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THE ULTIMATE NEWSPAPER

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Editor's Note

This is our eighth and final newsletter. We may pass it on to next year's students or we may not. Anyways, this is the last time you will hear from this exact group. Each student will write exactly three articles. We will have our same categories as always but each person will also write a goodbye statement. I'm sure that, coming from our wise seventh grade brains, they will be the most inspirational speeches you've ever heard.

I want to say that I am so thankful for every reader. You stayed with us through our bad letters. Even if you didn't enjoy reading these, I enjoyed writing them. I have grown as a writer (so I can pass those M-STEP tests). This has been an important year for me. I have found things that I am passionate about and made closer friends and more friends.



Everyone has been so fun to be around. We have gotten to do presentations and writings. During that time I have collaborated with so many people to help me as editor. Editor has been a huge responsibility and I have gotten so much help.

Thank you to my peers, readers, and friends. This has been so fun! I hope you enjoy this final time you hear from us. EVER!

Your Editor,
Leili Frolo

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Sports

Flag Football

Flag football is the hardest and most physically demanding sport. Juicy Jon's team is easily the best team on the field every game. With the juiciest coach ever, a few good wide receivers, and a decent quarterback, the Juicies are the best flag football team ever. On Saturday, May 6th, the Juicies beat Generic Eric's team 30-28. Ben Beddingfield scored one touchdown on a pick-six from Generic Eric's team. Leili Frollo scored one touchdown on a pass. Gage Robbins scored a two pointer on a pass. Isaac Southwell did not score, sadly, but did gain us a few yards from passing and running.

I scored three touchdowns, one on a pass, one on a run, and one pick-six. The game with the Chicken Tender Defenders (CTD) vs. the Dying Ty-Rants was a very eventful game that went into double overtime. I honestly have no idea what happened in that game, except the very end of it. Lucas Stotler needed at least 20 yards to secure the game. He fumbled it in the backfield on a reverse jet sweep, then Camden Morris for the Dying Ty-rants scored a touchdown the very next play.

Gabe Keyes



Winning Streak with Miami Heat

The Miami Heat is on fire! Do you see what I did there? Miami is smoking every team they play, but of course, it's only because of Jimmy G Butler! Which stands for Jimmy Gettin Buckets. They took on the Bucks first, but even with them starting off with the lead, the Heat won. Those cowards have nothing on Jimmy. He dropped fifty-six points in game four against the Bucks. They won the first game, lost the second, won the third, won the fourth, and prevailed 4-1. Nobody believed in the Heat, considering that the Bucks are one of the best teams in the league.

SPINELESS, GUTLESS COWARDS! The Heat's run is far from over. They just finished their series against the Knicks. The Heat ended up winning 4-2, and Butler wasn't even in the second game because of an unexpected sprained ankle. The Heat also have the most fire jerseys in all of basketball history. They often wear a mix of pink and blue. The next series will be against the Celtics. They have a lot more games to go still to win the championship. We all know I can tell the future. THE HEAT WILL WIN. Just watch.

Ben Beddingfield



Individual Spotlights

Taco Bell

When this fast-food place came to be, it was first named “Taco Tia” until Glen Bell changed it to what it is known as today. Taco Bell has many interesting facts that not many people know about. There are approximately 55,000 Taco Bells in the world, with 8,088 in the US and 902 of those in California (HOLY COW). There are also 364 Taco Bells in Michigan. Taco Bell is so popular in California because Glen Bell had the first Taco Bell in Downey, CA. The franchise fee for Taco Bell is between \$25,000 and \$50,000. In 1962, Taco Bell was only 19 cents. This continued until the late 70s. One of their most popular food items is their Crunchwrap Supreme. Their most popular drink is, of course, Baja Blast. Taco Bell serves around 6 billion customers a year at all of its locations. When Taco Bell was first introduced, Glen Bell served hamburgers, tacos, hot dogs, and milkshakes. The very first restaurant had a fire pit and mariachi bands. This was because the first location was a hangout with food and drinks for everyone.

Maddie Dombrowski



Luigi

Over a few years, I’ve had different “obsessions” as my friend Lucas Matthew Stotler would call it. One of my obsessions everyone seems to know about and won’t stop reminding me of is Luigi. He is someone who I have always known about, but I’ve never appreciated him as much as I do now. At the age of 7, I would play Mario games and not even bat an eye at Luigi. Even though now I don’t tend to play Mario games, I sure do pay attention to Luigi. I would call it a full-time job, just enjoying looking at and learning about Luigi. At first, I never told anyone about my obsession with him, until I had an idea. I have Snapchat, and you can make stories on Snapchat. At that moment, I would say a lightbulb went off in my head.

Slamming Lockers

I always hear a banging noise in the hallway, and I instantly know, it’s that one kid who thinks they are cool by punching their locker. People wonder why we have bad lockers, and it might just be because of them punching them for no reason. On an average every day, I hear about three people slamming their fists into their lockers, and it’s the same kids every single day! Whenever teachers or students ask these kids to stop slamming lockers, they always just continue to do it, but louder. Whenever I talk about someone bashing their fists into their locker, like always, my friends are like, “Oh yeah, that person.” That’s such a bad thing to be known for. You are creating dents in your locker, which makes your locker look really bad. These peoples’ lockers look like a truck ran into them forty-five different times. Just a little advice to these people: stop assaulting your lockers. It makes you highly annoying, and your locker won’t look like it was at the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Tiana Ashley



I created a Snapchat story, where I could post about Luigi! This is how most of my friends found out about Luigi. At first, some of them messaged me, asking me about it, obviously concerned. Especially my cousin – every time I post another edit of Luigi on that specific story, she freaks out. I don’t understand why. I wouldn’t say I’m “attracted” to Luigi, I relate more to him. I just find him very understandable. So no mom, I don’t have a crush on a fictional character; that’s silly. I just like how his character differs from his older brother. Mario is outgoing and loves adventure, while Luigi, who would do anything for his brother, is more shy and laid back. I just find that very attractive, not in a crushing way, but in the way you gravitate towards something or someone because of actions.

Jaila Craft

Individual Spotlights

The Definitions of the Crazy Things/Phrases/Lingo Teens Are Saying These Days: A Parent's Guide

Recently, I was trying to explain to my mom what “bet” meant, and it was not going well. I tried multiple different strategies and got nowhere. That has inspired me to hopefully help out some of the parents by meticulously breaking down each and every slang phrase your teen has said.

First of all is the example I just gave: bet. “Bet” can often be found right after “aight,” a shorter version of “all right.” Bet is used as a glorified version of “ok.” It is a gentle push to do something and can even mean “watch me.” For example, if you advise me, “You should go sweep the floor,” I could use our new phrase and respond, “aight bet.”

Dawgs. Dawgs are feet, more specifically, toes. If you are “letting your dawgs out of their cage,” that means that you took your shoes and socks off. If your teen says, “Your dawgs are barking,” that means that your feet smell, hurt, or are showing. Hopefully, they aren’t showing...

This one is a bit older, but I still do hear it occasionally. Cap/no cap is similar to fiction and nonfiction, with cap meaning fake and no cap meaning true. If your teen were to say something that may sound like a joke or exaggerated truth, but says no cap at the end, it means that it is the whole and only truth.

If someone says something that sounds untrue, you can say cap. This lets them know that you know they aren't telling the truth.

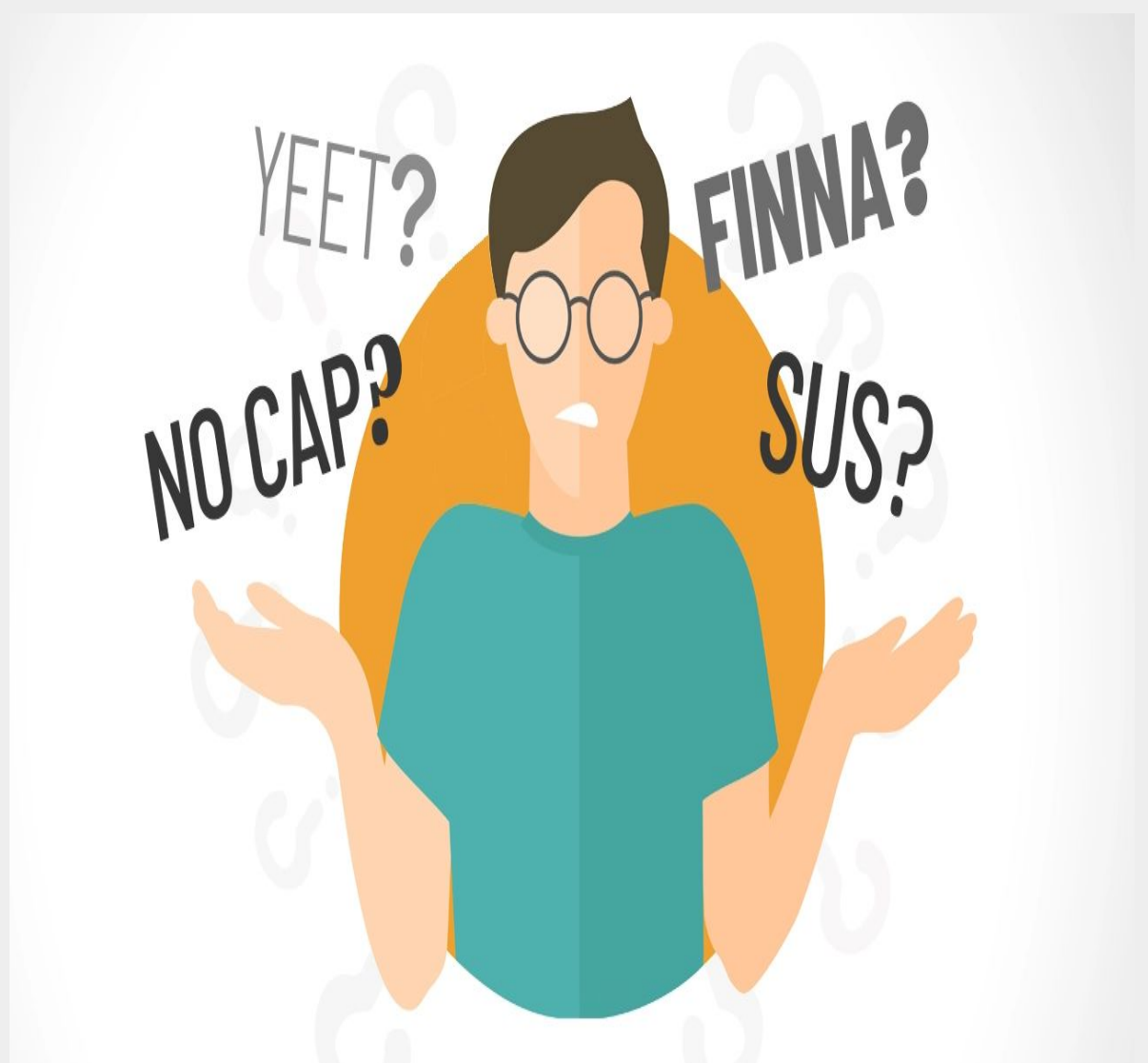
Drip/Drippy are words for someone with style or bling. Jewelry or a cool sweatshirt could be described as drip. Drippy is an adjective. Drippy is when something is shiny or so cool.

Rent-free is next, and means just how it sounds. Your teen may say “That has been living rent-free in my brain for the last week.” This means that something has been stuck in their head and they can't get it out.

Salty is next. Salty is when you have been mad about something for a long time. Shook is when you are shocked. Shook is the same thing as shook.

Have fun saying these new phrases (probably still incorrectly even though I just explained them) and annoying your child. I hope this helps you decode your teen's expressions. Happy deciphering!

Leili Frollo



Individual Spotlights

How Much is Too Much? Piracy

I have been so tired because I have been getting home late from sports. Since I was little I have loved to read, play sports, and be with my friends.

I am playing three sports AT THE SAME TIME. I have a big project in one of my classes, and a newsletter to edit. Every day this week, I have some sort of sporting event. Some days I have too many events. Is it too much?

Sometimes it feels like that, but in the end, I want to try everything. I want to play flag football, soccer, and softball. I only get to be a kid once and I need to enjoy every opportunity I can.

Sometimes I feel bad not being able to hang out on the weekends. I know it will be ok to miss one weekend with my friends to support my team. With most of the friends I have, we are only as close as we are because we do extra things together.

I've met people in band, softball playoffs, every other sport club, and camp. It kind of feels like I am on a playdate with some of the people I like. It is just a different group.

I like being good at things, lots of things. I always want to learn something new. I love going to new places and meeting new people. I know that it isn't for everyone, but it's for me.

I love doing new things, meeting new people, and being good at things, and this is how I achieve this. It works for me. I want to do everything.

Leili Frollo

Have you seen the entire Mario Movie vocoded to Gangsta's Paradise? No? Because of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, it probably is taken down, but for a while, it was up on YouTube. See, the people online have been fighting an endless digital war against major companies like Illumination and Ubisoft for free movies and games. Activity on Twitter has exploded with people uploading movies in multiple parts. Chaos has reached every corner of the interwebs with no end in sight! As a consumer, we have gathered around the table feasting on this trend, and oh boy we've been eatin' good for the last few weeks. This juicy meal doesn't stop getting better; there's almost nothing big companies can do about this! If you ever thought copyright laws could stop an army of Robin Hoods, then oh boy you're in for a treat! There's a whole underground market of hobos selling cards that can break any console in half! Now, there's one thing that the big dawgs can do that would make us little guys die to have: money. With a lot of money, you would also expect a good legal team. This is where lawsuits come in.



Haha did you actually think I was serious? ONE pirate could've been taken down with a lawsuit, but when facing a whole bunch of scallywags. So how else will they fight back? The Pirate Bay used to prosper with stolen movies. It got taken down many times, but the power of the people's will kept it going until December 9th, 2014. The Swedish police raided the owners of the website, as well as charging them with a lot of things. AND THE SITE IS STILL UP—although you cannot access it in some places. There is nothing companies can do as long as people want things for free.

Despite how good I've made piracy sound, it's more like an alleyway filled with shady people evading the law than a bustling landscape filled with hundreds of entrepreneurs. The Pirate Bay is blocked in most countries, and even though it doesn't make any companies lose money, if you upload the entire Mario Movie to YouTube enough times, you will either get a cease and desist or community guidelines strikes. If we truly lived in a world where nobody has free will and choice, then pirates wouldn't exist.

Hayden Russell

Individual Spotlights

Back in My Day

Hello readers! Welcome to the last of my monthly series where I deal with my increasing age by whining about today's youth. Inspired by Miami Herald sports columnist Greg Cote and his "Back in My Day" series, I will continue my rants against today's generation. Today I will rail against...

Nothing!

I have used this space for months to say that things were better back in my day than they are today. I think I've made some good points. Napping is great. So was Taylor Swift ten years ago. But I have to confess, I was wrong. Things are good now. Really good. And the future is exciting! Really exciting! And the people writing this newsletter are eighteen clear examples of why.

Take Tiana. She is such an exciting kid! She is relentlessly energetic and positive and it is impossible to feel down when she is around. She's such a creative thinker and she will try anything with enthusiasm. The world needs her!

Then look at Lilly! She doubts herself sometimes, but she has no reason to. She is beyond smart, and I really admire how she thinks differently than everyone else and is proudly herself. She zigs when others zag, and it's so cool!

Elliot is next! He is quirky, but in such a great way! He is talented and creative and so musically brilliant! He marches to the beat of his own drum, literally, and his creative thinking will make waves!

And Lucas! Another creative genius! This kid will make you laugh and make you think, and the whole time he will be the kindest person out there. He has a way to find the funny in everything while still finding the smart, and that's such a great combo!

Then we have Lorinda! I am so proud of her! She's been slowly chipping away at her shell, and it's been so fun to see what's inside! She has pushed herself so much this year, and her skill with words is unmatched!

We've even been lucky enough to have Jaila in this class! She is so ready to take on the world and put her mark all over it! She's bold and adventurous, but she's also gentle when she needs to be. She will connect with anyone and leave everyone she crosses feeling happier and better for knowing her.

Clumpy, or Issy, is another gem! Another truly creative kid, she will make anyone laugh with ease. She is such an individual, which is so nice at a time when so many others merge into following the same trends.

Then there's Gabe! He is so driven, and when there is a way he can better himself, he makes it happen. He thinks about everything and wants so badly to be successful, and I have no doubts he will be!

And RaeRae! Wow! She can make the silliest faces, but beyond that is such a remarkable human. She's smart, funny, and talented, and she makes everything she does look so smooth and easy! She lifts everyone up around her, and she will be able to go down any path she chooses!

Angel too! She is new this year, but she's been so fun to connect with! She is so unique and fun, and she is the exact person we needed to add to our mix! She is bursting with creativity and she makes everything she does more exciting for everyone else.

Zoie is also amazing! I hope she sees it too, because she has come so far this year! Every day she seems more and more comfortable, which is fantastic because she is an outstanding person. She is caring and kind and funny and adds such warmth to every group she is in.

And Dylan! What a guy! He can say more with his facial expressions than most people can with an essay. He thinks about things in such a fun and interesting way and adds so much flavor to everything he does. He is someone you just always want around!

Barden is easily one of the most impressive people I have ever met. I don't even care that he's in seventh grade. There is not a smarter kid in the whole country. Really.

There isn't. And he uses that brain to make people happier, more informed, and with a pain in their gut from laughing so hard.

And of course we have Ben! This kid's enthusiasm and can-do attitude are something to marvel at! He will try anything and do it with such a bright smile! And if he makes a mistake, he will fix it with ease next time. I wish so badly I could have his curiosity, and I'm so thankful to have his positivity in my life!

Then there's Waddie! I don't know if I have ever seen a person grow more in two years than she has! To borrow from kindergarten teachers around the world, she is the definition of a warm fuzzy. She is kind and gentle, but also brilliant and fun! She's tearing down walls around her, and the world is better for it!

Kate is amazing too! That's not even a strong enough word. I don't think a nicer person exists anywhere. She loves people and will do anything to help out. And she's brilliant! She is a real light in my life and someone who consistently makes me happy every single day.

How am I supposed to write about Hayden? If you don't know him personally, you cannot even begin to understand him. He is personality. That's not even an adjective, but it's the right word. He can command a room, confuse a room, delight a room, leave a room questioning its humanity, and make a room cry tears of laughter. And beyond all that is a brilliant mind who will make the world happier.

Last but not least is Leili. She made all of this possible. Without Leili, there is no newsletter. Without Leili, a lot of things would be different, and worse. She is strong. She is courageous. I'm the teacher, but she is the leader and the heartbeat of everything that happens here. There is nothing she cannot do, and nothing she will not do. She is thoughtful and brilliant and hilarious and I am counting down the days until she can be the president of our country.

Today I will not look back to how things were back in my day. I'll look at now, and I'll look to the future, and I will be excited for what I see. You should be, too. We're in good hands. Thanks so much for reading this newsletter all year and for the support you've given my amazing students. I'm going to stop writing now because I'm starting to tear up on an airplane and I don't want to be the weirdest person on the plane.

Mr. Collins

Individual Spotlights

Indianapolis 500

Commonly known as the Greatest Spectacle In Racing, the Indianapolis 500 is a highly watched and anticipated race in the IndyCar series schedule. Every year on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, the Indianapolis 500 takes place at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (IMS). This year the Indy 500 will be on May 28th, with coverage starting at 11:00 AM on Peacock, IndyCar LIVE, Sirius XM, and NBC. Qualifying for the race will be during the weekend before the 500. For the drivers, this race is an opportunity to gain points if they are awarded pole position or win. The points gained will help their chances of becoming the NTT IndyCar Champion. For the fans, it is an opportunity to throw parties throughout the 100 days leading up to the race. It is also an opportunity for them to visit Indianapolis and take part in all of the 500-themed activities throughout May. The Indy 500 is a historic race that this year will be celebrating its 107th running.

This year will also be historic and filled with opportunities for many new and old drivers. Hélio Castroneves will be attempting to be the first IndyCar driver to win five 500s. Tony Kannan will be taking part in his last 500 after 21 Indy 500 starts. The colors of the Argentinian flag will be present on the No. 78 Juncos Hollinger Racing Chevrolet driven by rookie and native Argentinian Augustin Canapino. Two-time IndyCar champion Joseph Newgarden will be attempting for the 11th time to win his first Indy 500. The only female on the grid, Katherine Legge, will be qualifying for her third start in the Indianapolis 500. Ryan Hunter-Reay has been entered into qualifying for “The Greatest Spectacle in Racing,” and it will be his only race of the 2023 season. This will be a race you won’t want to miss, so watch on May 28th for epic racing fun as 33 engines roar to life and take to the track to win a place on the legendary Borg-Warner Trophy and a famous 500 ring on their finger.

Kate Malloy



Inland Seas

Ever since I heard that we were going on the Inland Seas trip, I was so excited to go. I love fishing with my dad and I remember my siblings talking about it when they had the opportunity to go on this trip, so I decided that I wanted to learn a little about it before I went. The Inland Seas Education Association is a non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire people of all ages to take interest in the Great Lakes. There are many different chances you will have to learn on board and off board. There are two boats that Inland Seas offers that are used as classrooms to teach children and adults about the importance of keeping the lakes clean.

The reason they want to inform people about the Great Lakes is not only to keep the beauty of the lakes, but to also protect all of the wildlife and animals that live in the Great Lakes. You can do a lot of fun activities on the ships and off them including crawling through the benthos tunnel, exploring the giant Inland Seas mural, looking at live fish in the aquariums, and many more fun things. Ever since 1989, Inland Seas Education Association has offered for kids of all ages to come and learn about the beautiful Great Lakes. I think that it is so cool that they have been offering this amazing opportunity for so many years. I am so glad that I have a chance to go on this trip I have a feeling that it is going to be super fun!

Zoie Spires

Individual Spotlights

Stinky Hallways/Lockers

If you are in middle school, you would understand why the hallways stink so much, but since most of the audience is not in my school, I will shed some light upon the topic. Let's just say the kids in my school do not understand how deodorant works or how much cologne is too much. Everyday I walk past either the 8th grade lockers or the 5th & 6th lockers and either one smells of disgusting rotting food. Sometimes, randomly, someone sprays an entire bottle of cologne. Because of this stench, the entire 7th and 8th grade wing had to clean out their lockers. Most people had food wrappers and such that had rotted over time. After this, as soon as one student walked to his locker, he sprayed either his cologne or deodorant in the halls and it was so bad that most of the students in the hall covered their noses to avoid the overpowering smell.

While it may seem bad down in the 7-8th wing the 5-6th wing is even worse. On the average day I would normally walk up the stairs to Mr. Collins class but, sadly, there are lockers and 6th graders that come inside the school. The stench that those children produce is terrible. Sometimes I walk past the first locker of the hallway and a waft of stench floats into my nose and practically burns my nose hairs. Maybe one day these children will learn to put the right amount of deodorant on their body and take the rotting food out of their lockers.

Issy Perez



Bass Fest

The Bass Fest is a carnival based here in Mancelona. Many people from all over Antrim county, Kalkaska County, and Charlevoix County come to to the Bass Fest. Currently, the weekend pass is on sale at the 4front Credit Union in town for \$60. It's better to buy the weekend pass than buy a day pass every day the festival is open. If you buy the day pass (\$25) every day of the festival (Thursday-Sunday) it's \$40 more!! If you're planning to go all 4 days, please, for the love of your wallet, **JUST BUY THE WEEKEND PASS!!!** This year I got the weekend pass, and so did most of my friends. I'm planning on having a sleepover all weekend at my house. Already, my family camps at my house, so might as well bring even more people. Also, every year there is a parade on the Saturday of Bass Fest. The high school band plays with the middle school band. This year they are playing "My Girl" by The Temptations, and the Mancelona fight song. Last year at the Bass Fest they had eight rides. They had the Mega Shot, the Twister, the Paraglider, the Himalaya, the swings, the ferris wheel, the bumper cars, and the Honey Pots (this is not including the Fun House and the kid rides). I'm pretty sure I saw the Gravitron too, but it was not set up and in the back. My favorite ride

was the Mega Shot. The Mega Shot is a ride that goes above the powerlines. After getting buckled in, they slowly raise you about 90 feet in the air. They keep you up above the trees for about 5 seconds, and with no warning, **THEY DROP YOU!!**

At the bass fest, they have a beer tent, where only adults are allowed to go, and they have the pop up shops. The pop up shops that I've seen all have reasonable prices and decent quality stuff. When I get motion sick from some of the spinning rides, I hang out with my friends at Palmer Park, which is the playground across from the Bass Fest. I had a really fun time last year with my friends. We hung out as a big group, and went on all the rides. Unfortunately, it was an uneven amount of kids, and I felt left out when I had to ride alone for the first time. It was the last day of Bass Fest and I was a bit dramatic, so I left. I came back about two hours later, and had a lot more fun than I was having when I left. At the end of the Bass Fest, I realized I got way closer to my friends. We had so much fun at the Bass Fest and became better friends overall. I miss the Bass Fest, and I can't wait for it to start again.

RaeLynn Manning

Individual Spotlights

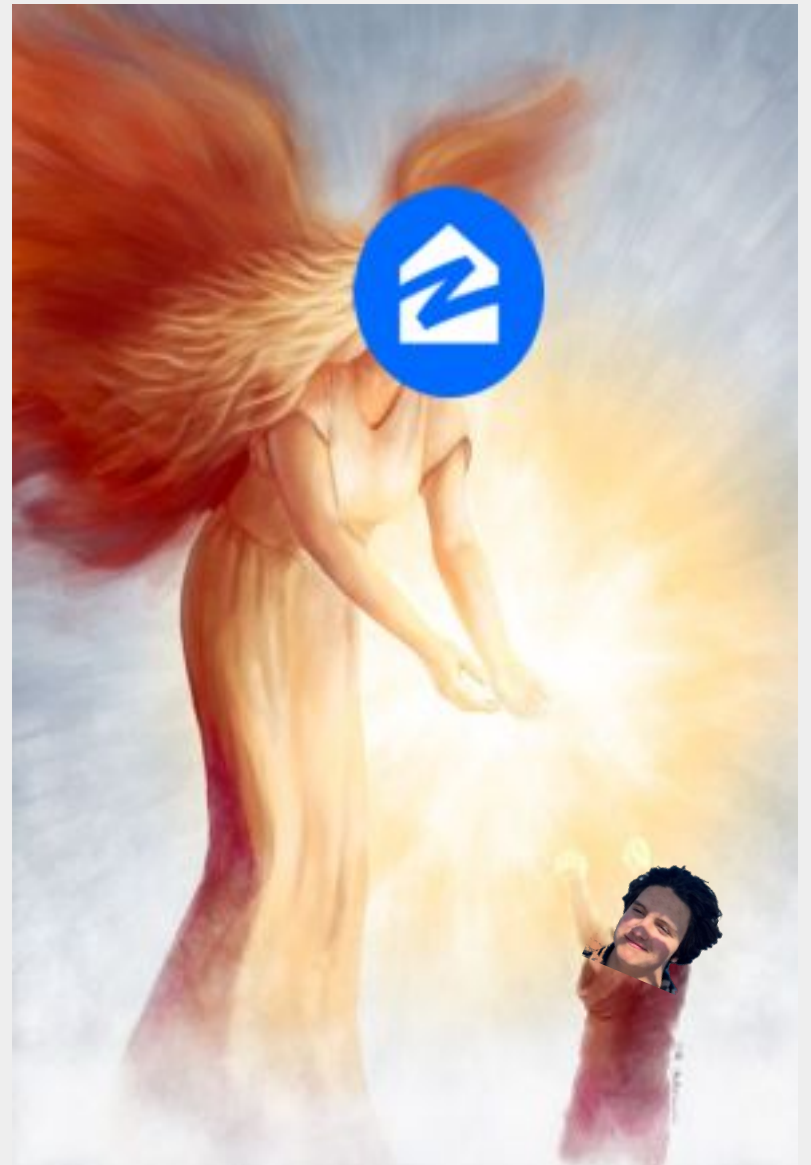
Zillow

Zillow, my lord and savior, offers zillions of data points and house listings. All while providing the comfort and security of a pillow when finding a new home. But finding a new home is not the actual reason Zillow was created. It was made for us students when we have free time. One thing that almost all of us have in common is that we get bored easily. That's where Zillow comes into play. You can spend hours on Zillow without getting bored. Imagine that you are on a battlefield, slowly bleeding to death. As you are taking your last breaths, you see a bright light in the sky. A heavenly figure comes down and lends you their hand. That heavenly figure is Zillow. You take Zillow's hand and it then heals your wounds and your fighting spirit. You get up and lead your men to victory against boredom.

People love to overprice their houses on Zillow. Especially in California. I once found a small house with only one bedroom and one bathroom for over \$90 million on Zillow. These extremely high prices for poorly made houses can make looking through them very entertaining.

Since Zillow is a very popular real estate company, most people's houses can be found there. If you know the address of any of your friends, search it on Google, and Zillow will most likely be the first link. If you're lucky, it will have some pictures of the outside of the house. You can then send your friends a picture of their house and make them quite uncomfortable and possibly call the cops.

Braden Campis



Sea Mythology

Sea mythology is a fascinating subject that has captured the imaginations of people for centuries. From the ancient Greeks and their tales of Poseidon, god of the sea, to the Norse legends of the sea serpent Jörmungandr, the sea has been a source of inspiration and mystery for countless cultures throughout history. Many of these myths and legends have been passed down through generations, and continue to be retold and reinterpreted in modern times.

One of the most famous sea myths is the story of the mermaid. Mermaids are said to be half-human, half-fish creatures that live in the depths of the sea. They are often depicted as beautiful and alluring, with long flowing hair and mesmerizing voices. However, they are also said to be dangerous and capable of luring sailors to their doom. The mermaid myth has been popularized in literature and films, and continues to capture the public's imagination.

Another sea myth that has gained popularity in recent years is the legend of the Kraken. The Kraken is a giant sea monster that is said to dwell deep beneath the waves. It is often depicted as a massive octopus or squid-like creature that can wrap its tentacles around ships and drag them down to the ocean floor. This myth has inspired countless works of fiction, from Jules Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* to modern-day video games and films. Despite its fictional nature, the Kraken remains a fascinating and enduring element of sea mythology.

Angel Biddle

Individual Spotlights

Summer is Almost Here

SUMMER IS ALMOST HERE!! Although I'm sad about school ending, I miss summer. I miss the hot days where all you would do was eat popsicles and swim. Last summer was one of the best I've ever lived through. It was spent almost entirely with my best friend Jaila. We spent maybe 7 days total away from each other. We hung out basically whenever, wherever. One time we spent the night in my shed (which is in no way ready to be a sleepover space). We both got eaten up by mosquitoes, and we watched the old *It* movie. I still consider it to be one of the best sleepover memories I have ever had. When we weren't sleeping over, we were probably hanging out in town. We hung out at Railroad Park, the place across from Dairy Delite. We have so many interesting stories we could tell about hanging out there. One time, while the power was out, it was raining pretty hard, but it was boring inside the house, so my sister, my dad, and I went to pick up Jaila. We went to the Imagination Station park in Kalkaska, and we made some unforgettable videos. This summer, I'm hoping it rains more than it did last summer, because I love dancing and playing out in the warm summer rain. I'm planning on spending more time with my other friends, and not just being with Jaila the whole time (not like it was a bad thing). I miss summer, I want it to come sooner, but at the same time, I really don't want school to end. I'm going to miss all of my friends that aren't a 10 minute walk to my house, and I won't be able to hang out with as often. I can't wait for summer!!

RaeLynn Manning



Petoskey Stones

I have always loved Petoskey stones since I was a kid. Petoskey stones have a really special part in my heart because my grandma takes me every year right after it rains to look for them on the side of the road. I have always wondered about the history behind Petoskey stones, so I decided to research them.

Petoskey stones are beautiful, and a natural wonder that is very special to the state of Michigan. This stone will always be connected to the culture of the mitten state.

Petoskey stones first began during the era of prehistoric times, at a time when Michigan was covered by shallow warm saltwater and home to a large population of marine life. Over time the earth's plates shifted, enough to move Michigan towards the 45th parallel.

This was over two million years ago, as these plates shifted, glaciers were moved leaving behind fossils. These fossils are the things we called Petoskey stones.

Lake Michigan is the is the best place to find these stones, but really they can be found anywhere. This stone is unique to the state of Michigan, just like the reference of the mitten state. With each wave, a new beautiful stone is discovered. Go out and find a Petoskey stone for yourself!

Zoie Spires

Fashion

Jaila’s Mom

An unnamed older woman who may or may not live in my home has been around for many decades. She has seen the fashion trends come and go. She knows that fashion trends do tend to repeat themselves. Yet, she can not wrap her head around how the kids of today's times enjoy different styles: how they don’t all dress the same, how I like to wear baggy jeans, Converse, and baggy shirts and my good friend RaeLynn wears leggings, Vans, and normal-fitting shirts. This isn’t an article about how this mysterious female who doesn’t understand fashion trends, no, it's about how she doesn’t dress well. This article isn't to make fun of this mysterious woman and her fashion tastes, but recently I’ve had to go into her room, which contains the closet. Let me tell you, it’s a jungle in there, it contains her clothes, floral shirts, skinny jeans, cardigans that she wears with every outfit that never needs it, and scarves that she never wears. But also included her closet is my fathers' clothing, too. Musty t-shirts with race car symbols on them. Worn-out jeans that need to be thrown away. I know I'm not talking about this mysterious man either who may or may not be my father, but at least his fashion sense isn't as bad as hers. I can’t hate on her too much, as my outfits aren’t always the best thing, but I would say they are way better compared to hers. Every day before she leaves, if I am up before she walks out the door, I take a look at her outfit and I try not to cringe. Who knew that pink and black couldn’t go together? Well they do, but one day this mysterious woman was wearing a salmon-pink cardigan and a black dog hair-covered top. I’ve never seen anything like it before and I sure did bleach my eyes after seeing it. So to this mysterious woman, please do not ground me, no I am not making fun of you. Finally, yes, you need better fashion.

Jaila Craft

The Weirdest Outfit Ever

This is a tutorial on how to have the weirdest outfit ever. First, you need to find some very old pants or the strange pair that I found that are shorts but they have sleeves. Then you need to get any toe socks, but the best ones are skin tone. For a shirt, you need one that says “Ask me about my T-REX” and then the shirt can flip over your head and there is a T-REX head. You could also get some earrings that are in the shape of an ear. That is how to have the weirdest outfit.

Elliot Smith



Food

Strawberry vs. Chocolate Milk

Your everyday drinks may include water, juice, or a smoothie. Most people may not think of milk as an everyday drink unless it has a flavor to it. The two most common flavors for milk are strawberry and chocolate. Some people say chocolate milk is better than strawberry milk. But I'm here to tell you that strawberry milk is 10x better than any other kind of milk. Sure, chocolate milk is more common to find in stores, but come on! Chocolate? I could understand if you would rather drink banana flavored milk. Look, if I didn't have any strawberry milk flavoring left, maybe I would drink some regular plain milk. And to tell the truth, I do that a lot. One of the reasons I hate chocolate milk is because when I had a sore throat, my father told me to drink some apple cider vinegar and I asked my aunt what to use to dilute the flavor. She said to me, "I heard that chocolate milk works to help dilute the nasty flavor!" I followed her advice thinking she was wise.

Later that day I had thrown up everything that was in my stomach at the time. Though there is that time when I had the best chocolate milk in the world. It was the Nesquik chocolate milk from the gas station. I was about seven because, like any seven year old, I had to debate with myself whether or not to get Bug Juice. I chose chocolate milk because I always got Bug Juice. My mother went in the store and BAM I got some good ol' milk with chocolate. Strawberry milk on the other hand has made my days better (on the days I have had strawberry milk). I think that everyone should at least try some strawberry flavored milk. Unless you're lactose intolerant.

Issy Perez



Best Drinks

Bug Juice is so delicious, the healthiest, the most life-changing drink. This drink has been in my life for over seven years. Bug Juice was one of my favorite drinks as a kid and I'll tell you why. One thing is due to its sugary flavor. I have had the pleasure of experiencing a diverse range of flavors such as Berry Raspberry, Lemony Lime, Outrageous Orange, Fruity Punch, Leap'N Lemo'N'ade, and Spider Juice. When I was seven years old I thought that Spider Juice, the flavor, was a bunch of spiders that had been squeezed until they had been drained of all of their bodily fluids. I also thought that Leap'N Lemo'N'ade would make me leap two feet, so every time I wanted to play leapfrog I would ask

my mom to get me Leap'N Lemo'N'ade. All of the other flavors I thought had normal names. Well, I didn't know the flavors. I normally said the color instead of the names. Another favorite drink of mine is called Hug Fruit Barrels. My favorites are the Kiwi-Strawberry and Blue Raspberry. The other flavors don't taste that good. But when I was around nine years old, I would always go to my aunt's house. Normally she would have a huge box of Hug Fruit Barrels.

Issy Perez

Classroom Spotlights

School Remodel

The middle school needs a complete remodel on the outside. All it is, all the way around the school, is boring brown bricks. One perfect thing would just be some art. If they could just add some detail it would make this school look brand new. Even better than that, a new paint job. If they painted the school the right color, some kids might actually WANT to go to school. Almost all the schools I've seen have a nice colorful paint job that fits their school perfectly. Every school I've seen with any paint job at all looks better than our school. Not only does the outside need some better looks, the inside definitely has work to be done. All around the inside there are small cracks and paint jobs that are off. There hasn't been a big change to the school in years now, and it has to be done. Big changes to the school would attract more people. A remake would be better for the school than worse. We would make a lot more money, and we would possibly gain more people. More people means smarter people, and better sports teams too. The school could, and should, look better than it does now.

Ben Beddingfield



Charger Thieves

We all have heard of or experienced a missing Chromebook charger at some time in school. People should be more responsible with their stuff and stop blaming other people for their own mistakes. A Chromebook charger is essential in school and without it, you're doomed. One simple thing you can do to keep your charger is leave it at home and just remember to plug it in before bed. The Chromebook charger problem is so bad that I'm surprised there's not an urban legend about someone going into people's Chromebook bags to steal their chargers. And let's be honest, nobody wants to ask their classmate to borrow their charger.

Dylan Cockerill



Reviews

Hunger Games

The Hunger Games is a teen book written by Suzanne Collins. It has some gory descriptions and inappropriate language. *The Hunger Games* takes place in a country called Panem which was built out of the rubble of what used to be called North America. Panem is divided into 12 districts, ruled from the Capitol. As punishment for a failed revolt, each district is forced to select two tributes, one boy and one girl between the ages of 12 and 18, to fight to the death in the annual Hunger Games until there is only one survivor.

In this book, you will watch as the Hunger Games unfold and Katniss and Peeta fight for survival and a victory for District 12. *The Hunger Games* is a great book if you love suspense and conflict. I liked the fact that at the beginning of the book it started by explaining everything you needed to know, built up suspense, and then jumped right into the main plot of the story. I didn't like how once it got into the part of the story that could have been suspenseful, the plot moved very slowly and it wasn't very exciting. Overall I would rate this book a 4 out of 5.

Kate Malloy



My Chemical Romance

Scaring parents since 2008, My Chemical Romance is the best band known to man. This sinister cult of emos is converting our poor children like me into monsters. If this keeps up then soon we will all darken our clothes and strike a violent pose. However, this isn't exactly bad in my opinion, since My Chemical Romance is my favorite band. The band has Gerard Way for the lead singer, and he is well known for this, but he also writes famous comic books such as *The Umbrella Academy* that got turned into a show as well. My Chemical Romance has a whole album related to one of their comic book series called *The True Lives of the Fabulous Killjoys* and all of the songs have references towards the books. The first time I heard their music was when I was on my way to a birthday party with my friend and it came on in the car. The first time I heard it, I wasn't too interested, but now I prefer them over any other band I know. Out of all 90 songs, I couldn't possibly choose one favorite. Instead I would want to choose one song from every album. My Chemical Romance has four studio albums and three compilation albums. Starting with my favorite album, *Brought You My Bullets, You Brought Me Your Love*, I think there are several really good songs like "Demolition Lovers" or "Our Lady of Sorrows," but I think my favorite is "Early Sunsets Over

Monroeville" because it is the one I listen to most from that album. From *The Black Parade* I think that "Mama" is the best song on there because it was the first My Chemical Romance song that I listened to on my own and I immediately loved it. *Danger Days: The True Lives of the Fabulous Killjoys* has many songs that I enjoy such as "Na Na Na" or "DESTROYA" and it's really hard for me to choose one favorite from that album since they are both really good. I really hope I can buy the comic book that the album is based off of soon because the story seems so interesting to me. *Three Cheers for Sweet Revenge* another really good album in my opinion, and I would say that "I Never Told you What I Do for a Living" is definitely the best and I especially love playing it on my CD player really loud to annoy my mom. My Chemical Romance's compilation album, *Living With Ghosts*, has some of my absolute favorite songs like "Emily" and "All the Angels" and I don't think I could choose one of the two. Out of their *Conventional Weapons* compilation album, "The Light Behind Your Eyes" is definitely my favorite, although I think it's actually really sad as well as the two songs on the *Living With Ghosts* album I was talking about. *The Mad Gear and Missile Kid* is another great album, however, it only has three songs. Out of those three songs, I think "Mastas of Ravenkroft" is the best because it's really good and I actually find it oddly funny. My Chemical Romance just recently finished their reunion tour in March of this year, but I hope they have another tour in the US soon because it would be so amazing to see them live.

Lilly Johnson

Reviews

Gorillaz

Gorillaz is a virtual British band consisting of four fictional characters: 2D, Murdoc Niccals, Noodle, and Russel Hobbs, created by music artist Damon Albarn and artist Jamie Hewlett in 1998. The band's unique blend of music, animation, and storytelling has made them one of the most popular and influential acts of the 21st century. Gorillaz' musical style encompasses a wide range of genres, including alternative rock, hip-hop, electronic, and world music. Their debut album, "Gorillaz," released in 2001, featured hit songs such as "Clint Eastwood" and "19-2000." The album's success was due in part to its unique sound and the band's striking animated characters, which quickly gained a following among fans worldwide. Over the years, Gorillaz has released six more studio albums, including "Demon Days," "Plastic Beach," and "Humanz." Each album has explored new sonic territories and featured collaborations with a wide range of artists from around the world.



Mario Movie

Peaches, peaches, peaches, peaches, peaches! *The Mario Movie* is the best movie in my opinion. It is honestly the GOAT of movies that are based on video games. Though if you're looking for a film with a story attached, don't watch this movie. It is just here for fun giggles, because there is really no way to incorporate a story into this. Except for a giant turtle who is desperate for a cute little princess who plays dress up with a bunch of mushrooms. That is also the exact plot if you've played any of the games. So now, if you don't mind, I will review *The Mario Movie*.

The Mario Movie had a lot of fantastic comedy. For example, (All of this paragraph is spoilers for the **trailer** of the movie) the penguins that are the size of a baby human, fighting Bowser with tiny snowballs that did absolutely nothing to him. Another one is when the little Lumalee (small blue star) sat in a cage over lava, rocking it like a swing. Then she said that they were all going to **DIE** in there,

The band's music has been praised for its ability to blend different genres seamlessly, creating a sound that is both innovative and accessible. In addition to their music, Gorillaz has also used their animated characters to tell stories and comment on social issues. The band's videos and live performances often feature political and social commentary, addressing topics such as climate change, consumerism, and the impact of technology on society. Gorillaz has received critical acclaim and commercial success throughout their career, with hit songs such as "Feel Good Inc." and "Stylo." They have also received several awards and nominations, including multiple Grammy nominations. The band's unique approach to music and storytelling has earned them a dedicated fan base and cemented their place in music history.

Angel Biddle



and there was no escape. One of the other ones was Bowser (voiced by Jack Black) singing "Peaches" at the top of his lungs on a piano.

The movie also contained many references to the retro Mario games. It even contained one reference to The Super Mario Bros. Super Show. Almost all of these references I can't say, so I'll just say this. You should buy a Nintendo Switch because they are amazing and you can play so many of the new games on them. You can also play some retro games on the Switch, and all you have to do is buy the family membership for \$35 a year, and then you can install some NES and GameBoy games. So what are you waiting for, buy a Nintendo Switch now for the low price of \$299!

Now, If you haven't yet seen *The Mario Movie*, I think that you should go watch it right now because it is an absolute phenomenon and in my opinion is the best movie Illumination has put out.

Lucas Stotler

Reviews

Why I Should Go to a Måneskin Concert

Dear Mommy,

You may think that buying me tickets to a Måneskin concert is a waste of money and time. However, I think it would be an opportunity to experience new things that I normally wouldn't. I know it would cost a lot of money considering you would have to pay for the tickets, gas, food, and a hotel, but I would work over the summer to help pay for it. Also, tickets are a lot cheaper now since it is still months away and I will be in eighth grade by the time it comes around. This might not convince you though. You might think that Måneskin lyrics to their songs aren't exactly appropriate for kids my age, or what they say and wear during live performances. Even if you don't allow me to go for this reason, I already listen to all of their songs and I have seen their performances online, so I think I'm mature enough to see it myself. If get to go to a Måneskin concert, it would improve my mood and I would work much better in school. I think that going to this concert would benefit me and I would be really grateful if I get to go.

Lilly Johnson



Da Yoopers

Da Yoopers are a band that I enjoy. For those of you who do not know what yoopers are, they are people who live in the Upper Peninsula (UP). They have a lot of songs that go along with the UP. Some of them are "The 2nd Week Of Deer Camp," "Da Thirty Point Buck," "Rusty Chevrolet," "If I Could Fart Like My Dad," "Grandpa Farted," and "The Dog Died." There are a lot more songs, but I do not think that I need to name all of them. Their songs are very random and some of them do not make sense. Also, quick disclaimer, they talk about beer a in some songs. That is Da Yoopers.

Elliot Smith



Goodbye

Elliot Smith

The 2022-2023 school year is coming to an end, and these are my thoughts on it. The beginning of the year was fun, but as the year progressed, it got more fun. There were a lot of good times this year, but there were also some bad times, but a lot less than good ones. Some of the best times were in my 5th hour class. At the end of the school year, we did some plays as just the class. For one of them, there were four people crawling on the floor being pigs. Also, Hayden was a little German boy and he was screaming “YOU MAY ENTER” at people when they entered the classroom. Also, I just saw him jump out at somebody when they entered the classroom and then screamed at them. It was very funny. I don’t know what else to say so, happy summer.



Dylan Cockerill

This 7th grade year so far has been kind of wild. Not a lot of big things have happened, but some things did. One big thing, though, was the new principal Mr. Bacon. I feel like Mr. Bacon was the one thing we needed after COVID. No hate for Mr. Rager, but when he was principal, nothing happened and everything was kind of boring. Mr. Bacon brought back things like field trips and after-school events. I also think I changed during 7th grade. For example, I turned more into an old man in his dying 70s because I sleep way more even though I'm still 13. I also became more active because if I'm not sleeping then I'm probably hanging out with friends or at the gym. I also got better at managing my ching ching cash money because now I know what would be a good purchase and a bad one.



Maddie Dombrowski

I have had a lot of good times this year, but basketball season had most of them. The basketball bus was always so fun. Usually, some people might fall asleep on the way back from a game, but never on our bus. Although basketball was a very good time of the year, it is not my favorite time of the school year. If I had to choose my favorite part of the year, I would definitely choose fourth quarter. I would choose fourth quarter because it’s warm, I have a lot of friends, and I actually enjoy school now. This week, I got into NJHS, which is what I’ve been working for this year. When I found this out, I was very happy and I knew that working as hard as I did was definitely worth it. We’ve done a lot of fun things this year, but my favorite had to have been the dance. The best thing about the dance was for sure Taylor Swift. My favorite class has to be fifth hour, encore. Fifth hour is always so fun. There isn’t a class that we go without laughing. Sometimes it’s nice to just watch your classmates put on a play as pigs. Overall, this year has definitely been my favorite year throughout my middle school experience.

Goodbye

Tiana Ashley

This school year just flew right by! I still remember the first day of school like it was just yesterday. We have made some great memories this school year, from Mr. Collin's 5th hour throwing oranges across the football field to the winter dance. Me being a 7th grader, I can't believe that we are almost in 8th grade. I also can't believe that the 8th graders, and soon-to-be 9th graders, are already done with middle school. This makes me so sad to realize how old we are all getting. I remember when I was in preschool and we had preschool graduation. I was so proud of myself for getting done with taking naps and learning how to spell my name. I'm scared for when I graduate high school. I will be super proud but also super upset, because what am I am going to do with my life. Hopefully, I won't forget all of the fun times I had in middle school. Counting that one time I got \$30 during the mystery competition that we had in the gym where we had to do a whole bunch of games that got us eliminated, or when Mr. Collins got a scam call that was meant for someone named Kelly. Also when we had that soccer game assembly in the gym and played soccer-related games and watched the World Cup. I'm so happy that we got to have a great and fun year and experience all of the fun and new things that we did this year. I'm looking forward to next year.



Jaila Craft

This newsletter has been really fun, and I can't believe it's over. Since this is our last newsletter, we had specific rules. Three articles, no more no less. Although this isn't an explanation of the last newsletter, I thought I should add something about it because, well, this is it. No more newsletters after this one. If I'm being honest with you, I'm pretty sure only my mom reads this and I know this is the truth. I don't blame people for not wanting to read it. Something that kids have made all on their own, and put their heart and soul into it (sometimes). How would you want to read that? Anyways, I've made a lot of good memories just making and reading and editing this newsletter. I think this was a very productive way to spend our free time. Sometimes, I do realize how much we didn't care too much about the way we worded our articles. For instance, the Meat article. With a capital M. Since we still remember it, we must've had a good time fixing it. I know that it is a shot at John, but multiple other people have made bad articles. I can't deny it, I made some bad articles too. I just really hope that if Mr. Collins continues to make his 5th hour (if he still has it) make the newsletter, it stays the same. I always enjoyed seeing my friends write in the way they wanted to with no rules. Well, little to no rules. It's just some 12-13 year-olds being creative and having fun together! I feel everyone should get a moment to do this, and write in a fun way. People trash talk writing enough; they need to understand it's only fun if you make it fun. I've talked about the newsletter enough, and something else that has been important to me is just this grade. Last year, we were average. Like any other year. This year though, we have really made improvements. I feel that we are just chill. We enjoy life and each other. I really like this about our grade. I hope we keep this attitude going into 8th grade. What I've seen from my experience is that 8th graders don't enjoy anything. We should keep this spirit going through the grades and make high school actually fun.



RaeLynn Manning

Goodbye

This year was the best. During basketball season was one of the happiest times of this year. I mean, yeah, it was a really dramatic part of the year, but I loved the fun that came with basketball. I had so much fun with all of my friends at away basketball games because I loved being on the bus with my friends. Some of our games were almost two hours away (I don't really remember how far they were). Those games were the best. I loved going to Pellston. We went to overtime, we won, we got ice cream after, AND there was a long bus ride!! I love long bus rides, especially when I got to sit next to my best friend, Maddie. On the way back, basically none of the eight graders were there, so we got to sit in the back of the bus. Basically every time we sat back there, we got yelled at to quiet down. Oops? Okay that's enough about basketball. I loved how many field trips we went on this year. Last year we didn't go on any, so I'm assuming that's part of the reason we went on so many. We went to the movie theaters twice, Friske's once, and now we're going on the Inland Seas trip. This year during February was so much fun. This was my first year actually having a Galentine, and I had two (Tiana Ashley and Ace Smith)! I got them both their favorite candy, a heart shaped chocolate box, and their favorite colored flowers. I got an Arizona Half and Half and Skittles. Okay, now onto NJHS (National Junior Honor Society). I loved all of the stuff we did this year. We did candy grams for Halloween, Christmas, and Valentine's Day. That was fun because I got to skip the cold recesses that were on those days. I hate cold recess. We tried to walk around like the group of boys did the day before us, but then we got yelled at (not really) and had to go sit back down. One time we had to hang out with the GSRP kids during parents night. I think they both ran away, but there was like 12 NJHS kids + two of the girls' friends, and we basically hung out alone in a preschool classroom. We also got pizza!! It was good pizza too. There was also one honor roll meeting that we had this year. We got to eat donuts and drink hot chocolate. Now I'm in track with some of my friends. I've had fun on the track bus too, but it'll never compare to the basketball bus, because the boys ride with us. We usually split the bus in half so boys sit on one side and girls sit on the other, but recently we got in trouble, so now we have to sit the girls on the front of the bus and the boys in the back. I always sit by my best friend Bridget on the track bus. If it was a late meet, like our West Branch meet, I will sit alone. At our meet in West Branch, I slept on the bus, but I woke up every single time we stopped. We got on the bus around 9:50pm, and got home at like 11:30pm. I got home at 11:58pm. It was a school night, but luckily (not really) I got sick and didn't go to school the next day. I love the feeling of being at a track meet. I love running (especially sprinting). I hate long distance though. I have been doing the 4x4 (a relay with 4 people – each one running 400 meters, which is one lap), 200m, and 70m. I love the 70, have a love/hate relationship with the 200m, and actually hate the 4x4 (but I would beat up (JOKE) whoever took my place in that race). I like the 200 but hate it at the same time, it feels like forever

to sprint, but I also would much rather do the 200 than anything above that. In the 4x4 I always die at the end. My vision gets fuzzy and it gets hard to walk. The fastest I ran it was 1 minute and 20 seconds. I love track. I also love certain school lunches. I ❤️ CHICKEN BOWLS. I love the chicken bowls the school makes. Sometimes the mashed potatoes taste watered down, but usually if you get corn, popcorn chicken, gravy, and mashed potatoes, it all tastes good together. I also ❤️ the school nachos. I wish they gave me more cheese and meat and less chips. I feel like I always have a lot of leftover plain chips whenever I get nachos. Also, I ❤️ the school's pizza, but only sometimes. Sometimes, the crust seems a little undercooked, and sometimes they put on way too much sauce (I HATE PIZZA SAUCE). Otherwise, I love it. Everyone says they hate the crust, but I love the crust. I don't like when they put cheese in the crust (I HATE CHEESE), but they rarely do that. The classes I had this year were my favorite classes I've ever had. First hour, I have social studies with Mr. Collins. I love starting the day off with Mr. Collins because everyone seems more outgoing in his class. I don't really like history/social studies in general, though. Second hour, I have a band class. I loved the band this year. I learned a lot, and got to go to honors band and solo and ensemble. Those are out of school events that I got to do with some of my friends. I did an honors band with a group of (I think) 98 kids from around northern Michigan that were some of the best players in their band. It was fun and I made some new friends. Solo and ensemble was an event that I did with my best friend Leili. We went to a school and played two songs for a professional trumpet player who helped us improve our overall playing. I love the way Mrs. Heegeman teaches us. Third hour, I have science with Mrs. Kihn. I love the unit we're in right now. We have been using microscopes, and I have been infatuated with microscopes since I got my first one. I think I was 7 when I got my first microscope. Fourth hour, I have ELA with Mrs. Morgan, I love how she starts off the hour with reading aloud, which gives us time to cool off from lunch and recess. Fifth hour, I have an encore with Mr. Collins. I love how we basically get to do anything English related here, and I love how we get to write the newsletter. Writing the Mancy Press is one of my favorite parts of the month. Sixth hour, I have math with Mrs. Bernthal. I ❤️ the way Mrs. Bernthal teaches us. I have learned so much from her this year. I have learned so much overall. I loved this year.

Goodbye

Kate Malloy

This has been the most fantastic year of middle school. I have been so happy with all my classes and grades. My fifth hour class is definitely my favorite. We have so much fun in this class. I know that if I'm having a bad day, I will always have fun in 5th hour. We are either doing orange books, presentations, or working on the Ultimate Newspaper. This was my first year of NJHS, 7th and 8th grade band, and writing a newspaper. I am super proud of myself and my grade because of how much more mature we have become since last year and how much more positive we have become. As a grade, we have all become so much better and have been so much more involved in doing fun things. I have had so much fun this year and some of the most fun parts were when we were just doing whatever. I have had so much fun this year! What was your favorite part?

Angel Biddle

This year was my first year at Mancelona. I was very scared at first because I have never been to a small school or a new school in general. I was always used to a big crowd of people where not everyone knew each other, after all, I went to a school with over 2,000 people. When I came to Mancelona, everyone knew each other and had their own friend groups already since they have all been here since they were kids, so I didn't think I would fit. Since I already knew Leili from the summer, I had someone to hang out with. Then I met Zoie and she and Leili became my best friends and the year was really good. This school was better than I thought it would be, and I have made so many new friends this year like Leili, Zoie, Maddie, Jaila, RaeLynn, and Bridget. All of the teachers have been so nice to me and in class I have learned so much. Since there were so many people in my old school, it was harder to do the work, so I'm happy that the work was easier here than it was at my last school. Overall this year has been really good, even better than I thought it would be. I have so many new friends and experiences.

Lucas Stotler

Being in 7th grade is a pretty fun experience. You are finally at the point where you start to get told that you are almost in high school and that what you are doing is not going to fly there. That is how you know that you've made it halfway there, living on a prayer. I'm getting off track so putting on my big-boy pants is most likely a good idea so that I don't get yelled at by a 60-year-old person who doesn't like **FUN**. Otherwise, 7th grade is amazing. There is fun left and right. We got amazing teachers that are always able to help us laugh. Even if some of them talk for half an hour they are almost all able to be funny. Only one of them has earned the right to be deemed as hilarious.

Pros of the 7th grade are that we are separated from the inhumanly insane 5th and 6th graders. The reason they are insane is because they do insane things and not in a good way. Another pro is that we have more fun but in a mature way so we don't look completely stupid. One last pro that I find important, is that we get to do a newsletter that is amazing because we can write about a topic that we choose, even if it has nothing to do with the school. However, there are some cons. One of those cons is that we still aren't in the top grade of the school, meaning we are still little shrubs compared to the unnaturally tall 8th graders. Another con is that we don't get lunch first, so that means we have to sit in the filth of the 8th graders. Let me tell you, the lunch room after the 8th graders eat is filth, stinky, nasty, horrid, and all the other words that describe yucky.

Other than all of the cons, the 7th grade isn't bad at all. It is, as said before, an amazing place, and I hope that every other grade under the 7th grade takes my word for it. Also, Mr. Collins is an amazing teacher, take my word for that as well.



Goodbye

Ben Beddingfield

7th grade is like taking 6th but making it 100X better. It was way better than last year, and way more exciting. Last year, all grades were pretty much based entirely on homework. The sociality of the school has gotten so much better. Last year there weren't many field trips or fun events. That has definitely changed, as we have gone on several field trips, like movie theaters, Inland Seas (a boat trip), and other spectacular places. I feel like the first day of school was a month ago. The best part is, a lot of the students have Mr. Collins for the second time! I have become so much closer to my friends, and I've had more time to spend with them. I got into student council, went to more events, and have been able to spend time with people. I also played so many fun sports like track, basketball, and football. Even the bus rides are fun. We are able to sit with our friends and talk to them. Sitting alone in the peace and quiet and listening to music is even fun. I started off with football which actually started a little before the school year. It was a lot of work. Then basketball came around where I was able to play around with my friends and run drills with them. Sports are what really keep me going and having a great time. Right now is track. It hasn't finished yet, but it has started off amazing. There are lots of different events I can pick between. Like pole vault. I do pole vault myself, and it is such a blast. Even in class the excitement has stepped up. The teachers are a lot more fun (no offense to the 6th grade teachers). For fifth grade I was virtual, which meant I wasn't ever seeing anybody from school. During sixth grade, I was adjusting back into the school mood still. The National Junior Honor Society was also awesome. We did lots of different activities and helped with a lot of things. Some things we did was hand out candy grams. One example was on Valentine's Day. We sold them each for 25 cents, and we actually made a good amount of profit. We helped with other things too, like making cards for people. On Veterans Day we handed out papers to kids in the elementary school, and they made cards for the veterans. The bus rides were also incredible. We are able to just have a fun time to hang out with people, and hype each other up for the games, and meets. This year couldn't have been any better.



Zoie Spires

This year was my first year back at Mancelona. I thought this year would be the worst, but it wasn't. I was so scared for this year. I had a choice to stay at my other school or to come back to Mancelona. I obviously decided to come back, because my sister would take me to school and I thought I would be the coolest person ever. I was so indecisive to move back, but I am so glad that I did. This school year has probably been the best school year ever. I thought that I would not have any friends, but I do and they are all so amazing. The work this year was also surprisingly easy, and I was scared of that because, at my other school, we used a different curriculum which was really hard. Some of my favorite memories were going to football games, and more recently going to track meets with my sister. I have gone to Angel's house about a million times and it is so fun every time. This summer I get to hang out with all my new friends and to go to my favorite thing, the Bass Festival. I love this school year and year in general, but I am also so excited for summer.

Hayden Russell

Goodbye👋

My name is Hayden Russell and I got new tandems of shoes for before and after the M-Step. I strive to be passionate about cheese and cheese. I choose to Write a bombastic breakdown on fun in college and how I will achieve such a demanding feat. Trying to write boring is hard. So I don't get why seniors can accomplish this in a matter of seconds without breaking a sweat. My attempt still sounds a little goofy! Hold on, I have an idea. Let me try this again. My name is Hayden Russell. Ever since I was a little child, I have dreamed of going to college. But in order to fulfill my dreams, I must have fun. Here is how I will do that. A much better attempt. Even MISTA COOOOOOOLINS agrees it was very well precisely done. I Just accidentally broke a couch....

Sooooooo the year is almost over. I've gone a long way from an indistinguishable intellectual with brain damage to—uhhmm— ahh— A GENIUS MWAAHAHHAHAHAHA. To be honest, I am terrible at describing myself. I like to consider my early years, everything in elementary school, to be a different person, and oh boy I am good at describing other people.

—baby—
It all started in preschool. Back then, life was ANYTHING BUT FINE. The constant conflict would arise and the center of it all? A McDonald's Hot Wheel car and I was determined to get it. Meanwhile, Lucas made his first friend, and nothing too important happened—IF IT WASN'T FOR THE TABLE FLIPPERS. This will be a recurring theme throughout elementary. There would always be ONE kid who would throw a temper tantrum, and when I say throw I mean it. Nowadays, young troublemakers have found more elaborate ways of messing with people. My only or biggest memory from kindergarten is when I slid down one of those circular slides. When I reached the bottom I saw a wild kindergartener bawling his eyes out blaming me for hurting him in some way. I have telekinesis??? I somehow got in trouble with my teacher and written up. There is no valid explanation for what happened on that day besides that kid wanting to frame me. I would cycle through two emotions in kindergarten: Sad or nothing. I cried more tears than rain in the Amazon Rainforest. I would make it to 5th grade and something changed in me. I started hanging out with people I shouldn't have. I made friends with a legend. I don't know where Darrion is, but I promise I will one day speak with him again. Next, there was 6th grade. A lot of things happened but I was still an idiot. It was only at the end of that year that I started to become who I am today— a somewhat respectable human on planet Earth.

There were a lot of things I left out of that. Some weren't as bad while others were horrible.

Alright, enough about that guy. I want to thank everyone who has supported me, even though none of you should have. Not kidding, if it wasn't for most of the current seventh grade, I wouldn't be who I am today. I would be an introverted hobo with depression and a lack of common sense. I definitely have contributed to the mystery pile floating around the school, because I am one, and I still have some unanswered questions.

- Q without A.
- 1: If I were to run for Student Council next year, would I make it?
 - 2: Why do people gather in bathroom stalls at the end of the day???
 - 3: What elements are black holes made out of?
 - 4: The floor is expanding
 - 5: The urge for rhetorical questions without reason
 - 6: Why can I not think of 9 more questions?
- Self-reflection isn't good when you can't think of anything to reflect on. That is why I've given up and the article will end here. Anyways, I don't think my self-reflection article hit any new highs for your pool of expectations. As a Matter of fact, what did I accomplish with this article? What do any of these articles mean? What goal is anyone truly trying to achieve? How have I made it this far just by saying funny things and attacking gnomes? Will I truly matter to anyone when I'm like, 18? would anyone care?

It's been a fun year, for me at least. I shouldn't ruin it by thinking too deeply about things. And if I ever go too far, then the only person that could lift me out is my grandma. Turns out that talking about your problems with an old person is surprisingly calming. I can't count how many times my grandma has helped me recover just by listening to what I have to say. You, the viewer, should go and say thanks to an old person, whether they are close to you or not. Anyways (Anyways counter: 3, I thought it would've been higher), it was nice writing about nose hairs and earwigs waging war against the average Joe. I hope Next year's team makes some banger commentaries. I should've made an article about frogs. No, it's too late. BUT NOT ON WORDS SHOVED IN AN OVEN! Anyways (number 4), here's the link if you want to check it out: <https://sites.google.com/view/wordsshovedinanoven/home>. But more importantly, I have a puzzle for you. Throughout this article, some letters were bolded and red. Combine the letters to form an ID of a youtube URL (the bolded part of this URL AS AN EXAMPLE DON'T COUNT THIS PART: youtube.com/watch?v=**XHqm4cRrFL8**). Good luck!!!!



| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Dylan Frollo's Birthday | 7 |
| 8 Taylor Belongia, Aidan Hemingway, and Owen Miller's Birthday | 9 Caydence Cook's Birthday 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM Board Meeting | 10 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Mancelona High School Spring Awards Concert | 11 | 12 | 13 Emma Marshall's Birthday Prom | 14 Arysa Kendall's Birthday |
| 15 Hailey Jones' Birthday | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 William Elkins, Gavin Forfinski, and Lewis Smith's Birthday | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Middle School Annual Spring Concert | 25 Margaret Simundic and Isabella Stingley's Birthday | 26 Tucker Wyskochil's Birthday Last Day For Seniors | 27 | 28 Izabella LaLonde's Birthday |
| 29 No School Memorial Day Recess | 30 | 31 HS Sports Banquet In The HS Gym @ 5:30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |



June

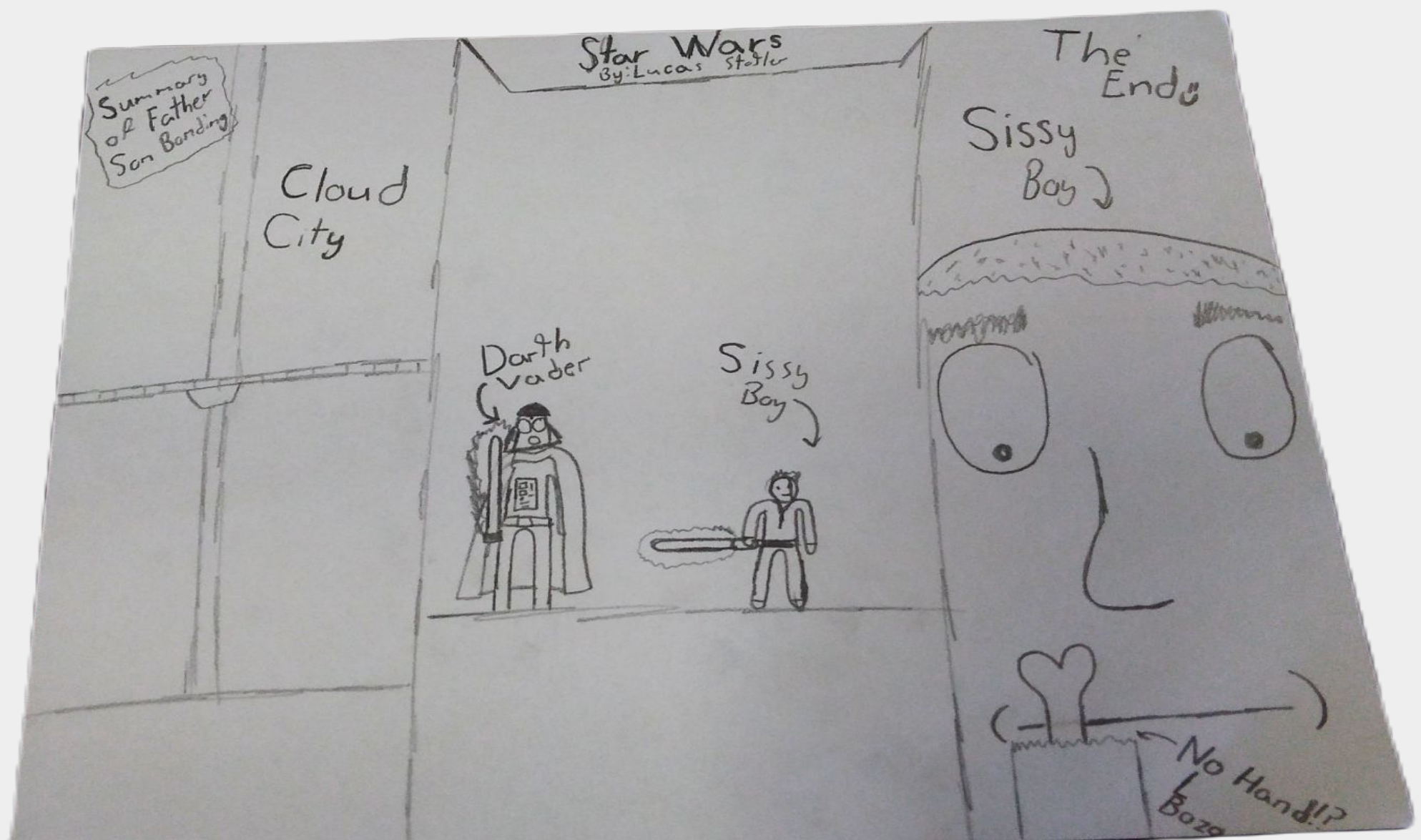
2023

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|--|---|--------|
| 29 No School Memorial Day Recess | 30 | 31 HS Sports Banquet In The HS Gym @ 5:30 | 1 | 2 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Graduation @ Bushard Field | 3 Dinka Brewer and Lucy Griffore's Birthday | 4 |
| 5 Anthony Potts' Birthday | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 Lucas Stotler's Birthday Last Day Of School Summer Recess Begins | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Camden Morris' Birthday | 13 | 14 Cali Squires and Megan Stanichuk's Birthday | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Zackery Hittle and Bentley Robarge's Birthday | 20 4:30 PM Board Meeting | 21 | 22 Dylan Cockerill and Jett Helwig's Birthday | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Lorinda Polasky and Amelia Reynolds' Birthday | 1 | 2 |

Comic

I am your friendly human being that lives under your pillow and says Star Wars references. The backstory behind my talking about Star Wars is that a few days ago was May 4, and during that day, people say “May the 4th be with you” as a joke. So I thought I’d give some backstory on how Star Wars was created. A long time ago, in a galaxy far away, a man named George Lucas found out about 1937’s Hobbit and 1954-1955’s Lord of the Rings novel, which gave this young man the idea of making scary aliens and dumb people with blasters. This all turned into 1977’s Star Wars which was a great hit that everybody loved. Star Wars is still making movies today, and even though some of them are dog water. They are all part of the franchise and will go down in history as legendary films. Anakin Skywalker (Darth Vader) will also go down in history as a horrible father but an outstanding murderer (Order 66 has proof). Obi-Wan Kenobi will also go down in history as a great student considering he beat Darth Maul, somebody who his teacher Qui-Gon Jinn **DIED** to. There are legends like George Lucas and people who think plumbers stomping on innocent turtles will be a fantastic idea. All in all, Star Wars is cool and so is Mario. Finally, the next few Star Wars movies will not be horrible and bring back dead villains like Emperor Palpatine. That’s because I’ll be the one writing them.

By: Lucas Stotler



Word Search Puzzle

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| S | S | A | R | G | R | Z | R | E | B | N | N | O | G | A | W | N | G | Q | X |
| I | Y | V | K | N | T | Z | Z | A | T | U | A | G | G | R | T | M | N | U | O |
| R | I | O | O | F | G | D | G | S | I | F | E | B | F | F | T | U | I | G | P |
| U | U | P | S | T | D | Q | U | T | U | N | T | H | T | F | Y | W | R | U | O |
| G | N | S | P | P | G | R | N | D | Q | I | B | Q | X | L | E | G | P | X | A |
| K | F | H | D | G | P | E | G | I | I | S | D | O | X | K | B | N | S | U | V |
| R | M | M | E | B | R | M | C | L | A | L | X | Y | W | Y | E | N | C | U | I |
| C | F | C | O | H | A | K | Y | V | U | R | C | Z | V | F | Z | R | C | F | L |
| G | B | Y | F | L | J | E | O | Z | K | L | K | K | T | J | A | B | L | S | I |
| R | A | S | N | I | B | O | R | P | V | U | D | B | O | F | T | O | U | A | M |
| M | Q | X | I | H | J | V | T | U | U | U | Y | I | G | U | W | N | N | M | B |
| C | O | L | O | R | F | U | L | M | G | F | V | R | H | E | S | A | E | G | G |
| E | Y | F | A | H | G | W | F | B | Y | I | D | D | R | H | Z | Q | B | K | H |
| W | W | B | D | E | I | K | W | R | F | W | Y | S | I | T | D | B | M | M | K |
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| I | W | K | K | P | A | N | B | T | X | R | W | S | H | H | X | T | G | F | U |
| F | S | H | I | L | M | Y | C | T | L | A | X | R | W | O | Z | O | L | C | Y |

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| birds | colorful | flowers |
| fun | grass | may |
| rain | rainbow | robins |
| spring | sunshine | umbrella |
| warm | | |