

EI SPOTLIGHT

Masthead Design by Eleanor McRedmond

DECEMBER 2025

We're Off to See the Wizard!

By Eleanor McRedmond

The EIMS musical this year is.....*The Wizard of Oz*! Last year, the cast had a lot of fun with their production of the *Little Mermaid Jr.* but a new year means a new musical. The cast list for the musical came out on October 14th. The show features Savannah Pabon as Dorothy, Haylee Taylor as Scarecrow, Tyrone Davis as Tin Man, Taryn McCall as the Cowardly Lion, John Simonelli as Toto, Leah Kearns as Glinda, Jayda DeMaio as Wicked Witch, Peter Blumenauer as Uncle Henry, Eleanor McRedmond as Professor Marvel/The Wizard and many more!

We would like to thank our lovely directors for helping us out and making this production the best it can possibly be: Ms. Post, Miss Legg, Mrs. Seda and Mrs. Stabile.

All of the actors are very talented so if you come, you're in for a real treat. Join us somewhere over the rainbow and see East Islip Middle School's production of *The Wizard of Oz*! (See poster on page 20.)

The dates for the musical are:
Friday, February 6th at 6pm
Saturday, February 7th at 1pm
Snow date: Sunday, February 8th at 1pm



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**Coop
Mania!
See
page 14.**



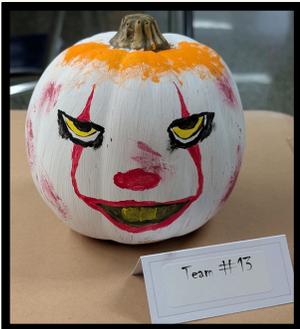
Pumpkin Decorating Contest

By Savannah Pabon

The pumpkin decorating contest took place in October for student government members. Teams were given a pumpkin and spent an hour after school decorating it. Some people go all out on their decorations and some do it just to hang out with friends.

EIMS staff members were asked to vote on everyone's pumpkins when they were done and choose the top three best pumpkins. "I felt pretty excited to participate, the thrill was good" said by Michaela Donnelly, a student government member.

Next year you should join the student government club and decorate a pumpkin with your friends!



**Scariest Pumpkin,
Team #13:**

Julia Hrynyuk and Tegan
Lukasik

**Most Creative Pumpkin,
Team #1:**

McKenna Stephens, Jayne
Elliot, and Sofia Rojas

**Best All Around Pumpkin,
Team #7:**

Jaclyn Conde



UNICEF

By Logan Multari



The UNICEF bagel breakfast contest was a huge success. It was a fundraiser held by the Girls' Leaders Club in October. UNICEF works hard to provide education opportunities for children around the world. They keep children safe from violence and abuse.

Each A-day homeroom teacher collected money. Our school raised \$526.00. The homeroom with the most money by weight won a bagel breakfast. Congratulations to Mrs. DiGiorgio's homeroom!

Here are the results:

- #1 Mrs. DiGiorgio - 23.8 lbs.
- #2 Mrs. Mazzarella - 17.5 lbs.
- #3 Mr. Fussa - 12.2 lbs.



Candy Corn Contest

By Matthew Rosand

The Girls' Leaders Club held a candy corn guessing contest in November. It was \$1 to enter a guess of how many candy corns were in the jar. The winner was 7th grader, Emma Klein. She won a \$25 Amazon gift card. Congratulations!



Pep Rally

By Zoey St. John

This year, EIMS had the most energetic pep rally full of excitement on October 23rd. The national anthem was sung by 8th grader, Colbie Gravano. DJ Carlos provided the music. Both teachers and students participated in numerous games such as musical chairs, pizza box balancing and hula hoop relay.

All participants showed great enthusiasm which made for a fun time! Congratulations to the 7th grade who scored the most points and to our raffle winners.

Thanks to the Spotlight School Store for supplying our raffle winners with a gift card:

6th grade - Kyra Gonzalez

7th grade - Steven Hernandez

8th grade - Mia DeLaRosa



Colbie Gravano



Photos by Mrs. Avella and yearbook staff



Pep Rally (continued)



Raffle Winners



Mia DeLaRosa



Steven Hernandez



Kyra Gonzalez





Red Ribbon Week

By Kimberly Masaya



On October 27th, many schools across the country kicked off Red Ribbon Week, which is meant to spread awareness of drug abuse, negativity in the mind, and supports the idea of being kind to yourself and others. Schools held a variety of different themed days. Many students and staff participated in EI, showing their drug-free, positivity pride.

At EIMS, we dressed in red on Monday to kick off the week. Soon came Tuesday where we wore their purple shirts, pants, head bands, and many more accessories to go with the theme. It truly was a sight to behold. Purple was spread all across the hallways. The next day was just as colorful, but of course, celebrated with a different color.

Wednesday was a cold night and a brisk morning. Let's cheer hooray for pink! On this day, the theme was pink to commemorate breast cancer awareness month. Every October, schools all around the world participate by wearing pink on Wednesdays. That Wednesday was no different. Pink was worn all throughout the school building. Now let's get the deets for Thursday.

THURSDAY WAS OPPOSITE DAY!!! This was one of the most amazing theme days, in my opinion. Students dressed up as EIMS staff, while staff got to dress up as middle school students. One of our star writers on the newspaper staff, Eleanor McRedmond, or how many of you call her, Ellie, dressed up as Mr. Martin, 7th grade Social Studies teacher. For all of our 6th graders reading, he might be your teacher next year! See photos on next page. Anyway, let's go find out about Friday. For all those easily scared, you may not want to read the next part, for on Halloween, spooky things may happen...

BoOoOoOoO! Spooky g-g-g-ghosts!!! Werewolves! Vampires! Witches! All of these things were categorized into Friday's theme, which was also Halloween. The theme? Say Boo to drugs. Costumes of all kinds were worn or something that was reminiscent of autumn. See pages 7-8 for pictures.

Sadly, that's all I have for you in this month's issue. Luckily, we'll be back in February! So wait until then, and you'll be sent right back into the words of great writers. Next article, you're up!



Thanks to Mrs. Taylor and the Art Service Club for making this banner.



Opposite Day October 30th



Halloween at EIMS

By Eleanor McRedmond

Wow, can you believe Halloween was more than a month ago? Let's go back and review some of the memories. October 31, 2025 was the end of Red Ribbon Week, which Kimberly Masaya wrote about (see page 5). We also announced the start of the candy corn guessing jar contest which Matthew Rosand wrote about (see page 2). But enough about that, let's get to the spooky stuff!

On Halloween, many students and staff dressed up in amazing and creative costumes. Some did group/trio/duo costumes and some went solo. In the hallway near the main office, a yellow brick road was placed on the ground and the teachers were the gang from *The Wizard of Oz*, including Mr. Fussa as the Tin Man! *The Wizard of Oz* is also our school musical this year (see page 1) Another awesome staff costume was a duo, Mrs. Scully and Mr. Spiegler, who dressed as Elsa and Olaf from the movie *Frozen*.

This Halloween was a great one! Let's see what EIMS can brew up next year.



Photos By Ms. Gieseler, Mrs. Schweizer, Mrs. Murphy and Yearbook Staff



Halloween Pics continued



Photos By Yearbook Staff
and other staff



History of Minecraft

By Trent Perry



Minecraft was originally created in 2009 by Mojang Studios, but it was not released until November 18, 2010. The game is now 15 years old and has had many updates like the Caves and Cliffs update. The original creator of the game was Markus "Notch" Persson but Mojang was then handed down to Jens "Jeb" Bergensten following the release of Minecraft. The game was originally going to be called Cave Game but changed to Minecraft: Order of the Stone before being changed to Minecraft. There have been plenty of versions of Minecraft for different devices (for example: Bedrock, Java, Pocket, Pi, Earth, Edu, Alpha, Classic, etc) and there are countless mods and add-ons for Minecraft.

We'll start our journey through the history of Minecraft sometime in May 2009 when Notch started work on the initial version of Minecraft called "Cave Game." On May 17, 2009, Notch released the first public alpha version to an independent game developer forum TIGSource. In 2010 he officially changed the name to Minecraft. However, on July 31, 2010 the infamous creepypasta character Herobrine was first spotted. Since then, the patch notes for later Minecraft updates have stated "Removed Herobrine," but many players still "see" Herobrine. Since then, the game's development continued for over two years before the official full release on November 18, 2011.

In 2012, the "Pretty Scary Update" (1.4), was released, which included Withers, Anvils, and Bats. Then in 2014 Microsoft bought Mojang (pronounced like the English version Moe-jang or the Swedish version Moe-yang), the company that Notch created, for \$2.5 billion. In 2017 the "World of Color Update" (1.12) introduced more colored blocks and Parrots. Then the 2019 "Village & Pillage Update" (1.14) introduced Pillagers, Foxes, Pandas, and other content to the game. On June 17, 2025, the "Chase the Skies Update" (1.21.6) added the Happy Ghast, the Player Locator Bar, etc. Last but not least, the most recent update came out December 9, 2025 called the "Mounts of Mayhem" (1.21.11) which will add the Nautilus, the Spear, and other items. There are many more updates, too many to mention.

The nautilus, one of the new mobs was added to Minecraft on December 9, 2025.





History of Minecraft (cont'd)

There have been many cool things in Minecraft, such as the Starting House which was an old feature in an Infdev (Infinite Development) version of Minecraft made of Mossy Cobblestone that the player spawned in. (Mossy Cobblestone was not found naturally in the Infdev version of Minecraft.) There were chests in the house which stored 99 blocks per stack of blocks but was later changed to 100 before being changed to a wooden house with no chests. It was later removed from the game. Another cool thing that happens in Minecraft is that every April 1st there is a fake update or fake thing for Minecraft, like the Craftmine "Update." The Craftmine "Update" was where the player uses the Mine Crafter to craft randomly generated levels, or "Mines," that the player had to complete. However, sometimes, the "Updates" are made into real mods or add-ons. The Craftmine "Update" is one of those.

There are also cool little easter eggs. For example, the "Jeb_" rainbow sheep nametag trick or the "Dinnerbone" upside down mobs name tag trick. Try the easter eggs yourself!

That's all about the history of Minecraft. Happy Building!

TRY IT NOW

There is a cool Minecraft easter egg on Google. All you have to do is search "Minecraft" and there will be a Minecraft block at the bottom. Tap it and you can mine the search results, revealing randomly generated Minecraft biomes with breakable blocks. There is a block counter at the bottom of the screen that counts every block you break.



The four main name tag easter eggs are "Dinnerbone," "Jeb_," "Toast," and "Johnny."





Courtyard Pond Restored

By Geovanni Valenti

Recently, a pond in the courtyard of East Islip Middle School was restored to serve as a home for wildlife and a hands-on learning experience for science classes. Middle school science teacher, Mr. Lang worked with Ron Gibbons of Gibbons Pools to make improvements to the pond, with support of the East Islip school district's For the Kids (FTK) foundation.

The pond was originally completed in 2005. Unfortunately, in recent years, the pond's condition deteriorated. Mr. Lang decided to make it his primary goal to restore the pond before he retired this year.

Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Lang and Gibbons Pools, the courtyard will hopefully be a valuable learning resource for future generations of students that attend East Islip Middle School. We would also like to thank the custodial staff at EIMS for their hard work on maintaining this courtyard.



Epic: the Musical

By Savannah Pabon

Do you like Greek mythology? Have you heard of the Iliad or the Odyssey? Then this article is made for you! The musical *Epic* was written by Jorge Rivera-Herrans. It was created based on the story of The Odyssey. It was made with songs to be easier to understand.

The original *Odyssey* was written by Homer. The structure of the book was hard for some people to understand, so Jorge made an album of songs so that people could understand the message of the *Odyssey* better. It is a 9 part series of musical albums.

The musical *Epic* is different than most musicals for it is drawn, not acted out. Jorge hired many artists to draw animations of *Epic* for the public. He also hired voice actors to sing and act. It took Jorge over five years to create *Epic the musical*. The community is also very widespread and popular. There are also many fan creations of *Epic* such as recreates of the play and fanart.

I would definitely recommend this musical. It is an intricately drafted piece of art. I think that everyone should watch this not because you want to have a bigger brain but because of the beautifully made music and images. You can find it on YouTube.



Five Nights at Freddy's

By Dahian Genao



Five Nights At Freddy's (FNaF) is a game series with more lore than game. It is a survival horror game developed by Scott Cawthon. He was inspired by feedback he received from another game he created called Chipper & Sons Lumber Co. Someone gave him a bad reputation by saying the characters in that game were like scary animatronic animals. In FNaF, you play a security guard at Freddy's Fazbear's Pizza. You need to survive from midnight to 6 am for five shifts, also known as "nights". The animatronics are trying to get you. Here is a description of each game.

FNaF 1: You have limited power, two heavy doors, lights, and cameras which all cost power. You fight against 4 new animatronics and 1 old one which all have a child's soul in them, based on "the bite of '83". Bonnie will appear at your left door and Chica on your right. You must close their door so they don't kill you. You must watch Foxy's Cove in order to stop him. When he is not there, close your left door until you hear him bang on your door, Freddy will only appear in the dining room on the cameras. If he's not there after a laugh, close your right door or he will disable it.



FNaF 2: You have unlimited power and one flashlight. You're probably wondering "how would I survive?" and I will tell you. Of 6 new animatronics called "the toys," the Freddy mask should deal with 4 of them. Balloon Boy isn't evil, but he will disable your flashlight. The old gang has been withered. The Freddy mask should work on them but not Foxy. You'll need to flash a light on him. The puppet can't be stopped unless you wind up the music box.



Five Nights at Freddy's continued



FNaf 3: You are William's older son going against William after the "springlock failure" which has been used for the company's horror attraction. Nothing will happen on the first night. To lure him away, you must play a sound to a camera. The rest only mess with O2, cameras and audio.



FNaf 4: This is the SCARIEST game of the series. Unlike the rest, it takes place in a bedroom right before the "bite of '83" with no cameras and you a child. Nightmare Freddy's children will appear on the bed - flash him before Nightmare Freddy comes. Nightmare Foxy will appear in your closet - close the closet until he leaves. Nightmare Bonnie and Chica appear in the hallways - listen for breathing. If there's no breathing, close your door. Otherwise, flash your light all you want. Listen closely for his footsteps. Do not shine the light on him if you hear footsteps from Nightmare Fredbear in the hall, just listen.

NIGHTMARE IS SOME KIND OF SHADOW NIGHTMARE FREDBEAR. LISTEN FOR SOUND CUES AND INSTANTLY SHUT THE DOOR WHEN EITHER ANIMATRONIC STOPS MOVING.

The mini springtrap is a mini game. The rest are part of the Halloween event.



The bite of '83



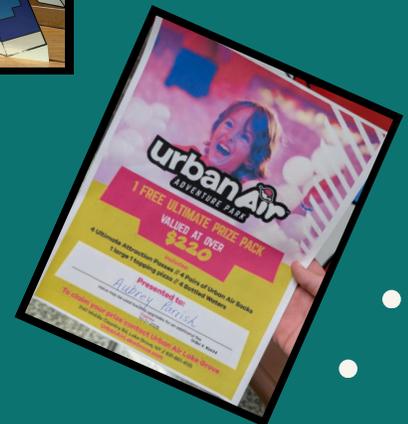
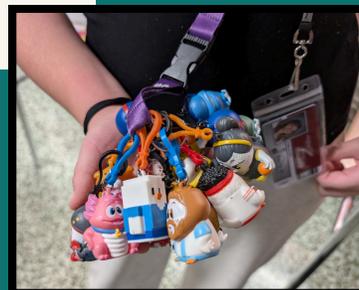
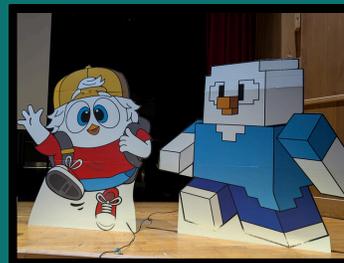
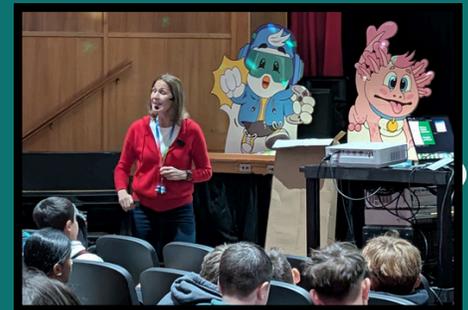
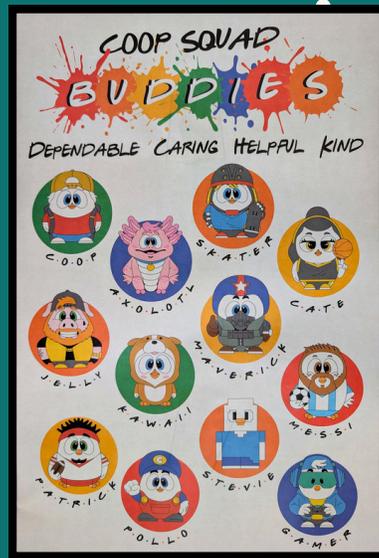
Coops Fundraiser

By Matthew J. Rosand

Our school had a fundraiser in November where students sold neighborhood saver cards. It is a card that gets you discounts at local places, mainly restaurants. Students sold the digital cards to family and friends to earn coins which resulted in earning Coops and other prizes. The person who raised the most money would get a top prize.

Coops are small chicken figures that clip to a keychain. The Coops given out were called Coop, Skater, Gamer, Pollo, Kate, Jelly, Steve, Messi, Patrick, Axolotl, Maverick and Kawaili. Students traded Coops with other students and teachers. If you got enough coins, you could get the Golden Super Coop.

The fundraiser resulted in over \$50,000 to be used for school field trips. The grand prize winner of the fundraiser was 7th grader, Aubrey Parrish. She won an ultimate prize pack to Urban Air that includes tickets, socks and pizza for a party of 4. Congratulations!



Mrs. Scully, EIMS Principal and Aubrey Parrish





EIMS Fall Sports

By Katherine Li



The EIMS fall sports season went by in a flash due to all the hard working players' efforts. These fall sports include field hockey, boys' and girls' cross country, cheerleading, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, girls' tennis and football. Let's hear what the players think of their fall season.

(Field Hockey) Genevieve Griffin, 7th Grade

Q: Did you improve this season?

A: "I got a lot better, I had never played before and by the end of the season we were doing really good!"



(Tennis) Isabella Steed, 7th Grade

Q: What makes this sport different from others?

A: "What makes tennis different from other fall sports is that tennis isn't just a team sport. The team is separated into doubles (2 players) and singles (1 player). When a single or double wins a match, they get a point for the team. Whichever school's team has the most points will win the match."

(Cross Country) Madeline Kohles, 7th Grade

Q: What's your favorite moment in your sport?

A: "My favorite moment was the bus ride back to the school after a meet because we played music and it was a good time."

(Football) Ryker Wood 7th Grade

Q: What made you play football?

A: "I choose to play football because I used to watch it with my grandpa and I have been playing for four years."

(Soccer) Sophia Badala 7th Grade

Q: What's your favorite drill/activity in your sport?

A: "Probably field goals."



A big shout out to all the fall sports coaches for making this season possible. This includes Ms. Krawchuck, Ms. Huether, Ms. Kravitz, Ms. Scuderi, Mr. Lavey, Mr. Longobardi, Mr. Heaton, Mr. Esposito, and Mr. Croteau.



Athlete Spotlight: Victoria Scandale

By Arya Brabazon



Eighth grader, Victoria Scandale is on the Girls Varsity Cross Country team. She works hard, training 6 days a week. She competes in various events and runs all year. We decided to interview her to find out more.

1 - What made you decide to join the track?

"My older sisters encouraged me to join."

2 - Why do you enjoy running?

"I enjoy it because it builds many new friendships, and I find running very enjoyable and relaxing."

3 - When did you start running?

"I started running when I was in 4th grade."

4 - What events do you compete in and which is your favorite?

"I run the 800, 1500, and 3000. My favorite to run is the 1500 meter."

5 - What is your fastest timed event and when was it?

"In the spring, I ran a 1500 in 5 minutes and 18 seconds."

6 - Would you encourage more kids to start running?

"Yes, I find running very enjoyable, but many people don't."

7 - What do you like best about running on the varsity team?

"I make many new friends that are older than me and I'll get to see them next year."



A message from Coach Reynolds:

"Victoria is a relentless competitor who works extremely hard. Her cross-country training began the first week of July. V has been on Varsity since 7th grade and has quietly become our best runner. While small physically, V has a huge heart. She is determined to be great and will do whatever it takes to win while also being an awesome teammate. Victoria has gained the respect of her opponents and opposing coaches who voted her first team all-league. The journey for V has just begun, and we are all excited to be along for the ride."



Victoria with Coach Reynolds





World Series 2025

By William Piezzo



The World Series was exciting. It lasted from October 24th to November 1st. The series went the full seven games. There was a record set for the longest game ever played in a World Series - game 3 lasted 18 innings!

In game 7, it came down to the very end. It looked like the Toronto Blue Jays were going to win, but the Dodgers didn't give up. The LA Dodgers won game 7 in the 11th inning, beating the Blue Jays by a score of 5-4. The MVP of the series was Yoshinobu Yamamoto.

Congratulations to the LA Dodgers for being this year's World Series champs!

Fall Soccer

By Kimberly Masaya

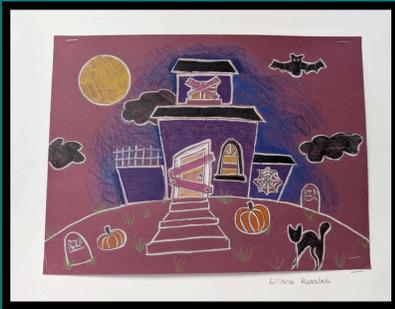
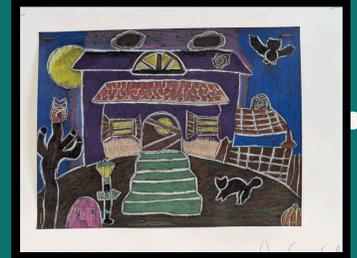
The EIMS Girls' Soccer team wrapped up their fall season with 9 wins and only 1 loss. If you're reading this, please applaud them, for they worked really hard this season! Shout out to team captains Caitlyn Connolly, Cecilia Francis, Hadley Sujka and Josie Vavricka.

Congrats to Coach Huether on coaching girls' soccer in East Islip for 28 years! This year she will be retiring. Coach Huether says:

"I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to coach an amazingly successful, dedicated and talented team for the last 28 years. As a kid in high school, I developed a seizure disorder that led to me having to quit sports. I wasn't even allowed to play gym anymore because the school was afraid of me having another seizure. Because of this, I have never taken one second of coaching for granted and each year my players made me feel like the luckiest woman in the world."



Our Hallways
Photos by Zoey St. John



Staff List

Colin Belrose
Peter Blumenauer
Arya Brabazon
Dahian Genao
Katherine Li
Alexa Leek
Kimberly Masaya
Eleanor McRedmond
Logan Multari
Savannah Pabon
Trent Perry
William Piezzo
Matthew Rosand
Zoey St. John
Salvatore Tringali
Geovanni Valenti



EIMS Administration

Principal: Mrs. Scully

Asst. Principal: Mr. Spiegler

Newspaper Club Officers

President: Colin Belrose

Vice President: Matthew Rosand

Co-Secretary: Katherine Li

Co-Secretary: Arya Brabazon

Design/Editing

Club Advisor: Mrs. Avella

Graphic Design: Kimberly Masaya,
Eleanor McRedmond, Zoey St. John

Book Fair Nov. 13, 14



East Islip Middle School Musical Club Presents

THE WIZARD OF OZ YOUTH EDITION

By L. Frank Baum

With Music and Lyrics by
Harold Arlen and E. Y. Harburg

Friday, February 6th at 6pm

Saturday, February 7th at 1pm

Snow Date: Sunday, February 8th at 1pm

Background Music by Herbert Stothart

Dance and Vocal Arrangements by Peter Howard

Orchestration by Larry Wilcox

Adapted by John Kane for the Royal Shakespeare Company

Based upon the Classic Motion Picture owned by
Turner Entertainment Co. and distributed in all media by
Warner Bros.