while serving. Veterans Day honors everyone who served, living or dead. This makes the holiday more about appreciation than sadness. It is a federal holiday. Many schools, offices, and businesses close.

Every year, a big ceremony happens at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC. A wreath is placed at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Usually, the President or a top official does this.

Communities across the country also celebrate. Some host parades. Others do flag-raising events or moments of silence. Schools often hold assemblies about the meaning of Veterans Day. Businesses sometimes give veterans free meals or discounts. The website for Wounded Warrior Project shares stories from real veterans about what Veterans Day means to them.

A lot of veterans appreciate a simple "thank you." Veterans Day reminds those to respect and appreciate everyone who served. It is a day to honor bravery, sacrifice, and love for our country.

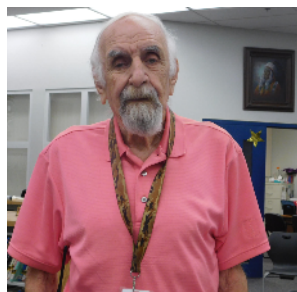


Photo Credits: Hannah Atelus

Elliot Adler is a substitute teacher who once played baseball and basketball before being drafted into the military. He was drafted in 1967, served as a machine gunner in Vietnam until 1969, and made close friends there. His advice to young people is "Just be good to yourself and other people," and he celebrates Veterans Day by going to a parade.

December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 CHOC club Book Club Anime Club	2 Morning Tutoring Unity in Community	3 School Supply Closet	4 IRMS School Spelling Bee First Priority NJHS club	5 Dyslexia/ Dyscalculia Awareness Day Wear Red
Hurricane Relief Supply Drive				
8 6th Grade PM2 FAST ELA CHOC Club	9 7th/8th Grade PM2 FAST ELA Morning Tutoring	10 6th Grade PM2 FAST MATH School Supply Closet	11 7th/8th Grade PM2 MATH First Priority Swiftie Club 7th Grade Dance	12 Wear Blue, White, or Winter clothes PM2 Makeup Testing
Hurricane Relief Supply Drive				
15 CHOC Club Anime Club Party	16 Morning Tutoring	17 School Supply Closet	18 First Priority	19 Early Release School dismissed 2pm
FAST PM2 Makeup Testing			High School Credit Midterms	
22 School Closed	23 School Closed	24 School Closed	25 School Closed	26 School Closed
29 School Closed	30 School Closed	31 School Closed	1 School Closed	2 School Closed