

December 2025

Winter Wonderland Dance

By: Julianna Gonzalez, Melissa Centeno, and Valeria Alonzo

At Vaughn MIT, Leadership teachers planned a fun school dance called the Winter Wonderland Dance. This event took place on December 5th in the MPR, from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Leadership students made decorations and signs to go around the school with information about the dance.

They had a variety of snacks and food, including soda and pizza. "I really really want food," said 7th grader Aaron Carlos, who was looking forward to the snacks. There was also a DJ playing all types of music. The teachers were looking forward to seeing the dance battle between the students. "I'm looking forward to having a good time and spending some time with my friends," said Yeini Granados. Students had many ideas for future dance themes. "I think we should have a dance theme of the future of Vaughn MIT," said Jorge Loyola, 7th grader.

Hanukkah

By: Adamary Aguilar

Hanukkah is an 8-night Jewish holiday celebrating a miracle where oil that should have lasted one day lasted eight, allowing the Jewish people to rededicate their temple. People light a menorah, and they also play with a spinning top called a dreidel and eat delicious fried foods like latkes (potato pancakes) and jelly donuts.

Traditional Holiday Food Around the World

By: Yessulik Gamez and David Rivera

Today we will be writing about traditional foods eaten during the wintertime. The first food is tamales, from Latin American countries. People often eat them during Christmas time. Tamales are made of masa (corn flour), fillings such as pork or chicken, and various vegetables. This food is important because it helps bring families together. A popular Latin American drink is Champurrado, which is typically drunk during wintertime or around Christmas time. This drink is made out of hot chocolate, corn, and masa.

Latkes are potato pancakes from Poland. They are usually eaten during the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah. This dish is made out of shredded potatoes and other ingredients like eggs, flour, and along with seasonings such as salt and pepper. This food is important for its deep connection to the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, which symbolizes the miracle of the oil.

The last food we will be showcasing is calamari, which is mostly eaten during the Christmas Eve Feast of the Seven Fishes, when families serve multiple seafood dishes. This dish is made from squid meat cut into rings, which are coated in flour or batter and seasoned with salt, pepper, and paprika. This food is important to Italian culture because it reflects their deep connection with the sea.



Winter Wonderland painting by Philip Straub

2025 Winter Concert

By: Aleyra Torres, Emily Briones and Saleene Uribe

Do you want to know more about the winter music concert that will happen at Vaughn MIT? There will be four classes playing. Two will be beginning and two will be advanced. Mr. Rubio's guitar class will also be performing at the concert. Some of the songs that the beginning band will play are Jaws, Spongebob, Jolly Old Saint Nick, Mary Had A Little Lamb and Hot Cross Buns. Then the beginning orchestra will play Mississippi River, Mary Had A Little Lamb, Ode To Joy, Jingle Bells and Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. After the beginning orchestra performs, the guitar students from Mr. Rubio's flex class will perform. Advanced band will play Sawmill Creek, Jingle Bells, Winters Night, and Majestica. Finally, advanced orchestra will perform March (from The Nutcracker), Russian Dance (from The Nutcracker), We Wish You A Merry Christmas, and Samba La Bamba.

I asked some people that are in music how they are feeling about the concert. Jailyn Hernandez said, "I'm so scared and nervous but I'm so excited for the beginning to play." Allison Chavez said, "I'm looking forward to buying snacks after the concert." Yeini Granados said, "I'm looking forward to hearing how my ensemble sounds." Drake Ruiz, in beginning band, said, "I'm excited to see my friends play."



Photo Source: guttermansinc.com



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7th Grade

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Alicia Garcia
Julianna Gonzalez
Yeimi Granados Trejo
Nicolas Guardado
Jailyn Hernandez
Sophie Herrera
Alexia Lopez
Jorge Loyola
Julissa Macedo
Carmen Martinez-Calleros
Damon Murillo
Jaylene Rodriguez
Saray Rodriguez
Nikki Romero
Drake Ruiz
Aleyra Torres
Keila Trejo
Luna Trinidad
Saleene Uribe

8th Grade

Adamary Aguilar
Ariana Arista Amaro
Deonna Bautista
Ayva Carrillo
Ashley Castillo-Lujan
Danny Castro-Cruz
Aarilyn Cortez
Roselyn Cruz
Izabella Duran
Jacob Duran
Yessulik Gamez
Kimberly Herrera Dominguez
Ashley Marroquin
Jeremy Montano
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Andrea Plascencia
Juan Prieto
Emma Ramirez
Maya Reyes-Solorio
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Nicolas Sanchez
Valentina Serrano
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Ms. Baca
Ms. Marroquin

Opinion: What Makes a Good Teacher?

Alexia D. Lopez:

Teachers' ways of teaching can vary within one another, but what qualities actually *make* a good teacher? Truly honorable teachers don't just explain the lessons and say things just because that's their job, they express their love of education through their teachings and inspire students to be the best of their ability. Teachers and educators should be both understanding but clear with their students. A teacher with no rules and letting you do whatever you want seems fun and relaxing, but it really just teaches the students to be lazy and parasitic, which isn't what teachers should do, especially in middle school when everything matters.

Another respectful quality of a good teacher is responsibility and preparedness for lessons. A teacher who is always ready will not only do wonders for themselves, as being more organized can lead to having less stress, but can project on their students and classroom environment to be more productive. Empathy is also a feature good teachers usually have. If teachers are quick to judge or lash out on students, it could lead to big misunderstandings and problems that shouldn't be in learning environments. It may be the student's responsibility to be well-behaved, but if what they're doing is not at all their fault, a teacher should be patient and calm before knowing the whole situation. (Unless the student is throwing, hitting, or any other aggressive behavior that is not tameable with patience.) Empathy and kindness can also lead to strong bonds that make students know that their teacher is always available and there for them. This could also go along with teachers being patient with students who are not quite getting the material yet. Students can learn anything as long as they are dedicated, some just take longer to understand than others.

There is no perfect teacher, but it is a teacher's duty to try and be their best. Teachers are inspirations to most students, and teachers model a love for learning and inspire their students to become curious and passionate about their own education, leading to student independence and a love for something they are passionate about, too. I know it relates to me, as I used to despise writing and reading, and look where I am now! In the end, a good teacher's greatest quality is the ability to make every student feel capable of greatness and change lessons into understanding and shaping the futures of students.



Drake Ruiz:

A good teacher is essential for learning in school. It is important to know what is a good and a "bad" teacher. So here are my thoughts on this question. First, a good teacher is someone who explains the lesson thoroughly and takes questions, while a bad teacher doesn't explain the lesson enough, and leaves the students confused. Secondly, a good teacher can make the class fun while still keeping order, but a bad teacher won't attempt to make the class fun. Third, a good teacher should know the students well. Good teachers know most of their student's names and what they like and things like that. Lastly, a good teacher should always be nice to their students.

Diego Carranza:

I have interviewed students to get their opinions on what makes a good and bad teacher.

Good Teachers:

"A good teacher teaches their class well and makes sure they know what they are teaching. They don't pick favorites and they are not mean."

"They are chill like if they caught you with your phone they will tell you to put it away and not take it immediately."

"They try out different ideas."

"They know what they are teaching and check the answers in different ways."

"They grade the answer correctly and don't get mad easily."

Bad Teachers:

"A bad teacher doesn't care what their class does."

"They only check for wrong or right answers."

"They don't grade the work probably."

"They get mad easily and take away the phone immediately."

"They don't always know what they are teaching."

In my opinion, I agree that a teacher should know what they are teaching and not pick favorites. But I disagree that a teacher should give a warning about the phone, because they have to respect the school rules.

The Jag Journal –December 2025

Vaughn Profiles

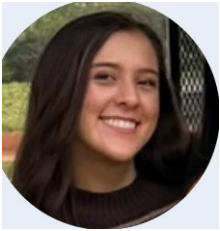


Photo provided by
Mrs. Estrada

MIT's New Ethnic Studies Teacher, Ms. Estrada

By: Andrea Plascencia and
Kimberly Herrera

Today, my partner and I interviewed Ms. Estrada. We asked her how long she has been teaching. "This is my 2nd year being a teacher," says Ms. Estrada." Ms. Estrada is a teacher for all grade levels at M.I.T. Vaughn. We then asked her why she chose to teach at Vaughn. She replied, "There are a lot of good things about Vaughn— nice staff, teachers, and classes." She seems like she really enjoys Vaughn and is a positive and kind teacher.

We then asked if she enjoys teaching Ethnic studies! "I really enjoy teaching it and would never switch it," she said. "Ethnic studies is super fun and exciting."

We also asked her what her favorite period is. She then replied, "That's a secret." She loves all her periods, though! She seems like she actually loves her job, and her classes seem like they enjoy her company and the class! Ms. Estrada said, "I really like the students here!"

In conclusion, Ms. Estrada was super kind, great to be interviewed, and a great teacher!



Day in the Life with Mrs. Serrano

By: Luna Trinidad

This is a profile based on an interview with 6th grade teacher Mrs. Serrano. "I come at 7:10 am every day. I go to my classroom, make a cup of coffee, and I get my slides ready for my advisory class," she responded when I asked her what she does in the morning before her students come in. Mrs. Serrano said that the busiest part of her day was "in between classes, because I need to prepare before my next class comes in."

Mrs. Serrano came from Pandaland, but she said she enjoys teaching middle school. "I know what it's like to teach the little ones, and for me it's easier to talk to the middle schoolers because I feel that I can connect with them better than little kids." She says that a typical class period looks like this: "The kids come in, grab their note books, sit down and do a warm-up. After that we start off our lesson."

Most of Mrs. Serrano's family were educators. Her grandma was the first teacher in her family and her sister is working as an educator as well. Mrs. Serrano said that she likes to relax in many different ways but she mostly "I like to watch TV and play video games after school." In my opinion she is one of the best teachers in this school. When I was in her class it was entertaining and educational. I decided to interview her because she is a really good teacher and she teaches really well.

Interview with Our 6th Grade Robotics Teacher

By: Saray Rodriguez

Ms. Rodriguez is a 6th grade science and math teacher who also teaches Robotics. She has been working here for eight years and hopefully for many more years.

She was inspired to teach robotics by Ms. Cruz. She was excited to be partners with Ms. Cruz and to learn about Robotics. She was also excited to teach kids how to build robots and code even though she was also learning.

Before she did Robotics she taught the history of hip hop. I had asked her if she ever wanted to teach a different flex subject and she told me, "I would go back to the history of hip hop."

"My first year of Robotics was my favorite because it was the first year I went to a competition with them," said Ms. Rodriguez. All her years of Robotics were different but her favorite was her first year. They're all her favorite in their own different ways.

She started teaching Robotics three years ago, and those three years have been filled with many robots, coding sessions, and competitions. For three years of her life an hour and ten minutes a day have been dedicated to teaching kids how to build robots and taking them to competitions.

I asked her why she enjoys teaching Robotics and she responded, "Because the kids get to learn how to code and how to build robots, and it's also very student centered." I find it nice that she appreciates her kids and their knowledge on coding and robotics. I hope she gets to help even more kids learn about coding and how to code on the robots.



Ms. Rodriguez with Mr.
Kodel, Ms. Allen, and mem-
bers of the Robotics team.
Source: Ms. Rodriguez

Local and National News

The US Discontinues Pennies

By: Alicia Garcia

The U.S. Mint discontinued the pennies on November 12, 2025 to save money, because it costs exactly 3.7 cents to make a single penny.

In my research I found out that other coins have been discontinued from many other countries. Some examples are from Canada; the Canadian cent in 2012, Bangladesh coins in 2001, Belgium in the early 20th century, and Brazil in 2005.

People have many different emotions and opinions about the U.S pennies being discontinued. My parents have two different emotions. My mom feels sad because it is a sign of sudden change because she didn't feel prepared for it. My mom says that there would be a day when we no longer find pennies on the floor and to her that means we will no longer use the quote, "Find a penny, pick it up. And all day long, you'll have good luck." But my dad said that he feels neutral about the situation. He also feels that no one is currently using any physical pennies. He agrees that it's a good business decision to discontinue it based on the coin being too expensive to make.

I have two emotions about the pennies being discontinued. One of my emotions is sad because I would always flip a penny when I was fighting for something with my brother. The other one is neutral because I don't really care about the pennies but I felt like I grew up on pennies in my everyday life.

A 39,000-Year-Old Woolly Mammoth's Leg Found Buried in Serbia

By: Richard Aguilar

On November 14 2025, a woolly mammoth's RNA was found buried underground in present day Serbia. RNA is part of DNA and it contains genetic material. The Mammoth's skeleton ended up permafrosting which preserved it and even kept the muscles and hair intact. The RNA samples are the oldest ancient RNA ever profiled by researchers. Research has shown that the mammoth was chased and was eventually killed. The mammoth was killed by either cave lions or by modern day humans. Scientists in Stockholm University and the Swedish Museum of Natural History have said that the woolly mammoth lived during the Ice age about 4,000 years ago. In the future, the development of RNA technology could possibly bring back the Woolly Mammoth from extinction.



Ancient RNA offers a snapshot of a mammoth's life 39,000 years ago.

Photo Credit: NBC News

Spotlight Profile

Interview With a Vaughn Alumni... Now a Vaughn Parent!

By: Julissa Macedo

I interviewed my dad who used to go to Vaughn about 30 years ago. He is 40 years old and now he works for a construction job/water proofing. I will share his experience from when he was a Vaughn student.

Ramon, my dad, lives by this quote, "School is important, the soul is laughter, and take care of your mental health." He lived by this because you should pay attention and go to school, but remember to always have fun.

Ramon's parents worked a lot when he was younger leaving his siblings to take care of him because he is the youngest of all three. He said, "Having my brothers and sister help me with homework, life, and chores was a core memory. They helped me when things got hard." He didn't have much growing up, but made the best of what he had. His parents weren't around a lot but his siblings guided him into who he is right now.

Some advice Ramon would give students right now is, "Don't do what other people do and be your own person." He wants students to be themselves and not to follow in other people's footsteps. He repeats this to me and my siblings as well.

My dad states, "I love that you and your siblings go to the same school I did because I like that you will get the same education I did." When I asked him how Vaughn has changed in the last 30 years he said, "It has definitely gotten bigger and has a lot more programs." When he goes to our school for conferences he remembers all the memories he had there, and said, "I enjoyed playing with my friends and doing math."

The Jag Journal –December 2025



Jaguar Athletics and Sports News



Turkey Bowl 2025

By: Alize Estevez

MIT recently had their annual Turkey Bowl this year. MIT's teachers and staff members won against the 8th grade students. This year, Mr. JJ started the game off by getting the first touch down with Ricky (Ricardo) almost grabbing his flag by a few inches. Mr. Aguilar, 7th grade science teacher, said, "I was quarterback for two years back to back." He also stated that he scored one touchdown with the assist of Mr. Luis (security).

This year the score was not close at all! The final score was 42 to 18 with the students looking really tired. This year the students from 8th grade looked like they tried their hardest but the teachers remain undefeated! Mr. Kodel said, "Teachers from MIT have won 11 times in the last 12 years." He also contributed that, since he has played in the Turkey Bowl many times. However, the 8th grade students have won ONE time in 12 years. Ms. Marroquin said that "The year before Covid hit, the students actually won the Turkey Bowl, and the PE teachers couldn't believe it. They made a plan to win back their title, but then Covid hit, so they did not get to play again to win."

Congratulations teachers and staff, you get to keep your winning title for another year!

*Turkey Bowl champs prepare for a win.
Photo provided by MIT Staff*



Educare Has Many Sports!

By: Izabella Duran, Ayva Carrillo, and Emma Ramirez

Educare offers many sports and activities to our students after school. Sports matter because they foster physical health, social skills, and academic benefits. Our middle school offers a growing sports program designed to help students build teamwork, confidence, and athletic skills.

Our sports play all throughout the year, but have specific seasons. For example, the volleyball season starts in fall and ends in winter. The Educare girls volleyball team just won championships at the end of November! They also have co-rec season which starts in late fall and ends in winter. Our other teams like basketball start their season in winter and end in spring. Futsal (soccer) season started just this month and will most likely end in February. Lastly, though cheer goes to games and events all throughout the year, their competition season starts in March and is expected to end towards the end of the school year in June.

All teams have practice schedules along with more tryouts in the next semester for the next season. "Many teams have extensive tryout processes, so some things they look out for is hard work, determination, and commitment," said Mr. Jesus, an Educare coach.

Here are some quotes from MIT students in Educare sports: A cheerleader named Kate said, "My favorite memory is going to our first volleyball game."

A basketball player named Nicholas said, "I play point guard."

A volleyball player named Melissa said, "My favorite part of the team is making memories with friends."

A futsal player named Manuel said, "My favorite memory was winning 9-3."

In summary, Educare offers amazing sports teams with determined coaches that push you to be your best. Being in a sport can be a lot of commitment, but Educare makes it easy. Remember that you can still try out for sports next semester and Educare is always available!



Educare Girls Volleyball Team wins Championships!

Photo provided by Ms. Contreras

The Jag Journal —December 2025



Jaguar Athletics and Sports News



Boys Futsal Team Wins Against PUC CALS Middle School

By: Nikki Romero

The boys futsal team for MIT has won their recent game against PUC CALS Middle School on November 18th. One of the futsal players, Daniel Uribe said that they easily won against PUC CALS.

"Christopher Hightower was one of my best teammates and played really well like he always does," Uribe said. He also said that the other team played well and that they had good sportsmanship.

The coach of the team, Mr. Luis, said that the other team's defense was not as strong, which allowed Christopher Hightower (8th grade) to make several goals.



*Vaughn MIT Futsal Boys
Photo provided by Coach Luis*



*The Los Angeles Dodgers raising up the World Series trophy.
Source: LA Times*

The Los Angeles Dodgers Go Back-to-Back After an Amazing Game 7

By: Aaron Carlos

The Los Angeles Dodgers have won their second World Series title in a row after coming back from a 3-0 run deficit against the Blue Jays in Rogers Centre. They were able to complete this comeback thanks to homeruns by Max Muncy, Miguel Rojas, and Will Smith.

The game was scoreless throughout 2 innings until Shohei Ohtani gave up a three-run homerun to Bo Bichette in the 3rd. The Dodgers then got on the board with a Teoscar Hernandez RBI sac-fly to make it 3-1 in the top of the 4th. In the bottom of the fourth, Dodgers pitcher Justin Wroblewski hit Blue Jays shortstop Andres

Gimenez on the hand after Gimenez tried to get hit on the hand the pitch before. This caused the benches to clear and luckily, no punches were thrown. Tommy Edman then hit another RBI sac-fly to then make the score 3-2. The Blue Jays then followed it up with a RBI double by Gimenez to make it 4-2 in the bottom of the 6th.

After that, both teams couldn't score at all until the bottom of the eight when Muncy hit an absolute rocket to right field to make it 3-4. That wasn't enough however, the Blue Jays were still up by 1 and the Dodgers were going to need a miracle, but with Shohei Ohtani in the hole in the top of the ninth, it seemed like it could happen. However, it turned out that they didn't even need him because on a 3-2 count with one out left, Miguel "Miguel Rojas" Rojas hit a bomb to left field to tie the game in the last chance they got. Shohei then popped out and Smith was called out of a terrible call by the ump to send it to the bottom of the ninth. The Blue Jays were then able to get runners on second and third on Blake Snell after Vladdy Guerimo Jr. almost hit a game-winning homerun. After his struggles, Snell was taken out of the game and the Dodgers put in the greatest pitcher of all time Yoshinubo "Yoshinubo Yamamoto" Yamamoto in. He unfortunately hit Blue Jays catcher Alejandro Kirk to load the bases. Luckily, the Dodgers were able to get out of the jam after a great throw home by Rojas and an amazing catch by Andy Pages to send Game 7 to extras.

After the 10th the game was still scoreless until Smith hit a bomb in the same spot Rojas did to score the last run by both teams. The Dodgers then got the job done after Kirk hit a ball into a double play to give the Dodgers their second World Series win in a row.

Feature News

How 67 Took Over the World!

By: Jaime Corona, Allison Chavez, and Damon Murillo

Dictionary.com revealed that 67 is its word of the year, which left many wondering how a popular gen alpha meme was able to become the word of the year. The slang originated from the drill rap song "Doot doot (67)" about professional basketball players, where the rapper raps about the fact that LaMelo Ball is 6'7 feet. The meme was popularized through Overtime Elite player Taylen "TK" Kinney who repeatedly used the meme. Later on in March of 2025, Youtuber Cam Wilder posted a video onto Youtube called "My Overpowered AAU Team has Finally Returned!" which featured a boy named Maverick Trevillian. In the video, Maverick Trevillian goes up to the camera and yells 67 while doing a hand gesture, which made the meme gain more popularity.

The meme became so popular that other media and brands began using the meme. The mobile game Clash Royale released an emote referencing the meme for hitting 6.7 million followers on Instagram and Pizza Hut sold chicken wings for 67 cents on November 6 and 7.

As an addition, we interviewed some 7th graders about 67. First, we interviewed Aaron Carlos and he said, "It's the greatest meme of all time and I love it." Then, we interviewed Drake Ruiz and he said, "I think it's the dumbest thing ever, since it's just two numbers, and I hate it." Aleyra Torres said, "It was funny at first but was over used and it's an okay meme." Emily Briones said, "It's a horrible, unfunny, and a bad joke and I hate it so much." Sophie Herrera said it could sometimes be funny, but when people overuse the joke it gets annoying. Another 7th grader named Yeini Granados said, "I think it's a very funny joke, but it does get very repetitive over time." Alexia Lopez said, "I think it's funny because it has no meaning to it, but it can get really really annoying at times, but it's only ok when I say it." After that we interviewed Diego Carranza and he said, "67 67 67."

What do MIT teachers think about 67? Mr. Josiah said, "I think it's hilarious. I like to point it out before the students do." Ms. Hajjar said, "Well, it's better than skibidi toilet."



Young man crashing out and going insane, being taken over by six seven.

Photo Credit: Wikipedia.com

Top Fashion Trends of 2025

By: Jailyn Hernandez

Here are some of the fashion trends that are popular this season, as well as some that are popular at MIT.

Number one would be the Y2K style that was once one of the most popular styles in the 2000s. Gen Z is bringing back this style from the dead and putting their own twist to it. Y2K is a mix of bold and colorful. Think low rise jeans, layered shirts, chunky jewelry, and shiny lipgloss.

Another trend that has taken over this season is streetwear, this style of clothing is inspired by the '90s. A typical streetwear outfit is a custom t-shirt, baggy pants, custom hoodies, and sneakers.

My top picks are Y2K and Street wear because these styles are very unique.

Now some fashion trends that are popular at MIT. The first popular fashion trend at MIT is baggy jeans. Baggy jeans originated in the 1980s from hip-hop and skateboarding cultures. They have now become a huge trend of 2025.

Another trend is alternative fashion, which can include scene, emo, and punk.



Gen Z Fashion Trends

Photo Credit: printful.com

Jokes That Will Make You Go Huehuehah

By: Roselyn Cruz,
Deonna Pollard, Ashley Marroquin



This photo is how you will sound after reading these jokes.

Photo Credit: shutterstock.com

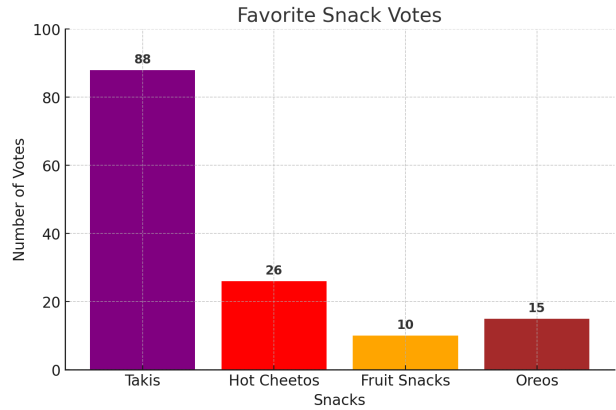
1. What is a cat's favorite color...? **Purrr~ple!**
2. How do you know when a vampire is sick..? **Because they be coffin!**
3. What do you call waves that are small...? **Micro-waves!**
4. What is a pirate's favorite school subject? **Arrrrrrrrrr-t!**

Surveys and Polls

What's the Best Snack According to MIT Students?

By: Valentina Serrano and Ariana Arista

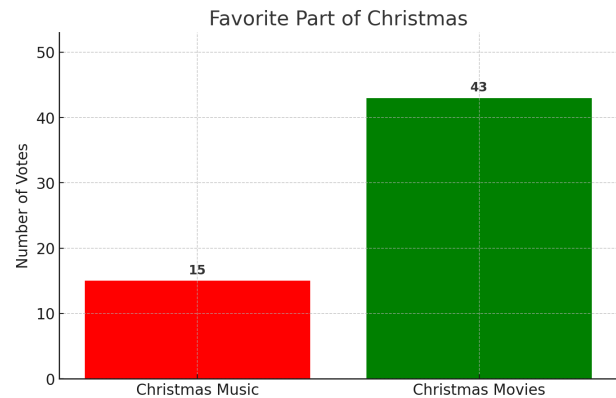
To learn about snack preferences, a survey was administered to MIT students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Students were asked to vote for their favorite snack between Takis, Hot Cheetos, Oreos, and fruit snacks. Many students said Takis was the best snack, and a few even joked that they can't live without it. Meanwhile, some said they prefer Hot Cheetos for a less spicy option. This poll shows that most students at MIT Vaughn prefer Takis over other snacks.



Do You Prefer Christmas Movies or Christmas Music?

By: Maya Reyes, Danny Castro, and Ashley Castillo

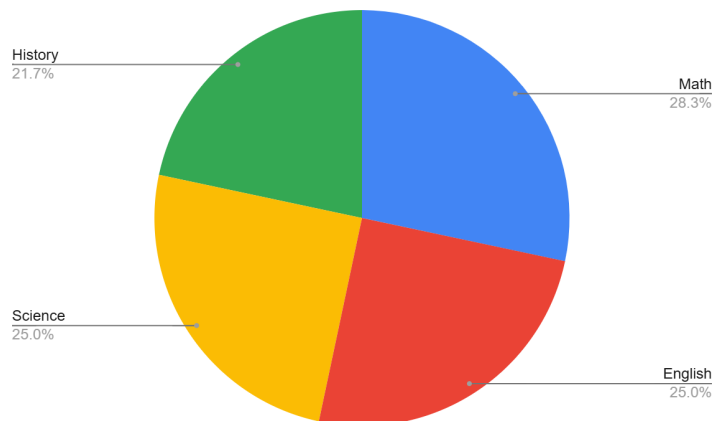
Our article discusses our poll: Do you prefer Christmas Movies or Christmas music? The majority of students favored Christmas movies, with 43 votes, while Christmas music received 15 votes. Jazmin Valenzuela, a 7th grader, says she prefers Christmas music because "It's more joyful, I love music more than movies." Marie Vasquez, 8th grade, says, "I like to sleep while Christmas movies are in the background."



What Is Your Favorite Subject?

By: Emelie Flores, Jaylene Rodriguez, and Keila Trejo

We polled sixty MIT students from 6th, 7th, and 8th grade to learn their favorite core class at MIT. English, math, science, and history were represented, and some of the results were very close! Out of the students that we polled, the majority of 6th graders preferred English, the majority of 7th graders preferred science, and the majority of 8th graders preferred math (though one 8th grader chose "lunch"). The overall winner was math, with 17 votes. English and science both got 15 votes and history got 13 votes.





Arts & Entertainment



***Umamusume: Pretty Derby* Game Review**

By: Yeini Granados Trejo

Have you ever heard of the hit game *Umamusume*? Well if you haven't, fear not, because this is a review of this game and may give you a reason to play this mobile game.

Umamusume is a horse idol racing game about anime horse girls. It has 20k downloads on Steam, which is actually impressive, and it is rated 4.5 stars. You start off by picking your first horse girl. You can choose her by her looks, stats, voice, or by other aspects of her personality. You can get different horse girls by the gacha system. Once you get your Uma (the horse girl) that's when you can make her race. It's important to train and to upgrade your Uma to make sure she can go to her full potential. I would recommend choosing one that's taller, and with more muscle mass to race, because that's what's going to make her run faster and have the higher chance to win. If you're done messing around with the race feature, I would recommend playing around with the idol (singing) since it is pretty cute looking at the characters dance around and sing.

Overall the game is a 8.9/10. I personally really like the game play, but it is very easy to get stuck in some parts of the game. Now let's go to Carmen and see the other part of *Umamusume* (the anime).

***Umamusume: Pretty Derby* Anime Review**

By: Carmen Martinez-Calleros

This anime has a 4.7/5 review on Crunchyroll and a 7/10 on IMDb, so basically 82% of people liked this show. I will give you a run down of the first episode.

The main character of the show is Special Week, who is going to Tracen Academy. Special Week goes to a race track near the academy, a live race is in session and there is a big crowd watching. Special Week meets a guy who talks about the most popular horse girl, Silence Suzuka. Special Week watches Suzuka race with other horse girls and she wins. There is an after show but then Special Week realizes that she is past the curfew. Special Week meets her new classmates, Haru Urara, Seiun Sky, El Condor Pasa, and Grass Wonder, the next day. During lunch Urara tells Special Week that there are tryouts for joining the team Suzuka is in. Special Week, her new classmates, and a couple of other students start to get ready for the tryouts. When the race starts, Special Week starts late but catches up to the rest of the horse girls. She gets a boost of motivation when she sees Suzuka. Special Week thinks she wins but then realizes El Condor Pasa won instead.

At the end of the day Special Week exits the school and looks at a sign saying to join another team named Spica. Special Week gets semi-kidnapped by the group members, Scarlet, Vodka, Goldship, and meets the guy from the beginning again, who is apparently now her trainer. She joins Spica and the trainer says that her debut match is coming up.

If this interests you then watch the anime. It's good and I highly recommend it. I like this anime because the characters in the show are based off of real race horses. The art style is cool, and my favorite character is Gold Ship, because she is funny.

Photo Credit: steam.com





Arts & Entertainment



Best Fortnite Collabs of 2025

By: Nicolas Guardado

Recently, Fortnite has become popular again after being at their all time low. One major reason is because of the collaborations Fortnite has done. At the beginning of the year, they collaborated with Hatsune Miku, famous anime virtual singer, and recent World Series winner, Shohei Ohtani. Famous shows like *Family Guy* and *King Of The Hill* were also a cosmetic in the game. In the middle of the year characters from the anime *Invincible* were also a cosmetic in the game. Heading towards October, a lot of horror characters has also been cosmetics, such as singer Doja Cat, Jason from *Friday The 13th*, Art the Clown from the *Terrifier* franchise, Ghostface, Scooby-Doo, even Huggy Wuggy from *Poppy Playtime*. In November, they made the whole season about *The Simpsons*. The whole map for their Battle Royale is about *The Simpsons*, including the Simpsons' house and the power plant where Homer works. Homer, Marge, and Ned Flanders are all in the battle pass, each skin having a different style. Bart Simpson and Lisa Simpson are also cosmetics in the item shop. This November, Tyler The Creator also became a skin in the item shop. He has a regular skin which looks like him back in 2013-2016 when *Odd Future* was still around. Then he has a St. Chroma skin from the album *Chromakopia*. He has two emotes: one with the song "EARFQUAKE" from *Igor*, and the other has the song "Thought I was Dead" from *Chromakopia*. Ever since these collaborations in November, Fortnite has been growing in popularity, with Battle Royale having 100k-250k players active per day.



Photo Credit: fortnite.com/news

Sick New World For 2026 Announced

By: Juan Prieto & Ely Pina

The festival Sick New World is taking place in Texas and Las Vegas on April 25, 2026 (Vegas) and October 24, 2026 (Texas). The festival lasts one day. There will be a variety of music styles, including nu metal, rock, and thrash metal, among others. For Las Vegas the main performers are System of a Down, Korn, and Bring Me the Horizon are the main three performers. There are expected to be over 67,000 people in attendance.

We both recommend attending this festival at least once, as it features many great bands, some of which might retire soon. Most of these bands carried the music industry in the 90s and early 2000s. Both of us enjoy many of these bands because they are the structure of today's music.

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Best Movies of 2025

By: Sophie Herrera

In 2025 a bunch of different kinds of movies came out, whether if it was for kids, teenagers, or adults. But there were some movies more popular than the others and that were definitely better. So I will talk about two of the best and amazing movies in 2025 that you should definitely watch.



Photo Credit: [Wikipedia.com](https://www.wikipedia.com)

First we have *The Minecraft Movie*. *The Minecraft Movie* originated from Minecraft, a game which was created by Markus Persson and Jens Bergensten. Minecraft was released on May 17 2009. It took a while for it to become famous but it did in 2011. A lot of streamers, youtubers, and people started playing the game because of how much you could do in the game, quality, and how it's realistic to the real world. Since it had been a popular game for years they made a movie about it. People loved it and it became a trend due to the nostalgic feeling that some peoples favorite games became a movie and because of the actors that starred in it. The movie became popular really fast and that's why it's in the Top 2025 Movies.

Next is the movie *Freakier Friday*. The first movie, *Freaky Friday*, was released in 2003 and became very popular because people could relate to it in the real world. The movie is about a teenage girl and her mom who fight a lot because of how different they are from each other. The mom thinks her daughter's life is way easier than hers and the daughter thinks her mom's life is also easier than hers. They soon switch bodies because of a fortune cookie and they have to live the life of the different person's body. They realized that both of their lives are hard and difficult as they live different lives and they switch back when they finally understand each other. *Freakier Friday* was made because of demands from people wanting to revisit the movie, and that the actor of the daughter in *Freaky Friday*, Lindsay Lohan, was old enough to have a teenage daughter of her own. I have watched both *The Minecraft Movie* and *Freakier Friday*, and I would definitely agree they should be in the Top Movies made in 2025.