

EI SPOTLIGHT

June 2026



Masthead Design by Ava Pagan

Boston 8th Grade Field Trip

By Colin Belrose, CJay Mendes & Matthew Rosand

Tuesday, May 19th

On the morning of May 19, 2026, 114 students boarded 3 school buses bound for Orient Point, located at the tip of Long Island's North Fork. From there, they took a ferry to New London, CT and then boarded an Amtrak train to Boston.

After lunch, the group explored Boston's rich history. They visited The Embrace in Boston Common, walked the Freedom Trail, toured a historic cemetery, and saw the Boston Massacre Monument. The students also visited the Boston Tea Party Museum and the Old North Church.

After dinner and shopping at Quincy Market, they headed north to Boda Borg to tackle escape room challenges. Later that evening, they arrived at their hotel and went straight to bed, with many students winding down by watching Game 1 of the NBA playoff series between the Knicks and Cavaliers.

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See more photos on pages 2-5

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Who is retiring this year? See pages 6-7



Pineapple on Pizza? Page 11



Jurassic Park III 25th Anniversary Page 12



Art Exhibit Page 16

BOSTON 8TH GRADE *field trip*

By Colin Belrose, CJay Mendes
& Matthew Rosand

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Wednesday, May 20th

The next morning, the students and chaperones woke up early and traveled to Salem. There, they visited a memorial honoring the 20 people who died during the Salem witch trials and then toured the House of the Seven Gables. They also visited the Salem Witch Museum, where they learned how accusations made by a group of young girls helped spark the witch hysteria.

After a pizza party lunch, the group returned to Boston for a duck boat tour. Some lucky students even got the chance to steer the duck boat while it was in the water. Following dinner at a local mall, they visited Fenway Park and explored the area around the famous ballpark. Back at the hotel, some students spent time talking with friends in the lobby, while others played chess and Uno. Before heading to bed for their final night at the hotel, many watched Game 2 of the NBA playoff series between the Spurs and Thunder.

Thursday, May 21st

After eating breakfast at the hotel, the group journeyed to Harvard University in Cambridge. They explored the campus, took a group photo and did some shopping at the campus book store. Before they knew it, they were heading back to the train bound for New London and the ferry to Long Island. But when they got off the ferry, there was a dilemma. There were only 3 school buses for 3 groups of people. You might be saying to yourself "How is this a problem?" Well, one of those buses had to be the luggage bus! This led to one group having to wait for 30 minutes for the 4th bus to arrive, which was delayed due to traffic. After that, the students were soon back at the middle school greeting their parents. Their 3 day trip was over now. They were finally home.

We would like to thank Mrs. Scully and Mr. Spiegler for making this overnight field trip possible. We would also like to thank the chaperones who joined us. We made some great memories and had a lot of fun! Our favorite parts of the trip: Colin - Boda Borg escape room, CJay - Harvard University campus, Matthew - Boston Tea Party Museum.

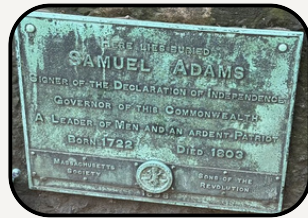
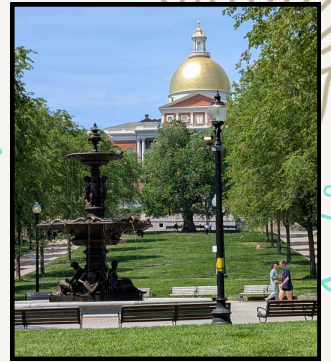
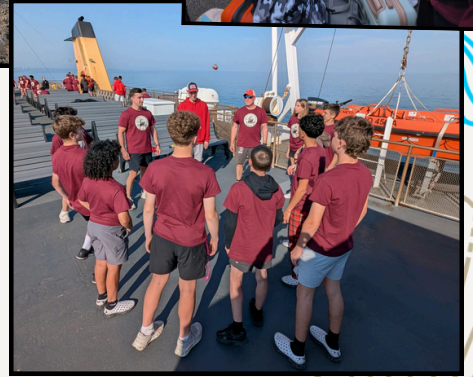
See more photos on pages
Photos by Mrs. Avella, Ms. Smith, Mr. Spiegler, Ms. Scarles



BOSTON

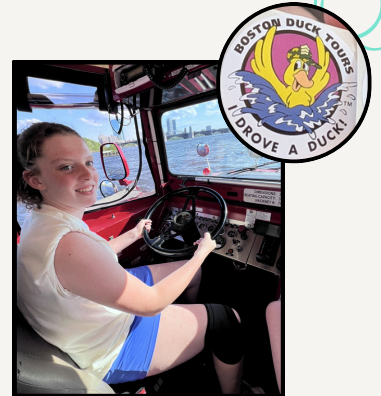
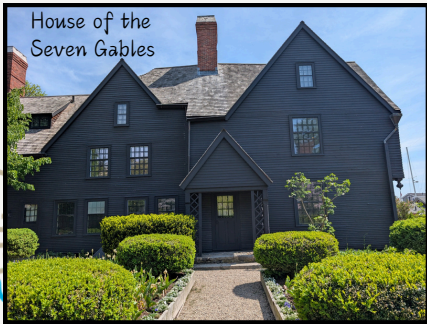
field trip

1 DAY



BOSTON field trip

2
DAY



BOSTON

field trip

3
DAY



HARVARD
UNIVERSITY



SALUTE TO RETIREES!

The EI Spotlight newspaper would like to salute these EIMS staff members who are retiring after many years of dedication to our community. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of so many students. We will miss you! Congratulations!



Señora Huether



Spanish Teacher

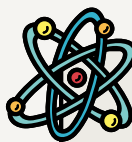
32 ½ years in East Islip

30 years at the MS

Also worked at EIHS

Future Plans:

Spending time with family & friends, relaxing on the boat, traveling, becoming a full-time real estate agent



Ms. Schlott



Science Teacher

32 years in East Islip

32 years at the MS

Future Plans:

Travel, pickleball, volunteering



Mrs. Myer



Art Teacher

29 years in East Islip

29 years at the MS

Also worked at EIHS

Future Plans:

To spend more time painting and exploring creative projects, travel, enjoy visiting my daughter at Penn State, and my son at Maritme. I am also excited to spend the winters on Sanibel Island with my husband and family.



Madame Poulis



French & Spanish Teacher

27 years in East Islip

27 years at the MS

31 years total teaching

Also worked at EIHS

Future Plans:

Triathalons, travel, books, coffee and beach



Mrs. Danz



Math Teacher

24 years in East Islip

24 years at the MS

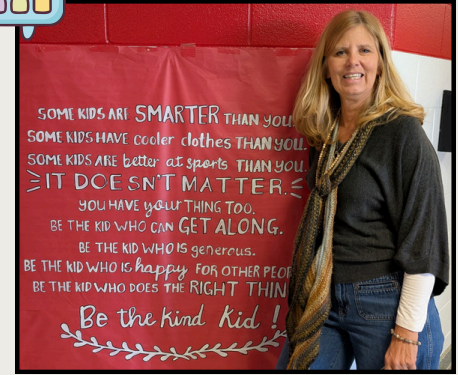
Future Plans:

Just taking it one day at a time!



SALUTE TO RETIREES continued

Mrs. Hummel



**6th Grade
Math/Science Teacher**
35 years in East Islip
20 years at the MS
Also worked at TP, JFK, RCK
Future Plans:
Snowbird in Florida



Mrs. Avella



Technology Teacher
27 years in East Islip
27 years at the MS
Future Plans:
Travel, beach, piano,
spend time with
family, watch lots of
sunrises and sunsets



Mrs. Biscardi



**Special Education
Teacher**
24 years in East Islip
3 years at the MS
Future Plans:
Beach, cooking for
family, working out,
spend time with
grandchildren, work
part-time at a law firm



Mrs. Keating



Paraprofessional
32+ years in East Islip
20 years at the MS
Also worked at TP, JFK, HS
Future Plans:
Babysit for grandson,
lots of travel



Mrs. Pilkington



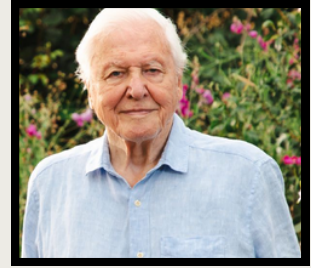
Teaching Assistant
16 years in East Islip
5 years at the MS
Also worked at TPES, CES
Future Plans:
New home in S. Carolina,
enjoy my beach chair, visit
often with family and
grandchildren on
Long Island, exercise
to stay young



Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday

By Trent Perry

Natural historian Sir David Attenborough turned 100 on May 8, 2026. He was born in 1926 in Isleworth, London, England. He is a famous documentarian, but when he started doing television, he didn't even own a TV! Though Attenborough is best known for doing documentaries on animals, there is one animal he does not like: rats.

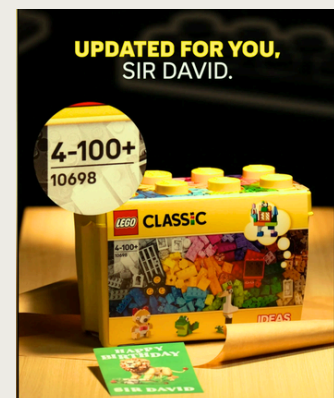


During World War II, Attenborough's parents fostered two Jewish refugee girls from Germany. He served in the Royal Navy for two years starting in 1947. Another interesting fact about his family is that Attenborough's older brother is famous filmmaker/actor Richard Attenborough (see photo to the left). Richard played John Hammond in *Jurassic Park* and *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*.

(Richard died on August 24, 2014 at age 90, 5 days before his 91st birthday). Attenborough has received two knightings, one by Queen Elizabeth II in 1985 and the second by Prince Charles in 2022. He is the only person to be knighted twice.

Sir David Attenborough won an Emmy Award in 2018 and a Peabody Award in 2014 along with other awards that are too many to list. He is the only person to have BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) Awards for Black and White, Color, HD, 3D, and 4K resolution TV. The shows that Attenborough hosted include *Life on Earth* (1979), *The Trials of Life* (1990), *The Blue Planet* (2001), *Planet Earth* (2006), *Frozen Planet* (2011), and *Our Planet* (2019).

Lego celebrated Attenborough's 100th birthday by posting a special tribute on their Instagram page. They updated the maximum suggested age for Legos from "4 - 99+" to "4 - 100+". The picture included a message that said "Updated for you, Sir David." In another birthday tribute a baby sloth at Edinburgh Zoo was named "Atty" in honor of Attenborough. This was the first sloth ever born in Scotland.



For more information on his film career, visit this link: [David Attenborough - IMDb](#).

Congratulations to the Flowerpot Contest Winners

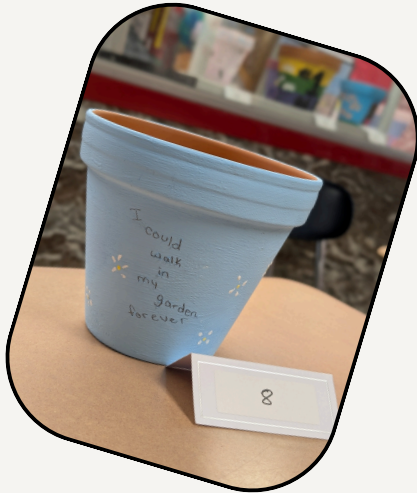
"Mom's Favorite"
Entry #8-Haylee Sherloke

"Most Original"
Entry #11-Maya Waldeck

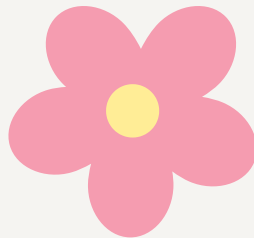
"Best Overall"
Entry #16-Brooke Frazier
Entry #29-Olivia Krivitsky



Mom's Favorite

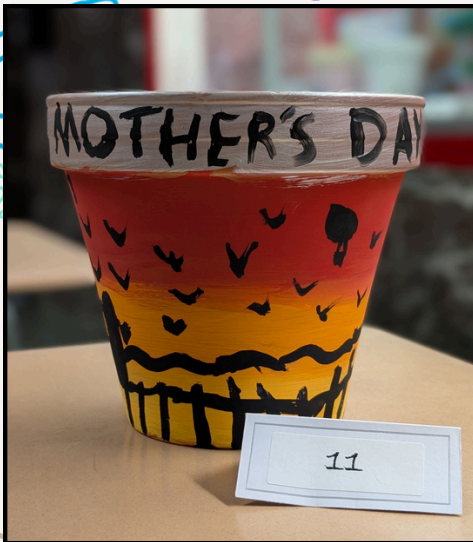


Mother's Day Flowerpot Decorating Contest

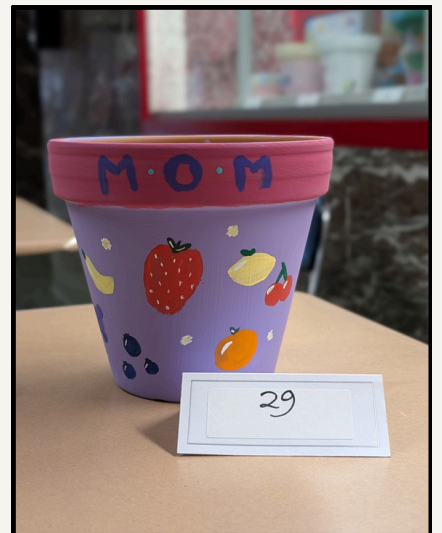
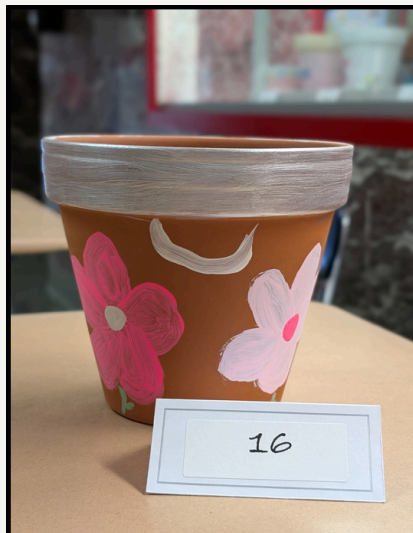


Hosted by Student Government
Mrs. Nolan, Advisor

Most Original



Best Overall



Superstar Morgan Wallen By Alexa Leek

I love country music. Do you? I know what you're probably thinking: "Absolutely not!" But I do.

Morgan Wallen is one of the biggest country music stars today. His debut album, *If I Know Me*, spent a record-breaking 114 weeks on the Billboard Top Country Albums chart and reached No. 1.

Some of his most popular songs include "Chasin' You," "Last Night," "Cowgirls," and "What I Want," featuring Tate McRae. Whether you're already a country music fan or just curious about the genre, you've probably heard at least one of Morgan Wallen's hit songs.

One reason I like Morgan Wallen is because his songs feel like a mix of pop and country to me. I also like his sound and style of singing. You should give it a listen. You might like country music too!



BUILDERS CLUB

Mrs. Nolan and the Builders Club spent time recently cleaning up the greenhouse in the courtyard.

Photos by CJay Mendes, Zoey St. John and Matthew Rosand



What is the Best Summer Treat? By Ava Pagan

We all have our favorite summer sweet treat. But which one is the best? I asked several staff members and students in our school to choose from one of these delicious, yummy choices: ice cream sandwiches, ice cream, popsicles, Icee, Slurpees, acai bowls, smoothies, Frostys, ice-pops, and last but not least, frozen yogurt. What would you choose?

BIG SHOUTOUT TO ALL THE KIDS in FACS Club and Ms. Claiborne's extra help for voting in my survey. I KEPT MY PROMISE!!

These are the results:

7 Ice cream sandwiches 🍦

1 Icee 🧊

6 Ice Cream 🍦

12 acai bowl 🍷

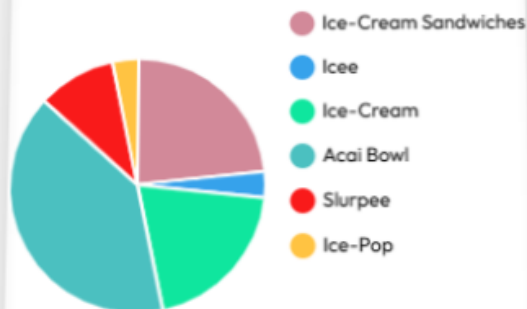
3 Slurpees 🧊

1 Ice Pop 🍦



The winner is the acai bowl! I hope you all have an AWESOME summer! Stay cool and refreshed!

EIMS Summer Treat Preferences

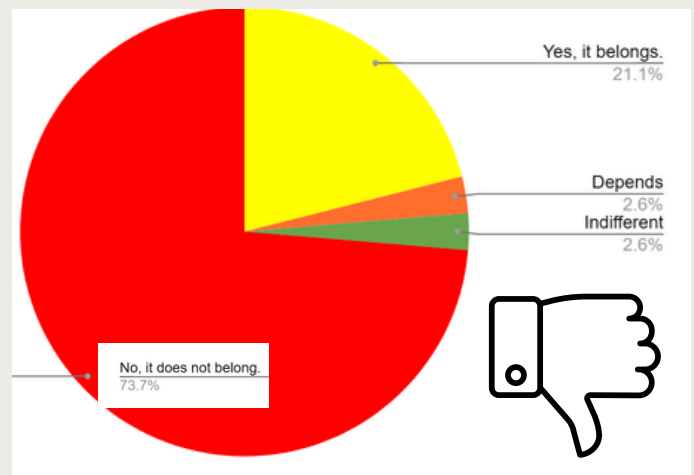


Pineapple Pizza?

By Sal Tringali, Matthew Rosand, Christopher Mendes & Zoey St. John

Have you ever heard people debate about whether or not pineapple belongs on pizza? Well people, guess what? This school also has this debate. We asked 38 students and staff members here at East Islip MS to get their opinion about pineapple pizza. See results below.

Our Poll Results





Jurassic Park III's 25th Anniversary By Trent Perry

On July 18, 2001, *Jurassic Park III* was released, the third installment of the *Jurassic Park* franchise. It earned \$368.8 million worldwide, becoming the 8th highest-grossing movie of 2001. Despite this success, it was actually the lowest-grossing film in the franchise and received mixed reviews.

The movie was directed by Joe Johnston and the special effects were made by Industrial Light & Magic (ILM) with Stan Winston and his team. The movie starred Sam Neill (Dr. Alan Grant), who was in the original *Jurassic Park* (1993). The film also starred William H. Macy (Paul Kirby), Téa Leoni (Amanda Kirby), Alessandro Nivola (Billy Brennan), Trevor Morgan (Eric Kirby), and Michael Jeter (Udesky). The film had a brief appearance by Laura Dern (who starred in *Jurassic Park* as Dr. Ellie Sattler).

Jurassic Park III takes place on the remote island of Isla Sorna (a.k.a. "Site B"), meaning "Sarcasm Island." It was first seen in *The Lost World: Jurassic Park* (1997) and is owned by the fictional company InGen. Dr. Grant and Billy agree to go to the island with the Kirbys for a sightseeing tour in exchange for money that will fund Dr. Grant's research. To find out the twist, you'll have to watch the movie yourself! The film also features the Pteranodon, Spinosaurus, Ceratosaurus, Ankylosaurus, and male Velociraptors.

The movie has also inspired toy branches and even video games. One interesting toy that came out for the movie is the 2002 JP3 Dino-Dex (it's like a Pokédex but with a dinosaur dictionary): [Dino Dex | Jurassic Toys: The Museum](#). A few video games include *Jurassic Park III: Island Attack*, *Jurassic Park III: Park Builder*, and an arcade machine called *Jurassic Park III*. Some parts of the film were in *Lego Jurassic World* (2015), and the *Jurassic World Evolution* franchise (2018, 2021, and 2026) features Isla Sorna as a buildable location.

That is your update on *Jurassic Park III*'s 25th anniversary. The movie is streaming on several services including Fandango at Home, Movies Anywhere and YouTube Movies & TV.

For more information on *Jurassic Park III*, go to this link: [Jurassic Park III \(2001\) - IMDb](#).

For more information about *Jurassic Park III* toys, go to this link: [Jurassic Park III | Jurassic Toys: The Museum](#).



Jurassic Park III's animatronic T-rex "Bull" and Spinosaurus with Stan Winston.

Sam Neill (Dr. Alan Grant) with the male Velociraptors in a scene from *Jurassic Park III*



Little Shop of Horrors

By Eleanor McRedmond

Looking for an interesting musical to watch or listen to? Well I have the perfect musical for you! *Little Shop of Horrors* is the perfect mix of an engaging storyline, catchy music that will get stuck in your head for days, and a few thrills.



Origin of *Little Shop of Horrors*

Little Shop of Horrors was originally a low budget black-and-white film, made in 1960 directed by Charles B. Griffin. Then, more than 20 years later, it became a musical. Music and lyrics were written by Alan Menken and lyrics and a book were written by Howard Ashman. The musical premiered in 1982 off-off-broadway (a theater with less than 100 seats) before moving to off-broadway (a theater with 100-499 seats) where it would run for 5 years.

In 1983, it premiered in the West End of London. In 1984 it was performed in Australia and in 1985 it was performed in Canada. Then it would be adapted into a film, directed by Frank Oz, starring Rick Moranis as Seymour, Ellen Greene as Audrey (who played Audrey in the original 1982 production and also the 1983 West End production), Levi Stubbs as the voice of Audrey II, Steve Martin as Orin Scrivello D.D.S and Vincent Gardenia as Mr. Mushnik. The film included special appearances by Bill Murray, John Candy, Jim Belushi, and Christopher Guest.

The show had a Broadway revival in 2003 and a West End revival in 2007. Then it went back to off-broadway in 2019. It is still off-broadway today at the Westside Theatre/Upstairs on 43rd St in NYC.

What is *Little Shop of Horrors*?

Little Shop of Horrors is about a nerdy florist named Seymour Krelborn. As a child, Seymour was orphaned and taken in by Mr. Mushnik, the owner of Mushnik's Florists, where he was raised. Seymour has a crush on his co-worker, Audrey, but he believes he has no chance with her because she is dating Orin Scrivello, D.D.S., a rebellious dentist. However, Seymour's luck begins to change when he buys a strange and unusual plant and starts feeding it.

Music from *Little Shop of Horrors*

Little Shop of Horrors the musical has 20 songs, 13 in the first act and 7 in the second act. The songs consist of: Prologue ("Little Shop of Horrors"), "Skid Row (Downtown)", "Da-Doo", "Grow for Me", "Ya Never Know", "Somewhere That's Green", "Closed for Renovation", "Dentist!", "Mushnik and Son", "Sudden Changes", "Feed Me (Git it)", "Now (It's Just the Gas)", "Coda (Act I Finale)", "Call Back in the Morning", "Suddenly Seymour", "Suppertime", "The Meek Shall Inherit", "Somnex/Suppertime II", "Somewhere That's Green" (reprise), "Finale Ultimo (Don't Feed the Plants)". The movie however, cuts a few of those songs and has added a few new ones including "Some Fun Now", and "Mean Green Mother from Outer Space."

Little Shop of Horrors continued

Little Shop of Horrors Movie Ending Change

The reason why some songs were cut is actually very interesting. The movie had the musical's original ending with the songs "Somewhere That's Green" (reprise) and "Finale Ultimo (Don't Feed the Plants)". However, once the movie hit theaters, the audience did not like the ending, so the director changed it to be more lighthearted. I believe that the original ending is in the director's cut version of the movie. The musical's ending never changed, keeping it true to the original script.

Little Shop of Horrors Cut Movie Ending (Spoilers!!!!)

The movie's original ending did correspond to the musical. After "Suppertime II," Audrey would be bitten by Audrey II (which does happen in the revised version) but then dies from the wounds after she sings "Somewhere That's Green" (reprise). Seymour tries getting revenge on Audrey II by trying to kill it, but ends up getting swallowed as well. The ending has a 10 minute sequence showing a bunch of Audrey II's taking over the world, some creating explosions, including one on the Statue of Liberty. It is a scene packed with thrills, showing what greed can do to people. (Not that a man-eating plant actually exists, it is rather a metaphor). The revised version of the movie ends with a cute scene of Audrey and Seymour, dressed in wedding attire, at the house Audrey daydreams about in the song "Somewhere That's Green." It pans over to their garden where the original small Audrey II plant is seen, shown grinning at the end before cutting to black. I think the original ending was better to keep since it is a tribute to the musical's ending, but that's just my opinion! (The original ending is available to watch on Youtube).

Conclusion!

The original movie from 1960 is available to stream for free on Kanopy and Hoopla. The 1986 movie is streaming on Prime Video. In conclusion, Little Shop of Horrors is a great movie and musical. I definitely recommend it to anyone who enjoys thrills, and music!

To see the off-Broadway production, visit this link:
<https://littleshopnyc.com/>





Play it Ray! By Kimberly Masaya



On September 23th, 1930, a musical genius was born, destined to be a star, break boundaries, and to be seen in the limelight. He would go down in history as one of the greatest pianists of all time. Over the course of many years, this man would become an absolute legend among his fellow musicians. Now, let's learn a bit about Ray Charles.

The Beginning: Ray was born into an impoverished family and had to face many hardships, even as a child. When he was young, he began to lose his eyesight from a disease, with complete blindness stealing the rest of his vision. Although Ray suffered through this, he stayed determined and hard-working. His mother was a major influence and offered encouragement.

A Love For Music: When Ray was young, he fell in love with music. He learned his iconic instrument (piano) at a school for blind and deaf children. He was taught many different types of music including classical, blues, and jazz. When Ray's mother tragically died, he chose to follow his dream and become a musician.

The Chance of a Lifetime: Near the end of the 1940s, Ray decided to move to Seattle to begin his music career. Eventually, he became famous for blending gospel, jazz, blues, and country music into a unique singing style. This led to the creation of soul music. Some of his greatest hits include "Hit the Road Jack," "Georgia on My Mind," and "What'd I Say." Ray's music evoked strong emotions in audiences around the world and inspired many other musicians to pursue their own careers.

Breaking Racial Barriers: Ray broke countless racial barriers during his career, even when racial discrimination was not uncommon in the U.S. He became one of the first black musicians to have complete control over his career and job decisions. One of the ways he did this was by not playing at certain places that encouraged racism.

The End: Ray continued to create music throughout his life until his death on June 10, 2004, at the age of 73. However, his impact remains strong today. Ray Charles changed lives for the better by encouraging others to follow their dreams and live the life they wanted. Although his story came to an end, his legacy continues to inspire people around the world.

Ray Charles posing
for a picture in the
mid-to-late 40's



EIMS 8TH GRADE ART EXHIBIT May 28, 2026



Our 8th graders showed their talent at the Art Show! Thanks goes out to our fabulous art teachers, Mrs. Myer and Mrs. Taylor for setting up student projects for this event. Bravo to our student musicians who performed on this evening with Chorus Club, Orchestra Club, and Jazz Band, led by Ms. Post, Mrs. Siani and Mrs. Maniscalco.



**Art photos taken by
Newspaper Club Staff
Member William Piezzo
and advisor Mrs. Avella**



Musician photos courtesy of Ms. Post and Ms. Hale

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

PART 1

Spot the Differences in the NFL logos By Matthew Rosand

I changed some NFL team logos slightly. See if you can spot the differences. See answers on page 19.



Logo One



Logo Two



Logo One



Logo Two



Logo One



Logo Two

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

PART 2

Spot the Differences in the NFL logos

See answers on page 19.



Logo 1



Logo 2



Logo 1



Logo 2



Logo 1



Logo 2



Logo 1



Logo 2



WORD SEARCH

By Katherine Li

Summer Fun!

B	W	A	T	E	R	M	E	L	O	N	S	V	B
N	E	S	E	S	E	S	O	C	E	A	N	A	S
I	G	A	L	L	L	H	H	L	E	O	M	C	B
I	P	A	C	S	W	E	N	N	G	S	E	A	O
R	O	L	I	H	S	L	M	S	A	E	D	T	N
E	O	F	S	S	E	L	T	O	S	N	S	I	F
M	L	L	P	E	S	S	S	L	N	W	U	O	I
M	P	O	O	S	S	I	I	S	I	A	E	N	R
U	E	A	P	S	A	N	D	M	H	E	D	C	E
S	I	T	G	O	L	S	M	R	M	O	E	E	E
N	C	I	N	M	G	I	E	O	E	R	R	O	R
O	A	E	S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E	N	T	M
H	M	M	S	G	U	B	I	K	E	A	A	E	S
L	P	W	S	O	S	A	A	M	C	H	E	A	T

- FLOATIE
- SWIMMING
- HEAT
- SAND
- BONFIRE
- SHELLS
- BEACH
- CAMP
- WATERMELON
- SUMMER
- SHORTS
- VACATION
- BIKE
- SUNSHINE
- SUNGLASSES
- CANOE
- OCEAN
- LEMONADE
- POOL
- POPSICLE

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/9708372/>

Answers to puzzle on page 15.

- Jets Logo: The J is smaller
- Giants Logo: The Y is shorter
- Bills Logo: One has shorter legs
- Steelers Logo: One of them says Steel
- Packers Logo: One G has a yellow ring around it
- Dolphin Logo: One Logo has a yellow ring
- Cowboys Logo: The cowboys logo has shorter tips of the start.



Staff List



Colin Belrose
Arya Brabazon
Alexa Leek
Katherine Li
Kimberly Masaya
Eleanor McRedmond
CJay Mendes
Logan Multari
Savannah Pabon
Ava Pagan
Trent Perry
William Piezzo
Matthew Rosand
Zoey St. John
Salvatore Tringali
Alaina Ulceus



EIMS Administration

Principal: Mrs. Scully

Asst. Principal: Mr. Spiegler



Newspaper Club Officers

Co-President: Kimberly Masaya

Co-President: Eleanor McRedmond

Vice President: Matthew Rosand

Co-Secretary: Katherine Li

Co-Secretary: Arya Brabazon

Design/Editing

Club Advisor: Mrs. Avella

Graphic Design: Kimberly Masaya,
Arya Brabazon, Ava Pagan



A Few Words of Farewell:

Looking back on my 27 years of teaching at EIMS, I thoroughly enjoyed being Newspaper Club advisor for the past 11 years. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the East Islip school community for its support and feedback of the school newspaper. Whether I was requesting photos, verifying facts, or seeking information, I could always count on the kindness and cooperation of so many people, and for that I am grateful.

I would also like to thank the many students who have been members of the Newspaper Club over the years. Your hard work, creativity, and dedication have helped produce a publication we can all be proud of. Working with all of you has been one of the highlights of my career.

As I turn the page to a new chapter, I look forward to reading future issues of **EI Spotlight** online and watching the newspaper continue to grow and thrive. Thank you for making these past 11 years so rewarding and memorable. Best wishes to all who will continue to keep the spotlight shining.

-Mrs. Avella, Advisor

