

The WVMS Literary Magazine

Fall/Winter 2022



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TRICK OR TREAT

By Jane Cornelius

I got off the bus and stepped onto the pavement. I heard the leaves crunch as I walked up to my neighborhood with my best friend. "Are you ready for Halloween?" she asked me.

"Of course!" I said smiling.

We unanimously decided to match costumes. Later, we headed to town to collect some candy. "Hey! Look, the abandoned house.....we should take a peek in" she said smirking. "

'I don't think that's necessary," I said, trying to hide my fear. But before I knew it we made a compromise and I was walking up the path. A shiver ran down my spine as we opened the door. The door creaked open. As we walked through the dark abandoned house I heard a slam and then a candle lit.

"We should leave," she said.

"Right behind you" I followed. But then a shock of horror struck my face when the door wouldn't open "IT'S LOCKED!" I screamed in horror.

"What? How?" my panicked friend said. We were stuck in a pitch black abandoned house, in the middle of nowhere. We turned on our phone lights and looked for another door. We ran and rummaged through the whole house and only found a 3 carat diamond ring. I shoved it in my pocket. Soon we heard the noise of pounding getting closer, closer and closer. I closed my eyes and then reopened them.

I was back in the room and the school day never started. I called my friend immediately and said "Let's not go into Anne Lane"

"What? How did you know that I was going to text you about it." she asked. I dropped my phone in horror and made sure to never go near Anne's Lane again.

The Haunted Street

By Izzy Cordova

Bellamy, Rosie, and Crystal were so excited for Halloween.

Bellamy was especially excited because since she had just turned thirteen, her parents were going to let her take both Rosie and Crystal trick-or-treating. Rosie was ten, and Crystal was eight.

Crystal and Rosie were also really excited. They had told everyone in their classes that they were going to go trick-or-treating without their parents and instead with their older sister.

A few hours later the girls zipped into their costumes. Bellamy was a purple fairy with sparkly wings. Rosie was a black cat with cool make-up done by her mom. And then Crystal was a cute little lion cub with a large golden mane.

The girls' mom gave some tips to Bellamy on what to do in case of an emergency, who to call, where to go, when to be back, and where not to go.

They left at 6:30 and had to be back at 9:30. Crystal was absolutely beaming with excitement. Halloween was her favorite holiday, mostly because of all the candy.

There were people all over the place grabbing candy from each house.

The girls knocked on every door in their neighborhood. Their bags were filled with loads of candy.

Then when the girls were just about to go home ,when Rosie said, "Look, there is one more street!"

"We are not going down that street," Bellamy said urgently.

"Why not?" whined Crystal.

"Because, mom said not to, she does not know any of the neighbors there, and to not even dare to go down CARTER STREET!" shouted Bellamy.

"Oohhh, I'm so scared!" teased Crystal.

The street the girls were looking at was dark and gloomy, there were no street lights. It was so quiet that not even a cricket chirp was heard.

"Point is, no one is going down that road on my watch. Mom said she would take away all my club privileges, and I don't want to miss the art show on Tuesday!"

"Well let's see if you can stop me from getting more candy!" Crystal laughed as she ran off to the first house on the street.

"CRYSTAL!!! " shouted Bellamy. "Moms gonna kill me! Stay here Rosie!"

"Yeah right," Rosie chuckled.

"Crystal, come back here right now!" Bellamy ordered.

"Make me!" Crystal yelled back at Bellamy. All the kids in the neighborhood had already started going back into their homes. They were the only ones still out.

Rosie peeked at the corner of the street, and saw the most disgusting rat she had ever seen. "I wanna go home now!" she squealed.

"Not until I get Crystal! " cried Bellamy.

Crystal knocked right on the door.

"NO!" Bellamy cried. Silence filled the air.

Rosie ran up to Bellamy and said " What's gonna happen now?"

"Maybe they're asleep," Bellamy said, unsure.

A few moments later, a woman with messed up hair, dust and dirt all over her, with bruises across her face opened the door, grabbed Crystal and pulled her into the abandoned looking house!

THE LAST AND FINAL PART OF THE COOPERTING MYSTERY.....

**As you all know the Cooperting house has stolen people from all over
the world... now it is time for a revolution.**

by Sydney Introini and Bridgette Jaeckel



10 years later...

The sun sets in on the last day of summer, and now Autumn is here. A girl named Bethany decided to dive into the case of the Cooperting Mystery. Bethany has always loved to solve mysteries but will this one break

When she was just about five years old, she could solve any puzzle or mystery she could imagine. Bethany's grandma's house was her favorite place, as most of the mysteries she solved were there. Bethany's grandma was good friends with the Cooperting family, way before they moved. Bethany heard some stories that there was more than one family that stayed and mysteriously, all went missing. Bethany kept thinking and thinking about who could be behind this?

Bethany drove to Newbury, Texas, in hope to see this weird "house". She knew it was dangerous to go in, but she didn't care, as she wanted to solve this mystery after all. After a very long drive she finally arrives at her destination. The house was all boarded up and had a very creepy vibe. Bethany thought the door would be locked but it pushed right up with a loud sounding creak. As she stepped on the floorboards they creaked; it was too quiet she thought to herself. She got chills up her back as she walked past a room decorated for a little kid. Should she be in here right now?

A loud sound came from the little kid bedroom she walked past earlier. Her body froze in place as she turned around. She fought the courage to go see

what it was. She slowly walked in and noticed a strange little ballerina jewelry box that was playing creepy music... so she decided to keep it as a clue, that someone was here but she didn't know who...

As she walked around the room looking for where the sound came from, she heard rustling in the closet. As she slowly walked to open it something un-human like sprung from the closet right at her. Bethany scream in terror unable to move. The "It" dragged her into the closet which they dropped into a dark room. It was all a blur, as she woke up she was not in the dark room anymore. Instead she was inside of a very nice looking house. How did she get here?

She walked out of the room and saw many adults and kids hanging out like nothing happened. Where in the world was she? They all turned to look at her and said, "It's okay dear, don't be scared. You're safe here."

Bethany later found out that those were the two families that went missing, the Jackson and Cooperating families. They explained everything to her but she couldn't wrap her mind around it all. Then an elderly man walked in and said, "I brought you here to have peace, not for you to solve a mystery..."

I guess it was for the best, but will anybody ever find a way to get all of them out safely?

The End

"Out" by Aspen

Rain was pouring against the roof, branches swaying aggressively from the violent storm, the wind howling all around me. There I was, sitting on the steps of my parent's house in the middle of a storm, and I had no idea what to do.

I sat watching the raindrops hit the ground faster and faster, fixating over how they disappear as they hit the ground. I wished I could do that myself right about then. I was lost, kicked out at the worst possible time, and now I'm on the steps of the house anticipating someone to come out yelling at me to leave. *Maybe that will kickstart my brain to make some sort of decision, I thought, something like, "Hey bozo! Just run into the rain already!"*

Even though I just wanted to run into some sort of bed, I ran full force into the rain.

I was left with almost nothing. I had cash and a blanket (actually, a soaking wet blanket). Hooray! I ran across the street and onto the sidewalk. Every little thing pulled memories into my thoughts, now bittersweet as they were corrupted with thoughts of my parents who kicked me out as soon as I turned sixteen.

As I ran, every muscle in my body cried out in pain, my arms screamed in protest at every freezing raindrop that hit them. My eyes were fighting to stay open against the pull of sleep. My head was pounding with adrenaline, fighting my fatigue and willing me to stay awake. I was nearing the end of the quaint village near the house that I had lived in my whole life. I stopped running and my muscles gave up, my legs buckled and I fell to the ground.

Tears streamed down my face as I let myself fully realize what had happened. I was kicked out, and now I have to leave everything I've ever known behind. All the memories I've made here are almost worthless now. I looked around one last time at the local stores I had put so much value in, the places I had been in with my friends. I was there with the family that accepted me and with my boyfriend so many times, and I thought of one place I could go.

I staggered down the street to the quaint mahogany house at the very end of the cul-de-sac. The windows were glistening in the moonlight so beautifully that I regained my courage- hah. If only. Instead, the light got in my eyes and I fell forward onto the concrete stairs leading up to the door.

I saw an eye peering through the window. There was Damion, looking at me with confusion as I lay on the steps of his house. His face disappeared from the window. A bit later the door burst open with Damion in the middle of the doorway.

"Felix, what happened?" He shouted, trying to be louder than the pouring rain.

“Got kicked out.” I said, trying to sound calmer than I was.

“WHAT?” Damion yelled. “Just get inside and explain later, the weather is horrible for sitting on my stairs.”

“Well I thought it's rather nice-”

“Just get inside!” He interrupted.

Damion helped me up and led me upstairs to his room.

“Wait here,” he told me. “I'll get you some ice for your hip.”

I gingerly touched the part of the hip that had taken the brunt of my fall. It turned out to be badly bruised.

A minute later, Damion was back with the ice, listening as I awkwardly explained everything to him. He is very expressive when he is listening to people tell stories, he almost teared up when hearing me ramble about everything that happened. It was nice to see his face after everything that has happened, it's funny how you don't realize how much you miss people sometimes.

I paused my explanation and tears began to form in my eyes, he had already been so nice having his immediate reaction to be taking me inside and giving me ice for my fall. Now he's sitting next to me listening to me vent about what just happened, but he's not giving any advice or trying to solve the problem right away. He's just giving me the time to process this situation and showing me that he really does care. I'm so thankful for him.

“Are you ok?” Damion asked quickly.

He looked so worried, I felt bad for giving him any extra stress.

“Yes!” I responded quickly, tears flowing down my face. He raised his eyebrows.

“Are you sure?” He questioned.

“Yes?” I faltered, obviously I was still crying, and obviously he didn't believe me. Damion rose from where he was sitting and positioned himself next to me. I smiled at him and he hugged me.

“I will be here for you, no matter what happens.” He comforted me.

“What am I going to do, how will I stay in school and keep my job?” I said uncertainty.

“Let's just get through tonight and see what happens next.”

Part one end

Life as a Refugee

Part One

By Jaxsen Mita

I am right now running away from the rebels that call themselves “**The Red Men**.” I am running to my house as I hear the distant sound of artillery that the rebels are using to attack the government. As I run into my house and grab a backpack, I run into my kitchen and grab a few water bottles and granola bars. I quickly grab my dog and run out the door. I run to the road, but I see a tank lining up to shoot my house. I veer into the woods with my dog right behind me. Then I hear a loud bang followed by a crash and I know that my house is gone. I cannot help feeling sympathy for the people trapped in their homes and mad at the rebels for doing this. I will not stop running until I can run no more. Then I started to walk.

When I was walking, my dog started to bark and I jumped but then I saw silhouettes. Then one of the silhouettes started to walk towards me. The silhouette started to talk to me and he said, “My name is Fred, what is your name?” I was about to respond when I heard a loud BOOM and saw smoke. When I looked up, I saw a plane veer away; it looked like the plane that dropped the bomb. Then the ground starts to rumble as a green and brown tank emerged from the trees. Then the tank fired and dirt and rocks shot everywhere. The tank luckily missed all the people in its path. For one second, everyone froze. Then people start to run in different directions as someone runs into me then everything goes black.

When I woke up I was in a medical tent. There were people in white coats running all around going from patient to patient tending to them. When I looked up I saw **The Red Men's flag**. Then I could hear bombs and gun shots all around me. As all the doctors looked away, I got up and ran for the door. My legs were very sore and they hurt a lot but I did not care - I made it out.

The End of Part 1

~Them~

By Emma Rose Rieder

“Hey, Barney!”

“Come on, we are going to be late to the 4th period!”

“IN A MINUTE XIA!” I shout.

I start running through the halls but all the sudden with a screeching halt, I see him. Max. Yeah, yeah I know what you're thinking, it's not like I want to hold hands with him or something... “Uh, Barney, you just said that out loud.” Xia said.

“EEP!” I jump behind the locker.

“So the dance is coming up and I was thinking you may ask a certain someone?” she said, nudging me.

“Xia, just because I revealed an embarrassing amount of information does not mean I'm asking him out.” I replied back.

“Sureeee.” She sighs and grabs my shoulder. “Barney, Barney, Barney, YOU NEED TO ASK HIM!” she shouts.

“Says who?” I replied.

“Says me.” She pushes the flier back to me. “Do it.” She walks away.

It leads me to go into a spiral of thoughts, what if he's straight, what if he has a special someone, what if I embarrass myself, what if I can't stop what-iffing! Right, class, got to go. I walk in only to see papers on the desk. I go to my seat. IT HAS A DIFFERENT NAME. I veered to the right to search for my name. Only to realize, it's right next to Daniel, Max, and Emma. Wait... Daniel. I glare at him. For years he has been tormenting me. WAIT... MAX!!! OH MY GOD, OH MY GOD, OH MY GOOOOOOOD! He looks at me. He starts to chuckle.

“Hey.” I want to say, “Hey Max, do you want to go to the dance?” but instead I get,

“Hi!”



Darn it Barney! As our teacher starts droning about the lesson I look out the window and start to daydream about the dance. BRRRRRRRIIIIIINNNNGGG Time to go? So soon? Ok the dance is in two days, I need to-

“Hey there Barns”

“Ugh what do you want now Daniel?”

“I’ve see you’ve got a crush on Mr. Bodybuilder.”

“Hey, leave them alone!” Xia shouted.

“Oooh you need a girl to protect you.”

“Yes, that's him miss.” A girl points at Daniel.

“To detention!” the teacher screeched. He groans and walks toward the detention room.

“Who’s that?” I say.

“That’s Emma, she’s my friend.” They bump fists.

“Ah, thanks Emma.”

“Hey, just doing my job.”

“By the way, how is it with you and Max?”

“You told her!”

“It’s fine Barneyy.” She walks away, “You got this!”

As I get home I just go right to bed. Not even thinking about anything. I wake up to the sweet smell of pancakes and syrup. Once I eat, I go straight to school, I gotta ask him now! I walk to his locker. He it goes.

“Oh, hey Barney what is it?”

“C-can you go to the dance... with me?” He thinks for a moment.

“Sure.” he smiles at me.

“Be there by 7:45!”

BBRRRRRRRIIIIIINNNNGGG!!! Oh shoot it’s time for Home Ec. I walk in the classroom only to find flowers. Right! We were planting our flowers.

“Oh wow! Look at all of these beautiful flowers!” Mrs. Hoppler spins round and round.

Maybe I can give them to Max...

“Now today we will identify what flower is what. So without further ado let’s start!”

I groan in my head. Flowers? Why flowers, out of all the things in the world you had to choose flowers?

“What is the name of this flower?”

“Tagetes erecta, or the African Marigold.”

“That is correct Dillion!”

BBBRRRIIIINNNGG!

“Well as fun as that was, you guys need to get ready for the dance!” she said pointing at each one of us. Oh shoot, I almost forgot about it. I walk out of class with a huge frown. When I start to give up hope, it hit me. Wait! I still have that dress that Grace gave me! I rush to the bus and take my phone out. As the bus is getting to my stop, I take out a piece of paper and start writing. Dress? Check. Hair done? Check. SKKKKKRRRRRT!!! The bus stops. Oh my stop! I run out of the bus and shut the door. Now, time to get the dress. I rummage through my closet and found it. I knew it would be used for this very occasion. As I put it on I hear a doorbell. I rush downstairs and open the door.

“Yes?” I reply. I look only to see Xia and Emma.

“Oh, hey guys!”

“Hey! Are you ready?” they say.

“Never been better.” I say. We get in the car. As we drive away I look out the window and stare into the distance. Is this going to be good? As we arrive at the dance I step out. Ok, Barns, you got this. I step in as the bright light welcomed me in. I squint my eyes only to see Max.

“Oh, hey Barney, you look-” Please don’t say bad, please don’t say, bad, please don’t say bad!!!

“You look GREAT!” he says. I sigh in relief. We both go up to the stage.

“Want to take this dance?” He grabs my hand. Not knowing that he would, I stumbled and fell on him. We both start to blush.

Oh my god Barney this is it!

“Hey, I was wondering, do you wanna be my-”

The speakers start to ring.

“Attention students, the dance will be ending in 2 hours, please proceed with the dance.” You know what, I’ll say later in the dance.

~The End ~

Tune in next time for the Spring Edition !

THE GUMMY BEAR PIRATE

BY ALLIE LUNDGREN



Hi my name is Sarah, Sarah Mangobliss. And no, I'm not a pirate who steals gummy bears. I am a sailor that found a treasure of well . . . you will find out. And now I'm going to tell you my story.

The Gummy Bear Pirate. One day a baby was born (me), and the mother of this child was Sasha Mangobliss. After I was born Sasha left. No one knows why. My dad, Sebastian Mangobliss, was left to take care of me. Nine years and 364 days later. I was turning 10 the next day. 1 day later, "I'm 10! I'm 10!" I had yelled.

"Sit down. I know you're excited," said Sebastian. OK I have to admit I was excited, but who wouldn't be it was my birthday. I sat down at the table and closed my eyes. "SURPRISE!! Dad yelled.

I opened my eyes to something unexpected - a chest.

"It's from your mother," Dad said.

Eyes widened, mouth dropped, hands on my face. "MOM!!!!!" I had screamed. When I opened the chest a little clip with a big gummy bear (was not real) was on it.

Then I raced to my cousin's house around the block. "Thomas!" I yelled.

"Yes," Thomas said. "What do you want, Sarah?"

“ I huff huff just got a huff huff present from my huff huff Mom “ I said exhausted.

His mouth dropped and for a second it was silent. “ WHAAAAAAAAT “ he yelled. Next thing I knew, he passed out.

“THOMAS MINTELL!” Aunt Taffeta screamed and picked up her son. Of course you probably think I was worried about Thomas passing out, I wasn't, this happened at least once a day. He is emotional. But Aunt Taffy still overreacts. All I had to do was say “help“ then he would instantly wake up. So that's what I did.

“Help!“ I yelled.

“What do you need?“ Thomas instantly said and ran over. “Now, your mom gave you a present, what is it ?”

“It's a clip,“ I said. Then I raced to the harbor to meet my Dad.

You're probably wondering how I knew he was there. I was taught to read the sun as a clock so I knew it was time to get the boat ready. Yep, my Dad has a boat called *Bliss* after my last name, Mangobliss. As soon as I got there he handed me the chest and a weird map. Thomas was right behind me and was also confused.

“Follow the map to the secret island, a treasure is there. I also believe that's where your Mother is. Now go before the other ship captains get here. They will try to steal the map and chest. GO!“ Dad said.

Suddenly I felt like someone was pushing me and Thomas onto the boat. Because someone was doing that. It was Aunt Taffy. Then the sails opened and we started to move. Thomas and I had the same thought: What just happened and what are we were going to do?

COME SEE PART 2 IN THE SPRING MAGAZINE

Vegan Pumpkin Muffins

By Aubrey Cordero

You Will Need...

- 5 cups canned pumpkin
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 flaxseed eggs =
(2 tbsp ground flaxseed +
6 tbsp water)
- 1 cup soy or nut milk
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup safflower oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 cups spelt or oat flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 3 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sweetened chocolate chips



How to Make It...

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line muffin pan with 12 baking cups. Make the flax egg . Combine the wet ingredients in one bowl (pumpkin, sugar, milk, oil, vanilla). Combine the dry ingredients in one bowl (flour, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg). Mix them all together with the flax egg. Add chocolate chips. Fill baking cups. Bake for 30 minutes. Put on a baking rack to cool.

Enjoy!

Copycat Starbucks Pumpkin Spice Lattes

by Jane Cornelius

The best drinks/foods are always the seasonal ones! From the Pumpkin Spice donuts to the Peppermint Flavored Drinks. In this recipe, you can have a seasonal pumpkin spice latte during and after fall!

PS: This includes caffeinated and non-caffeinated versions!

Hot Pumpkin Latte Recipe

Ingredients for a Hot Latte:

Pumpkin Sauce

- ~1 Cup of Pumpkin Puree
- ~1/2 cup sugar
- ~1/2 tsp pumpkin spice

For pumpkin Latte

- ~1/4 cup pumpkin sauce
- ~2oz of espresso or condensed milk
- ~8oz milk

Toppings:

- ~whipped cream
- ~cinnamon



Hot Latte Directions:

Pumpkin Sauce: Place pumpkin puree, sugar, and pumpkin spice in a saucepan and simmer for 10 minutes

Latte: Warm and froth (frothing is optional) milk. Combine Espresso and pumpkin sauce in a cup. Add the milk and top with whipped cream and cinnamon!

Iced Pumpkin Latte Recipe

Ingredients for an Iced Latte:

- ~Ice Cubes (Make sure to have extra)
- ~2oz of Milk (Almond or Whole)
- ~2oz Sweetened Condensed milk
- ~1.4oz Pumpkin Puree
- ~ 1 tsp Pumpkin Pie Spice
- ~1 shot Espresso (Optional)

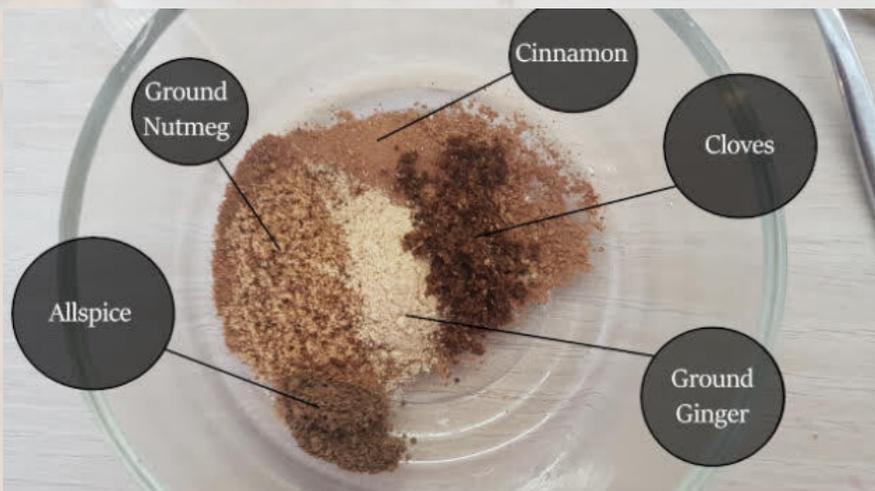


Iced Latte Directions:

Step One:
Prepare and combine ingredients.



Step Two (optional):
Add spices for extra flavor!



Step Three: Once blended, pour into a cup with ice! You can also add whipped cream and cinnamon! All Done!!

S'mores Cups

By Jack Fiore

The marshmallowy treat with no need for a campfire! Just an oven.



Prep Time: 10 min

Cook Time: 8 min

Cooling Time: 15 min

Total Time: 33 min

Ingredients

- 1 package of honey graham crackers or about 8 to 10 whole graham crackers
- ¼ cup of powdered sugar
- 5 tablespoons of butter, *melted*
- 12 regular size marshmallows
- 2 full sized Hershey bars (carefully divided into 24 pieces)

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Put graham crackers into a large Ziploc bag and crush with a rolling pin and hands.
3. Put butter in a microwaveable bowl and melt (takes about 40 sec).
4. In a small bowl, combine graham crackers and powdered sugar, then stir in butter.
5. Grease a 24 mini muffin pan with non-stick cooking spray.
6. Scoop mixture into each muffin cup and press down with fingers to create a cup shape.
7. Bake mini graham cracker cups at 350F for 4 min .
8. Cut each marshmallow evenly in half, place a marshmallow into each graham cracker cup with the cut side of marshmallow facing down.
9. Switch oven to broil and put muffin tin under broiler for about a minute and a half, until the marshmallows become golden brown. Keep a close eye as they burn fast!
10. Pull tin out of the oven and place 1 chocolate square on top of each marshmallow.
11. Let cups sit for 10 min before transferring onto a cooling rack.

Enjoy!

Sea Salt Chocolate Chip Cookie Recipe

By Ella Heller

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of all purpose flour
 - 1 teaspoon of baking soda
 - ½ teaspoon of salt
 - ¾ cup of unsalted butter (melted and slightly cooled)
 - ¾ cup packed brown sugar
 - ½ cup granulated sugar
 - 1 large egg
 - 1 large egg yolk
 - 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
 - 2 cups of chocolate chips or chunks
-

Instructions:

1. In a bowl whisk together the flour, baking soda, and salt.
2. Add melted butter into a separate bowl with brown sugar, and granulated sugar and stir until combined.
3. Once fully combined add in egg, egg yolk and vanilla. Mix until no lumps remain.
4. Pour in flour mixture into bowl with wet ingredients. Stir until no lumps remain and is smooth. (Make sure to get flour from bottom of bowl.)
5. Spoon out onto cooking sheet and sprinkle with sea salt.
6. Bake at 350 F for 8 minutes.

Pet Spotlight!



By Olivia Soenhgen



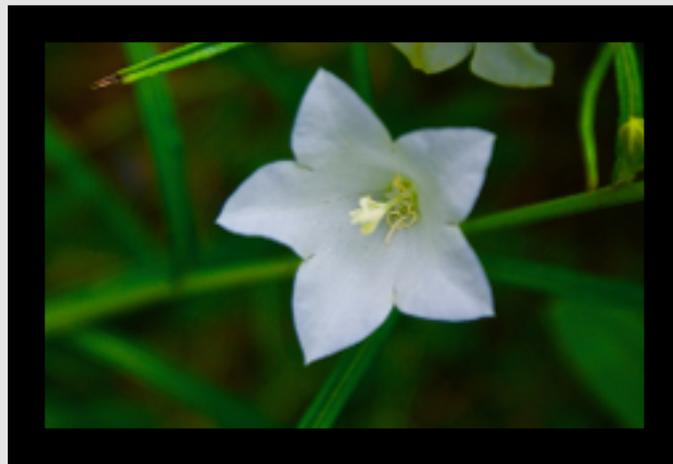
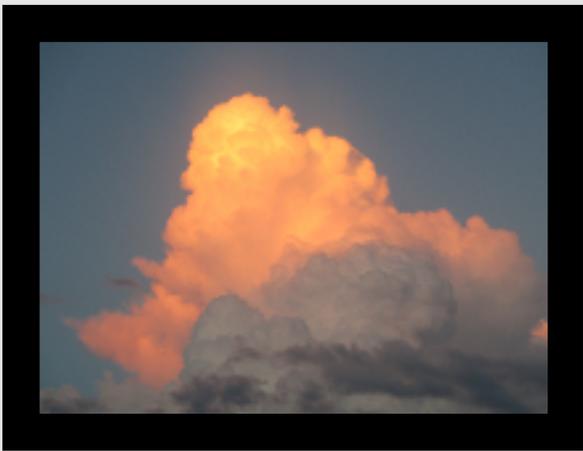
By Sydney Introini



By Aubrey Cordero

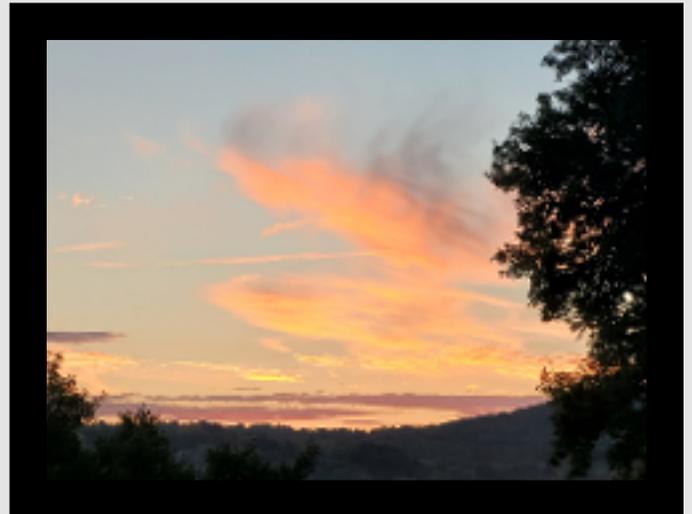
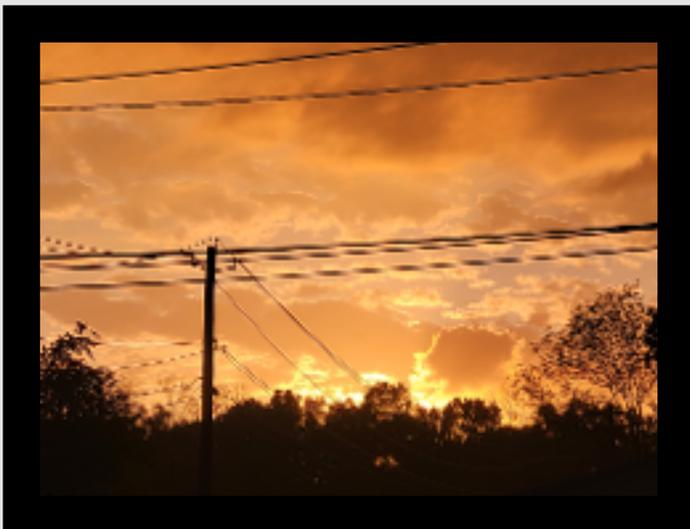
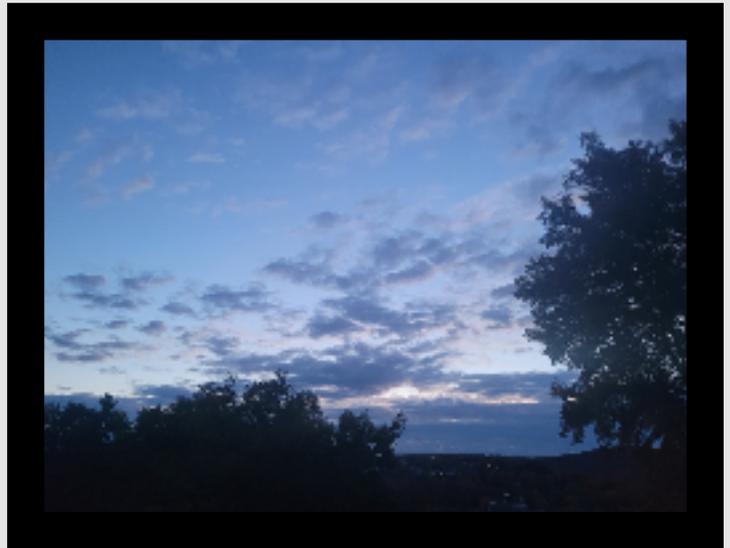
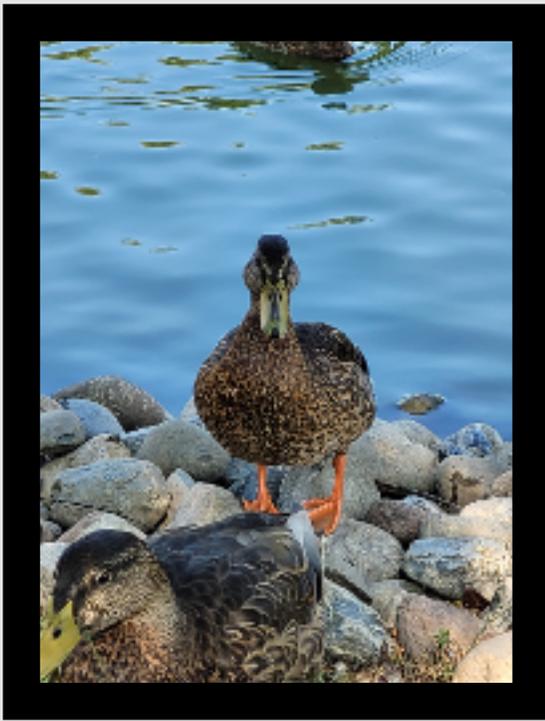
Picture Perfect Photography!

By Jaxsen Mita



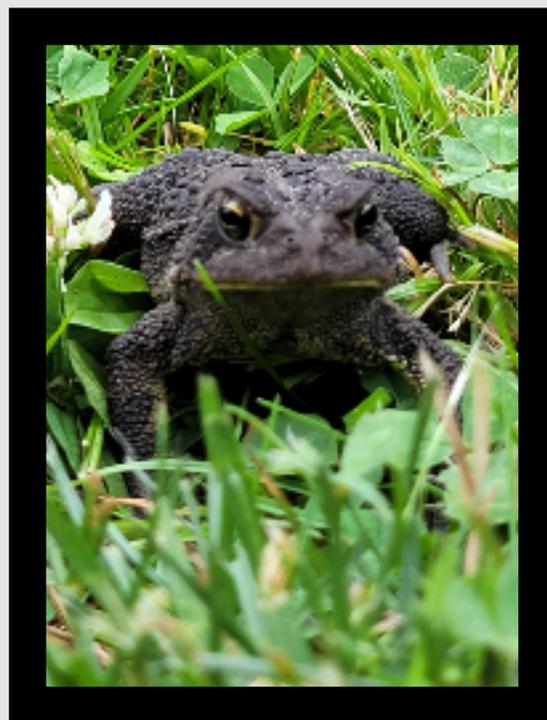
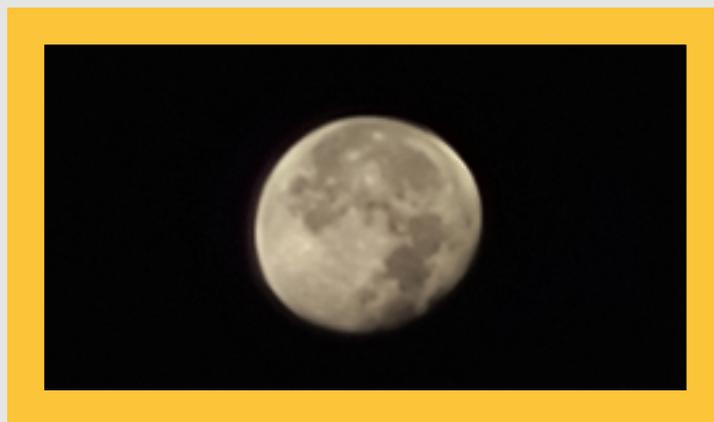
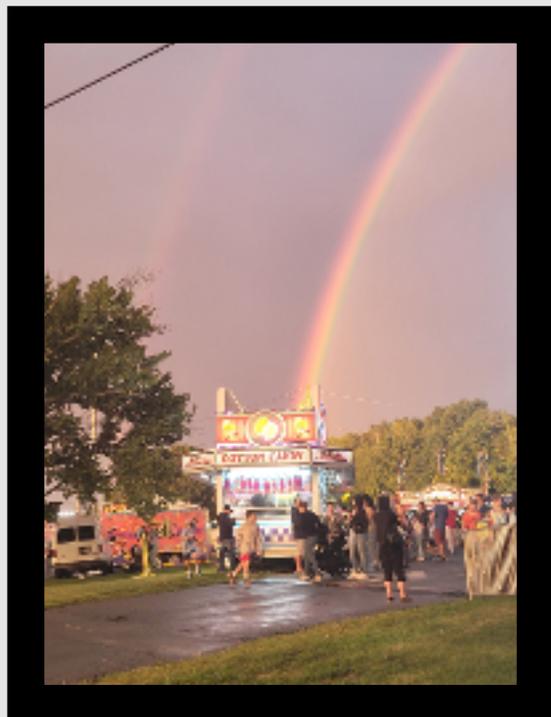
Picture Perfect Photography!

By Madeline Pesta



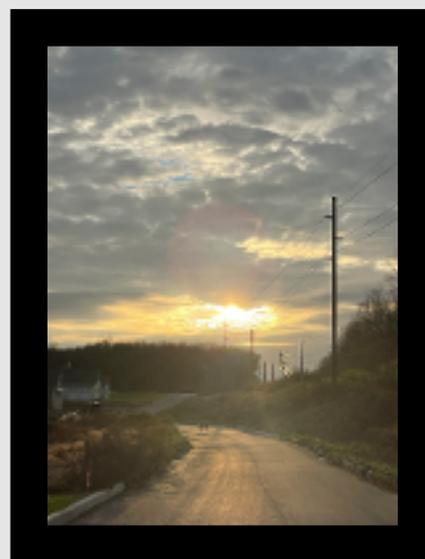
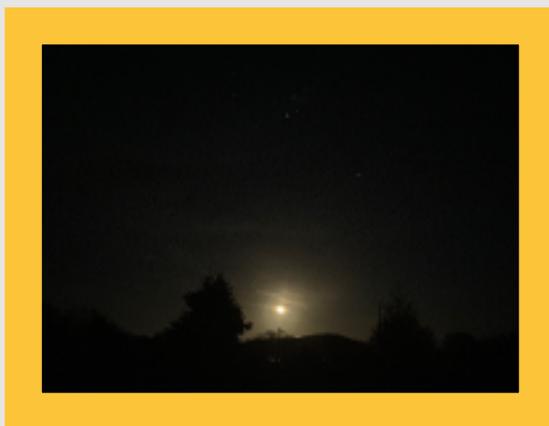
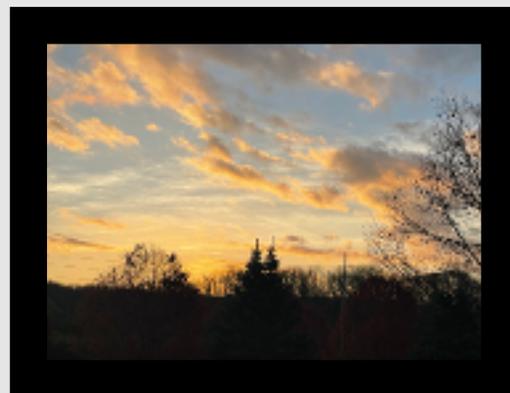
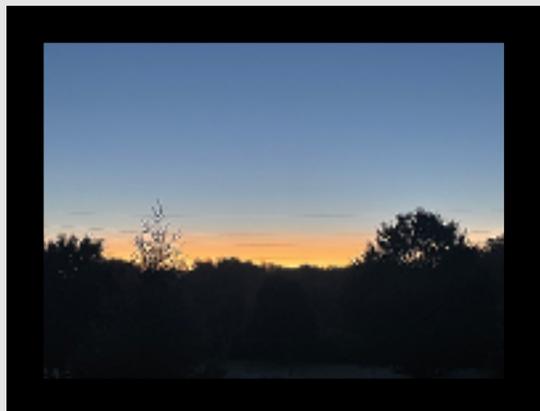
Picture Perfect Photography!

By Madeline Pesta



Picture Perfect Photography!

By Sydney Introini



A Poem and a Short Story!

by Allie Lundgren

Eyeballs

Eyeballs, eyeballs let me see
I wouldn't be me if they weren't here
My eyes are blue
What about you
 Eyeballs, eyeballs they are creepy
 They close when you're sleepy
 Some are blue others brown
 They let you browse the town

The End



Pumpkin Dance

It was the night of the Pumpkin Dance and I was getting ready. Mom did my hair, and Dad got out my clothes while I showered. Once I got on my clothes and put on my footwear we headed off to the Pumpkin Dance.

The night of the Pumpkin Dance was here and I was so excited. Mom was sleeping and Dad was at work so my friend's mom picked me up so I could go. I wore my fanciest outfit and my best footwear. When I got into my friend's car we headed off to The Pumpkin Dance.



The Night Corn Maze

By Aubrey Coredero

The name of the event is called the Corn Maze.

The event was at the Wright Family Farm Corn Maze on 10/14/22 at around 7:00 P.M.

Many people participated in the event. The students that participated in the interview were 5th and 6th graders.



Interviews:

Why did you decide to go to this event?

"I thought it would be really fun to go with my friends. I also thought that a corn maze at night sounded really cool."- Lila Monti

"I decided to go because it seemed fun to go through the corn maze but mostly because it was at night and it was dark, so you couldn't see except for the light of your flashlight". - Angie McKnight

What was your favorite part of the event?

"The best part was that it was at night,so we got really lost,and had fun hanging out together."- Lila Monti

"My favorite part was just getting to be with my friends and having a fun time". - Angie McKnight

Did you get lost?

"I got lost a lot because it was dark out. It was hard to tell whether we were going in circles or not."-Lila Monti

"Yes, we kept going in circles and getting the wrong answers to the clues. We got out the same way we went in, we never got out the end!". - Angie McKnight



FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

By Aubrey Cordero

The name of the event is called Friday Night Lights. The event was at the track field on 10/14/22 at around 8:15 P.M during halftime at the football game. It was located at the high school football field. The club that participated in the run was the Mileage Club. The grades that participated were 5th and 6th graders. The participants had to run 2 laps around the track.

Interviews

Why did you decide to attend this event?

"I decided to join the mileage club because I'm really good at running. I went to this event because I thought it would be a really cool experience". - Mikayla Wensley

"I went because it sounded fun running under lights with your friends and why not". -Emma Stazzone

"I decided to go to this event because I enjoy running and it's a good way to get your energy out. I was also with my friends which also made it interesting, and come on, it's good to have a healthy competition. - Aubrey Cordero

What was your favorite part of the event?

"My favorite part is that we all got to run together". -Mikayla Wensley

"My favorite part of the event was running under the lights at night and hearing all of the people cheer for you as you pass by". - Emma Stazzone

"My favorite part of the event was hearing the crowd cheering and the cheerleaders. It made you feel important and special. I also liked at the end when we got what place we were in everyone was interested in what place they got and felt accomplished". -Aubrey Cordero

What do you like most about being a part of this club?

"I love being with the club because I'm with all my friends that love running and I get to run with them".-Mikayla Wensley

"I love being in the club because it's fun to run around a track chatting with your friends, earning beads and it also gets you in shape while you're having fun doing it". - Emma Stazzone

"I enjoy the club because it's easy going. You can walk, jog, or run as long as you get your energy out. You can talk to your friends and enjoy it really is a fun club. (I like jogging). - Aubrey Cordero

The Color Run!

Written by Aubrey Cordero

Images by Aubrey Cordero and Owen Barrett



The name of the event is called the Color Run. The event was at the parking lot at the Middle school on 10/22/22 at around 8:00 A.M. It was located at the Middle school parking lot. The people that could participate in the run were everyone. The grades that participated were all of the Middle School. The participants had to run 1.2 miles around the Middle School.

Interviews:

Why did you decide to go to this event?

"I decided to go to this event to help raise money. I also enjoy running and I thought it would be fun." - Baylee LaConti

"I decided to go to the color run because it seemed fun and I knew that some of my friends would be there to play with and talk to." Demond Goldstein

(Continued on next page)

What was your favorite part of the event?

“My favorite part of this event was when people threw colored powder at me while I was running.” - Baylee LaConti

“My favorite part of this event was probably being sprayed with an absurd amount of paint when I crossed the finish line.” Desmond Goldstein

What color were you mostly covered in?

“I was mostly covered in yellow.”

- Baylee LaConti

“I was covered in tons of yellow.”

- Desmond Goldstein





MRBEAST BURGER'S FIRST PUBLIC LOCATION



BY OWEN BARRETT

About Mr.Beast:

Mr Beast is a famous Youtuber. He has a lot of money and loves giving it away. He also gives away big prizes to random people. His friends Chris, Garret, Chandler, Jake, Karl and Bailey are in his videos. Mr Beast has 105 million subscribers and has raised \$20,000,000 for planting trees, given millions of dollars to charity, donated over 100 CARS and has even given away a private island. His views are over 17,567,736,390.



Mr Beast started opening secret location pop up burger places. It got really popular and we even have one in our town of Warwick (which I ordered from as soon as I found out) As you can probably guess, I am a fan of Mr.Beast. When I heard the news that he opened his first permanent “Mr.Beast Burgers” in the American Dream Mall, I had to check it out. This is my review:

Mr Beast Burgers



Is located on the 3rd floor of the American Dream Mall. The first thing I noticed was all the bright colors. It looks amazing! There are quad TVs on the walls, a small gift shop full of Beastburger Merch (I got a shirt) and a Photo Op screen to take pictures in front of. Mr.Beast has chocolate bars for sale that have hidden golden tickets (just like Willy Wonka) where if you get lucky you can win a prize like a Tesla, Jet Skiis, lifetime supply of chocolate, cash prizes and more. My sister Zoe and I got 5 bars but sadly no golden tickets. Maybe I'll get lucky next time.

Now onto the food...

I ordered the Chris style burger with the fries on the side. I would say the burgers are similar to the burgers you would get at Five Guys. The fries are crinkle cut and I thought they were great! 2 thumbs up!! I definitely think it was 5x better than the burgers I got from the secret Mr.Beast location in Warwick.



We got to Mr.Beast Burger at the right time and only waited 10 minutes for our food. When we were finishing our food, there was a line so big they had to divide the crowd into 4 rows of lines just to get in! I would definitely go back and recommend it for anyone going to the Nickelodeon Theme park, the Waterpark, Lego Discovery, Sea Life Aquarium or even the indoor ski/snowboard "mountain" they have INSIDE the American Dream Mall. The day I went, I stopped at Toys R Us and did the Angry Birds mini golf. In conclusion, I would say it was great to experience one of my favorite YouTuber's 1st real burger locations.



5 Things Every Artist Should Know

by Julianna Browning

Art is hard, just like pretty much everything else in life. However, like everything else, it gets much easier with practice. But how do you do that, exactly? How do you sit down and draw in a way that will lead you to grow the most? Just like how you can't prepare for a test if you don't know how to study, your art won't improve nearly as well if you don't know how to practice. We are going to solve that problem today. Here are five tips and tricks to keep in mind while you practice creating to ensure that you, as an aspiring artist, will reach the great potential that you hold.

Keep in mind that not every method works for everyone. These tricks work for me, but if another approach will help you more, then by all means, go for it!

Tip 1: The Magical Properties of References

I've seen young artists refuse to use references before. A lot of the time it's because they believed it to be "cheating" or that they "should be good enough without one." Take those thoughts, and flush them down the toilet. A reference isn't a cheat sheet, it's a study tool, and a really good one at that. What better way to learn how to draw something than actively looking at it and drawing what you see? When you see those amazing artists drawing without a reference, it's because A) they are using a reference, they just cut it out of the video, or B) they have studied enough references to the point where they can think of one mentally, and not need a physical copy. My point being is: don't be afraid to use a reference. They are, in my opinion, the best tools an artist can use. Forget fancy pencils and premium paper; use a reference.

Tip 2: "But My Comfort Zone is So... Comfy..."

If you're an artist, you probably have a preferred medium. Maybe you like pencil and pen, maybe you enjoy color over grayscale, or vice versa. Perhaps you prefer watercolor to oil paints, or maybe you're that one kid that just draws eyes all the time. All of these are great things to practice, and chances are, your favorite thing to do is what you're best at. Keep doing that, but also try something new. You're never going to learn color theory if you only work in greyscale. If you mainly draw eyes and faces, try a still life or a landscape. Draw something you've never drawn before. Will your first attempt be terrible? Probably. Maybe not. Who knows? But guess what? Your first eyes and faces were bad too, and look how good you got at those. Don't be afraid to try something new. The more versatile you are as an artist, the more opportunities will be opened to you.

Tip 3: Discipline

The more you practice, the better you get. It's a fact of life. Ask yourself this; do I really draw all that much? Discipline is one of the hardest parts of being a self taught artist. You don't have any specific deadlines, or teachers telling you what to study. You have to do those things on your own, and it's difficult. If you want to learn a technique, find a reference and some tutorials, and teach yourself. If it helps, set a pretend deadline for when you have to finish it by. You can try motivating yourself by pretending you get a prize when you finish your study. Or have some fun imagining you're in a high stakes spy mission, and the sun will blow up into a million evil vacuums that will suck the universe into oblivion if you don't finish. Too intense? Whatever tactic you use, just remember that if you are serious about practicing art, you actually have to sit down and practice.

Tip 4: Mistakes Are Opportunities!

cue the sparkles and rainbows

It sounds corny, I know, but it's true. Instead of looking at your drawing, saying you hate it, and concluding that you are a horrible artist, ask why you are a horrible artist. Your art looks weird, we know that. WHY? Is the head too big on the shoulders? Do the shadows look odd? Is the perspective off? Does the forehead take up 90% of the face? Identify what's holding you back. Then work on it, and the next time you draw it will look so much better! Finally, just repeat this cycle until you become the all powerful Lord of the Universe! Or something like that. Set your own goals in life.

Tip 5: Finding Your Style

Do you have an inconsistent art style? Do you not know whether to draw more cartoonish or semi-realistic or realistic art? My advice to you is this: scroll around on some form of social media (In my experience, Pinterest is the best option), find a few artists you like, and study their work. Note what you like about their styles, and incorporate that into your own work. Eventually, you will shape your own style based on inspiration, with a few personal touches. Just draw what you like to see, and draw what you feel like. It might take time to find "your style", and that's OK. Patience is an important virtue of an artist.

These are just a few tips that I've found most useful as an aspiring artist. I hope you find them helpful. If not, I hope they point you in the right direction. Maybe you can publish an article too, and then we can be rivals in the press industry! I'm getting off topic. The point is, even though art is hard, and you might want to burn your sketchbook sometimes, remember that it's a process. No one perfects a skill overnight. So don't burn your sketchbook, and if you do, make a cool artistic piece out of it. Some of my best work has been done in fits of rage. "Mistakes are opportunities" remember?

MITOCHONDRIA APPRECIATION



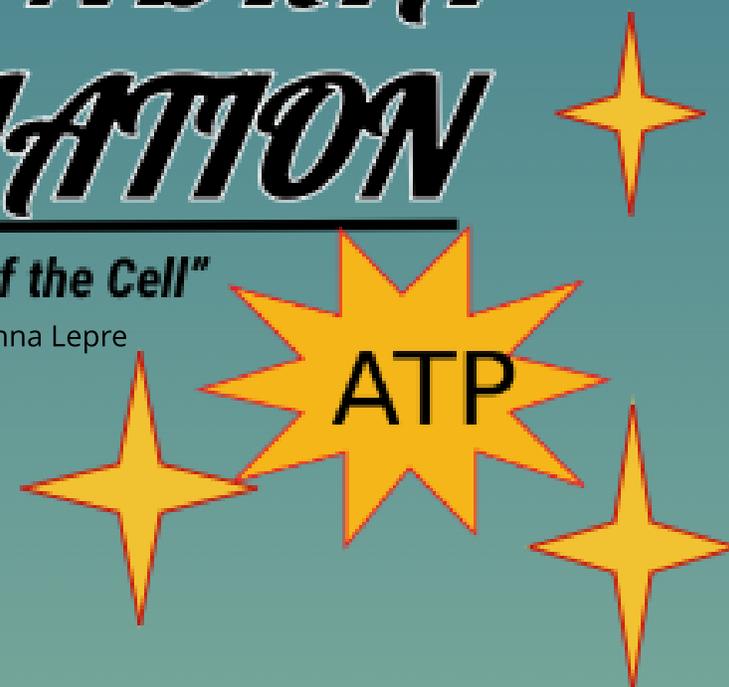
"The Powerhouse of the Cell"

Created by Gianna Lepre

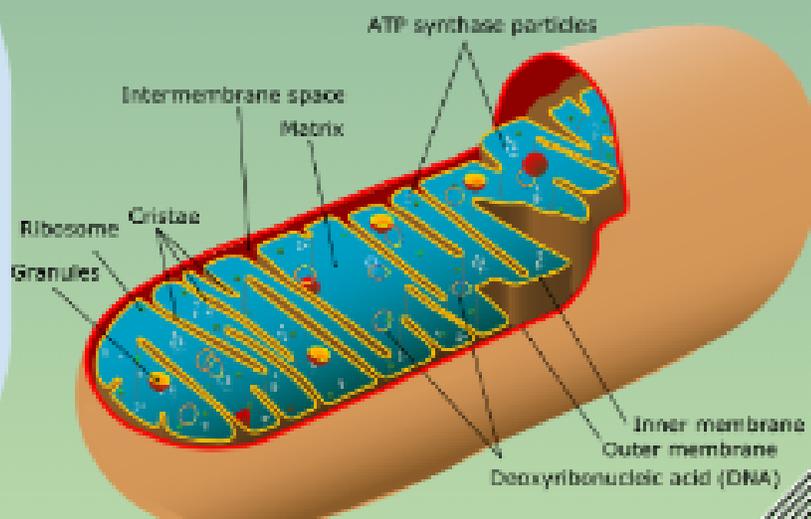
The mitochondria is made up of four main components; the matrix, intermembrane space, along with the inner and outer membrane.

The chemical formula for cellular (or aerobic) respiration is $6O_2 + C_6H_{12}O_6 = 6CO_2 + 6H_2O + ATP$.

When exposed, the mitochondria is seen as "other" or a *pathogen* by the immune cells. This is due to the fact that the mitochondria is actually just an evolved bacteria cell.



Adenosine triphosphate (which is commonly shortened to "ATP") is a protein. This protein is used in the process of *cellular respiration* in the mitochondria to create a form of light energy.





On The Argument Supporting the Acceptance and Acclaim of the Culture and Civilization of Greece in Ancient Times

By Leonard Tosh

This will sound unrelated to school, however, this is a topic that many students are passionate about.

Though, for me, it's definitely an obsession. The topic? Ancient Greece.

For most people, it started with *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*. If you don't know, *Percy Jackson* is a popular children's book series about Greek mythology for kids 10+, though one or two websites would have you know that some parts are more mature. For me, my love of ancient Greece started much earlier in life with a more toned-down book series for younger kids: *Myth-O-Mania*. This is a book series for 3rd and 4th graders, though confident younger readers would enjoy it just as much. Eventually, I read *Percy Jackson*, and it was great. But then I read *The Gates of Athens* and *Protector*, and I am currently reading *The Lion*. These are all adult books written by Conn Iggulden. I strongly recommend all of the books above, according to the age range that I have listed.

Now, here are two of many reasons that ancient Greece is so cool. First off:

We have Western Philosophy. Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and many others were all free thinkers. They didn't have to be smart, just very curious. Most of their time period would see the sun and just think that it was a fact of life. Or maybe they would come up with some sort of illogical story about the gods. But these men were different. These men attempted to come up with an answer to the world around them that wasn't just, "The god Helios drives a flaming chariot around." Sure, these thinkers weren't right 100% of the time, but they got us thinking about the logical answer, and *that's* what's important. (I decided to do some of my research after drafting this, and "Google Arts and Culture" wrote almost the exact same thing as me.)

Next, we have the Olympic Games. The Greeks were often at war with each other, as they weren't all part of

a united country, but more a collection of city-states that shared a culture and blatant awesomeness. But every four years, during the Olympic Games, the Greeks called a truce to all bloodshed. This ceasefire was sacred, and the thought of breaking it brought shudders down the spines of many. According to the historian Thucydides, the Lacedaemonians were banned from participating in the Olympics following their attack of a fortress in the town of Leprum during the truce. The Lacedaemonians claimed that the truce had yet to have been announced when they attacked, but they still had to pay a *huge* fine.

Of course, I could go on for millions of years about this, however this is due on Friday and I have a lot of homework due to being sick for a while, so I have to cut it short here. If this is a topic that interests you, by all means read more. The book series recommendations above are perfect. Now, the only question left is: Greece or Rome? (Coming soon)

The Grinch Guide: A Survival Guide for the Holidays!

Created by Emma Predmore

Are you feeling like a Grinch this holiday season? Annoyed that your 5 year old cousin unwrapped one of YOUR christmas gifts early but didn't know what I was so he ate it? (Dang it. I actually liked that Hot Wheels car, too..). Are you mad that the noise coming from the town of Warwick isnt letting you sleep and you're living off of coffee just to get your work done? Well not to worry! This is the perfect guide to make sure your holiday season doesn't stink!

TIP #1: Relax!

The holidays are about enjoying yourself and not stressing yourself out. Well, of course you should always make sure of that, but especially right now! Try sitting down and stopping what you're working on and reading a book, or anything you find fun or relaxing. Just give your mind a break for a bit, before starting again on what you're doing. Eating food would be helpful too! C'mon, don't tell me you DON'T want those crappy sugar cookies from Shoprite. Eh? Ehhhh? Geez, tough crowd. But no matter what, take care of yourself this holiday season... Please.

TIP #2: DECORATE!!!

Decorations are some of the most festive things EVER for the holidays. Maybe put some extra tinsel on your Christmas tree this year! (If you don't celebrate Christmas, these apply to Hanukkah too! If you decorate for that.) There's almost nothing better than waking up, and turning your Christmas tree on, and watching those little tiny ornaments from Home Depot shimmer and shine in the light! Outside decor is very much optional, as getting stuck on the roof, or falling off the roof wouldn't be fun. But if you're confident, then go for it! Be the shining star in your neighborhood that nobody else wants to be because they're lazy!

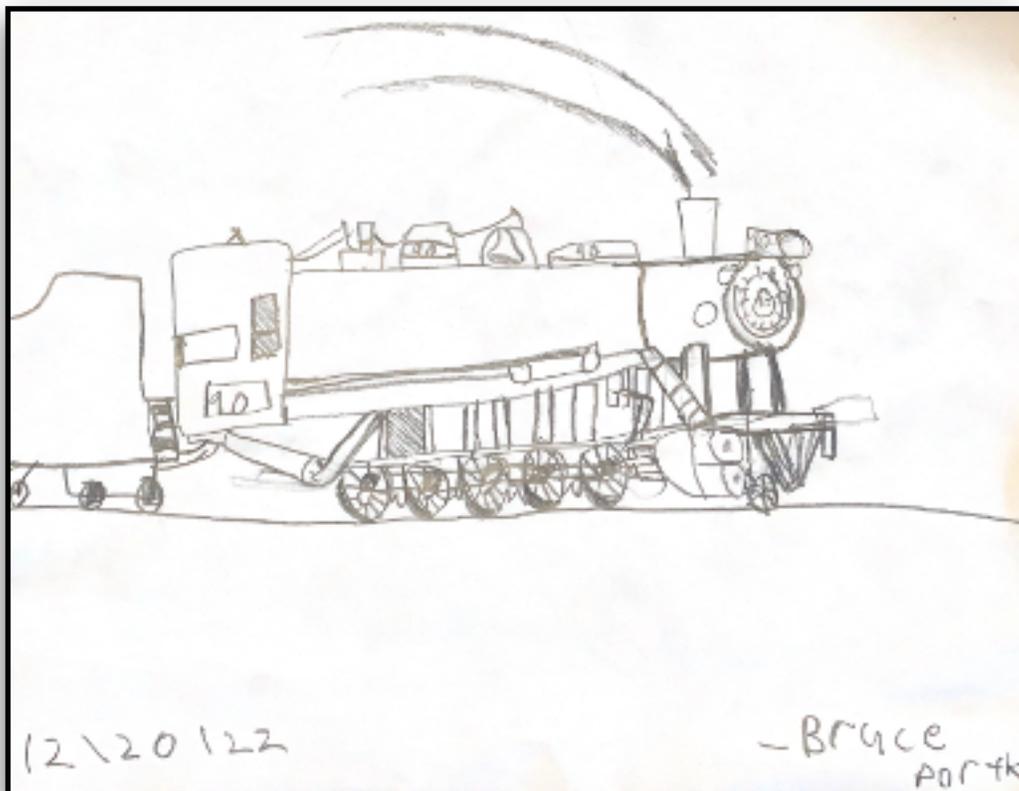
TIP #3: Spend time with family!

This wouldn't be a true holiday guide if I didn't include the magic of spending time with family. Your family loves you, (at least I hope so! Hahahaha! Haha.. ha.) so you should spend time with them. Maybe play a card game with them, you could gamble with the sugar cookies just to add some extra fun into it. Heck, even play a fun hands on board game like Operation! I'm sure your family would love the gesture and gladly do that with you. Prepare for the ultimate battle of Sorry, destroy your opponents. ACHIEVE PERFECT VICTO- A-Ahem. Sorry for that.

Your holiday is important. So make sure this holiday season that you're as happy as can be. As the iconic Buddy the Elf would say, "Smiling's my favorite! Let it be your favorite, too."

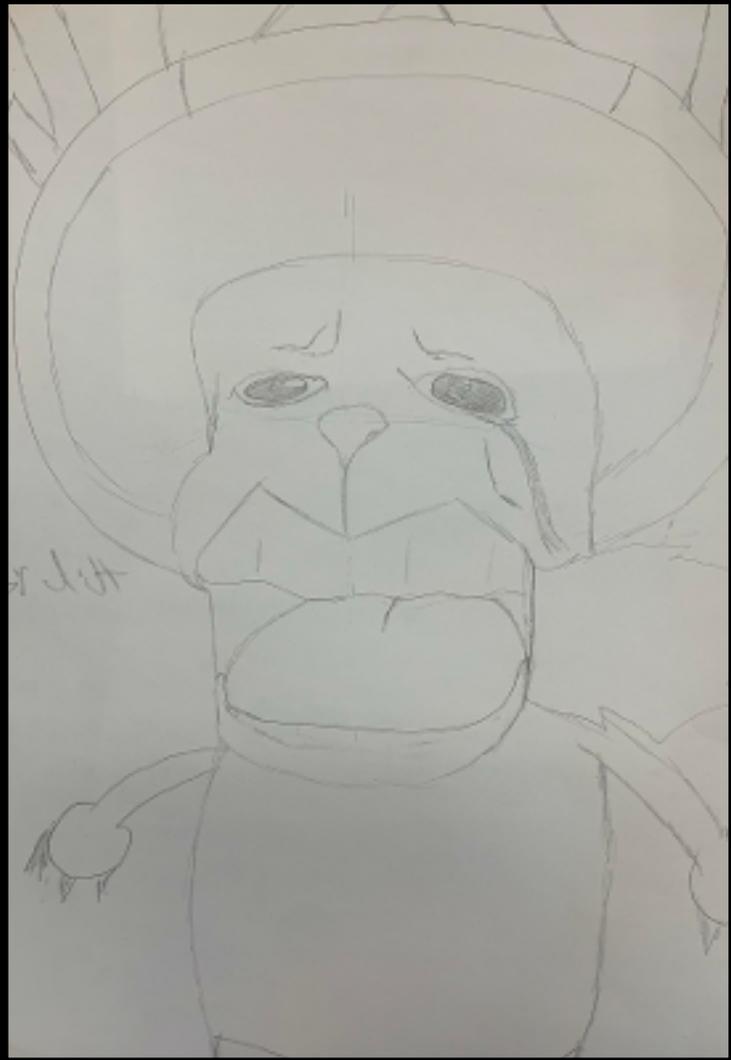
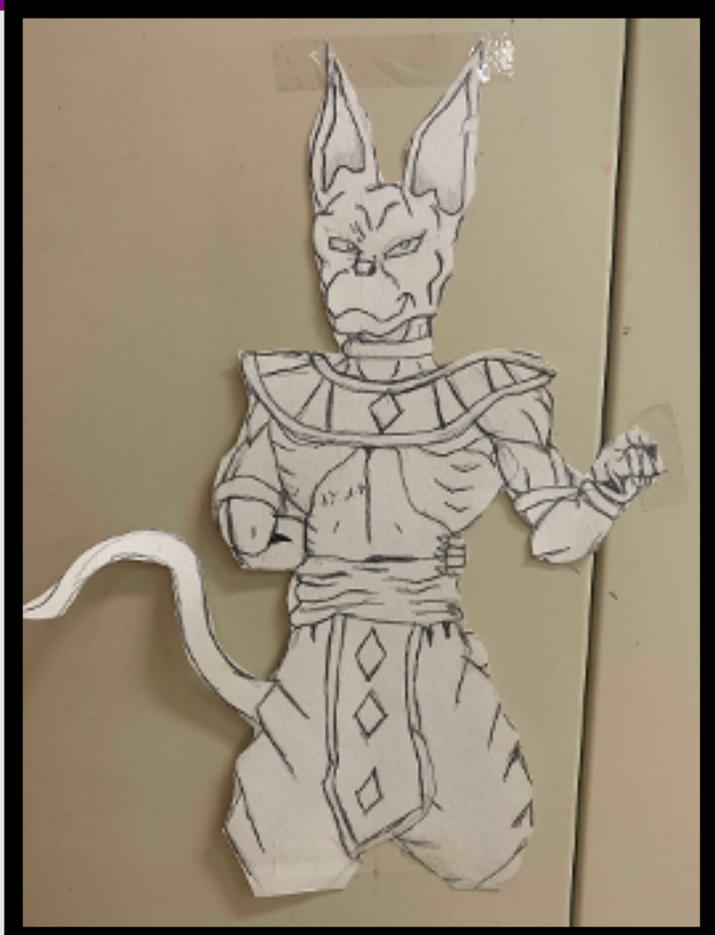
Amazing ART!

Illustrations by Bruce Portka



Amazing ART!

Illustrations by
Anderson
Henriquez



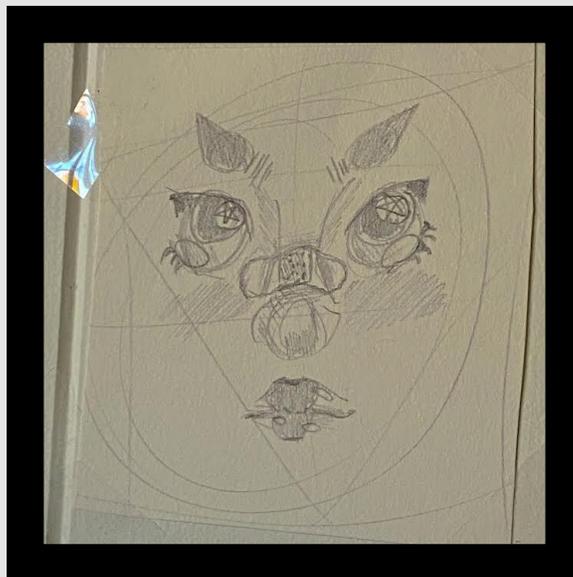
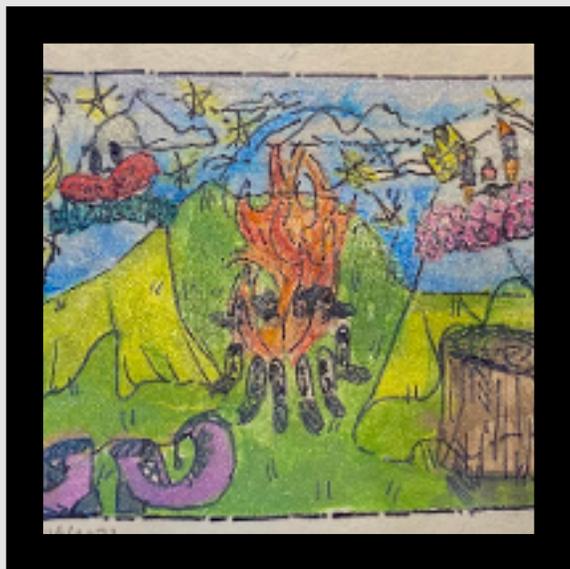
Amazing ART!

By Sophie Quicke

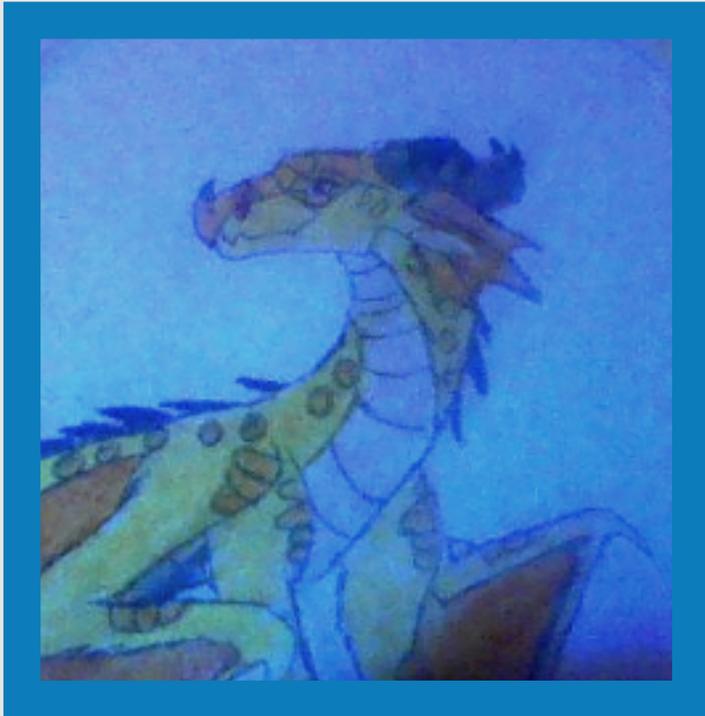


Amazing ART!

By Sophie Quicke



Amazing ART!



By Amelia Soehngen

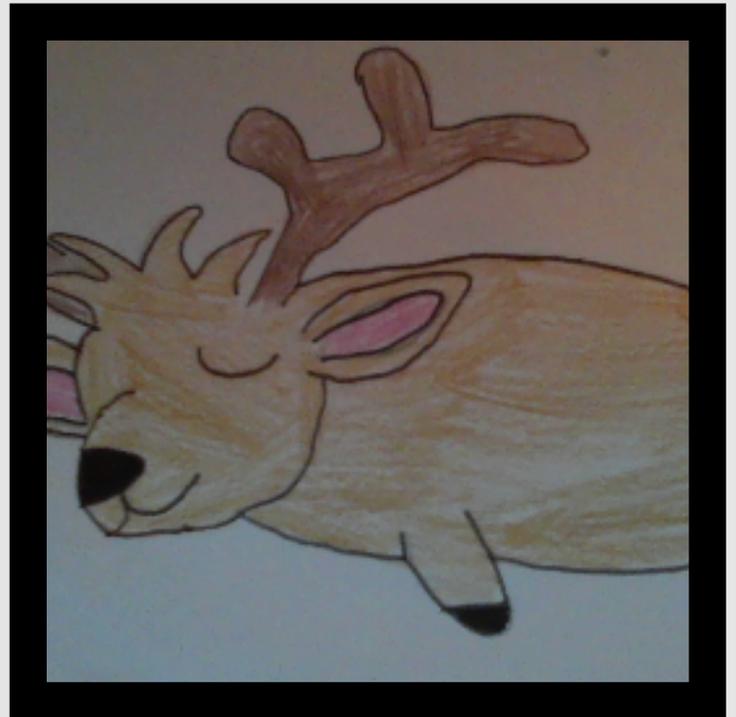
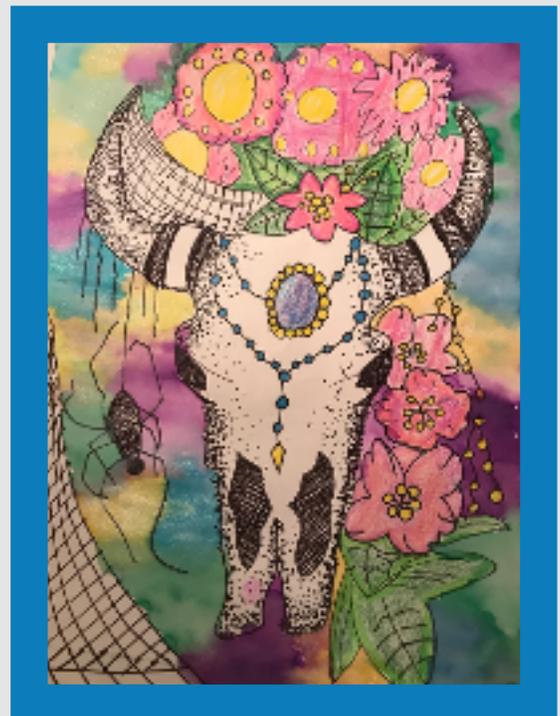


Illustration by Addison Hurd



Illustration by Mya Spinelli



By Chloe Spencer

Thank you for reading!

The Literary Magazine would like to thank the Warwick Valley Middle School for its support of literary arts through the publication of our magazine.

Additionally, we would like to thank our **INCREDIBLE** students. Without you, this wouldn't be possible! You continue to amaze us each and every day, and we are so grateful for your contributions.
Keep it up!

See you in Spring
2023!

