

# THE DOWNING POST

DIAMONDBACKS! WE'RE SO HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT THIS IS THE FIRST OFFICIAL DOWNING MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER! HERE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FIND IMPORTANT INFORMATION, INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT OUR SCHOOL, AND SEE ALL THE AMAZING THINGS WE HAVE BEEN UP TO!

## 6TH GRADE

6th Grade! Registration closed January 21st, so make sure you're ready for next year! Your new teachers can't wait to have you in their classroom next year. If you are interested in joining the Christ Club or the Debate & Law Club, scroll down for more info!



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: CAROLINE O'DAILY

**If you could switch lives with any teacher for a day, who would it be?**

8th grader, Caroline O'Daily, said that she would want to switch lives with Mrs. Young because then she could see how loud she really is in history class!



## CRACK THE PASSWORD?



A numeric lock has a 3 digit key

| HINT 1:                               | HINT 2:                                  | HINT 3:                                    |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 682                                   | 614                                      | 206                                        |
| One number is correct and well placed | One number is correct but wrongly placed | Two numbers are correct but wrongly placed |
| HINT 4:                               | HINT 5:                                  |                                            |
| 738                                   | 780                                      |                                            |
| Nothing is correct                    | One number is correct but wrongly placed |                                            |

**ANSWER ON THE NEXT PAGE**

## 7TH GRADE

Make sure you are ready for next year and are working toward success every day! We can't wait to see the amazing things you'll do next year! Great job to all the amazing students on the basketball teams! It was so great to get the chance watch you representing our school! If you are interested in joining the Christ Club or the Debate & Law Club, scroll down for more info!

## STUDENT COUNCIL

Over the past two months, our student council has been working on tons of new things to improve. Including our brand-new student newsletter! Did you know that we had a food drive going on? We had so many students donate to the February LovePacs Food Drive, and this week we have our Valentines day Candy Grams! More info below.

## 8TH GRADE

8th Graders! Make sure that you are ready for next year and you are ready to represent Downing at Marcus next year! We will be sad to see you go, but we can't wait to see the great things you'll do next year! If you have any questions, make sure to go ask Mrs. Isaacs or Mrs. Cargail. If you are interested in joining the Christ Club or the Debate & Law Club, scroll down for more info!

## HAVE ANY IDEAS FOR THE NEWSLETTER?

If you have any ideas or feedback for the newsletter, email Gabby at [dasarig2@go.lisd.net](mailto:dasarig2@go.lisd.net)



## THE LITTLE MERMAID

Congratulations to all the incredible actors and singers who will be performing in the 2026 spring musical! Come join us as we show you a part of that world! Special round of applause to the main cast, the mermaids, princesses, sea gulls, ensemble, sailors, sea creatures, chefs, lagoon animals, and water! We are all so proud of you, and we can't wait to watch you perform!

### SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM DOWNING'S OWN ARIEL... LILAH RACCA



I am so incredibly grateful to be Ariel in our production of The Little Mermaid at Downing! I already know this is going to be such a fun experience watching

the whole show being put together! There are going to be so many new friends and memories coming out of this show with all my friends, especially Clara Henry, who is playing Ursula, and that will be such a fun dynamic between the two of us. I can't wait to listen to all of our fun songs together, like She's in Love, Under the Sea, and Les Poissons, all of these are such amazing, fun, and upbeat songs. I truly think Mrs. Skiles and Mr. Price are going to do an amazing job this year! (Come see the shows! April 24th at 6:00 PM, April 25th at 2:00 PM, and again at 6:00 PM!)

## SPECIAL NEWS

- Congratulations to the LLELA Plant-a-Thon Contest winners, Alice Moore and Lara Teng
- Congratulations to the winners of the Martin Luther King Jr. Art, Essay, & Photography contest, Shresta Koppaka and Ira Narayana
- Congratulations to North Texas MLK Collegiate Style Wrestling Tournament Winner, Dario Santana
- Congratulations LISD Feeder Pattern Spelling Bee Winner, Sriveda Bompalli

## REMINDERS

- If you are in the musical, check Mrs. Skiles room and your emails for the rehearsal schedules
- The new Christ Club has officially started! If you are interested in joining, they meet every Tuesday in the mornings and afternoons
- 8th Graders! High School registration is open! We'll be sad to see you go, but we can't wait to see the amazing things you accomplish at Marcus <3
- Make sure to have your ID on at all times
- Students! Make sure to check the lost and found for any missing items!

## 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE BOYS IN CHOIR

7th AND 8th GRADE BOYS WHO ARE IN CHOIR! If you are interested in joining a cappella, we would love to have you sing with us. Ask Mr. Price for more information. We can't wait to hear y'all sing!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- LovePacs Food Drive - February 2nd to February 6th
- Valentine's Day - February 14th
- No School - February 16th
- DMS Multi-Cultural Night - February 24th during Open House
- Open House - February 24th
- Christ Club Meetings - Every Tuesday, both mornings and afternoons
- Nothing Bundt Cakes Spirit Week - 02/09-02/15

## CHRIST CLUB



**Join the Christ Club!** Meetings happen every Tuesday, both mornings and afternoons. Founded by Jaden Dean.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: MRS. HILL

We asked Mrs. Hill what her favorite part about teaching 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math is and if she had any advice for students. Here's what she said:

### 1. What is your favorite part about teaching?

"My favorite part about teaching is getting to see my kids build confidence in math"

### 2. What is a piece of advice you have for students?

"A piece of advice I have for students is to never give up and to persevere through challenges"

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: DHURVAN ALETI & SRIVEDA BOMPALLI

Two Downing Orchestra students, Dhruvan Aleti and Sriveda Bompalli, said orchestra is one of their favorite things at school! Here's what they said:

**Dhruvan:** "I love to play violin and this is my second year in Downing orchestra! My favorite thing about orchestra is the friendships you build during class, concerts, and chaotic tuning events :)"

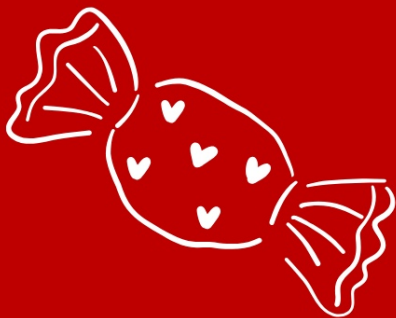
**Sriveda:** "I play the violin and have been playing it for five years. It requires practice and dedication, but it is also very fun."

**ANSWER TO CRACK THE  
CODE: 042**

## STUCO CANDY GRAMS

Make sure to buy the Student Council Valentines day Candy Grams! Only \$2 for one box of candy. You can send them out to a friend or to a special someone! Student Council will be selling them on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday this week, so make sure to buy them soon. They'll be distributed during third period on Friday and dropped off at classrooms. All funds go towards school events, and fun new things such as microwaves in the cafeteria! Student Council is selling Nerds Gummy Clusters, M&M's, Mike and Ikes, Sour Patch, and more!

# HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY ♥



## BEHIND-THE-SCENES: OUTDOOR TRAILS

We interviewed three students from Coach Radar's sixth-period. We asked them all different questions about Outdoor Trails so we could share with you a sneak peek of what goes on inside the classroom and all the different aspects of this class.

### 1. What is your favorite thing you've done in Outdoor Trails so far?

Alyson Pierce said, "My favorite thing was learning how to build a campfire because I think it could come in handy in the future. I also really like the way that we learn how to do it. I think I'll always remember that. Also, I really like the teacher and the students in that class. It's a lot of fun."

### 2. What is your favorite part about Outdoor Trails?

Lucy Patterson said, "My favorite part about Outdoor Trails is the teacher because he teaches us very well and his way of teaching is very good. And I love my classmates in that class, and I love learning about safe ways to hunt."

### 3. What do you think most students are interested in, in Outdoor Trails?

David Bellew said, "I think students are most interested in learning to start fires, learning to drive boats, learning about hunting and how to hunt, and learning about how to survive outside."

\*Interviewed by Paige Parker-Eatmon



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: ANDREW MIN

**6th grader Andrew Min said two of his favorite things to do are play football and basketball, here is what he said:**

"I really like playing basketball and football because I think that they are very fun to play."

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: MRS. RHODES

We asked Mrs. Rhodes two questions about teaching and why she wanted to go into teaching and what she enjoys. Here was her response:

### 1. What is your favorite part about teaching?

"My favorite thing about teaching is when students get that light in their eyes that something has clicked"

### 2. What made you want to become a teacher

"I just love middle school and I feel like middle schoolers need to be seen and I know that I can see them"

## CREDITS

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