

By Students. For Students.

Community Bulletin

Spirit week
standings and
statistics (p2)

Student Outlook

Interview with Junior
Eleanor and
Sophomore Rafi (p4)

THE AURORA



Lucianne Jones - MSSM '27

The Student Report

The first two weeks back from J-term have been busy with classes, and of course, spirit week. The final spirit week standings and reporting can be found page 2. Many students have been working diligently on their VEX bots as they prepared for the Monmouth competition on Saturday. One of our teams, Noot Noot robotics, won tournament champions and design awards. Another one of our teams, thin earth society, was also a tournament finalist. Some students have also been studying for DECA in hopes of making it to ICDC.



Marina Kirmani - MSSM '28

DECA club is essentially a business competition club. Together, we learn about different business tactics so we can compete in events with other schools. Our usual meeting time is 12-1 on Sundays, practicing case studies with a judge to solve a business problem or we study terms for the tests at events. Before events we meet every night to either make content for our instagram page (@mssmdeca) or we practice for the events together.

Unfortunately, these past two weeks were also marked by the rapid spread of illness, specifically Flu A and variants of the common cold. These schoolwide epidemics are typical in the first weeks after J-Term and this year the spread and severity seems to be on the less extreme side when compared to previous years. As always, the students appreciate the work our nurse and the RI's have put into keeping the community safe.

In other news, the MSSM Chess team won our match against Caribou High School 3.5-1.5. The MSSM Math Team had a decent showing at the most recent meet, currently ranking fourth and trailing John Bapst by only twenty-points. Our JV Basketball team went to a tournament on Saturday where they had the opportunity to scrimmage against other teams.



Silas Ociepka - MSSM '28

The MSSM chess team travelled to Caribou High School for our Aroostook League matchup on Tuesday, February 2nd. The team came into the match nervous, as we were missing four out of our six best players. We settled on a lineup that consisted of three substitutes, against the second best team in the league. We secured the victory, and the MSSM chess team continues our undefeated streak.

There have also been noteworthy community improvements since J-Term. One of the unused rooms adjacent to the maker's space has now been outfitted into a new Audio/Visual room. The LCS art teacher (Ms. Flinta) is more than happy to share the kiln with MSSM students, and is very excited to put the kiln to use. The students have also noticed a general improvement of FLIK food going into this semester, and we appreciate the time and dedication our kitchen staff put into making quality meals for us each and every day.

Community Bulletin

Final Spirit Week Standings

1st= Seniors with 3,549 points!

2nd= Sophomores with 2,918 points!

3rd= Juniors with 2,596 points!

4th= Freshmen with 1,592 points!



Highlighted Events

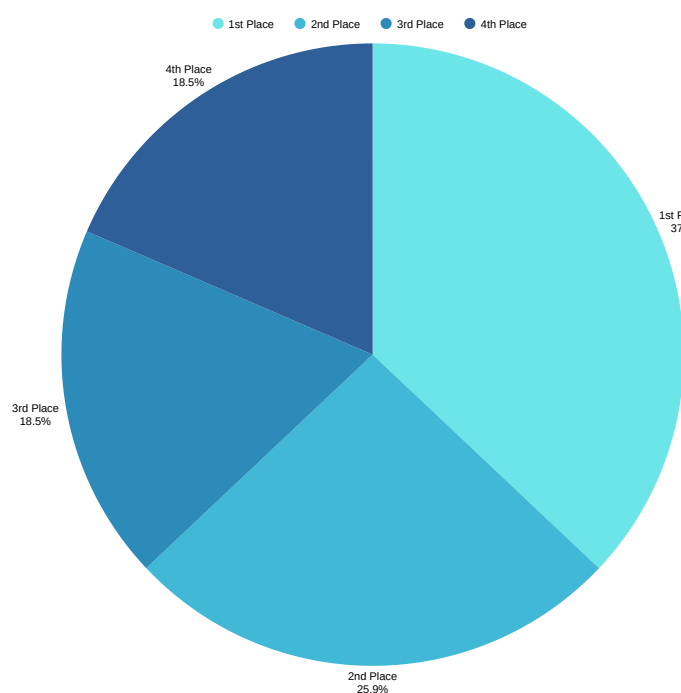
Futsal:

The first game was a close match between the Seniors and the Sophomores. The defense on both sides was fierce, leading to a 1-1 tie at the end of the second half. The seniors won with an overtime golden goal. The Freshman failed to field a team so the Juniors got a first round by. The final match between the Juniors and the Seniors was similarly close for the first half. A goal scored by the Juniors in the last twenty seconds of the first half brought the score to 1-0 Juniors. A fast paced second half led to a hard fought second goal for the Juniors, and multiple shots on goal for the Seniors. Ultimately, the match ended 5-0 Juniors.

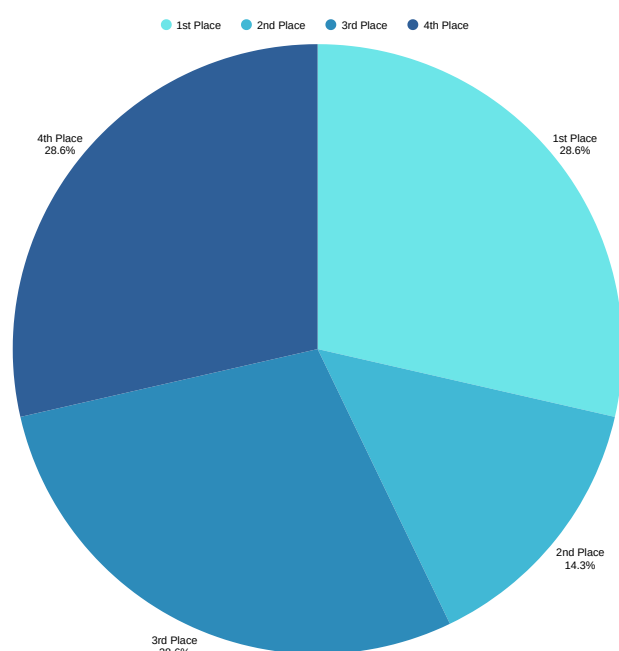
Rap Battle:

One of the most exciting events of the week was by far the rap battle. Due to the lack of Freshman participation, the event organizers decided on a round robin style. The first match up was Juniors and sophomores. The Juniors took a more broad approach, distributing their insults across multiple members of the Sophomore class. In response, the Sophomores made a more targeted attack on the Junior participant while simultaneously making allusions to past MSSM graduates. The middle match between the Seniors and Juniors wasn't all that climatic. The final match-up featured the Seniors and the Sophomores. Here, the Sophomores also went for a more focused approach, targeting the Senior participant and her relations with a past graduate. The senior responded with an ownership of said relations and relied heavily on clever rhymes with rhythm.

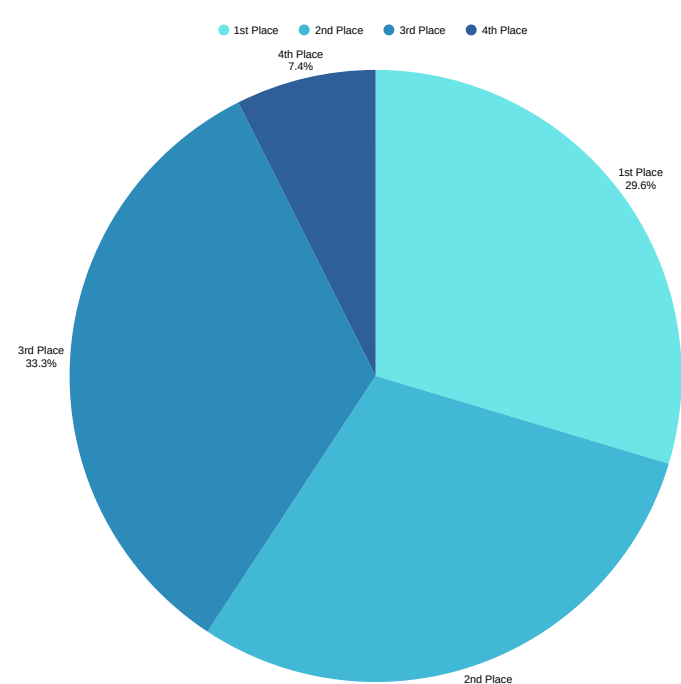
The rap battle was a lot of fun for everyone involved and it is important to note that no one takes offense to anything said during the course of the event.



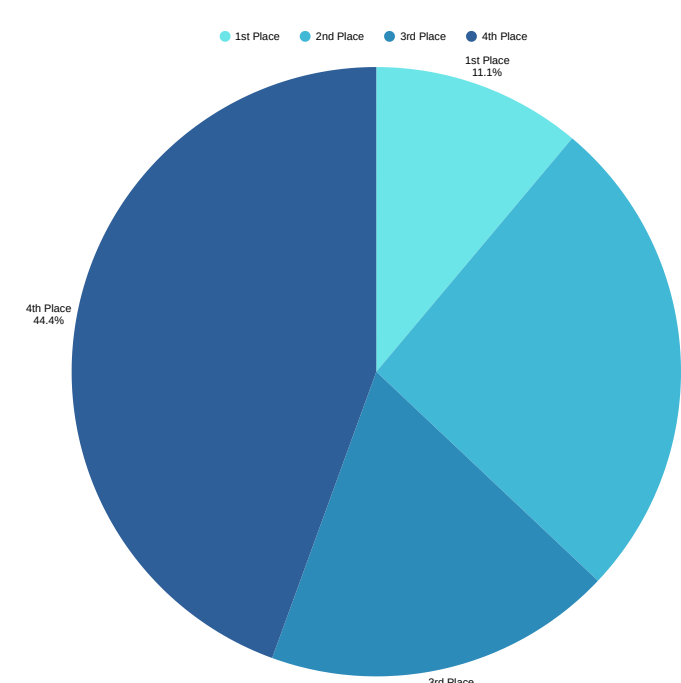
Seniors



Juniors



Sophomores



Freshmen

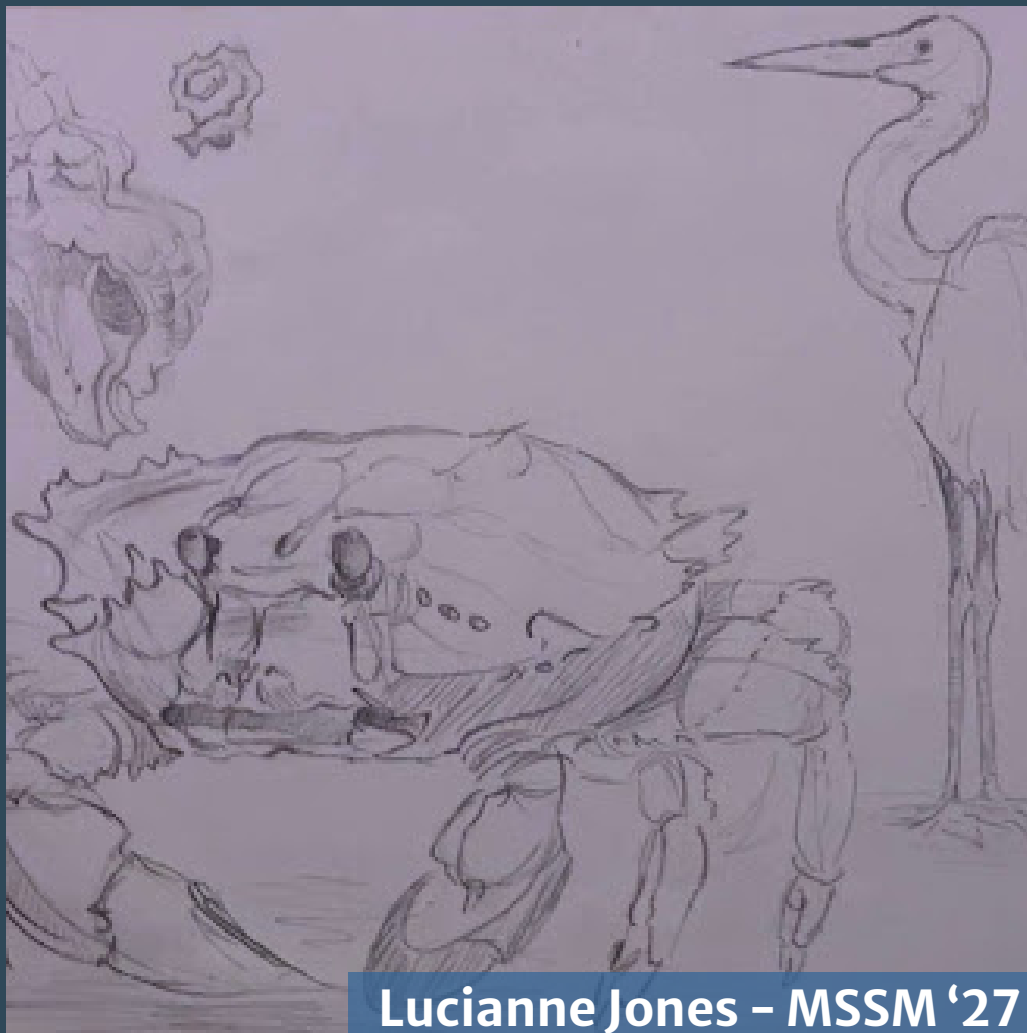
The Gallery



Anne Dostie - MSSM '27



Easton Allen - MSSM '27



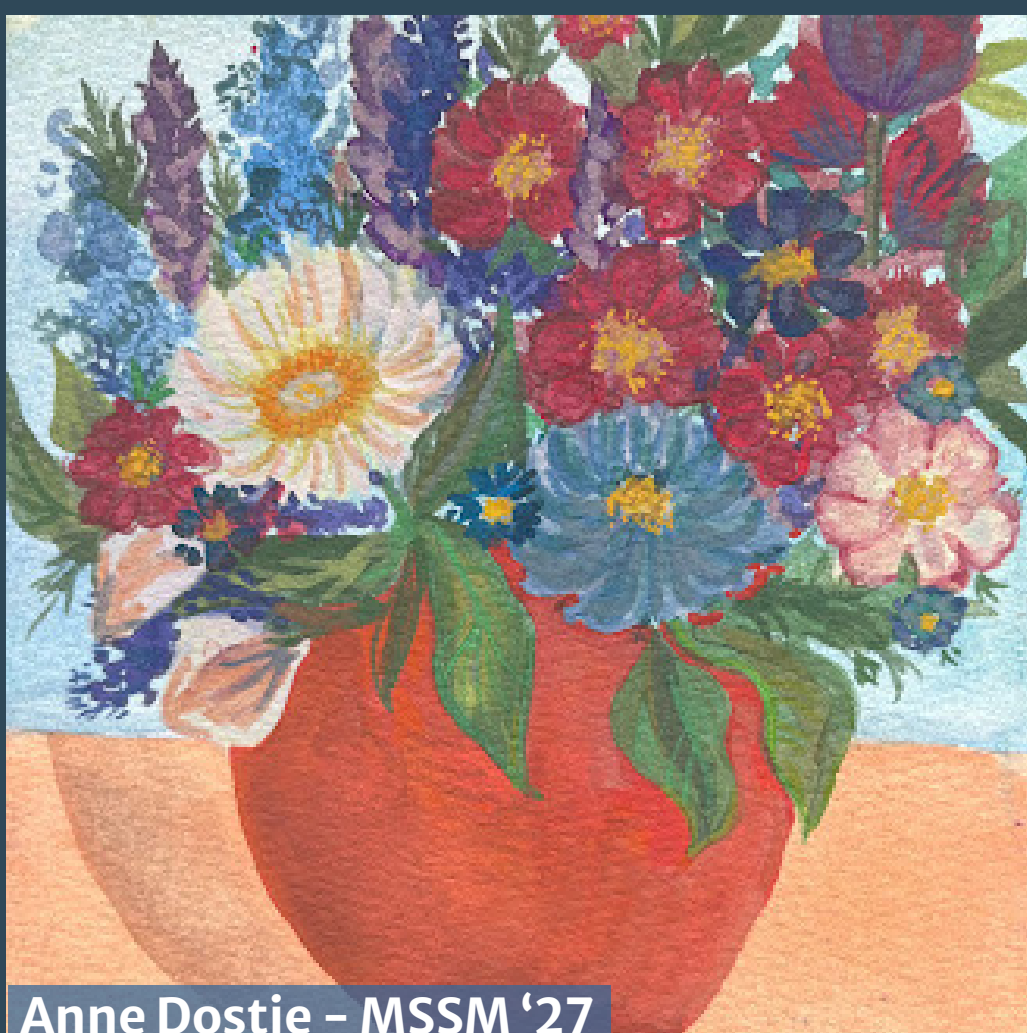
Lucianne Jones - MSSM '27



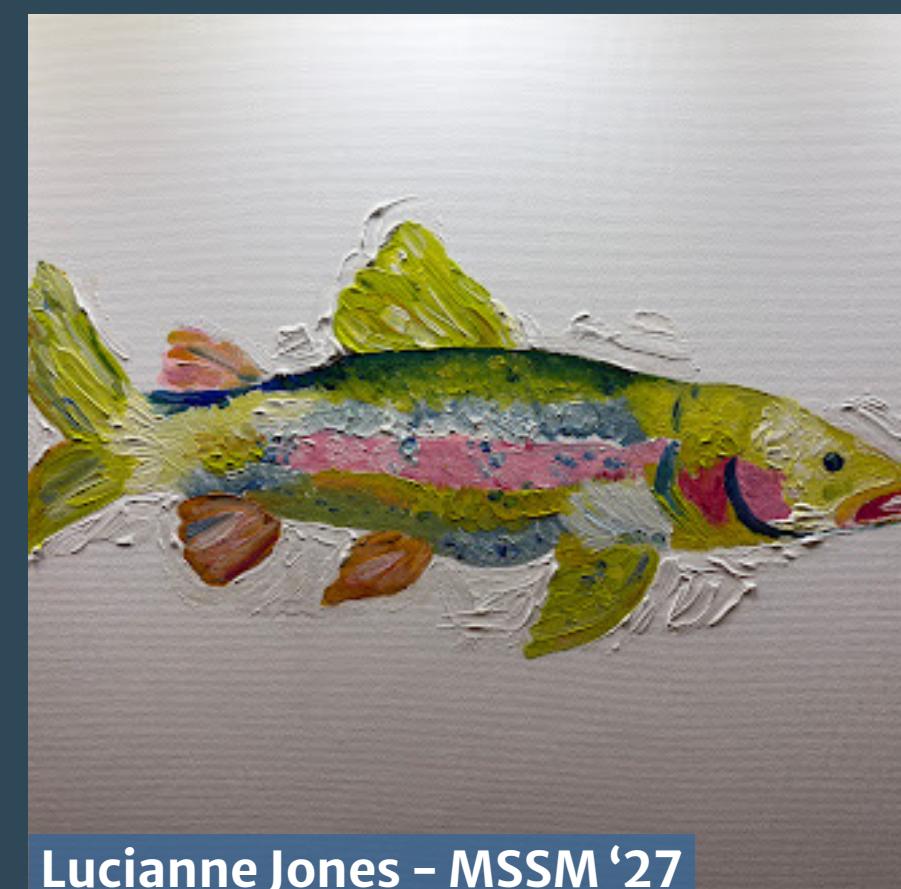
Lucianne Jones - MSSM '27



Easton Allen - MSSM '27



Anne Dostie - MSSM '27



Lucianne Jones - MSSM '27



Lucianne Jones - MSSM '27



Riley Shean - MSSM '28

Student Outlook

Supercalculus Student Interviews

Interviewed by: Easton Allen (MSSM '27)
and Sheldon Pennell (MSSM '27)

There is currently a debate on whether Supercalculus, calculus in one semester, should be offered next year. Interviews with Junior Eleanor Milliken and Sophomore Rafi Halpern provide insight on the matter.

Interviewer: "What are your core classes this year?"

Rafi: "SuperCalc, French 2, AP Composition, Economics, and Plant Bio"

Eleanor: "French 3, US History, SuperCalc, and AP Physics, which is by far the hardest"

Interviewer: "What are your feelings on SuperCalc?"

Rafi: "I'm not very far into multi-Variable, so I can't say much about it. I really enjoyed the first semester. I liked the increased pace, and I don't think we lost all that much from the increased pace. What I didn't like as much was the things we did lose with the increased pace, such as delta epsilon proofs, for example. So I personally feel good about the class, but I know that other people might feel differently."

Eleanor: "I like the idea of the class, I think it's good to have this rigorous, fast-paced curriculum for students who want that. I'm not sure if it's the best allocation of resources because the number of students who ought to be in that class is so small. But it's nice to have it serve that portion of the student body, and I have personally had a lot of fun with the class".

Interviewer: "Do you think the class should be offered?"

Rafi: "I think it should if there are enough people able and willing to take it. It's not for everyone, right? It's very difficult, very fast-paced. If you go into it with no calculus knowledge at all, say if no calculus was covered in your pre-calculus class, I feel like the class would be very tough. But if you covered derivatives and limits in BC cubed, then I think it works."

Eleanor: "I'm conflicted on this. It's good that it's offered right now, but you could probably make Multi-Variable a year-long course. The number of students in SuperCalc is so small, and many of the students aren't doing that well anyway, so there may be better ways to allocate those resources to options that serve a larger number of students."

Interviewer: “If SuperCalc is going to stay, do you think there should be better vetting for who gets to take the class?”

Rafi: “I want to trust the teachers, and I would like to think they know who is prepared, but at the end of the day there is no good system for measuring that. It's also hard because some people might feel they need to take the class just because they have the option, even if they aren't ready for it. So I think we have to make it clear it's not necessary, it's just an optional, harder challenge for those who want it.”

Eleanor: “I like student autonomy in this area, and I think the student probably knows best. I think a reasonably decent grade in BC cubed (Accelerated Pre-Calculus BC), but I think the student, better than the teacher, will be able to tell what they're comfortable with.”

Interviewer: “Do you think that because of the high staff turnover rate, especially in our math department, it would be a good idea to have a more objective standard for getting in, say 90% or so in BC cubed?”

Rafi: “I think that would be very reasonable, but again I think 90% for one teacher might be very easy, and nearly impossible for another teacher. Also, I think with so much staff turnover its hard because one instructor might have a vision about how they want to teach BC cubed to prepare people for SuperCalc, and then the next teacher might dislike that method and has to deal with the previous teacher's methods. This kind of creates a ripple effect of confusion when the turnover happens repeatedly.”

Interviewer: “So you would oppose having some objective metric, say a 90% or higher in BC³ as a prerequisite?”

Eleanor: “I think something like that would be appropriate, maybe not 90%, maybe something like 85. I think ultimately we should give the choice to the student as much as possible, but there may be some cases where the teacher should intervene if it's clear the choice is having a detrimental effect on the student's mental health.”

Interviewer: “Do you think SuperCalculus should be a requirement for AP Physics [C]?”

Eleanor: “Absolutely not. The amount of calculus we do in AP Physics C is very simple. Most of the integration we do is in E & M, which you would know by that point if you were in Calc BC anyway. Any of the more complex integrations we have done has been added by Dr. Rim and isn't part of the AP Curriculum.”

A Review of Magnetic North Trailer

By: Sheldon Pennell
- MSSM '27

Magnetic North is a developing documentary, actively being created by Ryan Shephard, an MSSM alumnus of '98. A special preview of the documentary was offered to MSSM students this past Monday in the LCS theatre. While the trailer remains unfinished, it has successfully presented an intriguing window into the substance of the documentary, which seeks to document and share the history of MSSM, while simultaneously presenting the many challenges MSSM continues to face.



The trailer presented footage that mostly depicted student life, while multiple different interviews were played in the background. Occasionally, the trailer would cut to footage of the background interview when making an important point. One of the most interesting additions was archival footage from the school's founding and inaugural years. This historical footage allowed the students to have a fascinating glimpse into the past of our school, which is seldom mentioned in the daily commotion of MSSM life.

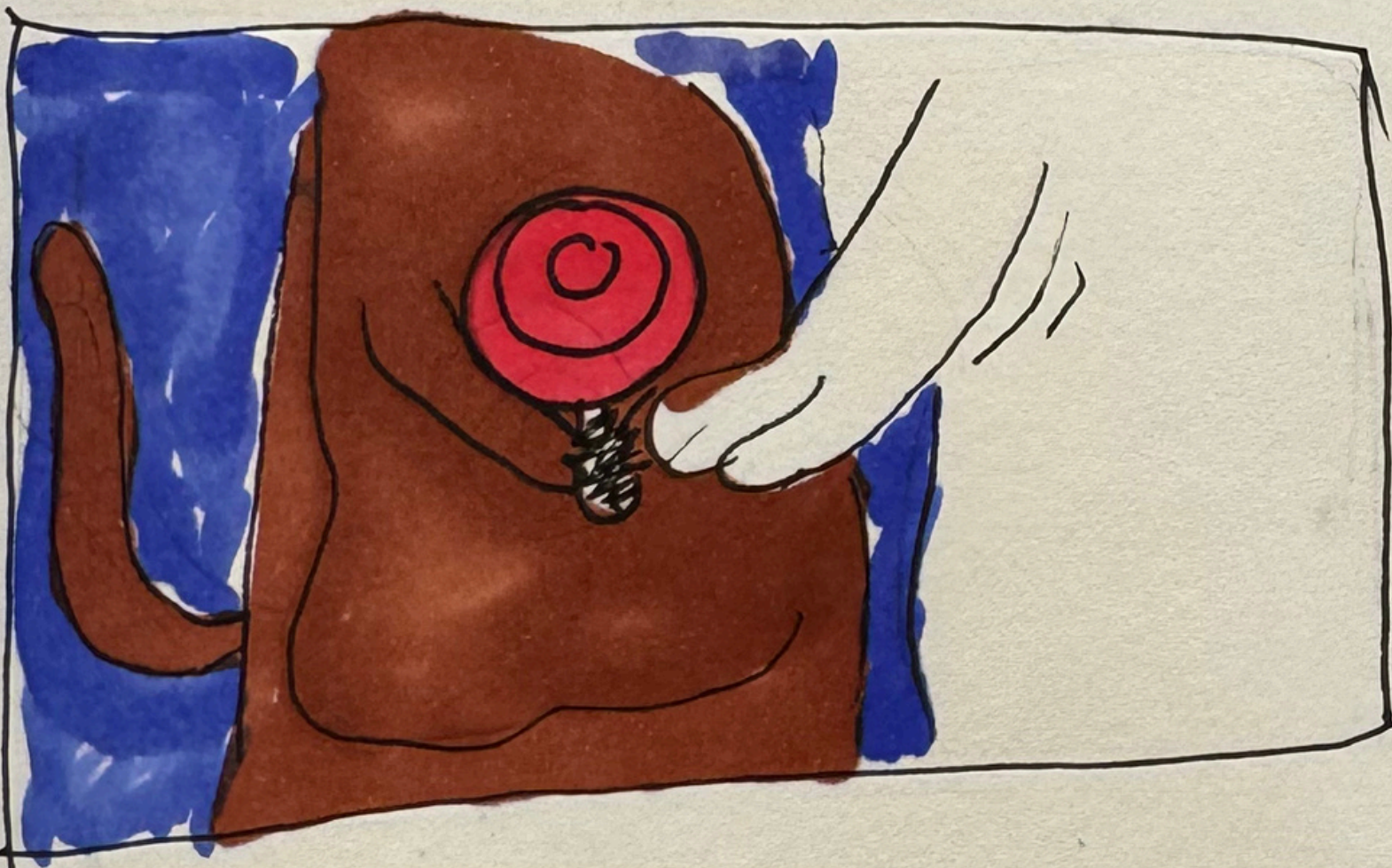
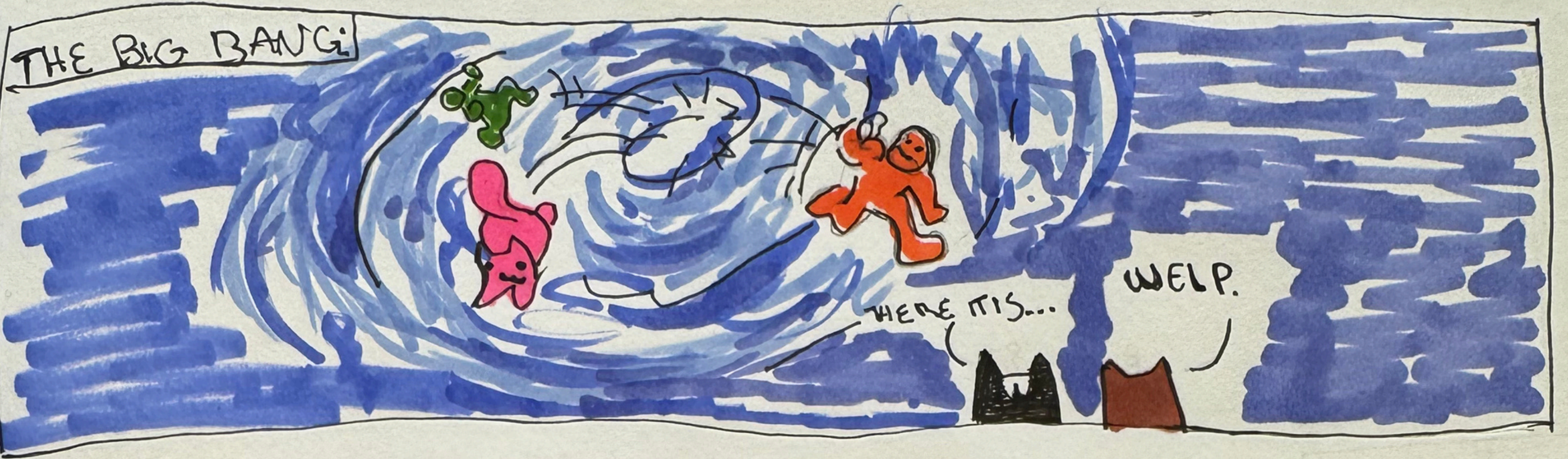
It appears that Magnetic North aims to compile a relevant archive of MSSM's history in order to construct a narrative that will aid the current MSSM community in overcoming our current challenges. It is no secret that MSSM is currently struggling to procure funding, but our predicament is not new and has been a pattern for nearly the entire history of the school. The documentary will help to shed light on these historical challenges and promote the school as an institution capable of overcoming financial adversity.



Mr. Shepherd stayed after the showing to answer questions from the students. He spoke about how he wants the documentary to build awareness around MSSM and its mission, both for the State of Maine and beyond. The promise of this documentary is exciting, and Mr. Shepherd is a dedicated filmmaker who has the knowledge and skillset to execute on his promise.

Read more about the Magnetic North at: <https://pioneer3.film/magnetic-north>

THE BIG BANG!



Unbiased Sports Reporting

By: Samuel Pike - MSSM '27

WE'RE GOING TO THE SUPER BOWL! What a year for the Pats man. At the beginning of the season, people were predicting them to go 8-9, going under .500, missing the playoffs, and after a 1-2 start, they doubled down on that take. 4 months later, the Patriots had a 14-3 record and were the #2 seed in the playoffs, seeded against the Chargers in the wild card round. The dominant Patriots defense allowed only 3 points. Then came the Texans in the Divisional Round, where the Patriots forced 5 turnovers, scored 3 touchdowns, along with a pick 6. The Texans were the #1 ranked defense in the league, and New England became the first team all season to throw for 3 passing touchdowns against them. Then, this weekend, the Patriots held the #1 seed Broncos (#2 defense) to just 7 points, while scoring 10 themselves. With the win against Denver, the Patriots became the first team in NFL history to beat 3 top 5 defenses (#5 Chargers, #1 Texans, and #2 Broncos) on the way to the Super Bowl. In his second year, Drake Maye did something Tom Brady couldn't do: beat the Broncos at Mile High Stadium. The Patriots have punched their ticket to the Super Bowl for the first time in 7 years, where they will face against the Seahawks in a Super Bowl XLIX rematch.



Intramural Futsal

The interest form is still open. Teams will be formed and the season will begin after break. See the interest form below!

<https://forms.gle/d3dUyrfUUvcd8Q9D7>

Philosophy Club

Coffee House is being planned for after break. Keep an eye out for future updates.

Fiber Arts Club

Do you like to crochet or sew in your free time? Fill out the interest form below!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdnhnJGe9DcPbxTYs-c5-JoEAYXZpngDGLrTYmpV6zrLBHWQQ/viewform?usp=header>