



THE LANCER MESSENGER

THE STUDENT NEWS
JAMES W. PARKER
MIDDLE SCHOOL

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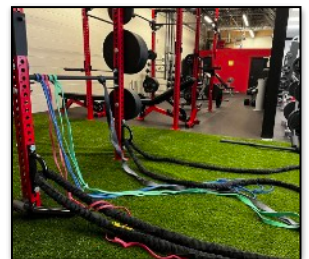
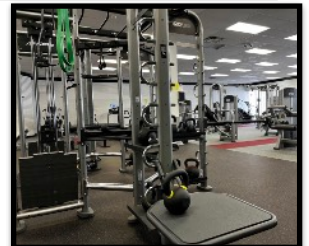
Learning from the Past
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TO SEE THE MESSENGER IN COLOR...Go to 

Boro Alt-Fitness

by Lancer Messenger Staff

The time for New Year's Resolutions has come and gone, but the drive to get physically fit is still at the forefront of many people's minds, especially with summer right around the corner. Next time you travel to the Edinboro Walmart, you will notice a new sign in one of the store-fronts: **Boro Alt Fitness**. Alt Fitness is a 24 hour gym, allowing you to scan your phone to get in any day, any time. They have free-weights, cardio equipment, machine circuits, functional training, boot camps, and athletic training focused on speed, agility and explosiveness. They also have 1,200 square feet of turf space and recently added a new deadlift platform. They recently spotlighted 8th graders, Aiden Cunningham, Caiden Holler, and PJ Mitchell to promote their upcoming Athlete Training, which starts April 1st. For more information and current pricing, you have to have your parents check them out online, since you can't sign up yourself until you are 16.



Que's Cuts

by Cian

Up-and-coming, self-taught barber Que Ferry started his barbershop, Que's Cuts, in late 2022 giving haircuts to more than a dozen clients and leaving them all happy. Que has the "passion to cut" and, in consideration of all his clients that are helping him train, is now offering haircuts for free. He specializes in whatever you need and can line you up however you want. While before he could

only do a limited number of styles, Que is currently in the midst of upgrading his supplies to truly get you whatever you want. With Que's newfound popularity from his exclusive barbershop, he's quickly getting more clients than he knows what to do with. Que plans on one day becoming a professional barber and opening Que's Cuts in the mall. Get in contact and schedule your trim up.

THE LANCER MESSENGER

Editorial Policy

Our mission is to provide a form of media, in print and online, that represents all aspects of student life. Its purpose is to present news concerning Parker Middle School as well as to provide a forum for student opinion.

It is the desire of the staff to reach every student and tell as many of their stories as possible. We invite you to share your voice with us (500 word max). The Lancer Messenger will print as many student submissions as space will allow, but also reserves the right to not print a submission. Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.

We reserve the right to edit for clarity, brevity, accuracy, spelling and grammar. All submissions are subject to laws governing obscenity, libel, privacy, and disruption of the school process, as are the contents of this paper.

Upload to lancermessenger.com.

*Opinions are not necessarily those of the staff, nor should any opinion expressed in this public forum be construed as the opinion or policy of the General McLane School Board, administration, or faculty, unless so attributed.

Lancer Messenger Staff Writers

The students of the Social Arts 6 exploratory class, along with many other guest writers throughout the school.

Advisor

Mr. Scott Hutchison

James and the Giant Peach

by Kayden Walk-Beatty

To get a school play to a place where it is performable takes a lot of time and effort. I asked some people who were in the play what they thought about performing and asked some of the audience what they thought of the play. Aubrey Sturgis stated, "It was a very fun experience to be able to express your inner self through different characters and costumes all while interacting with friends and making long-lasting friendships. It took so much effort and time out of your day, almost every day after school. It was a very time-consuming process, but I think it was worth it in the end. Many new friends have developed and everyone is like one big family through James & The Giant Peach." Ashlynn Kimmy said, "My opinion on the play is that it is very strange and unique. I knew the shows were going to be great because the whole cast had worked super hard. We've had some very difficult days, but as a team we all worked together and fixed everything. We all put in 110% effort and made that happen. I know that everyone that was in the play worked super hard. If you went to the play, you definitely saw all the hard work that was put into it." Rylee Brockman said, "It was amazing, and I'm so glad that we were able to do it. I feel like this was an amazing opportunity. There were many challenges that we overcame and lots of time spent, but in the end, it was most definitely worth it. I'm sure everyone in it would agree."

Everyone worked very hard on the play and everyone put a lot of hard work and effort into making it what it was. Everyone dedicated their time after school to make it as good as they could make it. Some high schoolers and adults would even take time away from their actual paying jobs to help with the play. They would be there daily to help the cast learn the choreography for a new song and sometimes just to watch or see how far we've come. We all had to practice, even outside of school. We made a family during rehearsals and now it's like we are all best friends and know each other super well. But, we have to stop and think. The only reason it happened was because of Mr. Steadman. Thank you, Mr. Steadman for everything! Thank You Tori and Maya for teaching us the choreography! Thank You Erie Playhouse for letting us use your costumes! This play was a success and will be an everlasting memory.



Swimming

by Bailey Caldwell

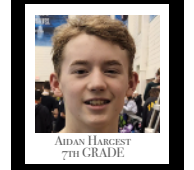
Have you ever wanted to join a swim team? Are you curious what a swim team even looks like? Although there isn't a JWPMS swim team, there are a lot of teams in the local area such as the County Blue Dolphins Swim Team, the Millcreek Swim Team Mist, as well as PWR Swim Team. But if you're looking for a team closer to McKean, the Eastside Narwhals had sign ups for the winter team March 15th. But what is so great about swimming anyway? Why do people like swimming and being on a swim team? 7th grader Nika Bosta, who is on the County Blue Dolphins team, says she likes swimming because "it is

a healthy way to let go of your emotions." Swimming is a great, relaxing sport. Katie cousins, also in 7th grade, says that she likes swimming "cause it's competitive and a self-driven sport. You don't rely on your teammates. You have to do everything for yourself and reach your own goals, not others." She brings up a great point. Unlike most sports where if your team wins everyone wins, swim teams are a little bit of both. You could win your overall event, but your team could still lose. Anna Bashline, from 7th grade, says, "I like that it's a sport where you are able to be with your team and your teammates are there for you



when you need them. They are always there to cheer you on." I think that it's really nice having your team there all the time. Swimming is a great way to make friends. 8th grader, Emma shade says, "I like that it's competitive, and I enjoy going to the meets." Swim meets are tons of fun! Swim-

ming against other kids, from other teams, with the same time goals, can push you to do your best and drop time. I think swimming is a truly amazing sport and I think everyone should experience it.



Phobias and Anxieties

by Braelin Fiscus

Phobias and anxiety have just about one thing in common; you get really scared. I didn't know much about phobias and anxiety, so I asked Mrs. Swanseger to give me some more info. She says, "A phobia is caused by a bad situation with the object or a panic attack with the object in mind. For example, when you were younger, and you got bit

by a dog, you might develop a phobia of dogs. Phobias are when you are scared of something in particular, where anxiety is an inside feeling that isn't caused by one particular thing."

If this is something you think you might be struggling with, there are ways you can get help. You can talk to your parents, teachers, or connect

with our school's Student Assistance Program, also known as SAP. This connects you with counselors or other resources to guide you toward overcoming your phobia, anxieties or any other things you are trying to overcome. If you or a friend could benefit from this support, reach out to Mrs. Swanseger or Mr. Simmons for more info.



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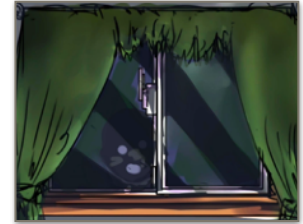
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You and your family can follow us on Instagram for instant student news:
[@lancer_messenger](https://www.instagram.com/lancer_messenger)

ART CONTEST RESULTS

by Ava Kramer

Attention JWPMS! The results for the art contest are in! Thank you for submitting your art to the Lancer Messenger! We would like to give a big congratulations to our winners!

Finally, for our object competition. **Sydney Shepard** won first place, and Rosslyn Donaldson was the runner up.



Congratulations to our three winners, runners up, and to everyone who submitted their art!

This concludes the art contest, and we hope to have more art contests in the future!



Starting off with our people category we have **Lilly Bechtel** as our first place winner, and Maria Carruci as our runner up/second place.

For the animal category, we have **Baya Hayes**, who took that first place spot, and Jason Ramey as the runner up.



Higher Math

by Jay Ramey

I'm sorry to inform you, but learning higher levels of math is important. I know, I know. I can already hear some people whining about how worthless higher level math is, but I am here to tell you that it's essential. Firstly, math is about more than just math. It's more about teaching you HOW to think. At its core, math is about learning to follow steps to solve problems. Mathematics is a practice of learning information and methodology and using it to make creative so-

lutions to problems. That skill is one of the most vital in the world. This is the most basic of logical processing. Without logical reasoning, people become closed minded and become no more than animals. Logical reasoning is what separates humans from animals. Without it, we become mere servants to the people who have that thinking. Math is what makes us able to fend for ourselves.

Math is vital.



RoboBots

by Lancer Messenger Staff

On Saturday, March 25th, the Parker Middle School RoboBots team competed against 25 other teams in a bot match to the death. Mr. Moats met with the team after school over the past few month, designing and engineering their battle bot. The team consisted of Will Conover, Jake Strick, Madeline Marazza, Will Knotts, Connor Zin-

del, Makade Filson, Bobby Trettel, and Thomas Carpenter. Their bot lasted through multiple rounds, until it got shredded by another bot in their last match. They ended up earning 5th place in the competition, which was televised nationally. Congratulations to Mr. Moats and the entire RobotBots team!



Grade Satisfaction

by Lillian Bechtel

As we close out another quarter, grades are on many students' minds. They start calculating how many points they need on that last project to bump up to the next letter grade or maintain that A. In contrast, we have groups of students who are satisfied with the status of their grades. Satisfaction is different for everyone. Satisfaction could be getting everything turned in and having straight A's, but could also exist in a different form. Satisfaction is a personal reflection on how people view themselves and what is important to them. Some people really don't care about grades. Be-

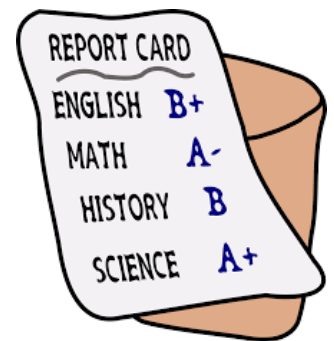
tween extracurricular activities or things going on at home, some people fall behind on academics, but are okay with that. I can understand this perspective to an extent, but some of the work people have piled up is ridiculous.

I have always enjoyed having straight A's. It makes me feel good having that weight off my shoulders. Personally, having A's and B's is not that hard, but I can understand how some people might have learning disabilities or just struggle with learning. In my opinion, I see many people who simply don't try. 6th grader Bowen Rock

explains, "People have bad grades because they don't finish their work in class, and they don't finish it at home." He also states that he is satisfied with his straight A's. On the contrary, 6th grader, Brian Madara says, "I'm satisfied with my three As and one B, and I feel like the reason people have bad grades is they don't put their full effort into things, or they don't care about school that much."

We are in middle school. We still have quite a few more years left in our K-12 career. Do those satisfied with lazy routines need to get it together, or will they find their niche in high

school and thrive in their own way? Will the "Straight A" kids get burned out and overly stressed with the pressures to be the best, or will their good work habits and attitudes launch them into success? Time will tell.



School Lunch Review

by Ava Youngs

I'm sure we've all had our ups and downs with school lunch before, but what exactly do your peers think about it? To find a response to that question I walked around JWPMS and asked people their opinions on the school lunch.

First, I asked 6th grader Kaylie Clark **if she thinks the school is giving enough nutrients to the students.** She replied, "Yes, I do think they are because they offer us a bunch of different kinds of fruits and vegetables and they provide a healthy meal for the kids everyday."

6th grader, Kyleigh Rezeski was asked: **Do you think the school lunch is giving enough options for the students?**

She answered, "I feel like they have enough options but they don't give enough choices for people with certain allergies. They only give salads for the 'healthy' alternative option." Kyleigh's friend added, "I agree with Kyleigh, but I feel if you have certain allergies and the cafeteria doesn't have any options for you, you should have a lunch packed just in case." I then asked 6th grader Amber Rowe **if she thinks that people**

with allergies have enough options. She explained, "I believe that the cafeteria gives just as many options for people with allergies. For example, people with gluten allergies get multiple choices of salads everyday. The cafeteria also offers some non-gluten items besides salads, too. And for other allergies, they are given multiple choices of sandwiches as well." The last person I interviewed was Grace Rolick from 5th grade. I asked her **if she thinks half an hour is long enough for lunch.** She responded, "Yes, because we

have time to talk with our friends and a lot of time to eat and maybe even some extra time at the end to just sit."

It seems that at least the 5th and 6th graders are content with the school lunch. The general consensus being that there are enough options and nutritional value in the school lunches.

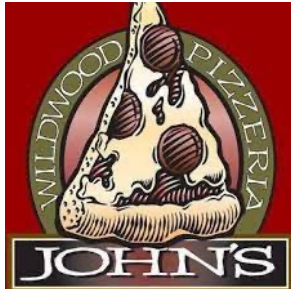


Best Pizza Toppings

by Jackson Revell



We have Norman's, John's, Charlies, Crossroads, Sheetz, Meekers, Country Fair. Any of these might be your "GO-TO" place to get a pizza. Which one is best? That's a debate you can have at your lunch table. For this spot in the Lancer Messenger, we wanted to collect some thoughts on another popular topic: Pizza Toppings.



Jack Reynard
PEPPERONI

"I like original toppings and not experimental ones. Although, anything but pineapple is okay with me."



Shane Kehl
PEPPERONI

"I like...and only like...pepperoni on my pizza."



Winston Gast
PEPPERONI & PINEAPPLE

"I think it just tastes better than just pepperoni or just pineapple by themselves."

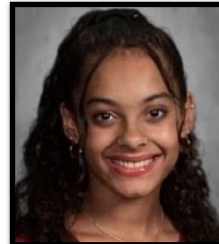


Bryce Rock
PEPPERONI

"I like it on my pizza because it's my favorite!"



Julia Rolick
PEPPERONI & MOZZARELLA
CHEESE with PARMESAN



Lilian Joyce
CHEESE
"It's simple and tasty."



Baya Hayes
CHEESE
"It adds flavor to the pizza and is a very classic topping. Many people see it as a part of the pizza, but it is a topping because it is on the top of the pizza."



Ty Carroll
PINEAPPLE
"It pops with flavor!"

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE TEACHER?

by Greyson Sayers

While there are some commonalities in students' favorite teachers, it seems that many students have a different favorite teacher. This shows how separate teaching styles can appeal to a range of students. If you have a favorite teacher, you should send them an email and let them know. Remember, they put in a lot of time and hard work for you. Let them know it makes a difference.



Jay Ramey

Teacher: "Mr. Frick He always was very engaged in teaching, flexible with lessons, and enjoyable to learn from."



Magie Vogt

Teacher: "My favorite teacher is Mr. Bookhamer. He made his STEAM class really fun with activities, so it wasn't boring."



Andrew Long

Teacher: "Mr. Sturgess because he makes science fun, and he gives us a lot of opportunities to learn more."



Jacob Williams

Teacher: "My favorite teacher is Mrs. Stonis because she tries to make topics fun, and she gives us fair deadlines and free time."



Chase Behnke & Ella Cunningham

Teacher: "Mr. Hutch because he is so welcoming." -Chase
"My favorite teacher is Mr Hutch because he is really funny and is a good teacher." -Ella



Maya Hutchison

Teacher: "Mr. Triola because we get to do K'Nex and he's easy going and nice."



Madison Hadlock

Teacher: "My favorite teacher is Mrs. Massey because she lets us eat in her class, and the work isn't that hard."



Garret May & Avery Douth

Teacher: "My favorite teacher is Mr.Scott because he is always nice and gives candy out."- Garret
"Mr. Scott because he is very understanding, and I think the way he teaches is interesting." -Avery



Katelyn Hammond

Teacher: "Mr. Simmons because his work isn't that hard and he is really nice."



Weston Lybrook

Teacher: "I'd pick Mr. Jahn because he is always so nice and is really funny."

Letter to the Editor

What is a Letter to the Editor?

A letter to the editor is a message you write to a newspaper or other publication to share your view on a current issue you feel is important. Any students can submit a Letter to the Editor to Mr. Hutch as a Schoology message.

Dear Lancer Messenger,

Many eighth graders have been misinformed when it comes to class elections. Contrary to what many people, including myself, have been saying, the student council elections for freshman year will not happen until the beginning of the 2023-'24 school year.

The reason for the confusion goes back to last year when high schoolers spoke with the class of 2026. The then eighth graders misinterpreted the information that was given to them and started hanging up election posters that we then saw which in turn planted a false idea of when the campaigning started that was never corrected. While the six-month setback to the supposed start of the election is disappointing it may also provide the opportunity to weed out those who are just "doing it for the memes" as some clearly unintelligent individuals have put it. The people that think themselves amusing for running a dead-end campaign do nothing but waste time and resources during their feeble attempt to gain approval. It seems that attention is the only cause for one with no arguable reason to run for president to do so. As it is the people who would self-identify themselves as "popular" that have gone so long with so much attention that it no longer fulfills their growing need for the admiration of others that keeps their self-esteem high enough to make another misogynistic or racist joke. All that leads them to seek another form of approval that they are no longer being granted by their hollow friends and parents: running a baseless campaign. One that possesses even the most basic understanding of logic could see that those who do not have a legitimate reason to run for class president shouldn't. It sounds simple, but, as there always will be, some people don't track the reasoning.

For those who are unaware, I will be running for class president next fall as there are many problems that need to be addressed. I have recently found when you ask a teacher to explain their reasoning for a questionable decision they, more often than not, do not have any. Teachers think that just because they have a "Mr." or "Ms." in front of their name they deserve respect instead of having to earn it like everyone else. They have come to make unreasonable, split-second decisions that they can't even defend when questioned. This is a blanket statement and while it does not relate to all teachers it is the few that make life harder for students than it needs to be. Taking from one of my recent exchanges with a teacher, I was asking for an explanation of a decision I did not understand. They would not provide one. They just kept repeating what they had said earlier. Even when I gave an idea that would resolve the situation they wouldn't consider anything that wasn't their idea. While there were flaws in my argument and it certainly wasn't the best way to handle the discussion on my part, I knew what they were trying to do when I received a pink slip with nothing on it but my name and their signature. There was no written explanation of what had transpired. They simply wanted to try to assert where we fell in each other's respective power dynamics. This is what I currently plan on addressing with my presidency: to place students and teachers on more equal playing fields so things are not so one-sided. Currently teachers see it as disrespectful when their decisions are questioned. While there are a few students with ill-intent, the claim of disrespect is a generalization that is also placed onto students asking innocent questions.

We can't change how the teachers choose to see our side but we can change how we provide our skepticism and make it harder for them to argue against our point and easier to find holes in their own. We do not have to be outright respectful but rather more constructive with the given criticism than judgmental and accusatory.

I plan on doing much more with my presidency but as of now everything I say would be an empty promise until I learn of every responsibility I am to have and the limits of what I will be able to accomplish.

Cian for President

A Focus on Fashion

by Melanie Russell, Ellason Kibbe,
& Lilly Bechtel

What is your look? When you wake up in the morning, do you choose to make a statement or blend in? Brighter colors or darker colors. Patterns or solids? Whatever you choose to wear is up to you, but is it clear why you choose to wear it? I mean, it could be because everyone else is wearing it, but in my opinion that's pretty boring. Fashion is like art. It is an assembly of colors and patterns, but it also has meaning to you and is a portrait of yourself and your world. The most important thing about what you wear is what it brings to the person you are. All people are beautiful.



A model is typically a stereotype of conventionally attractive people, but in reality, the people who do fashion for a living are the same as you and me. One thing is for sure, they never let their uniqueness bring them down. For example, Chantelle Whitney Brown has a skin condition similar to Michael Jackson, which causes patches of darker and lighter skin. She is an example of somebody who uses clothes to bring out what makes her beautiful. Nobody should hide the things that make them stand out whether it's a birthmark, big eyes, long arms, etc. Fashion is something you use to make others see your beauty. Paint the picture you want others to see.



Sometimes we try to fit in by changing our clothes to what the current style is now.

people who are at home are their true selves. That's what you should be at school. Basically, be yourself.

Whenever you change your style it is changing your personality. Most people won't like you for you if they don't know who you are. Some people's personalities are the current style but most are not. For instance, the way you dress at home is way different than the way you dress at school. Most

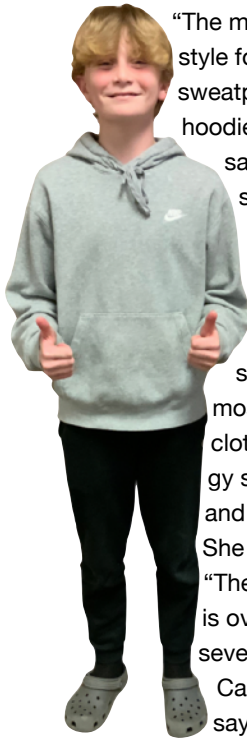
We got some opinions to see what the most common styles of clothing are, and what styles are the worst. In 6th grade, Kaylie Clark says, "The most common style of clothing for girls is Jordan's, hoodies, leggings, oversized shirts, and jeans." She says that the worst style of clothing is baggy.

Also in sixth grade, Logan Radtke says,

Continued on p.10



A Focus on Fashion ...continued



“The most common style for boys is sweatpants and hoodies.” Logan says the worst style is jeans. In seventh grade, Mackenzie Chernicky said, “The most popular clothes are baggy sweatpants and crop tops.” She also said, “The worst style is overalls.” In seventh grade, Call Bridger says, “The most common style is crocs, sweatpants and tee shirts.” He says the worst style is “dressy



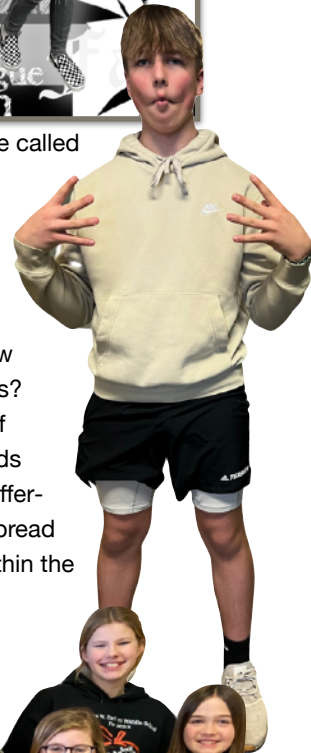
clothes.” In 8th grade, Ashley Cummings states, “The most common style is leggings and a shirt.” She thinks the worst style are outfits that are “very showy.” Ben Spagnolo, also in 8th grade, states, “The most common style for boys are Air Forces and the worst style is blue jeans.”



favorite pair of Crocs. This trend pulls in comfort and fashion. You can see girls of all grades making this statement. Daring DressCode Benders walk into school wearing baby tees, crop tops, spaghetti straps, and short shorts. This fashionable rebellion is against our school’s dress code, but is still a trend that is climbing.



Would it be called “sagging below” when your boxer briefs hang below your shorts? While all of these trends are very different they spread like fire within the school.



Well the trends are setting in at JWPMS. One trend I think is so cute is wearing long white socks over leggings with your

We are also seeing a trend in 8th grade, which hasn’t really established a name yet.



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[@lancer_messenger](https://www.instagram.com/lancer_messenger)

Wrestling

by Jack Hromyak

General McLane Wrestling is one of the longest running programs in the district. In the Edinboro Youth Wrestling club, kids start at the lower level, novice. Then, particularly after 2 years, they move to the higher wrestling level of advanced. Once you go into 7th and 8th grade, you will start wrestling for General McLane.

At the middle school level, 7th/8th have at least 15 wrestlers in the program. Edinboro Youth Wrestling has about 100 kids, both novice and advanced.

When a wrestler goes to a tournament, they have to weigh in right after they get to the location they're wrestling at. The wrestlers warm up with their team and then have an app or paper to see when they're wrestling. They have breaks in

between and can use the restroom and find their teammates or family and take a break.



JWPMS has a lot of the top wrestlers in the state. Including, but not excluded to, Josh Caro, Seth Mulligan, Lukas Kuffer, Graedy Sharp, Bo Hess, Brennan Karotko, Jason Dube, Mason McDonald, Luke Gray, Runa Caldwell, and Ava Williams.

One of the new additions to our wrestling program this year is girls wrestling. In my opinion, I think girls wrestling is great because it brings more girls into a sport that is engaging, active, enjoyable, and a great

sport. When I spoke to Coach Adam, he said, "I think wrestling is a great sport for



both girls and boys." He explained how it is good for kids physically and mentally. It also teaches kids how to problem solve, overcome obstacles, and stay disciplined. "These are things apply in any culture, and any gender, boy or girl."



Mt. Pleasant Program

by Ella Cunningham

For many years, JWPMS students have been going to Mount Pleasant after school. This year, even though we didn't get much snow, we were still able to go skiing and snowboarding. Overall, I think this year was successful, with about 120 students who attended between Thursday and Friday. I interviewed students who went this year to get their thoughts on the program.

I asked each student the same question: **What day did you go and what was your favorite part?**

5th grader Jacob Williams said, "I went on Friday and it was enjoyable to have a bunch of people you know to ski with." Parker Young, in 6th grade, went on Thursdays, and his favorite part was the jumps. 7th grader, Zoe Shaw said, "[I went] Saturday and

enjoyed learning to do new things." Finally, I have two 8th graders who have been doing this program for a while now. Brennan Karotko said, "I really like going on Friday because I get to be with my friends and not have to worry about the next day of school, so I can stay there till I want." Also, Vanessa Bennett states, "I went on Fridays every week and my favorite thing about it is that

everyone is so welcoming and helpful. It's fun to be there and spend time with friends from school."

From all of this, I think we can definitely say that, although we didn't have the best winter for skiing and snowboarding, many people still had fun going to Mount Pleasant with their friends.



Camp Fitch

by Abigail Mischler

Many students remember their trip to Camp Fitch as a wonderful experience and probably one of the best field trips that they have ever had. So what did our fifth graders think of their trip, did the seventh graders get over the fact that they didn't get to go, and what was the eighth graders' overnight experience like?



First, we asked a few fifth graders this question: **What was your favorite activity at Camp Fitch and why?** We got many different answers. While Alexis Shingledecker said, "I loved rock climbing because it made me feel safe. It was great!" Chase Burkhardt said, "My favorite activity was ax throwing, because I stuck an ax into a stump." Cara May's favorite thing was the horses, "Horses were my favorite because I got to ride and pet them." Another favorite activity was explained by Jonah Porter. He said that Archery was his favorite because it was fun to aim.

Now, as fun as hearing the 5th graders favorite activities is, let's go to the seventh graders and hear what they have to say about missing Camp Fitch. We asked Freddie Cooke and Rylee Brockman how they felt about missing Camp Fitch. Both of their answers being, "I was pretty upset about missing out on Camp Fitch. I was really looking forward to going, and I knew it was a very different experience from most field trips."

The 8th graders were the last class to be able to sleep overnight as they went in 2019, right before Covid. We asked them what it was like sleeping over at Camp Fitch. Naomi Jacobitz said, "It was really fun. The counselors were fun as well as the activities. People would often sneak into each other's bunks." William Conover said, "It was fun and a new experience. It was different from normal." Cian Shepherd added, "It wasn't bad aside from



everything being frozen and the few kids that wouldn't take a shower."

Going to Camp Fitch has been a tradition at JWPMS for over 30 years. Thank you to the high school counselors for helping make this trip possible every year. We hope the fifth graders had a great trip to Camp Fitch and this tradition can continue year after year.



Dress Coded

by Ellie Kibbe

Dress code. It is a single standard containing dressing standards that students must follow. What you are and aren't allowed to wear at school should be up to you, right? Throughout the decades, the same dressing standards have proceeded; girls wear dresses and skirts, and boys wear pants and shirts. We have evolved from those stereotypes. Now girls can wear whatever they want, but not in school. This is where the rules are different.

Do not show your shoulders.
Do not show your stomach.
Do not show your knees.
YOU are DISTRACTING.

Let's lay it all out. These rules aren't for everyone. They are discriminating against girls. Boys are not distracted. They do not care. WE are not being inappropriate. The fact is that we simply want to be comfortable. Yes, I agree that there should be some standards. Some things should be cautioned and frowned upon. There are boundaries and circumstances that a majority of people do agree with, but sometimes the policy makers are going too far. Whoever is creating the "cover up" policy

is embracing the idea that people should hide their skin and their personal preference of clothing choice.

These restrictions create a perception that girls are not beautiful, and that what they are wearing dictates their personality. If you dress like THAT, you aren't a good person. I'm writing this as an awareness. 93% of schools in the U.S have dress codes, which means 93% of schools are encouraging sexist ideas to the female population. You can think I'm wrong, you can call this stupid and dramatic, or you can be the change. This school can be a place that encourages everyone to be comfortable with themselves.

Let's create appropriate boundaries instead of commands that stifle comfort and our display of personality. Be a place that is learning from the past, and growing into an accepting future. We can be a part of that 7% that embraces the idea that creating a unique image of yourself can be positive. This is not an article, it is a campaign to be a more self-empowering school district. Create your image.

Martin Luther King, Jr.- "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter".

Dumb
Reasons
Excluding
Stupid
Standards
Concerning
Ones
Dressing choice
Especially females
Disgraced for distracting
male population



LEGO Robotics

 by Lancer Messenger Staff

We have some talented students who are crushing it in robotics this year. In the 7th grade Robotics class, taught by



Hutch, we had 9 students who participated in the LEGO Robotics competition, winning a 1st place trophy and 5th place.

They had to design their robot, engineer all their attachments, and code it to autonomously move through the competition table and complete as many missions as possible.

Their 1st place win was for their Innovation Project. They designed a dynamic turbine that would be embedded into the

supports of bridges within rivers. They even met with engineers from a Hydro-electric dam in Washington State to get advice on their design.



Group Punishments

by Sophie Rosenthal

I'm sure you can relate to that frustrating circumstance when one or two people in the class are misbehaving (insert name...cough..cough) and the teacher punishes the entire class. We call this group punishments. I went around Parker Middle School and asked some students what they thought about this authoritative decision.

Kasen Chelton, a fifth grader said, "I think the person that did the thing should get punished, not the whole group." Sixth grader Courtney Goodwill agreed, saying, "It's not all of the students' faults. It is one or two of the students' faults." Sixth grader, Bailey Caldwell brought up a good point about why everyone shouldn't be

punished. "I think that it's unfair because you shouldn't be punished for something you didn't do."

A couple months ago, a large number of students experienced a group punishment in the North Cafeteria. The 6th graders were guided to leave a mess to teach the 8th graders a lesson about cleaning up after themselves. Without being there, we can only assume that not all the 8th graders were leaving a mess, but that it was a select amount of tables. I spoke to some eighth graders to see if they were angry with the sixth graders and how they felt about that display of group punishment. Madison Hadlock explained that she is not angry with the sixth

graders. She understands that they were told to leave the mess. Nicholas Schwab seemed to agree with Madison, explaining that the monitor made the wrong decision and that the sixth graders were just doing what they were told to do. Even though the administration did take care of this situation later, about half of the eighth grade students still experienced the consequences of group punishment that day.

As I thought, most people agreed that group punishments are unfair and should not be given. So next time there is something wrong, look a little closer at who is causing the problem, instead of making everyone suffer the consequences.



8th Grade Dinner Dance

by Juliet Mikulcik

Each year, the 8th graders continue the long-standing tradition of an 8th Grade Dinner Dance. The theme was decided on by the 8th Grade Student Council, which is made up of representatives, who speak for the grade. They decided on a Masquerade theme with black, gold, and red. The dance will take place from 6-9 on May 19th in the Middle School cafeterias. The event is free to all 8th grade students. The cost is covered by the grade-level's student activity fund.

The night begins with a red-carpet walk to the south cafeteria as they prepare for a fancy dinner of steak, chicken, or a vegetarian option. They also cater to other various allergies. The cafeteria will be all decorated with the theme in mind and all the attendees will be in full drip. Some 7th graders will be dressed up as well, since

they act as servers for the dinner. 8th graders will get to pick their table and who is with them in advance, so they know where they'll be sitting. During dinner, you listen to music and visit with your friends. There is also a slideshow of photos of 8th graders now and when they were little. After dinner, everyone goes to the other cafeteria, where there is a DJ and dancing. Another thing you may want to know is who will be overlooking the dance and what you are allowed to wear. The teachers are who volunteer to work the dance. They have a big team that meets each month to prepare for the dance and many of that team will be there that night as well. However, these are not just 8th grade teachers. They are any teacher that wants to help.

Students can dress up however they would like as long as it's appropriate. Many guys tend to wear dress pants and a

casual dress shirt. Many girls tend to wear dresses or other fun outfit ideas. Girls, and guys for that matter, can't show that midriff, but you can still dress to impress, or simply dress to have a good time.

Keep an eye out for the permission slip, which will outline more details. Most importantly, have a great time making a wonderful memory!



Relationships

by Ava Marino



The question of whether middle schoolers should be able to date is something that is constantly argued with parents. On one hand, you could be able to learn what a relationship is like for the future, but on the other it may distract you from school or sports. We asked multiple people from each grade their thoughts on middle school relationships in order to get a general consensus of what the school thinks.



Olivia Ponsoll (5th)

"I think they're okay as long as it isn't anything serious."



Sonny Washburn (7th)

"I believe that dating before eighth or ninth grade is not as serious as after those grades."



Gwenna Gast (8th)

"7th grade should be the lowest grade [to date]. Middle school relationships are not serious but you learn things for the future."



Cian Shepherd (8th)

"I don't care. Do whatever you want."



Olivia Jackson (6th)

"Middle school relationships can be a good thing and some can be bad; it just depends if you are compatible."



Barbara Martone (6th)

"I think they are okay, and I think it just depends on what your middle school choices are."



Drew Curtis (6th)

"I think they are ok. I just think maybe we are a little too young."

It seems that people think it is fine to start dating in middle school and some think middle schoolers are too young to date. In the end, you decide whether or not you should be in relationships, but be prepared to accept the pros and/or cons of that choice.

Discussion Break

It is common for middle schoolers to greet each other in the halls, as they enter class, and all throughout the day in the hallways. The question arises then, which is the best way to greet your middle school peer? Is one way better than the others or more in-style at the moment. You decide!

- Fist Bump
- High Five
- The hands coming together into a nice POP sound....What is this greeting even called?????
- "Dab me up" or is it actually called, "Dap me up?"
- Formal handshake
- Chest bump?
- Classic hug

Fictional Books

by Emily Munro & Sophie Smith

Most people think that fiction books are only there for entertainment and that if you really want to learn something, pick up a good nonfiction book or encyclopedia. Well, we believe that fiction books do have something more to offer than entertainment. If you think about the differences between fiction and nonfiction, your mind might immediately land on the belief that you can learn from nonfiction books but not fiction ones. However, it might not be that way.

I personally read a lot of fiction books and think I've gotten better vocabulary from it. I've also generally gotten a little better at writing, I believe, from picking up techniques and ideas from reading. If it's realistic fiction, then you could learn about real life problems. We know that historical fiction can teach things too. All the events in a historical fiction book are based on real events. You can even relate to the characters and know what it was like to live during that time in history. We think that even fantasy books can teach things. Just because there's dragons or unicorns in a book doesn't mean there aren't any learning opportunities. If the book is at or maybe slightly above your reading level, you could even expand your vocabulary and learn new words or some grammar.

To get an expert opinion on this topic, we went down to the library and interviewed the librarians for their opinions on this

topic. We asked them both, **"Can you learn anything from fictional books?"**

Ms. Jen:

"Absolutely! Fiction books allow the reader to experience characters' innermost thoughts. This can help readers connect to characters and help them feel less alone in their own thinking."

Mr. Bookhamer:

"100%! Narrative Nonfiction has recently become one of my favorite genres to read along with historical fiction. The author gives you the chance to step into the main characters' lives and learn about history in a movie-like setting. I love the fact that fiction books give you as a reader a chance to see yourself and make connections like a mirror, give you a window into someone else's life, or act like a door for the reader to step into someone else's shoes and feel the way they are feeling. There is so much to learn from a great fiction book!"

If you look hard enough, you can find some valuable information in any fiction story. Some fiction books contain morals or lessons, and others have real facts incorporated.

Six Flags & Kennywood

by Alexis Kinnear

Every grade had their field trips announced for the school year. The 8th graders used to go to Washington DC for more than one day, but with everything going on lately such as inflation and COVID, the school decided to stop field trips to Washington DC. So the 8th graders get a different field trip which is just as fun. They get to go to Six Flags, Darien Lake!

The 8th graders are attending Six Flags on June 2, 2023, leaving as soon as they get to school and returning well into the evening. The money for this trip was earned with a fundraiser through Staganelli's from Feb 15th - March 1st. Students also had the option to just send a check to pay the \$110 for the trip. The permission slip and money needed to be submitted by March 15, 2023, so be prepared 8th graders! Some of you might be behind on your payment at this point! The 8th graders did get to vote on a shirt color to wear at Six Flags. They decided on red, but the design has not been revealed yet. The students will be accompanied by every 8th grade teacher, unless they choose to stay behind.

Now onto the details about what everyone will actually do! Every 8th grader will be given money by the school to buy food, drinks, and for anything else they want. They can bring their own money too if they want to buy other things or more food while they are there. Next, the rides! Anyone can go onto any ride they want and explore the park with their friends. The teachers will be

all over the park, but not with any specific group. The big rule is that each 8th grader just needs to be with their friend group. Another perk to this trip is that they get access to that water park! Every ride is available to them! For those people who don't like riding things and don't want to get wet, you are free to just hang out at the park too and chow down on food.

8th grader, Aryanna Giannamore expressed that she is really excited for the trip and that it will be a lot of fun. Gabe McAdoo said that he plans to ride a really tall ride and scream.

It is apparent that every 8th grader is excited for the trip and lots of memories are going to be made.

Additionally, 7th grade will be going to Kennywood Amusement Park on June 6th. They will get spending money and be able to explore the park all day with their friends.

Both trips will provide students with a shared experience that will last a lifetime. We all hope you have a great time!



Social Problems

by Lancer Messenger Staff

As publishers of people's thoughts and passions, we sometimes come across perspectives that might be a little edgy; an idea that pushes the boundaries of what we typically hear or experience on a daily basis. These types of articles can be fun to read because they are more radical than the norm, but they can also stir people's emotions to a point of chaos.

In all aspects of life, you will run into individuals that have passionate opinions. How you choose to listen and respond to those opinions is up to you. Is there a right and wrong way to respond? *That* is up to you to learn and think about. Are there opinions that shouldn't be shared in the first place? Again, that's a great conversation for you to have with your friends and family. Sometimes, reading a more edgy piece allows us the opportunity to really read the author's words carefully, interpreting their thinking and experiences that led to the particular viewpoint and authorship. Some may view that as a gift, others may view it as a curse if it sparks too many unmanageable feelings.

Entrepreneur, Gary Vaynerchuk said, "Your legacy is being written by yourself." In life, we will always be bombarded with moments that force us to make decisions; some easy and some hard. Ultimately, you always have a choice that is yours to own. Which one will you make?

Snow Days or Online

by Cole Gehner

I was wondering what people's opinions were on having a Snow Day versus an Online learning day. I had a conversation with people in each grade of our middle school and their responses were extremely surprising.

5th grader, Kaitlyn Androstic thought online was better because there would be extra days off later in the year and there

would be no extra work. Maxton Spence, who is also a 5th grader said, "Probably a snow day because the alternative would mess up my schedule." The last 5th grader, Caden Roth stated, "I would rather have an online day because then we don't have to come in for an extra day." People have very strong opinions on both sides, even if they don't agree on it.

6th grader, Nick Salvatore wrote, "I would want an online day so we don't have another day added to the school year." Charlize Gerlach, of the 6th grade said, "I would rather have a snow day because online is very stressful and a snow day would be a lot easier to have than online." I started to see a pattern by now that about half of the people were voting

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Snow Days or Online

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for snow day and the other half were supporting online days. From 7th grade, Haeven Sedler said, "Snow days because I like to build snowmen with my dad." 7th grader, Eric Lawrence wanted online days because he gets to do school in the comfort of his home and he can eat during class whenever he wants. At this point I was really surprised that so many people actually wanted online days.

8th grader Maeve Lloyd said, "Snow days are great and they are nice breaks from the stress school brings but.. online days keep our work on track and don't throw off our schedule therefore we don't have to make up work later. If I ultimately think one is better I would say online but I

still would rather prefer snow days." Leona Eimers, an 8th grader, stated, "Online days, for sure, because then you just have to do your work and check in with zoom calls instead of extra full school days, and you still get freedom." I found that these notes started to sway me back and forth because I can see both the pros and cons of either side.

6th grade teacher, Mrs. Lindenberger, said online days are best because she likes staying at home, not having to make up another day. You also get to do your work in the comfort of your own home. Mrs. Spencer said, "I used to love snow days prior to when we had iPads and technology. Since we now have online

capabilities, I actually like that we can still teach/learn on a snowy day versus losing a day later in the year. On the flip side, who doesn't like to know they can stay in bed from time to time?"

The teachers opinion's were really interesting because some were back and forth and others were very confident in their choice. After collecting everyone's thoughts, there was no mutual answer because everyone has their own opinion but their opinions had good evidence to back up why either option is good. I was really surprised that so many people actually wanted online days.

Teachers as Leaders by Jay Ramey

Alexander the Great was one of the most legendary leaders of all time. He achieved infamy and power beyond what some could imagine. For such a great leader, you might wonder how he did all of this. Well according to him it was his teacher, Aristotle. He stated about his teacher, "I am indebted to my father for living, but to my teacher for living well." A good teacher can give us wisdom and knowledge which could change our lives. A bad teacher can lead us to hate the subject and school as a whole. Finding what makes a good teacher to us is entirely subjective, and it is nearly impossible for a teacher to be a favorite to everyone they teach. We can not expect them to. Even so, by looking into some teachers here at JWPMS. We can see how their actions affect us in ways that we did not previously understand. We can gain an understanding of our teachers which was not previously known by us.

To start, I spoke to a very orderly teacher figuring it would be helpful to find what makes a good teacher. Surely, many students will say that the best teachers are the ones who are the least strict and let anything go. If we use rationality, we can realize that is not the case. I talked to Mrs. Helsley, a sixth grade teacher. It can be said that she is one of the more strict teachers in our school. I wanted to see what she valued as a teacher. She said that students, even if they won't admit it, want structure and routine to keep themselves organized and prevent stress. She also says how she thinks that you need to keep standards high as a teacher, yet you need to understand your students and their challenges. She says that you have to let your students understand that you are human too and that it is all about negotiating and understanding, especially in a middle school environment. I think one of the most important of her ideas can be

summed up in one of her quotes. She says, as a teacher and a parent, you have to think, "What if that is my kid?" It shows us her most basic ideas, empathy, understanding, and structure.

The other teacher I chose to interview was Mr. Bookhamer. He had some very interesting views on teaching. He says that education is a partnership between teachers, parents, and students, and that there needs to be a safe learning environment where students can learn creatively. He says that students should be able to learn at various levels of understanding and complexity. In addition, he believes that students should be able to show more expertise in a subject than just passing a test. What we see clearly with all of these ideas is that he clearly believes that students should be able to express learning in various ways and at various levels. His ideas showed me that as a teacher, it is important for him to find how

Teachers as Leaders

Continued from p.18

to connect to a student at an academic level, and then use that gateway to find ways to help students master the subject.

Teachers often have many methods of teaching. I think from all this we can see the main thing that makes a good teacher. Different traits appeal to different students, but some traits are universal. Such as, being able to connect with students and not just speaking to them and having them regurgitate that knowledge in a test. That is what makes a good teacher.

Best War

by Micah Ford

One of my passions is history. Specifically, I enjoy learning about wars of the past. My personal favorite war is WWII because of all the new military weapons and techniques. Then I started wondering: what are people's favorite wars, and why? I have interviewed the students and teachers of middle school to see what they chose.

Name: Jason Ramey (6th)

Answer: "The American Revolution because that's the time where the founders of our great nation reintroduced the ideas of liberty onto our world."

Name: Brian Madara (6th)

Answer: "My favorite war is the Vietnam War because my Grandpa served and survived through it."

Name: DJ Strickland (8th)

Answer: "WWII due to lots of innovation in military technology."

Name: Sully Hess (8th)

Answer: "WWII would be my favorite just because of all the innovation that happened during it."

Name: Mrs. Bakka

Answer: "The American revolution because I teach it."

Name: Greyson Sayers (6th)

Answer: "Civil War. I chose the civil war because all of the stories and leaders were great and I connect with it the most and I personally love it."

I can agree with all of the points they made, and here is some additional information about those particular wars.

The American Revolutionary War

Reason: American Citizens wanted freedom from the looming Brit's.

Allies: France

Enemies: Great Britain, German Mercenaries

Time: April 19, 1775 – September 3, 1783

Facts: This was the first war America was ever in.

Leaders: George Washington, King George III

The Civil War

Reason: The North wanted no more slaves but the south want slaves and less government control

Allies: United States

Enemies: Confederate States

Time: April 12, 1861 – April 9, 1865

Facts: More Americans died in this war, than in any other.

Leaders: Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis

WWI

Reason: The assassination of Austrian leader Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

Enemies: Central Powers, including, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, Germany, Ottoman Empire.

Allies: France, Great Britain, Russia, Italy, Japan, and U.S.A.

Time: Jul. 28, 1914 – Nov. 11, 1918

Facts: It was the first war where countries battled with modern tanks and aircraft.

Leaders: Ferdinand Foch, Kaiser Wilhelm II, Mehmed V, Franz Joseph.

WWII

Reason: Hitler invaded Poland, forcing other countries to act.

Allies: Great Britain, U.S.A, Soviet Union.

Enemies: Axis Powers, including, Germany, Soviet Union, Japan, Italy.

Time: September 1, 1939 – September 2, 1945

Facts: The bloodiest battle in the war was the battle of Stalin-rod.

Leaders: Adolf Hitler, Winston Churchill, Joseph Stalin, Franklin Roosevelt, Benito Mussolini, Hideki Tojo.

Vietnam War

Reason: America didn't want Vietnam to be a communist country.

Allies: United States, Australia, New Zealand, Republic of South Korea, Thailand, and the Philippines.

Enemies: North Vietnam.

Time: 1954 – 1975

Facts: The Americans prefer the enemy's AK47s instead of the American M16s.

Leaders: Eisenhower, JFK, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Nguyen Van Thieu.

Bathroom Trouble

by Sam Schuler

Bathrooms are meant for peeing and pooping. A number 1 or 2 might call it. Occasionally, the user might need quick access to the mirror to check out a pimple or repair some makeup. Maybe the “runny noser” needs a few squares of toilet paper to blow their nose. All in all, the bathroom holds a specific purpose, and most people are well aware of their role in that special location.

In reality, not all students use the bathroom for its intended purpose, which leads me to the following question. What really happens in the school bathrooms besides going to the bathroom?

We know what is supposed to go into toilets, yet 7th grader, Quinn Huffine explains that “They throw food in the toilets trying to clog them.” Obviously, the next person that heads into the bathroom isn’t going to be venturing into the watery unknown to fetch any food or papers shoved into that toilet bowl.

With her bathroom observational skills, she also noticed that some student decided art class shouldn’t be the only place to draw, yet instead of drawing on paper,

they decided to vandalize the wall. Yes, this is vandalism. She also mentioned that she had walked in on people making TikToks and playing games on their phone instead of being in class. Is it the lighting that makes this so popular or the privacy? Now we have an idea what the 12, eHall passes a day kid is doing in there.

When interviewed, Payton Hornberger explained that kids use the bathrooms as a jungle gym, hanging and jumping on the stall doors. Now we know why the toilet paper dispenser is always broken. Next, she told us how the kids in 5th grade use the restrooms as a beauty parlor, reapplying mascara, lipstick, and eyeshadow.

6th grader, Oliver, reported that 6th grade boys will start up a friendly conversation in the bathroom. Does this happen while going to the bathroom, or do they just stand around in the bathroom and hang out? I don’t know if I’d really want someone telling me secrets in the bathroom. Awkward.

Have you heard about the secret dodgeball game going on in the boys bathroom? Not so secret anymore I guess.

I don’t think Marafine, Jahn, or Beck would approve of that one. The twist is that, instead of a dodgeball, they use toilet paper. Some people might say that’s resourceful, but I think it’s wasteful and makes a lot of work for the custodians later. So, next time you’re out of toilet paper, you know who to thank...sarcastically of course.

Now that you have more insight on what really happens in the bathroom, you can let your imagination run wild as THAT student requests ANOTHER eHall pass to the bathroom. Are they really going to the

bathroom, or are they watching TikToks, playing games, breaking a sweat from climbing the stalls, or finishing the dodgeball tournament of the year?



Restaurant: Cheap or Expensive

by Logan Radock

We have asked the middle school students about what they think are the best, affordable restaurants, and the best restaurants that might not fit into their budget. Let’s see what they had to say.

Nick Salvatore (6th)

Cheap: Moes

Expensive: Texas roadhouse

Texas road house has good quality food and good customer service. Moes has good, healthy food for a good price and they have multiple days where they have discounts.

Melanie Russell (6th)

Cheap: McDonald’s

Expensive: Smokey Bones.

Smokey bones has good quality food and excellent service. McDonald’s is just fun and has good food, but not always healthy.

Preston Hobson (8th):

Cheap: McDonald’s because some stuff is free.

Expensive would have to be Texas Roadhouse because their steak is bussin’.

Gwenna Gast (8th)

Cheap: McDonald’s because it’s good.

Expensive: Pineapple Eddie’s has good food.

Luke Eldred (7th grade)

Cheap: McDonald’s because it’s tasty

Expensive: Hibachi

Nika Bosta (7th grade)

Cheap: Arbys

Expensive: Hibachi

Best Gaming Console

By Adam Mikey

We've always had that one conversation about which gaming console is best. It always went "Xbox is the best!" and "Nah, PlayStation is way better." Let's try to settle this once and for all.

I interviewed a variety of students to get their thoughts. 5th grader Caden Roth explained, "I think PlayStation is the best because I like the graphics." Gage Shaner stated, "In my opinion, the best gaming console is Xbox because they have Game Pass. Also, they are unique by having many games. Finally, they have many cool features like better graphics." Quintin LeSuer stated, "Xbox Series X because it is modern and very fast, plus the home screen looks cool."

6th grader, Oliver Algeir stated, "I think that Xbox is the best console because it has better graphics and better games. The best game on Xbox is Halo 5." On the other hand, 6th grader Jack Reynard stated, "Nintendo Switch is more portable than any other gaming console and most

games are easy to transport." He also says the best game is The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild. Two people, Aidan Kramer and JP Wingler, both in grade 6 said Xbox for no reason at all. Imad Becirbasic states, "In my opinion, I think that PlayStation has the best genre of games. I believe this because PlayStation has good PG-13 games and has amazing graphics that run well on good FPS (Frames Per Second)." The last person I interviewed was Brian Madara, also in grade 6. Just like all the others, he said Xbox. He stated, "I like Xbox more than PlayStation because the controllers are better and they are more comfortable with long-time use. The UI for Xbox is more accessible and prettier than PlayStation's. Forza Horizon 3 is my favorite game on it."

I wondered if age makes a difference in people's choices, since there are a variety of games that attract different age groups.

8th grade Brennan Karotko sided with the Xbox series X because "it is superior to everything." Austin Volz is also on team Xbox Series X. He explained that it is better in many ways including the controller and features. On the other hand, 7th grader Jack Paszko prefers the Nintendo Switch. He explained how the compatibility is bad, but the games are good. He specifically references the classics, explaining that there is no need for backwards compatibility compared to the Xbox X and ps5 which removed the backwards compatibility all together." Caleb Dailey finished our debate with a final vote for the Xbox because it's just a good console to play on and overpowers the switch.

It appears that the Xbox is victorious. Does this conclude the console war, or will the debate never end?



Natural Disasters

by Brian Madara

Natural disasters are extreme, sudden events caused by environmental factors. Examples of natural disasters are earthquakes, sandstorms, tornados, hurricanes, or volcanos. When a natural disaster strikes, it often causes catastrophic damage to a community.

Recently, an earthquake hit near Turkey and Syria. The earthquake measured 7.8 on the Richter Scale. The Richter scale is used to rate the amount of energy released during an earthquake. Earthquakes that are 7.0-7.9 on the Richter Scale are described as "Causes damage to most buildings, some to partially or completely collapse or receive severe damage. Well-designed structures

are likely to receive damage." As a result, workers from Syria and Turkey as well as volunteers from around the world worked, and are still working, tirelessly to attempt to retrieve people trapped under rubble from collapsed buildings.

Some natural disasters can cause other natural disasters to occur. For example, on March 11, 2011, an earthquake that measured 9.0 on the Richter Scale hit Japan. A 9.0 on the Richter Scale is described as "At or near total destruction – severe damage or collapse to all buildings. Heavy damage and shaking extends to distant locations. Permanent changes in ground topography." Later that same day, a huge tsunami hit the coast of Japan. A



tsunami is a series of waves in a body of water caused by the displacement of large amounts of water, usually in an ocean. Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and other underwater explosions that happen either above or below water may have the potential to create a tsunami. The tsunami measured 40.5 m (133 ft) at its highest

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Natural Disasters Continued...

point. That’s around the height of a 10 story building! After the dust finally settled, the affected portions of Japan were annihilated. It took about five years for Japan to recover from this calamity.

I interviewed 6th grader Jack Reynard, who used to live in Florida before his family moved to Pennsylvania. I asked him about what it was like when hurricanes hit his location. He replied with, “I’ve been through several hurricanes. During almost every hurricane, the power goes out and it is really dark unless you go outside in the pouring rain. I’ve never been through a bad hurricane, but my extended family went through a bad hurricane and a tree

went through their house. I’m glad I don’t have to experience anything like that again.” Florida is prone to hurricanes and generally gets around one hurricane every three years. A hurricane is a tropical storm with winds that have reached a constant speed of 74 miles per hour or more. Hurricanes bring torrential rains (which may cause flooding), high winds, and storm surges.

Luckily for us Pennsylvanians, natural disasters are very rare. This is due to the geographical and climatic location Pennsylvania is placed. Leaving us at a safe distance from any major natural threat.

STATES PRONE TO N. DISASTERS	
Tsunamis	Alaska
Earthquakes	Alaska & California
Tornadoes	Texas
Hurricanes	Florida
Wildfires	California
Floods	Texas
Volcanoes	Alaska
Droughts	California
Sandstorms	Arizona

Learning from the Past By Juliet Mikulcik

Take a moment and read about these five individuals. So often, we wonder why we are learning about history. How does it impact us today? As a middle schooler, we are always learning from other people, watching interactions with others, how they handle themselves, and what the results are of their choices. We learn from the good people do and the bad. These five individuals are well-known for a reason, but what are we going to do with the knowledge of their life stories?

Martin Luther King, Jr. 1929-1968

He adopted nonviolent resistance to achieve equal rights for Black Americans. Famous quote: “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”



John Lewis 1940-2020

John Lewis participated in the Freedom Rides, which were organized to challenge segregation at bus stops and on buses across the South. He risked his life and was beaten severely by angry mobs disapproving of his stand-ups. Famous quote: “Never let anyone — any person or any force — dampen, dim or diminish your light ... Release the need to hate, to harbor division, and the enticement of revenge. Release all bitterness. Hold only love, only peace in your heart, knowing that the battle of good to overcome evil is already won.”



Ruby Bridges 1954-Present

She became the first African American child to attend an all-white public Elementary School. Famous quote: “Racism is a grown-up disease, and we should stop using our kids to spread it.”



Kamala Harris 1964-Present

The first woman Vice President and the second person of color elected Vice President of the United States. (The first was Charles Curtis) Famous quote: “The American dream belongs to all of us.”



Learning from the Past Continued...

Malcolm Kenyatta 1990-Present

He has served as the Pennsylvania State Representative for the 181st district since 2019 and is a proud member of the LGBTQ Community. The LGBTQ Community is a community of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or just someone who is in any way queer.

Famous quote: "The antidote to despair is action!"



Ruby Bridges paved the way for Kamala Harris by going to an intimidating all-white school. Kamala was inspired by Ruby's courage and determination and took on the intimidating and stressful job of running for Vice President, and won! Kamala and Ruby have since then inspired

so many more people and shown that really hard things are possible. Malcolm Kenyatta has paved the way for black Americans by not only being elected to a mostly white PA House of Representatives, but he is also an inspirational member of the LGBTQ community. He is an example that any person can do anything they want to.

Sadly, if people like John Lewis, Martin Luther King Jr, Ruby Bridges, Kamala Harris, Malcolm Kenyatta, and countless others had not paved their way through history, we can only imagine how different our world would be.

Additionally, the trials these five people have gone through can inspire average middle schoolers like you and I.

When you're shy about performing in front of an audience, think about Dr. King and how he was probably stressed when he gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech in front of thousands of people.

When you're thinking about standing up for a friend who is being bullied, think about John Lewis and how he was beaten and berated for standing up for what was right, but that he prevailed in the end.

When you're embarrassed by food spilling all over you in the cafeteria or scared to navigate the hallways on your

first week of school, think of Ruby Bridges and the determination and self-esteem that she had to establish to undertake such a task of walking to school while passing white adults that were heckling her.

When you're stressed about an exam or answering questions wrong in class, think of how stressed Kamala Harris must have felt being questioned during her campaign debates and how she came across as knowledgeable and calm under pressure.

When someone tells you that you cannot do something because you are a girl, think of Kamala Harris who is the second-in-command to the most powerful person in the world.

When you're thinking of telling someone you like them and are unsure of how they'll respond, think of Malcolm Kenyatta putting his personal life on display and how he is embraced by the majority of people.

When you ever doubt yourself about not being able to do something, use these five brave people as a guide. We should all be grateful for their inspirational wisdom and what they have done to make our lives better.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela

Anonymous

*While I sit behind a screen
No one sees me scream
While I'm sitting alone in a corner
No one seems to be bothered*

*No matter how loud I can yell
I still can't tell
I can't tell when I'll be free
Free so I can spree
Spree from all the pain I feel*

*Run
Hide
But it feels I can only ride
Ride the roller coaster up and down
And even upside down*

*Everyone around me
Tells me that I'll be okay
But I don't believe them
Because I need to run
And stay away
To protect myself
Protect myself from all the pain
To keep me away from my problems*

*No matter what I do
I feel like I can't unsee
The things I've seen
I can't undo
The things I've done*

*But while I sit behind that screen
I still scream
I scream so loud it burns
It burns from the inside out
Like I can't keep it in control
Because when I let it out, I spin
I spin in circles and circles once again
To hide the pain
That I feel once more
But no one knows
Because they're not there anymore*