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NEWS

November 1, 2017

Wild School Fights

By: Kay,Toni,Julie

Middle school students, and teenagers in general, are often infamous for the fights they get into. Middle school is a time where there is a lot of drama, and some kids deal with it aggressively. Fights happen in the halls, outside, the lunchroom, and sometimes even in the classroom if the teacher is out. They have happened before and after school, and during the class breaks. The common thing is kids get in more fights when there aren't as many or any adults around. These fights start for many reasons: Rumors, name calling, even someone rolling their eyes or giving a dirty look. Bullying is also a major cause of fights. What do students have to say about this? Has fighting lessened this year at West Hills? What is the school doing to help keep the school running safely and fight free?

West Hills has had a few fights this year. One 8th grade boy who got into a fight, outside in front of the school said, "I got in a fight because I was sick of being pushed around. I thought that if I fought the bully, and won, he would stop, but that didn't work." This boy lost the fight, and both students were punished with several days of suspension.

Bullying can be a major cause for fighting, but it isn't the only reason. Some students have said that they got into a fight because it is fun to see who is stronger and better. Others want attention, and some start from disagreements or betrayals.

Reasons for fighting can be different for boys and girls. In middle school there is a lot of fighting amongst girls over boyfriends, rumors, and bad looks. Girls often get wrapped up in the drama of school. Officer Anglesey said that, "This year there seems to be more girls fighting.

A lot of it is over boys."

The top reasons why boys get into fights in middle school are: Competition, and because boys are more likely to try to deal with their problems physically, instead of trying to talk it through.

Does age also play a part in school fights? At West Hills, this year, there is more fighting in 8th grade than the other two grades. This is not true for every year though. Last year, it was the 9th grade students who caused most of the problems. Age isn't as big of a factor as the kid's personalities and level of maturity. Some years, the group of kids have a lot of issues.

Although there have been some fights this year, things seem to be going pretty well. West Hills Middle seems to be doing better than last year and better than most middle schools in the United States. In regards to school fights CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS),



found that nearly 8% of kids in the U.S. have been in a physical fight on school property while in middle school. West Hills has not had this percentage of fighting.

The reasons why the fighting has decreased this year include: This year's 9th graders are more mature than last year's. The "Be the Change" movement has inspired more kids to try to be kind, or at least to be aware of how their actions impact others, kids are not tardy/in the halls for as long of a time as much because of the new tardy policy, and because of the harsher punishments the administration has been enforcing.

At West Hills Middle, the consequences for fighting are different depending on the nature of the fight. In the West Hills student manual it says that abusive language results in a warning, then a conference with the vice principal, and may even include ISS or out of school suspension. The manual also states that fighting is grounds for suspension and referral to law enforcement. Students may also be referred to anger management classes.

There are also positive consequences for kids who learn to deal with their problems in a good way. The PRIDE program is meant to encourage students to be proactive, respectful, show integrity, be determined, and be enthusiastic. Students at West Hills have a lot of opportunities for recognition of good behavior: Tickets, treats, PRIDE breakfasts, awards, and praise from teachers.

West Hills Middle is a good school. The majority of the kids here are nice students and the teachers, counselors, principal, vice principals, and other adults really care about the kids here. Even though there are still fights to deal with, the school really works to keep the fighting down to a minimum. The rules are posted in the classrooms and in the halls, so all the students know what is expected from them. It is up to each student to choose to follow the rules, or accept the consequences if they don't.

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Terror in Vegas and Around the World

By: Jeremy Checketts and Jordan Black

In recent years, the number of terrorist attacks has increased, with the United States having more than 50 more attacks last year than in 2011 (according to statistica.com.) Just this month, on October 1, 2017, in Las Vegas, 59 innocent people died because Stephen Pad-dock decided to open fire on a large crowd. Terrorism is an evil caused by few that affects everyone across the nation and globe.

With a death toll of more than 25,000 from acts of terrorism, attacks have become a part of regular news. Every corner of the world is affected by the horror that terrorists generate. Every time an attack occurs, there are usually people from all parts of the globe that are either injured or killed simply because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time.

In the recent terrorist attack in Las Vegas, at least two Utahans lost their lives. One was 46-year-old Neysa Tonks, a former Salt Lake City resident, who, at first, thought the gunfire was fireworks but then realized she was in danger, but too late. The other, Cameron Robinson, was a 28-year-old man from Southern Utah.



He was injured in the neck and later died from the wound. The people hurt and affected by this event go on. Even here at West Hills, there are at least two students who have had relatives who died in the Las Vegas Massacre.

When asked how often he hears about terrorist attacks, an 8th Grader replied, "I hear about them a lot. If it's a large attack, I hear about it in the news and in school for quite a while." He then said that he feels "Mostly sadness for the lives that were lost, and then a little anger towards whoever did it" whenever he hears of one.

The internet has become the net-central for terrorism and their communications. Many terrorists have communicated and interacted and even attacked others with the common internet.

Taylor Manwaring, a 9th Grade student at West Hills says, "I think about the 9-11 bombing," when he hears the word "terrorism." He says he knows quite a bit about terrorism, be-

cause his parents are part of the military. "I'm scared of terrorism because it might happen here and I will lose people I love."

Public shootings and bombings are not the only form of terrorism, however. In the past, there have been attacks in schools,



causing a need for drills to prepare for the event of a shooter. There have been more than 160 school shootings that have resulted in 59 deaths worldwide.



On December 14, 2012 in Newtown, Connecticut, 20-year-old Adam Lanza entered Sandy Hook Elementary School and ended the lives of 20 young children and 6 adult staff members. This sent shock waves throughout the nation, resulting in the crackdown of safety in public schools. Fortunately, the majority of students have practiced what to do in the event of a shooting at their school. Many students are in favor of the drills. Here at WHMS, Kason Palmer says, "I feel like [the school] wants to keep me safe and prepare for a real emergency so that we are safe."

Terrorism is a very important topic that needs to be both addressed and dealt with, as more and more people lose their lives to terrorism every year. While there is no way to completely stop the problem, one way to prevent it is to accept the fact that terrorism is real and is something that everyone needs to know what to do when it happens to them. Paying attention to news reports and listening to what people did that saved their lives could eventually save yours.



West Hills Couples

By: Zack Christensen



If you walk down the halls, you're most likely to see kids hugging and kissing. Does it gross you out or do you not mind? Does dating distract you from school? Many teachers

and students believe that dating does indeed distract students from work and that students kissing in the halls is gross and disrespectful. Other students don't mind at all, and don't think that dating and public displays of affection distract students.

One student, who wishes to not be named, says, "Students should be able to date at a

young age. I feel like this will give them experience for later on in life." She then went on to say "I don't mind seeing kids kissing in the halls, because I'm used to it, and it really doesn't bother me. But the one bad thing about dating young is your friends. Dating the wrong person can really mess up a good relationship with a friend."

If you walk down the halls you can see that some students have a different boy or girl with them everyday. One student says that "Dating too many kids can put you down the wrong path later on in life. Not only can it put you down the wrong path but, kids can profile you in a wrong way." Kids will definitely call you names you don't want to hear or be called. That's why many students think you shouldn't date at a young age, and should wait until they're mature enough to handle it.

When Ms. Garrick was asked about teen dating she said "It's normal for teenagers to be attracted to each other, that's just biology, just make sure it doesn't take over your life." She then went on to say "If you get your homework done and have time for your hobbies and chores I think it's

fine, but if it's all you care about and all you do is text your boyfriend and girlfriend all day, and that's all you do and nothing else then it can be distracting from your work."

Tammy Christensen says, "Teen dating is pointless. Yes it's fun but it can distract you from your work and friends. Dating ruins friendships and makes enemies. Dating young can make you either get married young and make you struggle later on in life, or even make you not worry about school and not graduate high school or college. Unless you're mature enough to date young then of you should date, but if you're not mature, then you should just wait until you're mature enough."

There are many different point of views of teen dating. Studies shows that teen dating can distract you or can lead you in a bad direction. Other studies show that teen dating can help you with social life and can make you focus more at work, or at school. Students are encouraged to decide for themselves, but to also remember that they need to keep the PDA out of the school, as it is not allowed.



Is the World Ending?!

By: Maggie Clayton and Abbi Ray



There have been so many natural disasters happening in the world. From hurricanes, to earthquakes, these calamities are striking across the United States. All of these natural disasters are affecting people across America, and creating many theories that the world is

coming to an end. Is the world really coming to an end, or is this just another "End of world scare?"

David Meade, who claimed the world would end Saturday, later said, "Doomsday isn't this weekend after all." Many people believed him when he first came out with his claim, but he wasn't a scientist or anything of that sort. He was an average Jo. He made the news and also sparked many ideas about the world ending. But what do the students at West Hills think?

A survey taken by the seventh and eighth graders says that 25% of students here at WHMS believe that the world was going to end sometime in the next 20 years. 75% of students said that they don't think the world will end in the next 20 years. A variety of answers were given from the students as to why they chose what they did. Some of these reasons were: "The sun is not likely to go supernova," and "The world will end when we run out of cupcakes." The majority of the student at West Hills believe the world won't be ending any time soon. Cade Gillen an 8th grader at West Hills says, "Technology is too advanced." But what leads them to think the way they do?

Sydney Mortenson an 8th grader here at West Hills said "Yes, this is the end of the world because of all the natural disasters." Hurricane Harvey was a devastating hurricane that hit Texas and the Caribbean Islands on August 25th. Hurricane Harvey was the most destructive hurricane since Hurricane Wilma hit the United States in 2005. Hurricane Harvey was the first of many hurricanes to stir up the theories of people around the world. Many people were saying "This is just hurricane season." Yes, that is true, but this hurricane was one of the hardest hurricanes clocking in at a 5.0 category storm. Is this a sign that the world is coming to an end? No one can know for sure.

How are the Caribbean Islands doing? Puerto Rico, just 1,150 miles from the U.S., is really struggling. They got hit pretty hard by hurricane Harvey. Puerto Rico's main source of income

is tourism and with everything wiped out, no one is able to get there. Without tourism no one can afford to buy food. Does this mean people will starve, or fight for the food?

Hurricane Irma was another hurricane that hit the Caribbean and Naples, Florida on Sunday, September 10, 2017 just 16 days after Hurricane Harvey hit. Because it hit just a few days apart, this hurricane led residents to believe the world was ending. The eye of the hurricane was first going to hit southern Florida but then the hurricane shifted and hit Naples. Many people in Florida were shocked. The stores ran out of water and food so fast they couldn't restock. Will events such as this also lead to the end? An 8th grader here at West Hills says, "Things like these hurricanes have happened before, why would this year be any different?"

Some students who are religious and believe in Christ, believe the world is ending because of the bible. One of the verses that has been quoted lately by some religious doomsayers is Luke 21:25-26 which says, "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." It is understandable why people who believe in the bible think the world may be ending. That verse says, "the sea and the waves roaring" could that mean the hurricanes? No one knows for sure, but it is pretty convincing to the people who believe in these bible words.

As many of you may know there was an 8.3 magnitude earthquake in Central Mexico. The earthquake killed more than 200 people. Topped many buildings and homes. Many people were scared of the earthquake but many were also afraid of a tsunami because the shaking from the earth shook the ocean that could potentially trigger a tsunami. Luckily that did not happen if it had the casualty number would have skyrocketed as well as the number of people believing the world would end.

You may be wondering how this affects you. You may not be very nervous about hurricanes because you live in Utah but hurricanes are not the only natural disasters that is happening. Living in Utah, especially on the Wasatch front, you are in great danger of being hit by an earthquake. An earthquake has been predicted for a very long time, when it does hit, it will be a big one. A lot of different people have been preparing for years and now all of that preparation may finally come to use. If it hits, you will be able to feel it in West Jordan and it could be very dangerous. Some advice is to be prepared and make sure you know what to do if the earthquake hits. Go over a plan with your family and be aware of safe places to be if it hits. Every year schools are required to practice an earthquake drill. There was an earthquake in Park City of a 3.3 magnitude is this a pre-shock to the big one? Within a span of a week there were more than 150 earthquakes that struck near Soda Springs, Idaho the biggest being a 5.3 on the Richter scale. Many scientists say that the earthquakes in Idaho are not a pre-shock to a big one, but are they wrong?

Depending on who you ask, not only could you be in danger of an earthquake, but all these natural disasters could be leading up to the world ending. What do you think?

Halloween Costumes

By: Grace Jolley, Mia Marguez, Daniel Gomez



Some people may say that they are "Too cool" for dressing up for Halloween, but how many people actually dress up in middle school? Are they too old to dress up? Or can you never be

too old? In search for answers, 100 students were surveyed, and here are the results.

- 94% of seventh graders surveyed are dressing up.
- 63% of eighth graders surveyed are dressing up.
- 78% of ninth graders surveyed are dressing up.

In total 83% of West Hills Middle School students are actually going to be dressing up for Halloween this year. So while some students may say they are too old to dress up for Halloween, they are the minority. This survey says that more people dress up than people that don't.

The opinion of "You can never be too old to enjoy Halloween and have fun." Is much more accepted in middle school.



Does West Hills Start School Too Early?

By: Allissa Thompson Lena Leach

Do you think that school starting at 7:50 a.m. is too early? From September 5th to October 4th there were 320 tardies in just first period. There are many reasons why people could be late in first period. It could be because people sleep in too long, because they are tired. Some kids are late because their parents have to get to work so the student would need a ride to school. Or because kids are so busy doing chores, and homework, to actually get to school. What if school started later? Could this help fix the problem?

Students shouldn't forget the fact that it's the law to have about 900-1,000 hours a year or 175-180 days a year. Would it be better if schools had more days in the year but shorter days. If West Hills did that it would mean a shorter summer break, is it worth it? Or would it be better to start school later and end later? For example if schools started at 8:50 am and ended at 3:50 pm or even started school at 9:50 am and end at 4:50 pm.

It has been scientifically proven that students do better in school and on projects if they got more sleep. If West Hills started later in the day and students got more sleep, grades would go up. There may even be less tardies in the mornings. There was an article on the internet that said, "It's easier for kids to change the time they wake up then the time they go to bed." If people start going to bed at a certain time they usually stick to it, after that it's very hard to change their schedule. That's why if West Hills started school later, kids will get more sleep. Which means better grades, and more participation in classes.

In 2004, Oxford University and about 100 different schools around England took part in a 4 year experiment where they started school at 10:00 am. A pilot study at Monkseaton High School in North Tyneside in 2009 found out that starting school an hour later improved grades in core subjects by 19%. Professor Colin Espie, who is leading the sleep study said, "We know that something weird happens when you're a teenager where it seems like you are out of sync with the world." He also claims that your parents say to just go to bed earlier everything will be okay, but sci-

ence is proving that you need more sleep in the morning.

Assistant Principal Mr. Hughes's opinion is that schools start too early. He states that, "Research studies have shown that teenagers function better later in the day than in the morning." Mr. Hughes also says that, "It would be better to start school around 10:00 am, and get out of school at 5:00 pm. Even though school would get out very late, students would also be able to do all of your sports/practices, chores, etc. before school, in the morning. After school you would go home and have dinner." Mr. Hughes also feels

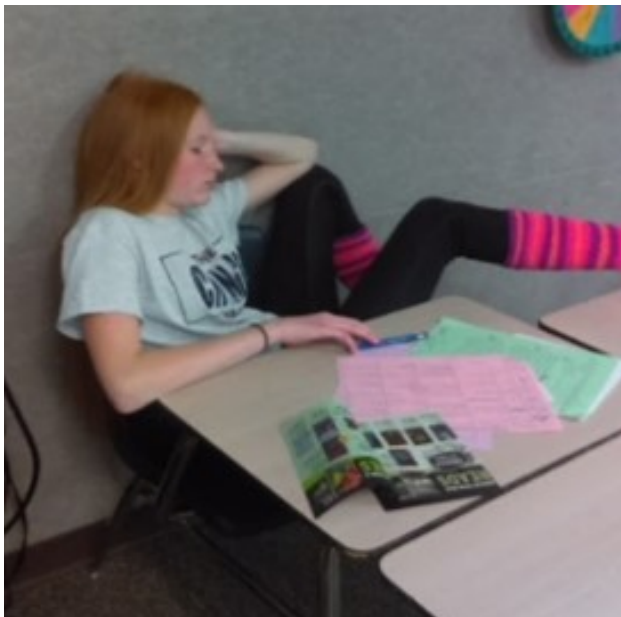
that, "If West Hills even started school at 1:00 pm and ended at 8:00 pm students would still have time to go home and get ready for bed. Also you would be able to get all of the sleep you need, of course if West Hills did that, you would have to do all of your school activities beforehand."

A 7th grade West Hills student, Sadee Martinez, also thinks school starts way too early. She states that, "If school started at 10:30 and ended at 5:30, it would be pathetic, but if West Hills could change the law of having 7 hours of school to 5 hours, it would work. If people only went to school for 5 hours, from 10:30 am to 3:30

pm it would be a better way of going to school.

Another 7th grade West Hills student, Emili Wolfgramm, is not a morning person and would love to start school later than West Hills currently does. She said that, "If school would start at least one hour later, I would be a happier person at school and would be a better student." There is also some not so good stuff about starting school later. For example if student's parents start school early in the morning, then students won't get to see their parents much.

Mr. Larsen a 7th grade language arts teacher says that he likes the time that school starts. Mr. Larsen says that he is so used to the time that school starts that if it started later he would probably still come at the same time. He also says that if we started school later that kids would complain about school going later in the day and this same thing would happen over again. Also states that starting school would mean more participation but the students would mess around more.



For those students who are not going to dress up, or are not allowed to dress up, don't worry there is always next year! Plus you can always enjoy what everyone else is wearing.

Kennedy Voncomen, a student interviewed at random, said she is dressing up and may go trick or treating with her younger siblings. She is dressing up as Nemo and her friend as Dory.

Thinking of an original costume is one of the hardest and most fun parts of Halloween. Every year there are a few costumes that are extra popular among students. Last year some of those common costumes were:

- The Purge
- Onesies of every kind
- IT (clown)
- Unicorns
- Cats
- Dead Pool
- Babies
- Pink ladies

For students who this year want to have a unique costume you should avoid the costumes on this list. You should also try to think of something that is not being sold in every store. A lot of the costumes are popular and are on the list because they were recent movies or plays. Like last year's movie *IT* or the Musical *CATS* or even *The Purge*.

While it is easy and fun to go as something popular and current, it is not really unique. Try thinking outside of the box. Even if you don't get recognized it will still be special to you or your friends.



Should Jordan District Have Sports Teams for Middle Schools?

By: Mason Argueta, Ryan Sierra, M.S, and Maxwell Nelson

Is there a reason why the middle schools in Jordan District don't have sports team? There is a lot of young talent in the middle schools. Many students don't want to wait for high school to play. Right now West Hills Middle school does not have sports teams/activities, but that doesn't mean it can't have them in the future.

While competitive sports, one school against another school (like in the high school), are not offered in Jordan District middle schools because of district policy, WHMS could offer other sports options called: Intramural Sports. These would be after school programs like Cat Food. It would be open to all students in all grades and would be watched/taught by a teacher. Students would have the opportunity to practice their sports skills and be with their friends. But the only way they can get started is if enough students would come.

So how interested in sports are kids at West Hills. A seventh grader named Charlie Romo stated, "I would play for the soccer team if i made it. Kids should be able to express themselves within a sport." If WHMS offered a soccer intramural team Charlie would not have to try out for the team. He would just have to show up.

But soccer wasn't the only sport interest. Maxwell Robinson, a football player said, "I would try out for the football team." Another anonymous 7th grader stated that he plays basketball and he would "Want the school to do sports teams." It seems that interest in sports is quite high at West Hills.

To see just how interested in middle school sports students at West Hills are, a survey was recently handed out to 100 students.

The question asked was: Would you like it if Jordan District had sports teams? The responses that were on the survey were:

1. YES, I would like it and would play/ go to the games.
2. YES, I would like it but I probably wouldn't play or go watch the games
3. NO, I don't care about sports teams or sports in general
4. NO, It's a waste of school money.

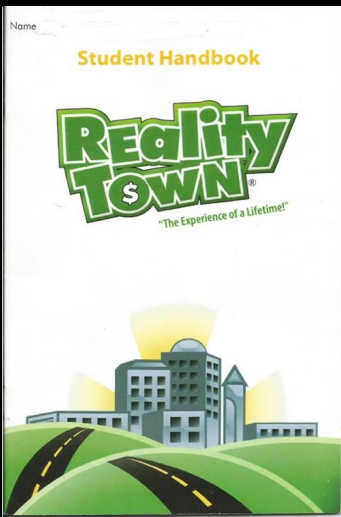
The students checked one box each.

68% of students choose number one, 22% choose number two, 8% choose number three, and 2% choose four.

This survey helped show how the students here at West Hills feel. Altogether, 90% of students support bringing sports teams back to the middle schools, though only 68% would actively support these programs.

Principal Stacy Evans commented in an interview, "I love the idea of intramural sports (non-competitive and all inclusive) at our school. We've had that at West Hills before, but the last time we had these programs there weren't enough students participating to keep the programs running." She went on to say that if there is enough interest at the school, she would be happy to bring the programs back.

So in the end, according to survey results most kids want to have sport teams. The survey also showed that a large majority of students here at West Hills would participate, either watching or playing. With enough interest these programs can be started up again, stu-



Reality Town

By: Kaily Dyatt

What is Reality Town? Reality Town is an activity that helps students experience a potential life that getting good grades can get them. It is a program at West Hills Middle School for 9th graders that allows students to see how many things they

need to think about and pay for in their future. You can have 1-3 kids. You can be single or married. There are tables around the gym with different titles like a communication table where you can buy a phone plan. Each student goes around to almost all the tables. There's also a pet store if you want to buy a pet. If you want a small dog and to get them groomed by a specialist it would cost about \$75.

Reality Town was a fun and good experience for some students. But others said, "it was stupid, it didn't matter and was pointless." Even though some people thought it was pointless almost everyone still had a blast! Before Reality Town you get a list of a ton of different jobs and the average GPA you got the year before. There are many different jobs you can get. You get to pick your top 3. You could pick to be a surgeon, a biologist, a marketing manager, lawyer, or a comput-

er manager. In the future the higher the GPA the better job you can get, so the more money you earn. Students that want to be a surgeon in Reality Town need a 3.8 average GPA.

Even though in seventh and eighth grade, grades don't count towards a student's official GPA for college admittance, it is still important to get good grades and make good habits that will help you all throughout High School. Imagine going through High School without your habits. You wouldn't have good grades using bad habits.

Everyone does have their own opinion and their own reason for their like or dislike of reality town. So for those that haven't participated in Reality Town yet, you'll just have to wait and see, and try to keep your grades up so that you have a better experience.

Should Students Be Given Homework?

By: Elsie Wilcox and Brayden Walter

Homework-There has been a debate on whether students should or should not be given it. In the hall or in your classes, you always hear students complaining about getting homework, but are there students who really like it and are being quiet about it? Some days, students spend all night working on it. Is homework a waste of time, staying up late and worrying about it? Or does it really seem to help you study what you learn in school? Parents also have opinions on topics like these, so what do they think?

Janai Walter, a mom of an eighth grader who goes to West Hills says, "I didn't like homework." Thinking back on her own school years she said, "I know with math, I probably needed the extra help at home, but I would rather have done other things." She also went on saying that she only needed the extra help in certain subjects and it did help her learn by practicing and getting help with it, but it also made her grades go down if she forgot to turn something in. Janai also said, "I don't really like when my kids get homework, I feel like it would be nice for them to have time doing other things and not have to worry about doing work."

After hearing about a parent's point of view, what do the students at West Hills think? After being asked a few questions about homework, every student said that the classes with the most homework are usually language arts and math. Ryan, a seventh grader here, said that homework takes time away from what he wants to do. Tess Everet, a ninth grader, said, "It stresses you out more than you already were".

While a dislike of homework is a very popular opinion, it is not the only one out there. One anonymous eighth grader said, "Homework helps because I get a chance to catch up on things I didn't get to learn in class, and it also helps me so I don't forget the things we learn in class." She also added that homework is only okay before or in preparation for a test. On average, the students that were interviewed said they spend about forty-five minutes every day on homework. While students have their opinions about homework, nothing is likely to change without the support of the teachers.

A survey was given out to the teachers at West Hills, the results show that most of the teachers believe in handing out homework. Mr. Jones said that he believes in giving out homework because "It helps to practice and build work ethic". On the other hand, Mrs. Whiteside said, "It is not an equitable practice, many students lack the ability to effectively

complete homework, therefore students with those resources get ahead in class while those who do not (who are typically already behind to begin with) fall behind. All in all the teachers of WHMS are almost evenly divided on the topic of homework.

While the teachers are divided on the Homework debate, students are not that divided, nearly 75% of students surveyed felt that homework is not needed.

Some students from the survey said that they don't

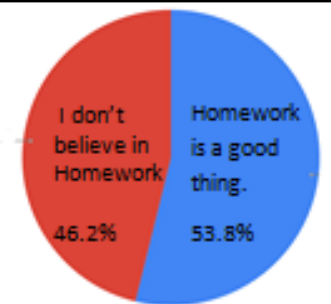
think they should be given homework because they should already be learning everything that they need during class time. They added, "You wouldn't be learning anything new from doing homework since you already learned it all." A few other students said that their lives are busy enough so homework just adds more stress and pressure onto them.

The students who do think homework is good usually don't get to share their opinion as often.

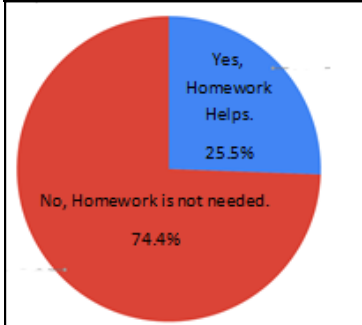
When given the opportunity they explained that homework is a good review so you don't forget the material. It helps your understanding of the subject, and it gives more practice at home. It helps them remember what will be on tests which will overall improve their test scores and grades.

What is your opinion on this topic, do you like homework to help you study, or is it a waste of time? Everyone has an opinion, share yours.

Do teachers at WHMS believe in giving out homework?



Does Homework Help Students Learn?



Hurricane Relief Drive

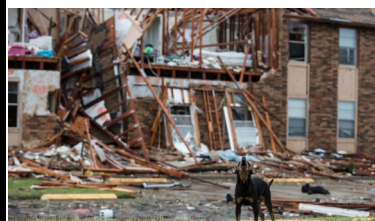
By: Katelyn Lawson, Emily Giang, Jeremy Checketts, and Breanna Giang



Typically, West Hills Middle School does a Food Drive for a service project every year, but this year, the school decided to raise money for Hurricane Harvey victims. The drive is scheduled to take place from October 23 to November 4. The school will be raising money to support the 950 students of YES Prep North Forest School (one of Mrs. Keck's friends is a teacher there) in Houston, Texas. The school has 6th to 12th graders.

Hurricane Harvey was the biggest hurricane to hit the United States since 2005 (Hurricane Katrina). At its peak, Houston received more than forty inches of rain in one day. Billions of dollars for property damages were sustained, 30,000 people were displaced from their homes, and 83 were confirmed dead.

When Harvey hit the United States, it was a Category 4 hurricane, the second-highest rating for a storm. Its wind speeds reached



a whopping 130 mph. With the amount of trepidation caused by Hurricane



Harvey, people want to make a difference to help these people in need. That is why WHMS has decided to change the service drive from a Food Drive into a Hurricane Relief Drive. They also plan to raise money by doing Penny Wars --a way for the grades to compete against one another to raise the most money.

Mrs. Hale, a reading teacher at West Hills and one of the teachers in charge of the drive said, "These disasters happen and it's always horrible when they do, and you can't always be prepared, but there's some things that we can do... Hopefully [this drive] will get students to be more grateful about what they have now, and get them to think about someone other than themselves."

Mrs. Hale thinks that the idea of the new drive is a good one; she also says that a couple of students at West Hills are the ones who brought up the idea to change the drive. They also think that it would definitely benefit those in need; the victims of Hurricane Harvey.

Madison Johnston, a 7th grade SBO said, "I think that it (the drive) will really affect people, and that it's really cool that we are helping out." Having an opportunity to help others in need, gives everyone a chance to "Be the Change!"

Take some time to think about those who have suffered. Find some loose change around your house and use it in Penny Wars. It may not seem very helpful right now, but the littlest things can improve the life of someone who doesn't have much to live on. Help improve the education and lives for other teenagers and their families in Texas by donating to West Hill's Hurricane Harvey Drive.

Do Parents Really Care?

By: Haley Hender



Some students at WHMS have grades that they are not proud of, and grades are the most important thing in school, right? While grades are an evaluation of how a student is doing academically, they don't tell the student's personality, strengths, weaknesses, likes or dislikes. For these reasons some students don't care about grades and don't feel that they are a good representation for them. But do parents agree? Do they care about a student's failing grades? Does it make a difference if they do or don't?

In some cases, you can tell how lazy someone is based on their grades. But this is not always the case. Some students have failing grades for reasons beyond laziness, like family problems, self-esteem issues, and parents who don't care. Many students, adults and parents jump to conclusions about a student with low grades. For example, if they have F's and D's, they are usually branded as someone who just doesn't care. But this is not always the case. The student could be having issues with the teacher, subject, or they may not try because lack of self-esteem.

Likewise wrong conclusions can be drawn about an "A/B" student. While these students usually do have some skills that help them be successful, such as being punctual and organized, another reason for their success is not always noticed. These students usually have better relationships with their parents and teachers, and are given more opportunities for responsibility and motivation.

In addition to having these advantages, A/B students often have parents who are always on their child's case and checking up on them constantly.

Are Lockers Worth Your Time?

By: Kadius Fuimaono & Marley Manuha & Kayla Lyu

Do you use your locker? When kids use their lockers they put their belongings and important items such as binders, folders, and school supplies in it. But there are several student who are not using their lockers. Why is this?

Lockers can help you store anything. Some things the school requires that students store, like backpacks. The backpack rule, which makes it so students have to leave their bags in their lockers, was started to help make space in the hall and the classrooms. It was put into affect to help solve space problems. But when kids at West Hills Middle School used back packs, it got them to class faster and according to some students "Made school easier."

Kaden Miller (7th grade) said, "I have been continuously late due my locker." Zach Sholtz(8th grade) said, "I don't know how to open my locker so I don't even use it."

Lockers often bring problems with safety. Many students share their combination. It isn't the safest to tell other people your locker combinations, because once someone knows they could tell others and soon enough everyone knows your locker, and the combination. Kids could get through your locker and steal any valuable things that your are keeping in it. Some kids even jam their lockers so that they open without a combo.

Students who don't use their lockers sometimes think the school would be better off without them. Lockers are built inside the school. They are built on the walls and around the school. But what would happened if the school was to eliminate lockers? The School

would have more space in the hallways, that means no more bumping into each other and having to fight your way through crowds just to get to class. Students could carry backpacks around which could make it easier for them to get to class faster than usual and maybe decrease the tardiness in West Hills Middle School. Students wouldn't use hall passes. so much because they would have no need to go to their lockers.

Terry from 8th grade stated his second opinion on lockers and it was using his hall passes on to go to his locker and it bothers him because he doesn't have any more and that it would be easier to have back packs so he wouldn't have to go and do that.

Another student who doesn't use his locker explained why. He doesn't use his own locker because most of his friends cousins share one, and he shares along with them. This student, Atu, also stated "My locker combination is too hard and so I just share with my cousins because it's easier and we all know people will go in ours or try to even open and guess the combo.

Another kid who doesn't use their locker was Terry in 8th grade. He came to us saying that he was very uncomfortable to use his locker because of his locker is on the bottom. Terry in 8th grade stated "I'm 5'10 and it's very hard for me to get down and also duck under people who are using their lockers because I'm a very big kid."

Having a top or bottom locker is a problem for lots of students, but there is a way to fix this problem by talking to the office about changing the locker to an upper one or and bottom one. This may be allowed if there is a good enough reason for the change. Many people with these problems have surveyed that they don't use their lockers but many also have said they do use their locker. Many reasons why peo-

ple use their lockers is to put their backpacks and there extra stuff like helmets for skateboarding or cycling.

While there are problems with lockers, most kids still use them.

Many even like the, They feel that "Lockers are a right of passage." They're a symbol that you're not in elementary school anymore. Some kids like that there is a place in the school that is 'theirs.' Others don't want to carry around a backpack because it looks, 'dorky.'

While Many kids academic wise would be in class more often and have less reasons to leave their class if lockers were removed and replaced with backpacks, it is a change that isn't likely to happen.

The cost of removing the lockers would be too expensive, and the majority of students support/like/use lockers. Looking at the numbers it is nearly 70% of students. So it looks like lockers are here to stay.



These kids get good grades not because they are more organized and on top of their work, but because their parents are organized and on top of them.

Not all parents believe that this is the best way to raise a child. There are some parents who believe that it's up to the students to be responsible for their learning and make sure they have good grades on their own. Though research has shown that this is not usually effective.

Having an adult around to help also helps many students do better in school. But not all students have a parent at home who can help them. Some students lack even more than this. They don't even have a home to study in, or food to give them energy. For this, the school counselors have organized programs. For homeless students, and students whose families are low on food supplies there are ways to get help. And if you need help with homework, they can help you, arrange for after school tutoring, or find some way to help you.





While there may be cases where bad grades are caused by harsh circumstances, most students' whose grades they are not proud of, just don't care. These students can usually perfectly well do the work, but they have an attitude that sounds like, "I don't really care about the future. School is supposed to be fun. People just need to lighten up. It doesn't count anyways. Why should I care?"

What they don't understand is that their grades affect their ability to be accepted into certain classes, into college, and even their ability to graduate. To get into the best careers and colleges, passing grades aren't enough.

After being asked if her parents check Skyward, and how it affects her, Joselyn Capulin, an eighth-grade student says, "It doesn't affect me, I show them my grades at the end of the quarter."

Ryan Hender, a father of three and guardian of ninth grade student, says, "I care about my kids' grades very much. I think it's very important for kids to care." When asked what responsibilities kids have, he said, "As a student, you have two obligations in life; get good grades and keep your room clean, and any responsible parent cares a lot about their child's grades." He was then asked how he reacts to bad grades. He said, "My first instinct is to help and sit down with them and figure out what it is that's making them struggle. If they're not getting good grades, there's something missing."

In the end, it's clear to all and almost everyone can agree that F's and D's are not desirable, and can, in the worst cases, ruin someone's life. And even though parents don't have to care, it seems that it's best for their student when they do.

	4 - The student has surpassed the standard.
	3 - The student has met the standard.
	2 - The student is close to meeting the standard.
	1 - The student is not close to meeting the standard.

NEW GRADING SYSTEM

By: Peyton Lambourne

Several classes here at West Hills Middle School, like reading and math, have switched over to a new grading system. This new grading system is mastery focused, where students are graded on a four point scale. Remediation =1, Approaching =2, Mastery =3, and Exceeding Mastery =4. Many classes are trying to move to this type of grading system. Its not required, but the school is looking for the best practice for grading.

The new grading system was made to determine your understanding of a topic. The higher the grade you get on an assessment, the more understanding you show. All grades A - F are still possible to get in this new grading system., but your grade will be determined by if you get it in the end, not while you are still learning a subject. Your last tries of a subject are what determines your understanding of a topic and so determine your grade.

So what can you do

to make sure you can get good grades in this new grading system? Mrs. Habermeyer says, "The grading system is based on understanding of the content." So, the #1 thing you can do is try to learn the lessons in class, and try not to rely on late work and relearning the material at a later time. You have to learn the material as the class learns it, because one skill builds on top of the next.

So how are West Hills students preparing for the new system? Students are still turning in late work. There is no reason you should turn in late work, but many students still somehow manage to do it. One big reason to why this might be the case is because they aren't spending their time wisely. Talking in class, sleeping, spending time on their phone, or just not doing it. Be ready for a lot of changes in this next year. The new grading system might change if you get good grades. So stay on top of your work and learn the subjects in class. Don't rely on doing everything at the last minute.

On Time Work: More Important Than Ever

By: Peyton Lambourne

As you may know, students can be docked points for turning in work late. Currently, our school only allows up to 25% points to be docked on any given assignment. Jordan Jacobson, a student here at West Hills Middle School, had a "D" in Language Arts (at the time of this interview) due to a late assignment. Lost points can really affect a students GPA, and your GPA is really important because it is a big factor in deciding whether or not you will/can get into a college.

You might ask yourself why teachers mark off points for late assignments. This is because if you were to continue this habit, you could end up being fired or jobless. Unless you have a really cool boss that allows you to kick back and relax... which is very rare. Regard-

less, don't turn in your work late or you could end up with no job.

Mrs. Rawlinson says that turning in work on time, "Helps develop good habits for the future." Making your GPA higher, and giving you a better shot at an easier life. If you get a good job that you enjoy, you will have an easier life. Like the saying goes, "Love your job and you will never work a day in your life."

So how can you get your work and homework in on time, every time? One thing you can do is make sure you never have homework. Do the most homework you can in school, so you don't have to worry about forgetting to do it at home. Also, get a homework folder. Then at home you can do all the homework in it. Then, every class, check the homework folder to see if you can turn something in.



—GLASBERGEN
"I TURNED IN MY HOMEWORK TWO DAYS LATE, BUT NORMALLY IT'S FOUR DAYS LATE, SO TECHNICALLY IT'S EARLY!"

The MIDDLE SCHOOL TRANSFORMERS

By: Alan pasagalua, Camden Johnson



When sixth grade students come into middle school and become fresh new seventh graders, many of them have plans to become a new person. They try to change their bodies/looks, how they think, behave, and feel. In other words they reinvent themselves. But for some the transformation takes years. How have the 9th graders changed since they were sevie's? The seventh grade students of 2015 are not the same kids they once were; two years later and these once bewildered students are now the experienced students, better known as the ninth graders. This is what four students have to say about their experiences: what they did and how they evolved over time to become the person they are now.

Richard Mchenry says, "Seventh grade was awful, nobody knew who I was and I didn't know who anyone else was, so... yeah. But, ninth grade is way better than seventh grade so far, because I'm failing only one class instead of all of them, and that's what I regret most about my seventh grade year. I was also the weird kid back then, but now I'm more like one of the ninth grade comedians. And it's not by telling dumb knock, knock jokes; it's from saying things I made on my own. Like making funny class memes that crack my friends up."

Liz Applegate says, "I went to another middle school when I was in seventh grade and it was boring and stupid because the teachers treated some of the students like they were more important than others by helping them more. For example, the teachers would never help out much with our questions. But now I'm a ninth grade student in West Hills and it's way better because the school is bigger and there is more stuff to do, rather than the last place I went to. Over time my opinions have changed as I matured, and now I act different. For example, in seventh grade I was a lot nicer, well I'm still nice but more sly and I'm more in the artistic group now. Oh, and the new seventh graders are a lot different then I remember, many of them focus more on their phones instead of their friends. And I'm not saying we don't do it too, we do use them but we should always put our friends first."

Alex Klepzig says, "When I was in seventh grade I was told by my friends I could be a little bit of a jerk sometimes. That was one of the things I wanted to change and I had an easy time doing it, too. That was because I decided to work hard on grades and I actually tried to do my work. I had all A's and like one B, for your information. But it wasn't all perfect, I did some things I regret, like causing a fight to happen. But other than that, ninth grade

is still easy because the teacher's help a lot with assignments and projects. And I'm thankful for my supportive friends and all that. I would call myself a nerd like computer geeks, Minecraft geek, and things like that. But the point is I changed because I didn't want people to hate me; I wanted them to appreciate me."

Aubry Jensen says "In seventh grade things were weird and really awkward back then because we didn't really know who anyone really was. And I really regretted the clothes I wore too, because I didn't really know what to wear. Now I'm in ninth and I figured out who my real friends are and the things I like. And my opinions changed because I see things different than when I was in seventh grade, that's because I learned from the mistakes and choices I made. I went from awkward and weird to, I don't want to use labels, but popular. Some kids kind of annoy me because they think they are cool because they are in middle school. But you don't become cool from being something, you become cool from doing something right."

What caused these ninth graders to change opinions? Was it "seeing things different", or did they change because of other student's opinions? Maybe they changed their style just because they got sick of the old them, or perhaps they were inspired by something or someone. While the reasons for middle school transformations are different from person to person, these changes all have a few things in common. Students changed over time. They changed because they went through stages in their life that made them who they are now. They also changed through effort and trying. They made a decision to change; they became who they tried to be.

Pierce Me Up!

By: Jasmin Marquez, Kayla Lyu

Do you have a piercing? Ever wondered about getting a piercing, or wondered what one would look like on you? How do you feel about teenagers having one, or multiple, piercings? Do you like them? Or do they disturb you? Do you think having piercings in middle school is showing off? Do you think only girls should have piercings?

Students here at WHMS have lots of different opinions on piercings. A survey was handed out to one class of each grade to see what the students perspective on body piercings are.

A randomly selected seventh grade class was handed this survey. The surveys were handed back with some very interesting opinions. Most of the seventh graders do not like multiple piercings. On one of the surveys a seventh grade student said, "I feel that it is unnecessary to get any part of your body pierced, except your ears." There were a lot more

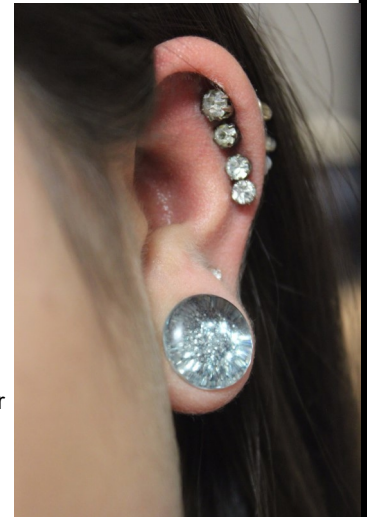
comments about not liking piercings, many more than seventh graders who actually liked piercings. Some of the seventh graders said that only girls should have piercings.

The majority of the eighth grade students that answered the survey claimed that they don't really care for body piercings. "They aren't bad. They are just pieces of jewelry going in your skin," said one eighth grade student. More eighth grade students don't have piercings and wouldn't like to if they had the chance. Most of the eighth graders think that teenagers should be able to get multiple body piercings, more than just the earlobe.

The ninth graders who took the survey answered them with more detailed opinions, they seem more interested in piercings more than the other grades. "I think they are super cute and I love them! Wish I could get more!" "Piercings don't make you a bad person they are just a style." "It expresses a person." These are a few opinions ninth grade students had about piercings. The greater amount of the ninth grade reported having body piercings. They also showed that they think

that piercings are both for girls and boys.

It seems to be that the older kids in WHMS have a more positive opinion on piercings than the younger kids in this school. There could be several reasons for this. The younger students mentioned that they aren't allowed to have any or more than one piercing, this could affect why they do not have a lot of interest like the ninth graders do. Eighth and ninth graders want piercings rather than just the earlobe. These are just some of the opinions about piercings.



Construction Of President Trump's Wall

By: Ella Morris

When President Trump was running for president, he told the world that he would build a wall on the US/ Mexico border. On Tuesday September 26, 2017 the prototype walls started construction; they will be completed in 30 days. Six different contractor companies were hired and started building their walls, half of the walls will be made of concrete. The other walls will be made of materials that the contractors choose. The walls have to be 18-30 feet high, after the walls are completed they will be further tested by the Department of Homeland Security. The prototypes could cost up to 500,000 dollars each. There are 15 million dollars to build the prototypes but no money for the construction for the actual wall.

President Trump attended a rally in Phoenix, Arizona in August 2017 and said he's willing to shut down the government to get his wall. He will shut down the government to get money from congress. He says "We're going to have our wall."

During President Trump's campaign he said, "I would build a great wall, and nobody builds walls better than me, believe me, and I build them very inexpensively."

The wall's construction was prompted because the U.S. border is one of the busiest borders used in the world. There are at least 1,000,000 people using it each day, with 400,000 cars and 15,000 lorries (trucks).

With the wall starting to emerge, how are students at WHMS feeling about the topic of immigration?

Some students support the wall's construction. One 7th grade boy says, "I think Trump's wall is pretty great, and it'll keep terrorists out, and you know, you got to get rid of those terrorists. They are terrible."

A 9th grade girl says, "I just think

that immigrants take up a lot of space in America because we have a lot of jobs, but if people keep coming to America over and over again that's losing jobs for everyone else who's already here. I think a wall is a bit much, but I think we should crackdown on illegal immigrants. I mean immigrants are fine, but the illegal ones, the ones that aren't even allowed to come into the country and find their way in, I think that's a big no, no. I think it's a bit much but I still kind of agree with why he did it, and why he was thinking that way."

While some students support the wall here at WHMS, not all of them do. West Hills has many students who come from immigrant families. Did you know that at West Hills roughly 18% of kids speak a different language other than English as their first language. This means that their first language isn't English. So they had to learn English.

Mr. Maughan from WHMS says "I personally think that building a wall would be a complete waste of taxpayer dollars. The idea that's out there that some people feel that illegal immigrants are a drain on our society is false. They actually contribute a lot to our society, both as far as jobs and tax revenue. They purchase things, which goes towards paying sales tax. Many of them also have social security cards and so they pay taxes. They provide more than they 'drain' from society. They actually contribute more than they might take. But the idea that the federal government feel like they should be able to come into schools and look for illegal immigrants is wrong. As a teacher I do not have the right, whether I have the right or not I should not ask if any of my students are legal. Because the constitution says that every person has due process. Every person who comes into my classroom deserves an education whether they are legal or not."

Students also shared feelings against the wall. One boy from 7th grade says, "I think Trump's wall is totally

wrong because he wants Mexico to pay for it."

Another 8th grader says, "Honestly I don't think it's going to do much, because all the money he's going to spend on it, he could spend it on other things like ending world hunger, giving women in Africa education and stuff like that. But he's just making a wall to get rid of immigrants. I really don't think it's going to make a difference."

One of the biggest concerns about the wall is the cost, and how much of taxpayer's money will go to it. President Trump says that it is possible to get money through things such as raising tariffs (a kind of tax) and increasing visa and the border crossing fees. To cross the border to Mexico or to the USA is 20 dollars and you have to fill out paperwork if you're staying for more than a week.

President Trump wants to build this wall because of illegal migrants and that Mexico is one of the highest crime nations in the world. President Trump told America that Mexico would pay for this wall, but Mexico's president Enrique Pena Nieto says he's not paying for the wall. He said that "Trump is a threat to the country." and compared him to Hitler and a few other people.

The wall will cost, on estimate, around 17 billion according to a leaked report. 17 billion is the same cost as one and a half aircraft carriers. If the 2017 budget doesn't pass about 5 ships won't be able to sail out of the Western Region because the wall will cost billions of dollars. And not only ships in the United States, 15 ships around the world won't be able to sail. President Trump said he could build a wall under 10 billion, but building a wall is a lot more expensive.

The fencing for the wall has already started to be constructed; there's roughly already 700 miles of fencing being built. The materials that the fences are made of steel barriers. They've started building fencing in San Diego California.

The construction workers going to have to build over deserts and Rio Grande. Rio Grande's tens of thousands of visitors each year are from around the world. Rio Grande has 4 hiking trails that a lot of tourist hike, but when the wall is built the trails will be cut off. Not only that there's Lomita ChapelLa in Texas which is a building built by Catholic priests in 1865, would also be blocked off by the wall.

What does Mexico think about the wall? Mexico is calling President Trump hostile, an enemy, a threat, etc. Mexico doesn't want a wall and they aren't going to pay for it. Senator Armando Rios Piter called Mr Trump's announcement a "hostile and enemy act" and urged Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto to stay away from a scheduled meeting with the new US president, scheduled for 31 January - bbc.com

A previous presidential candidate (Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador) thinks that President Trump's wall is an act of aggression. President Trump says that the wall is a win-win situation but Mexico doesn't think so.

An 8th grade boy says, "Personally Trump is an idiot because he's going to spend more money building a wall than he will doing other stuff."

Since President Trump has wanted to build a wall people have started to compare it to the Great Wall of China. The Great Wall of China is made up of stone, brick, tamped earth, wood and other materials. The Great Wall of China is bigger than the wall Donald Trump is going to have built. The Great Wall of China is 3,000 miles long and has barriers, and trenches.

Is the wall a good idea? What if the next president after Donald Trump decides that they want to knock the wall down? Should they knock it down? Only time will tell if the wall was a good idea.

Information from <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/mar/19/president-donald-trumps-border-wall-will-be-tall-i/>

Vending Machines, Useless or Not?

By: B.S., E.H. and G.G

Students at West Hills pass the vending machines every day when they go to lunch, but do they use them? Where does the money from the vending machines go, how many students actually use them? Are they worth having in the school. Students at West Hills pass the vending machines every day when they go to lunch, but do they use them? This will explain some things that you probably didn't know, such as, where the money goes, how many students actually use them, and other questions that you may not have known.



Do the vending machines even get used at WHMS? If so how much money does the school make a year? Vending machine companies bid for the right to provide the machines to the schools at the district level. Whichever company offers the best deal, which isn't always just money, get the contract. According to Principal Evans, while the school does get some money from sales from the vending machines, it is very little and all of it is put back into funding student needs.

How often are vending machines used?

There are some students that do not even buy things from the vending machines with their own money. As such, their friends buy things for them. The newspaper sent out a survey to 7th, 8th, and 9th graders to see how many students actually use the vending machines at West Hills and the results are: 36% of the students said 'No, they do not use the vending machines at West Hills' and 64% students said 'Yes, they do use the vending machines.

Some students at this school don't plan on using the vending machines at all, unless there were to be an emergency. They say it's too much of a hassle to bring money all the time to buy snacks and drinks.

They also say they disliked how expensive the food is and the selection that is there, or rather not there. They dislike that there are not more candy and junk food options.

Other students disagree and feel that having the extra food options is great! They also like that they are available all day long and not just at certain times like school breakfast/lunch.

Vending machines do fill a need but they do come with some problems. An anonymous 7th grader said, "I put a 10 dollar bill in and bought 4 drinks but it only gave me 1 dollar back." Machines eating a student's money is always a problem. Because the machines are not owned by the school, the school will not refund money that is taken by them.

While vending machines come with problems most students will make use of them at one point or another. While those who don't use them have their reasoning behind it, the vending machines are still likely to be here to stay. So what is your opinion on vending machines? Do you use them? Do you care whether they have what you want stocked and what type of food you get out of a dollar?

Horrifying Humanitarian Home Haunts

By: Jordan Black

In the Halloween season many students dress up and go trick or treating, but do kids go to home haunts? Home haunts are tiny haunted houses made by people in many communities. There are many home haunts that make many people shiver, but this year there is one here in West Jordan that is going beyond that, and is helping people in need.

Denise and Jerry Nelson, with help from Crystal and Sandra Jolley have been doing a home haunt for the past 15 years, and the past 5 years at their current home in 4944 West Parr Drive, West Jordan.



Denise Nelson says, "I love scary movies, but another reason for starting our home haunt is to donate cans for the food drive." Denise also says, "I enjoy doing the haunted house by seeing people have fun!" In order to get into this home haunt you have to give one can of food. All that food will be donated to homeless and those in need.

Many kids at West Hills enjoy good scares. Bryson Brady, an 8th grader at West Hills Middle School says, "One time I went to a scary corn maze, and it was creepy, but I liked it."

Denise Nelson states, "I enjoy scary movies and we try to stay with scary in certain sections."

This home haunts is very open to all ages though some things may be scary, other things won't. All the props or people in the home haunt are appropriate and are open to be told to stop doing their act in front of tiny children. Each year they add and decorate in different ways. Denise Nelson says, "This year we have added a whole new part to the home haunt."

Many other people around the world enjoy scary haunts and spooks. Cooper Hutchinson, a 9th grader from West Hills Middle School says, "I enjoy scary things as long as their not rated R. Anything PG-13 or

lower is fine with me."

Both Bryson Brady and Cooper Hutchinson say, "If they were collecting cans to get into the haunted house I would go right after school." The Nelsons and the Jolleys have collected 1,388 pounds of cans in one Halloween season. Though many people don't like scary things, people still go just to donate.

Halloween brings children, teens, and adults out for candy, family, and an evening of fun, but others do it for the thrill of being scared, Sometimes scary can be too much, but many people think a fun scare is healthy.



IS READING BENEFICIAL?

By: Anthony Rivetti

Students always ask themselves if reading is actually as good as everyone says it is. After doing the research the results were not as surprising as you would think.

Beginning with the downsides. There are not that many negatives to reading, so sorry to burst your bubble if you were going to use this article as an excuse not to read.

Some people use reading as an excuse not to pay attention in school, like a kid named Cristian Garcia. After asking him what his opinion on reading was he said, "I love reading but I have been scolded by teachers about reading during times where we had to pay attention. Getting nose deep in a book is good, but if you or someone else is reading too much it can be as bad as being on your phone in class."

Another downside of reading is that there is the chance you might be damaging your social life.

(According to Simple.com) Reading at home or in class is great, but going to a party to read a book will just make you more of an awkward human being. While this does not often apply to all readers it does happen to a select few of students. Some students connect more with their books than with people. But all of the downsides of reading are nothing compared to the beneficial parts of reading.

The mental stimulation that comes from reading can actually help slow or prevent mental diseases, such as Alzheimer's

It can help reduce stress. No matter who you are or what's happening at home what is going on at home, science has proven that if you read you will feel less stressed, It helps distract you from the real world.

Your vocabulary will expand. Reading can help you find new words that you have never known about before. It can improve the way you write. Most people take inspiration from reading and it can help you if you are planning to be a writer.

When reading a book you're brain takes on the challenge of memorizing characters from the book, This helps improve your memory.

In an internet crazed world your attention is thrown in many ways at a time. Reading gives you a break from the insane world that is ran by cellphones and computers. Studies have shown that if you read 15-20 minutes before school/work you'll be more concentrated than you would be if you didn't read.

Reading is something everyone should add into their everyday life. Without it, human beings would not be able to function properly due to the amount of reading we have to do daily.

Sources: real Simple.com ' Healthfitnessrevolution.com



Are You a Class Clown?

By: Heber Adams and Michael Trujillo



This article is for students who claim to be class clown. The class clown is a nickname that has been made up for the student that messes around in class or says something funny and gets the class off of task. The journalism team went to some of these students and asked them what it's like to be the class clown. Is it fun or do they get in trouble? Some students were a little unsure about their answers. But another side of the story came up as well; some students feel that the class clown, or kid who always talks, is annoying or needs to do their work. Some just think they're just distracting

everyone from their work.

Ashton Dean is an eighth grader who claims that he is a class clown. One interesting thing Ashton said was that he isn't a class clown in all of his classes. Ashton said there are classes that he will be funny in and other classes that he isn't funny in. Something he said he likes to do that he feels can make students laugh is to take their binders when students are not looking. Ashton says it's funny when they can't find them.

Another eighth grade student, who would like to remain anonymous, said some similar things to Ashton. Like Ashton, he said that he isn't a class clown in all of his classes. When asked what he does to be funny and he likes blurting random words out in class. He did it to draw attention because he was bored; he also did it to make people laugh.

Other things that students said that make a class clown is that they are loud, they think they are funny even if they are not. They run around in class and in the hall, they always laugh at their own jokes, they don't stay in their seat, and they throw things around the room.

Some students like having a class clown in the room with them, others do not.

One student who doesn't like the class clown said, "Sometimes class clowns are really funny, but there are some times that they have to do their work and it can

really distract others." Class clowns can take up a lot of a class period's time. Some students like having a class clown for the entertainment they provide. One student said, "They are really funny, and it is funny when teachers get mad."

Mrs. Schultz said, They can be funny but there is time where you have to pay attention and if you don't there is a discipline plan in place, like staying after class to owe time."

So why do kids act this way and what are the consequences of their behavior? Some people say that they do it for attention and others say that they are really bored. That is one thing that class clowns definitely get: attention. Some feel it helps them make friends and show their personalities. Others that it livens things up. Consequences can be good and bad. For some students, people do like them for their goofiness during class, for others the exact opposite happens, and other students avoid them and refuse to sit with or work with them.

So check and see, are you a class clown? Are you easily distracted? Do you mess with others or their belongings? Do you yell things out, or disrupt the class? Do you try to grab attention? Will you do anything to get a laugh? Are you constantly out of your seat? If you said yes to several of these you just might be the class clown!

So now you know: are you a class clown or are you a normal student?

Even More New Teachers

By: Grace Jolley, Daniel Gomez, and Mia Marquez

This year, the school had a total of 14 new teachers! It was sad to see the old ones leave, but now all the new teachers are just as amazing!



Mr. Hughes is one of the new assistant principals. "I expected to see all the middle

school drama, but it actually has been good," Mr. Hughes approved. He enjoys traveling, taking pictures, and collecting snakes! He loves how the students are embracing the "Be the change" policy. He said, "Last year this was a regular middle school; this year and from 'now on' it will be the model middle school. I've taught every major subject from kindergarten to twelfth grade." He is eager to see the school at its best.



Ms. Newman is the new dance teacher here at West Hills. She said, "I always wanted to teach middle school."

when asked how has it been working here at West Hills she says, "It's been fun. I didn't know

if I really had expectations." She has also taught at other schools, but was a sub, and in all the schools she has taught dance in all of them. "I like to go on hikes, boating, traveling, sleeping, and eating," she added. "I was so happy when I got the job, I cried."

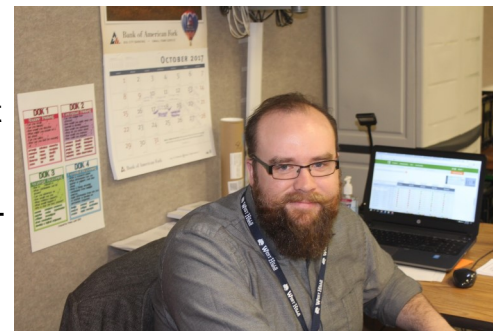


Mrs. Mccann is a 7th grade math teacher. She enjoys cooking cake baking and decorating

and spending time with her family. When asked if she likes this age group, she said, "I do. The students have lots of energy and most are eager and willing to learn." This is her first year as an official teacher, but she has worked with, and taught students in every middle school subject. When asked "Were you happy to come to West Hills?" She said "Yes! That is why my husband and I moved all the way from Oregon just to work here in Utah. I am gaining more now here. I do have family that also lives here, so that makes it fun as well."

She expected a well-organized and welcoming environment, and loves the idea of a teamwork ethic.

Mr. Ralinson is a language arts teacher here at West Hills. When asked how has it been working at West Hills, he said, "It has been fantastic. Students have been really willing to learn, and the teachers have been really supportive of each other. It's fantastic." He added, "I didn't know what to expect. I was really nervous coming in.



It's just like that for a teacher whenever you go to a new school." He was also optimistic and has taught at other schools. "I taught for a year down in Arizona. I actually used to be a history teacher, but I can also teach both English and history; I'm certified for both. They needed an English teacher, and I was more than happy to add to the staff," he said. "I love teaching 8th and 9th grade; think it's fantastic, I don't know if I can handle the craziness of an elementary school going crazy.."

Mrs. Whiteside is a US history teacher and a Utah history teacher for 7th and 8th grade. She grew up in North Carolina, and was happy to come to West Hills because of its diversity; she loves seeing people from all over the place with even different languages. She enjoys playing the piano and loves hiking and reading. She said, "I love all of my students it's been great. Teachers have a chance to really make a difference in middle school, everyone is a crossroad in their life." She works with a lot of great social studies teachers, and loves how her students come to class with a smile.



So this is the second section on new teachers. They are all good teachers and we're happy to have them as teachers here in West Hills.

Halloween Costumes Should or Should Not

By Arieana Santos

Halloween; the time of year filled with costumes, scaring friends and having fun! If you buy a costume for Halloween, you'll probably want to wear it to school. The question is, should students be allowed to wear their costumes to school on Halloween? This year, Halloween is on a Tuesday, so students are in school. Students are going to want to wear their costumes, but what if they have a mask, or need face paint, are they allowed to wear it? Why can't students wear certain costume?

Ms. Vandermeiden said, "Students are allowed to wear costumes to school this year, but they still have to follow the dress code. Students can't show their stomachs, legs above mid thigh, cleavage, or shoulders. Students can have a little bit of face paint, but not their whole face covered. Students cannot wear masks to school either. Clown costumes are allowed but not the face paint."

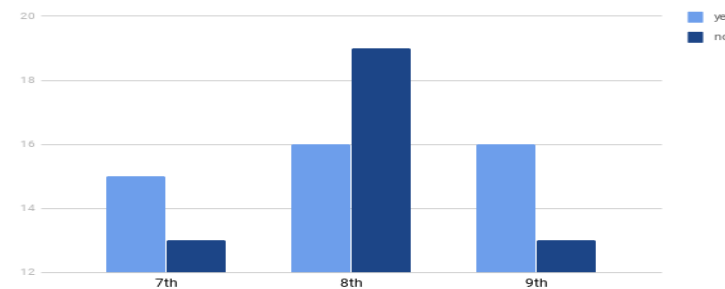
Should West Hills Middle School students be allowed to wear costumes that go against the school dress code? Different ages like and agree with different things, so what do a majority of students at West Hills agree with?

The students at West Hills are divided about the rules for Halloween. In a survey with seven questions, the results came back mixed. The questions were:



1. Should students be allowed to dress up,
2. Should students be allowed to have crazy/colored hair,
3. Should students be allowed to show skin,
4. Should students be allowed to wear hats,
5. Should students be allowed to wear slippers,
6. Should students be allowed to have face paint,

should students be allowed to wear masks for halloween?



7. Should students be allowed to wear masks. There were 28, 7th grade surveys, 35, 8th grade surveys, and 29, 9th grade students. Here's what the survey found:

The results for crazy hair on Halloween are, 28 7th graders said yes students should be allowed, 34 8th graders said yes, and one said no, and 27 9th graders said yes and two said no. Overall 97% students said hair shouldn't matter on Halloween. Alexis Gardener said "Yes students should be allowed to have crazy hair on Halloween, because it's not harming anyone, and it's Halloween, we should be able to be allowed to dress up." Katelyn Santos said "No, it's a distraction to others."

The results for colored hair are, 26 7th graders said yes, and two said no, 34 8th graders said yes, and one said no, and 28 9th graders said yes, and one said no. Overall 92% of students said yes, and 8% said no. Alexis Gardener said "Some colors are okay for colored hair, but not distracting colors." Katelyn Santos said "Yes if it matches their costumes, or they need it."

The results for showing skin are, 16 7th graders said yes, and 12 said no, 25 8th graders said yes, and 10 said no, and 21 9th graders said yes, and eight said no. Overall 67% said yes, and 33% said no. Alexis Gardener said, "Students should be allowed to show skin as long as it's not a lot." Katelyn Santos said "No, they need to wear appropriate costumes." Sydney Morrison said "Depends, shoulders I think

are ok." Kylie Anderson said "yeah why not."

The results for hats were, 26 7th graders said yes, and two said no, 33 8th graders said yes, two said no, and 27 9th graders said yes, and two said no. Overall 93% of students said yes, and seven% said no. Alexis Gardener said "A lot of costumes involve some kind of hats, so yeah." Kylie Anderson said "Yes because it's part of their costumes; they should wear it."

The results for slippers are, 22 7th graders said yes, and six said no, 29 8th graders said yes, and six said no, and 23 9th graders said yes, and six said no. Overall 80% of students said yes, and 20% said no. "YES!!!" Was Alexis Gardener's response when asked about wearing slippers. Sydney Mortenson said "Yes, I think slippers are okay, as long as they protect our feet."



The results for face paint were 22 7th graders said yes, and six said no, 34 8th graders said yes, and four said no, and 22 9th graders said yes, and seven said no. Overall 85% of students said yes, and 15% said no. Alexis Gardener said "Yeah, I mean Halloween costumes have face paint, so why not?" Katelyn Santos said "No, if they wear too much we won't know who they are."

The results for masks were, 15 7th graders said yes, and 13 said no, 16 8th graders said yes, and 19 said no, and 16 9th graders said yes, and 13 said no. Overall 51% students said yes, and 49 % said no. Alexis Gardener said "No because you never know what could happen." Kylie Anderson said "yeah so they can match their costume."

Whether or not students agree with the rules of Halloween clothing, they will be enforced. Students who don't obey rules will be forced to change. So come dressed up and dressed appropriately.

Lice: Cut It Or Treat It

By: Malique Wilkinson

Lice are little bugs the size of ants that sit on different parts of your body, most people get them in Preschool through 6th grade, but anyone of any age can get lice. There are three different types of lice: Head Lice, Body Lice, and Pubic lice. Lice are parasites and feed on human blood. The plural of lice is louse. They are spread by contact or by sharing clothes, combs, etc. A 9th grade student that has had lice said, "Lice were in my hair for at least one month and they were painful and the treatment was the worst."

Head lice cause a tickling feeling and an itch in the head. The Scientific name is *Pediculus Humanus Capitis*. Female

lice lay three to ten eggs per day. The type of hair a person has will determine how bad the infestation is.

Lice are spread by direct contact. An 8th grade student that had lice says, "Lice are parasites that are easy to deal with, all you have to go through is a few easy and quick treatments like washing your hair with oils."

Body lice however are different. They bite, can cause itching, and small areas of blood and crust at the side of the bite marks. Body lice live in your clothes, bedding, and they travel several times a day to feed on blood. Body lice spread through direct contact or by sharing of clothes or bed. A 7th grader said, "Lice are really hard to put up with and they really hurt and don't stop clinging to your hair."

Lice eggs are called Nits. Head lice can't live off of the host for more than 24 hours, they can only live for 30 days on a their host. They can't jump or fly, and they have no wings.

Your hair color may kill head lice, but not Nits, they have an impenetrable shell. Lice can grow from .25 -

.30 cm. To get rid of lice you have to get special hair treatment (medicated shampoo) or shave your head. Some kids shave because lice live on the hair, shaving would give no shelter and the Nits would fall out and the lice would die or leave. You'll know if you have it when you are itching a lot. People who have long hair and who have lice have a harder to deal with it. Unless they want to cut their hair/shave it off, they have to go through medicated hair treatment to get them out.



How Do Students Feel About the Changes in LEAP?

By Cassidy Krogh

This year there have been huge changes in how the school is run, including LEAP. Of course there are still the simple rules like no phones, but there has been a huge shift in the lunchroom. In the lunchroom last year, kids would sit by their friends and talk instead of doing their work. Now, when you get into the lunchroom you can't just sit at whatever table you want; there are assigned tables for certain subjects. The assistant principals have also been more strict about noise.

The students have had split opinions about the changes in LEAP since

it has started. 8th grade student Savanna Squire said, "It's not the best. I don't like that we can't use our phones as calculators without permission."

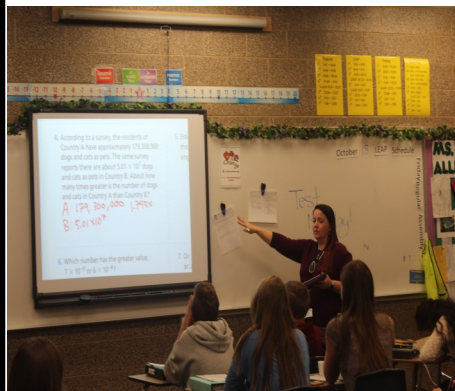
There has not only been negative opinions about the change, there have also been positive ones. Another student says "I think the changes in LEAP will make kids actually do their work which would improve their grades."

Why have these changes to LEAP been made? Savanna Squire says "I think they changed it because the kids were not doing their work." Hopefully these changes will lead to improvements in students grades and understanding.



Utah Schools Change Elective Requirements

By: Christian Rodriguez



Recently, the Salt Lake Tribune published an article about changes in Utah schools and how some classes may become optional for middle school students to take. The article states classes such as health, art, physical education and career awareness may become optional and this proposed change would also remove the minimum credit requirements for core subjects such as Math, English and Science. The decision would be left up to the school district administrators as to whether, and to what extent, a student is required to enroll in

and complete these individual classes.

How do students and teachers feel about these possible changes? Are there any benefits to these possible changes? What are the downfalls of these possible changes? There has to be an opinion out there! Interviews were set up and the discussion began.

3 West Hills students gave their opinion. All of the students were 7th graders and very interested and involved in their education. The first student (female) thought the change was good and hoped it would take place soon. She is not interested in wasting her time in PE or Art since neither of these classes interest her and will have no impact on her education. The other two students were both boys and they thought the change wasn't needed and hoped it wouldn't

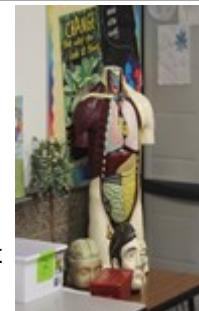


take place. They actually liked doing PE or Art. They enjoy the break from their core classes and like not having regular assignments and homework. They are hoping that schools stick what they know and allowing kids to be involved in physical activities.

Two teachers were interviewed, Ms. Savage and Mrs. Habermeyer. Ms. Savage said she was sad because students don't know what they like for sure and if they were forced into those classes they get the exploration to find if they liked it or didn't like it. Positive about these changes: "I guess they get to choose what they want." Negative about these changes: "Students lose the opportunity to explore and figure out what they like or dislike." When she was asked if she thought this was a positive move, she said, "Potentially, because students get to choose what they want and so maybe they'll be more interested instead of doing something they don't like." When asked if she thought these changes are necessary, she said "I don't think so because I think exploring things is a good thing."

Mrs. Habermeyer said "I think it's nice to be well rounded so being required to take some of those classes is good because some of us won't reach if we weren't told to do it." She was unable to identify any positive thoughts about these changes. When asked what the negative side of these changes would bring, she said "I think as a teenager it's hard to know what you really like and so to being required to take variety of those classes is better for you in the long run because you'll be able to try a lot of different things". When asked if she thinks this benefits the students, she said "I do think keeping them required benefits them". When asked if she thought the change was necessary, she said "No, because exposing the students to things they may or may not like allows the student to experience it, therefore the student can make a better decision".

As the teachers stated, sometimes it is better to expose students to a variety of things to help them make decisions later. If students aren't forced to take these required classes, it sends a message to the student that these are not important classes. An education is one of the biggest investments that a student will make in their lifetime and it should never be devalued. These classes have been part of the middle school curriculum for years and should remain so.



Dear Abby,
Recently I ran into a problem with my friend... He figured out the secret I have been keeping. It's that... I am Spiderman. He didn't say anything at first and I tried to deny it, but he saw me on the ceiling. So I had to tell him the truth, but now he is acting way different and I want the old him back. What do I do?

Dear Spiderman,
I am very sorry that your secret is out, but you should not keep secrets from your best friend. Just tell him the truth and explain how it all happened. Maybe he is scared, or curious. Try to clear everything up with your friend. Build your friendship on trust. Hopefully this advice will help you get your old friend back! He probably just needs to know that you are still the same person.
Sincerely, Your friend Abby

Dear Abby, I have a problem. I love tacos, but I can't choose the one I like the best. Please help!
- Taco lover

Dear Taco Lover,
I'm very sorry that you cannot choose what kind of taco you like. Maybe you could ask your friends which ones are their favorites and try those. It's also okay to experiment with foods. Try buying a new taco at Taco Bell, Taco Time, and Del Taco until you know for yourself which one is the best. I really hope you can choose a favorite taco.
Sincerely, Your friend Abby

Dear Abby,
When I was four years old my dad left, then he came back when I was ten. I'm twelve years old now and he ended up leaving again 2 years ago. That makes eight years without him. I'm sad, please help.
-anonymous

Dear anonymous,
I'm sorry to hear about your dad, You should talk to your friends, and try to confide in them or talk to a professional. It's really hard when parents leave, but it isn't your fault. Look at the good things you still have in your life... Maybe you have a really cute pet or a really good friend who makes you laugh. I believe that you can make it through this. Don't bottle up your emotions. Share them with people who will always be here for you. You can make it through this!
Sincerely, your friend, Abby

Dear Abby... 
No matter how small or big the problem, Abby is here to help!

Dear Abby,
My family and I are moving soon. I'm sad because I'm leaving all my friends and memories behind. How can I cope during this situation I'm having?
Sincerely, The creative thinker

Dear The Creative Thinker,
I am very sorry that you have to move. Moving can be very hard. Trying to make new friends and leaving your previous friends can be difficult. But it's not all bad. Think of it as an opportunity. You'll be able to make new memories, learn from new teachers and learn to love new friends. I know it's extra hard, moving in the middle of the school year, but don't be sad or stressed. Everything will be okay. Remember you can make new friends and keep in touch with your old friends. I hope you have a great time wherever you are moving to.
Your Friend, Abby

Dear Abby, I'm scared for my life. Growing up is scary. I am a scared little guy. I do not want to grow up. I wish I was peter pan. I am freaked out about growing up.
-Signed scared little boy.

Dear Scared little boy,
I am very sorry to hear that your are scared about growing up. Growing up is scary, but it isn't impossible. This is a thing that everyone has to go through. All we have is the present, so try to have fun being a teenager! Live each day to the fullest. Just try to make good friends, and strong relationships that will last a long time. They'll grow up with you and you can face it together. Take everything day by day; eventually you will find that growing up is not something to fear. I sincerely hope you can have the courage and the strength to get keep moving forward.
Your friend, Abby

Dear Abby,
I have been getting some pretty bad grades. My parents will ground me if I don't raise them. How can I get them up?
-Student

Dear Student, I am so very sorry that you might get grounded, and that you have bad grades. Getting good grades takes a lot of work. You get what you work for. The way to get better grades is you need to be organized. If you don't have a binder you should probably get one, because then you can get home, do all your homework, and then turn your homework in the next day. If you need help to understand a specific subject there is tutoring in the media center on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I hope you get better grades and I hope you don't get grounded.
Your Friend, Abby

Horror Movies

By: Max Whitfield

It's that time of year, Halloween is returning for yet another autumn. As many people know, horror movies have many people both shivering at night and impressed by the main story. From "Halloween" to the remake of 'It', horror movies have come a long way through the years. Horror movies are a pretty big deal with Halloween to many, so I'll be explaining a few horror movies you could watch. So as a tribute to Halloween, here are a few classic horror movies that you could watch late at night.

"Signs", 2002: "Signs" is about an old farmer who experiences extraterrestrial happenings, all starting with a huge pattern of circles and lines carved into his crops. Along with his brother and two children, he tries to solve the mystery that

changed everyone's life and slowly damages them mentally- and for a young boy, physically. This movie includes depressing backstories of the family members and sudden parts with the aliens, along with the story slowly building up till the movies secret is solved.

"The Village", 2004: In what seems like a 19th century community, members within a small village fear mysterious creatures that wander around the vast forest right by them. However, during a certain time situations including the creatures occur while the story slowly builds up to an ending not many

see coming. This movie includes a few twists within it and some slower moments.

"Poltergeist", 1982: When the Freeling family moves to California, strange happenings within the new home start to occur. When the daughter of the family eventually goes missing, the parents turn to a parapsychologist and even an exorcist to help. As the movie goes on, the viewers get to know the truth of these spirits and their motives to the family.



"The Twilight Zone", 1983: This movie was a bit different, being based off the popular "Twilight Zone" series, including 4 main stories instead of one. In the first, Bill Conner is known to not like certain people in the movie and is hated. But he soon learns his lesson to not judge after going to another timeline. The next, Mr. Bloom comes to a retirement home to "teach the residents that they are only as young as they feel". Then in the third, Helen meets young Antony who seems nice, but is shown to be much more sinister later. And finally, John Valentine, a man scared of flights, goes on one and starts to see a strange creature outside the plane. Everyone thinks he's crazy, but is he really?



And there you go! Those were four forgotten horror movies that just aren't talked about as much as others horror films. Hopefully, if you decide to watch these you'll enjoy them this Halloween.

Which ride do you like best at Lagoon?

By: Bailey Wardle and Bethanie F.

West Hills Journalists asked students about which ride they liked best at Lagoon but first here are some facts about each ride:

Cannibal is Lagoon's most recently made ride, for 2015. Running at a max speed of 70 miles per hour, Cannibal is 208 feet tall and 2,735 feet long. Also, the gravity force is 4.2. Although, it goes to a minimal height of 48 inches!

Wicked is 110 feet tall, it is about one third as tall as The Statue of Liberty! The max speed is 55 miles per hour, the ride time is 1 minutes and 36 seconds. Also, it carries eight riders each vehicle.

Colossus was built in 1983, it is one of the most oldest rides at Lagoon. Also, it runs at a max speed of 55 miles per hour. It is 88 feet tall and 2,850 feet long! It is twice as tall as Jet Star 2.

The Roller Coaster, also know as the White Roller Coaster, is one of the oldest ride at Lagoon and was made by John miller in 1921 and this is why it is inspected every day so that it is safe, and it runs at a max

speed of 40 miles per hour and is 2,500 feet long!

West Hills Journalists surveyed 59 students on what ride they liked best at Lagoon; here are the results: scoring first place, Cannibal with a score of about 49%. Second, Colossus with a score of about 17%. In third, Wicked tied with the Other category scoring about 15%, and in last the White Roller Coaster scoring about 10% who liked it.

UNUSUAL STUDENT COMMENTS:

One student wrote "I do not have an opinion about Lagoon; I have never been."

Another student wrote, "I do not know... when I go to Lagoon I do not ride any of those rides; I am a chicken."

JUST SO YOU KNOW :

Frightmares is Lagoon's version of Halloween. If you are prepared to be scared join in on the fun! For the kids, the no-scare-glow-sticks are \$1.00 at Guest Services.





Jaxon Mery (7th) has been chosen for the 7th grade student spotlight of the month! Jaxon was chosen because he is an extremely hard worker. He shows this by balancing football and school. One time when he was at a

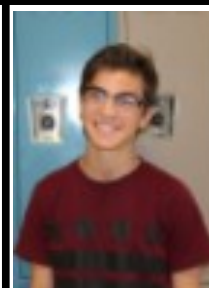
game, he had a scrimmage and had some homework he had to do. He decided to hurry and do his homework before the scrimmage started so that he could still play. Jaxon has become the person he is today by an accident involving his little brother. His little brother Karsen, got in a lawnmower accident, and lost his leg. He said that this experience made him a lot stronger. Jaxon loves playing football for Copper Hills, and practices about 4 days a week. Whenever people think of Jaxon, they think of athletic, smart, and funny! Jaxon has lots of friends, of many ages! He loves making new friends, and always wants to be friends with everyone!



Zack Christensen (8th) has been chosen for student spotlight for being an overall joyful, humorous, and happy person. Zack has shown this trait by sharing smiles with all. After asking some of his

friends about what he's done for them, they all said that Zack can always cheer people up. He is willing to be there for people when they need someone, and he is a great person to talk to. Zack is a very athletic person who enjoys sports. His favorite subject in school is gym due to his love of baseball. He plays on a team called The Salt Lake Royals and has been playing for five years.

He's a catcher on the team and has practices almost everyday. Zack is quite the daredevil; he enjoys doing stunts, such as riding a shopping cart down a hill. This just shows his fun personality. The journalism team would like to thank Zack for being a part of West Hills and making a change by spreading smiles. He was also the class clown of 7th grade last year.



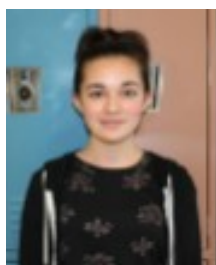
Cole Spencer (9th) has been chosen for student spotlight for being an amazing friend. Cole is an athletic, smart student that is attending West Hills Middle. He showed this trait when he bought his best friend Hayden Yates some souvenirs from his trip to

Paris. Hayden told us that Cole has always been there for him. They met when they were two years old and have had a strong bond since then. Cole plays soccer and plays for Copper Mountain. He's been playing for twelve years and says it is a part of his daily life. Cole and his family love traveling. When they went to Paris, Cole had told us he stayed in three parts of France. Paris, Sarlat, and St. Jean De Luz. What he loved most about

France was the people there. How lively and fun they all were. Though he didn't know what they were saying; he and his family were so intrigued on how the people lived and acted there. The West Hills journalism team would like to thank Cole Spencer for being the change at our school by being a great friend to all!



Student Spotlight



Julia Kinkade (7th) was chosen for student spotlight because she is a good student! Julia loves to spend her free time reading, watching TV, and playing the violin. Her favorite books are by Stephen King.

She has also been playing the violin for three years. Julia's brother, Tyler said that she always puts school first and comes home to do homework, then does other things. He says she always makes him a birthday cake for his birthday, which is really thoughtful. Julia is such an awesome

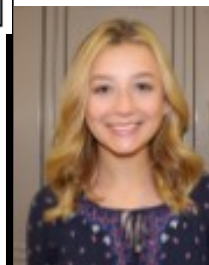
friend, student, and person, the journalism team would love to thank Julia for being so kind to everyone at West Hills Middle School.



Samantha Rowland (8th) has been chosen for student spotlight for being a good friend to all. Sam is a very well known, kind, cheerful friend to everyone. She's shown this trait by being recruited and joining the Be the Change Committee. She has also displayed this by being a good sibling to her two

sisters. "My sister Emma had a solo at her dance competition a couple years ago and messed up a few times," said one of Samantha's sisters. "She was really upset and came off the stage crying. I told her how well she did and that she's a great dancer. A few little mistakes shouldn't get you down." Her sister then went on to win her category. After asking a few questions to Sam's friends, they told the journalism team that she is an amazing friend to all. She is always there for

people and is willing to do anything to make others smile. Sam said she wants to make a change at West Hills Middle School. She wants people to feel welcomed and happy here. We would like to thank Samantha Rowland for making a change at West Hills Middle School.



Ava Graff (9th) was chosen to be student spotlight because of how caring and loving she is. Ava always tries to make friends with everybody and tries to make them feel loved and cared about. Ava is super positive, energetic, and uplifting all the time. She shows these

traits by always saying hello to everyone, and being kind to all of the people she meets. One time, Ava saw a girl that seemed really upset, so she went and talked to her and made her feel a lot better. Outside of school, Ava likes to draw, act, sing, and do ballet. She has been dancing since she was eight years old, at En Pointe Ballet Studio. Last year, she got one of the starring roles in her ballet, she got to play Fairy Godmother. Ava also participated

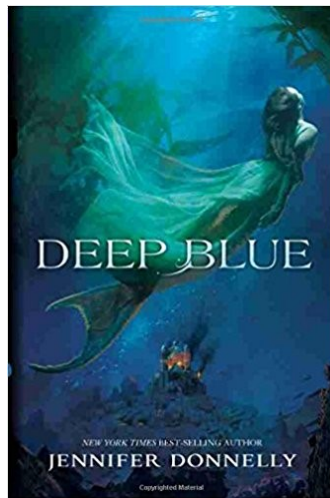
in last years school play, *The Lion King*. Ava is always there for everyone, and is a great person to be friends with. The journalism team would like to thank Ava for being the change in West Hills.



The Waterfire Saga

By Jakki J.

Deep Blue by Jennifer Donnelly, is a fantasy book, for readers in 3rd grade to 12th grade. Serafina di Merovingia di Miromara is daughter of Regina Isabella, ruler of the oldest civilization of Mer. She has been riddled with nightmares of chanting witches and a monster that lurks in the deep. She was to become the new Regina at a traditional Domiki ceremony when an ambush takes place and one of the attacker's arrows buries itself in Isabella's stomach. Serafina and her best friend, Neela, must flee the city to find the attacker's master, prevent war from coming to the Mer nations, and to stop the ancient monster from coming back and threatening the world's very existence.



This is the first book in The Waterfire Saga, the second being Rogue Wave, the third is Dark Tide, and the fourth and last book in the series is Sea Spell. Each book is about 400 pages long, but they are amazing, well written books. The first book was published on May 6, 2014, and has a 98% satisfaction rating. The other books are at libraries and bookstores, and are about \$15-\$20 in hardcover form in paperback they are about \$10. It is in the teen section at bookstores and libraries, so it appeals to tweens and teens the most.

This book is a masterpiece that follows a teenage mermaid as she survives a war on her realm and must take on a task that may save the world or destroy it. This book is great for book reports in school or even just to read for fun. It has plot twists, adventure, and is very exciting from. The action and swiftness of the plot. This is a thrilling book that will capture the readers and leave them amazed and wanting to read more.

New Video Games Coming Out This Year 10/1 Through 12/31

By: Skyler Farezoco

Almost every Pokémon fan is excited for Pokémon, Ultra Sun and Moon. Some were looking forward to a remake of Pokémon Diamond/Pearl. The haters commented to Nintendo after they announced that Ultra, Sun and Moon for the Nintendo 3DS was coming out on November 17, 2017. The developer is Game Freak and Published by Nintendo just like in October 27, 2017 Super Mario Odyssey for the Nintendo Switch is a open world Mario game that will continue the legacy of the Super Mario timeline.

A new Call of Duty game will be unleashed on November 3, 2017 called "Call of Duty WW11" to live on the legacy. On November 17, 2017 is when Star Wars Battlefront 2 is coming out for Xbox One, and is the third most expensive game ever developed behind Grand Theft Auto 5, and Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2.



On October 27, 2017 Assassin's Creed Origin for the Xbox One, and the PS4 so the Assassin's Creed series can live on. On November 10, 2017 Need for Speed Payback is a racing game that you can play on the Xbox One, and the PS4 and just like Forza, it might be a big hit through the year and make lots of money for it.

In 2018, there is no known date yet but Crackdown 3 will be coming out for the Xbox One and is an open world, action-adventure. Kirby Battle Royale will be coming on November 3, 2017 where you can fight bosses and friends all through the game.

Through the survey that was taken the most game that almost everyone is excited for is Call of Duty WW11 that could be one of the most successful game in the series. The second that everyone was waiting for is Pokémon Ultra Sun/Moon so it seems like there is still fans for the Pokémon game series for the franchise.

Utah Beats Arizona

By: Ethan Kautz and Cade Hamblin



Utah defeated Arizona 30-24 on September 22. Unfortunately for Utah, their quarterback, Tyler Huntley, was injured in the shoulder after a pass. Arizona had the ball with just seconds to go, but Utah forced an Arizona turnover to lead the Utes to another close win.

Troy Williams, the Utah quarterback last year, was the quarterback after Tyler Huntley got injured. Troy Williams threw for 131 yards in the game. Utah running back, Zach Moss, ran for 73 yards. Darren Carrington the second, a wide receiver, caught 485 receiving yards.

Next, the Utes prepare for the Arizona State Sun Devils who they have a 60.6 percent chance to beat. Or will they lose the game against the Arizona State team, who came off a win over #5 Washington?

Chris Hart, defense, recovered Arizona's quarterback, Brandon Dawkins' fumble at Utah's 20 yard line with 2:33 left in the game, preserving the 23rd ranked Utes 30-34 victory Friday night in the Pac-12 opener for both schools. Utah suffered defeats against the Stanford Cardinal and USC Trojans. Will the Utes be able to win again? Or will they lose again to Arizona State? We will find out.

What's So Bad About Dank Memes?

By Haley Hender

First: what is a Dank Meme? Well, the best explanation comes from dictionary.com; *dank meme refers to viral internet content that, due to overuse or passing trends, has lost its value or currency. It can also refer to exceptionally unique or odd memes.*



Dank memes are especially popular with young teens, from ages 13-15, and even into high school.

Nobody really knows how the “dank meme-ademic” started, but it quickly took over the vague part on the internet. This “epidemic” overtook parents

across the country, and many say that they are “inappropriate, annoying, and just plain wrong.” But most kids think of it as what it is: comedy; a joke.

When it comes to Dank Memes, most of which are based on things like marijuana and disrespect on political leaders, are looked down upon. But, again, most kids who watch/browse/make dank memes don't really mean it as anything but a joke. Cass Pullin, a ninth-grader, says, “I don't really care. I only look at them every once in awhile.” Hayden Yates, also a ninth grader, says, “They're the greatest!”

It's like the era of blonde jokes. It was supposed to be funny, but people just took it the wrong way. What's so bad about a joke, anyway? People just want to be happy, and everybody is different, and often share the same likes, dislikes, and personalities. And in a world so diverse, that's okay.

Aside from the bass boosts, modified clips, and pictures with captions, memes, dank or not, they all share something in common: comedy. Some people resort to mediocre skits by Studio C, Some resort to comical geniuses like Jim Gaffigan and John Pinette, or dank memes. That's okay. You be you.

Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Bars

L. Peterson

Now that it's officially Fall, try your hand at making these delicious bars with a pumpkin filled twist! This recipe makes 18-24 servings and you can freeze them, meaning you can save them for later if need be!

Ingredients Needed

- 2 cups flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 3/4 teaspoon ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon allspice
- 1/2 teaspoon cloves
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup butter at room temperature
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 1 large egg
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 cup pumpkin puree
- 2 cups chocolate chips (divided!)

Step 1: Preheat your oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.

Step 2: In a large bowl, combine the flour, cinnamon, ginger, allspice, cloves, baking soda and salt. Give the dry ingredients a quick whisk and then set this mixture aside.

Step 3: In a large stand mixer, combine the butter, white sug-

ar and brown sugar. Turn the mixer on medium high and cream together the butter and sugars, making sure to scrape down the sides so everything is incorporated. Add the egg, vanilla and pumpkin and combine. Add the dry ingredients into the mixer and mix until the dry mixture is just combined. Add in 1 1/2 cups of the chocolate chips and mix to combine.

Step 4: Spray a 13x9 baking sheet with baking spray. Place the mixture into the baking sheet and level it out. Sprinkle on the remaining 1/2 cup chocolate chips.

Step 5: Bake for 30-35 minutes and then remove from the oven. Let cool before cutting and serving.

Now that you've made these delicious treats, make sure to send them to Journalism for me to eat them all!



Pitbulls Being Misunderstood

By: Ella Morris, Amelia Edwards, and Cooper Jorgensen

Pitbulls are the most misunderstood dog in America. A lot of people think that pitbulls are the worst/most vicious breed of dog there is. But did you know that studies have shown that a Pitbull is the second nicest dog there is. A Pitbull is even nicer than a Golden Retriever. Pit bulls have an 86.8% of no aggression or panic.

Did you know that 80% of Pitbulls each year are killed by animal control? A lot of Pitbulls in shelters have been abused or used in dog fighting. Pitbulls don't want to fight, they just want a loving home with food, a warm bed, and a loving family.

Dog fighting occurs all around the world. The most used fighting dog is a Pitbull. People breed Pit bulls and train them to fight. It's not their nature to fight, they are trained to do it. Often times these dogs are killed or hurt and left permanently damaged. Dogfighting is illegal and mostly done for money, like gambling for dogs. Most dog fighting is underground, with tens of thousands of people involved. ASPCA says "While organized dog fighting activity seemed to decline in the 1990s, many law

enforcement and animal control officials feel that it has rebounded in recent years, with the Internet making it easier than ever for dog fighters to exchange information about animals and fights."

Some dog fights rack up over \$500,000, but it's cruel to make dogs fight and die just for cash. What if it was the other way around, dogs making humans fight to the death by biting and scratching?

Robert Hoch from 7th grade says "Pitbulls' are okay,

but when they 'attack' me I kind of get creeped out."

Pit bulls' don't attack you unless you're doing something to make them mad, and that hardly happens.

1 in 4 dogs brought into shelters are Pitbulls, and 93% of them are put down. That's not right. Dogs that are Pitbulls or Pitbull mixes are likely to spend 3 times longer in a shelter than any other dog.

Did you know that you can own a Tiger in Miami, but not a Pitbull. That's pretty messed up. Because it's not the dog's fault that people think they are vicious it is some of the dogs owners because they train them to be bad and hurt people/dogs. And the owners make them fight other dogs for money. Pitbull's should never be abused, along with any other dog.

Lexi McMullin from 9th grade says "I think Pitbulls are cute dogs, and I love all dogs."

Some people seem to be set in their belief about pitbulls. They use evidence from the news where there are stories of Vicious Pitbull biting young children. But about 90% of the time a child is bitten, it is because the kids go up to the dog and the dog tries to protect itself.

Why would a dog protect itself? If the child is messing with the dog... like throwing rocks at it or trying to touch it. It may get defensive. Do you know how many children

have treated dogs in a cruel and rude way. Kids have found stray dogs with puppies and have taken all the puppies and left the mother all alone. People have covered dogs in glue and left them there to die unable to move. The picture included here shows a rescued pitbulls found in a ditch. He was SHOT in the back of the head running away.

And the proof that he was running away was the bullet went into the back of his head. If the dog was attacking the person with the gun it would've gone through the front of his skull. It went through the back of his skull and out his shoulder blade. When the dog was recovering one of the nurses took it home to rest. The dog fell in love with the nurse's little boy and they played together. So if you think that a dog is biting someone just because they're mean remember what you just read.

There are too many dog breeders in the world and way too many dogs in shelters. Can you really say a dog that has been abused, then found starving. After put in a shelter the dog get's looked over for years

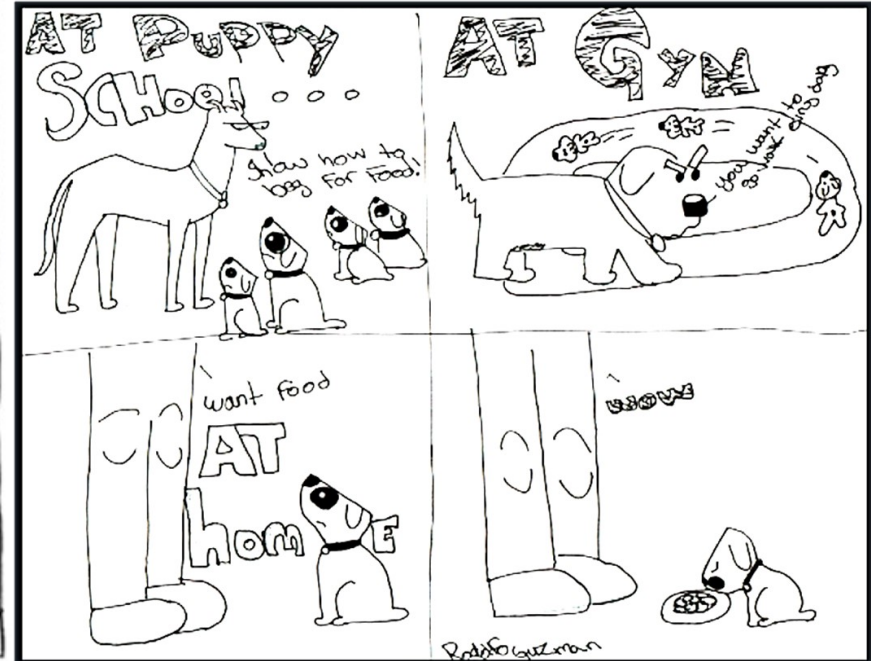
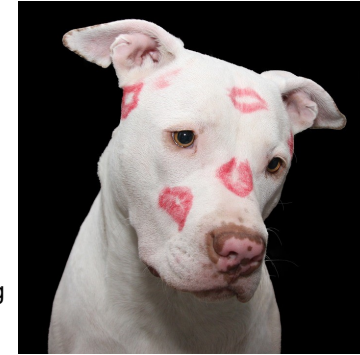
and years, and ends up dying in a shelter of old age. Can you really live with that? To never experiencing love, a family of their own, a warm bed, long walks, or anything a regular dog should is a terrible fate. But when you buy a puppy they get everything they want and more. All dogs should get love, a family, walks, and anything else they deserve.

Instead the shelter dog dies of old age, a small bed, a lot of loud barking, not many toys, little walks, no family to love them. Never knowing anything else except being in a cage waiting for love and a family that will take care of them. Pitbulls can live 8-15 years and they have to spend there life in a shelter waiting for love. Pitbull's don't deserve to be treated like this ever!

"It's good to be passionate about important causes, but lecturing a complete stranger on why she made the wrong dog choice is not the way to get your point across"

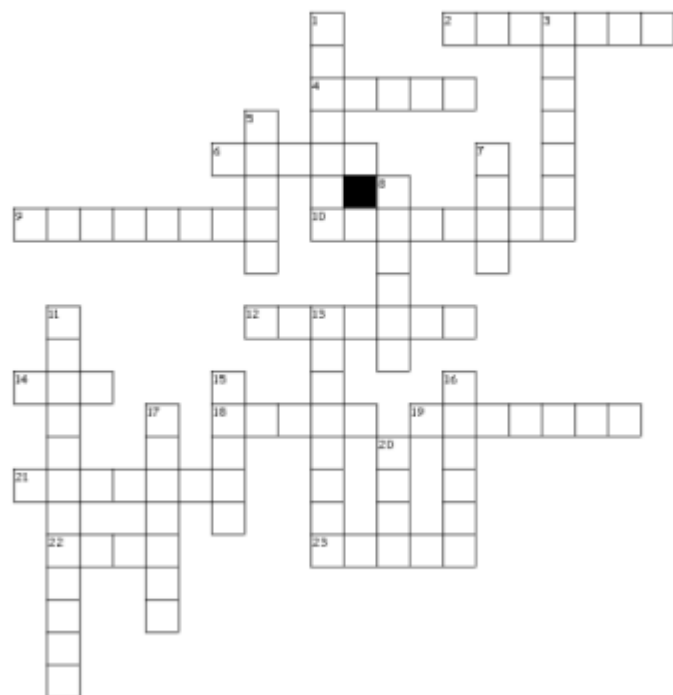
Quoted from theothercourtney.com
Want to volunteer at Utah Humane Society?
Email them at

volunteer@utahhumane.org



COSTUME CONFUSION

By Emily Giang



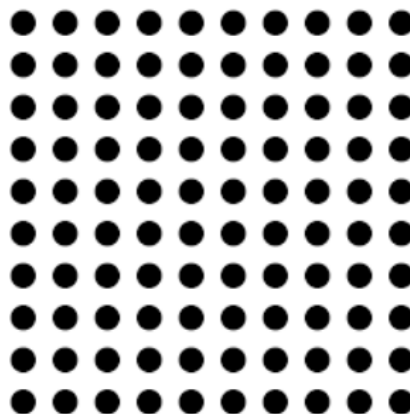
Across

2. A CLASSICAL COSTUME THAT INCLUDES THE COLOR BLACK
 4. WRAPPED IN BANDAGES AND IF AWAKE FROM THE DEAD, THESE CREATURES COULD REALLY GIVE YOU A SCARE!
 6. I'M YOUR SHOULDER _____ I GIVE "GOOD" ADVICE
 9. A CLASSICAL COSTUME THAT LITTLE GIRLS LOVE TO DRESS UP AS
 10. THE FRIGHTENING REMAINS OF US HUMANS
 12. "I SEE BETTER FROM A DISTANCE"
 14. THE TRANSFORMATION OF A VAMPIRE
 18. I'M YOUR SHOULDER _____ I GIVE GOOD ADVICE
 19. HE HAUNTS THE OPERA STADIUM... BEWARE.
 21. UNDER DA SEA!
 22. THE MATERIAL MOST COSTUMES ARE MADE OUT OF
 23. THIS IS A TRAIT THAT MOST HUMANS WOULD BE FRIGHTENED OF
- Down
1. MOOOOAAAAAHHH
 3. THE CUTEST (POTENTIALLY SCARIEST) HALLOWEEN DECORATION OF ALL TIME!
 5. THE SPIRIT OF AN INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP
 7. A MONSTER THAT LIVES IN THE HIMALAYAS
 8. HE HOLDS AN AXE AND IS DRESSED IN DARK ROBES
 11. THE RESURRECTOR OF MANY BEINGS
 13. A VERY FURRY MONSTER
 15. EAT IT AS SOON AS YOU GET IT... OR ELSE
 16. THE HAUNTINGS OF GHOSTS
 17. SOMEONE STITCHED TOGETHER WITH STYLE!
 20. A THING WEREWOLVES HOWL AT

Dots

By: Jordan Black

- 1: Find a partner and two pencils.
- 2: Take turns drawing a line from dot to dot.
- 3: If you complete a box you put your initials in the box and you get to put another line.
- 4: When all the boxes are filled you count how many boxes you have and whoever has the most Wins!



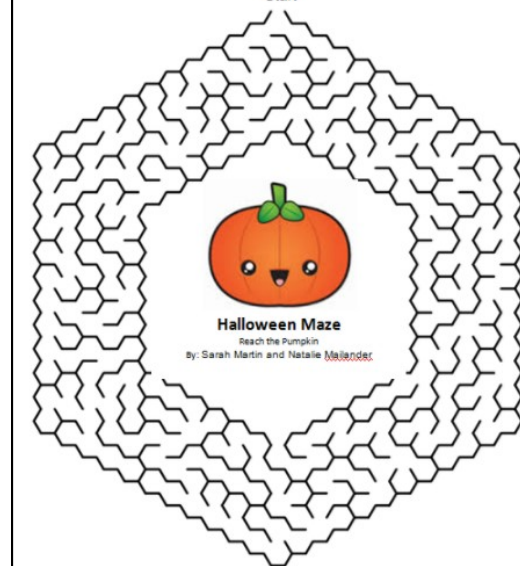
Be one of the first 3 students to finish all the games and bring it to room 304 for a prize!

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

HALLOWEEN
BOO
GHOST
PUMPKIN
SPOOKY
WITCH

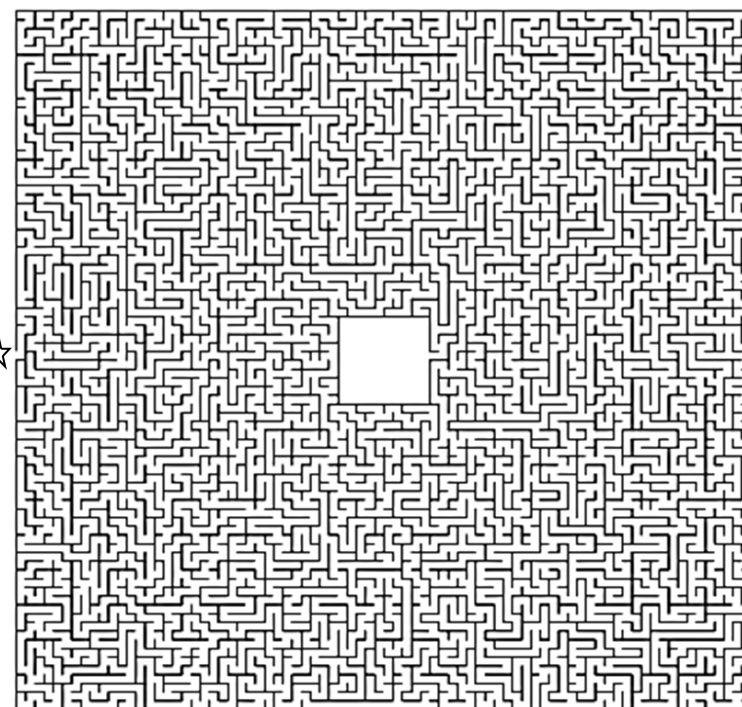
BLACKCAT
TRICKORTREAT
VAMPIRE
CANDY
COSTUMES
SPIDERWEBS

Start



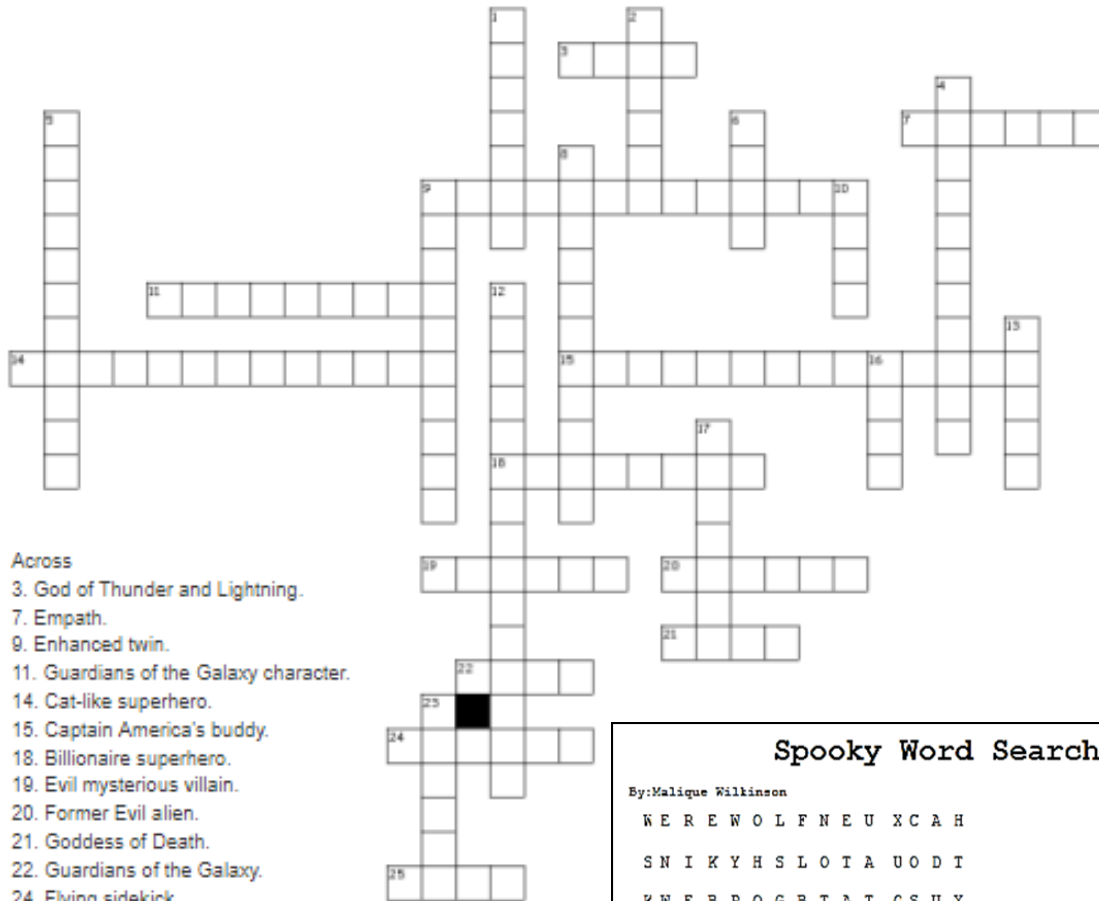
Maze

By: Katelyn Lawson



Marvel Crossword Puzzle

By Breanna Giang



Across

3. God of Thunder and Lightning.
7. Empath.
9. Enhanced twin.
11. Guardians of the Galaxy character.
14. Cat-like superhero.
15. Captain America's buddy.
18. Billionaire superhero.
19. Evil mysterious villain.
20. Former Evil alien.
21. Goddess of Death.
22. Guardians of the Galaxy.
24. Flying sidekick.
25. Insect "sidekick".

Down

1. Insect hero.
2. Guardians of the Galaxy character.
4. Iron Man's right hand man.
5. Speed twin.
6. King of the Norse Gods.
8. Deadly former villain.
9. "Webby".
10. Hero of rage.
12. Star Spangled hero.
13. Living tree.
16. God of Mischief and Fire.
17. Expert far-ranger.
23. Deadly assassin.

Spooky Word Search

By:Malique Wilkinson

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

COSTUME	HALLOWEEN	JACKOLANTERN
PIRATE	PUMPKIN	SCARE
SKELETON	SPOOKY	WEREWOLF

Jokes and Puns:

By: Arieana Santos

What do you call cheese that isn't yours?

Nacho cheese

Can February March?

No but April can.

Fisherman are 'reel' men

I can't stand jokes about German sausages, they really are the wurst

A new type of broom came out, it's sweeping the nation

It's hard to explain puns to kleptomaniacs, they take things too literally

My math teacher called me average, how mean!

A friend of mine tried to annoy me with bird puns, but I soon realized that toucan play at that game

Need an ark to save two of every animal?

I Noah guy

My first job was working in an orange juice factory, but I got canned. I couldn't concentrate

Yesterday a clown held the door open for me, I thought it was a nice jester

Why couldn't the bicycle stand up on its own?

Because it was two tired

I am on a seafood diet every time I see food I eat it

I heard apple is designing a new car, but they are having trouble installing windows

School Jokes:

Q: What did the ground say to the earthquake?

A: You crack me up!

Q: Why did the music teacher need a ladder?

A: To reach the high notes.

Q: What is the worst thing you're likely to find in the school cafeteria

A: The food

Q: What kind of plates do they use on Venus?

A: Flying saucers!

Q: Why did the nose not want to go to school?

A: He was tired of getting picked on

Q: How do you get straight A's?

A: By using the ruler

Q: What did the pen say to the pencil?

A: So what's your point

Q: Why did the kid study in the air-plane?

A: Because he wanted a higher education

Q: How did the music teacher get locked in the classroom?

A: His keys were inside the piano

Q: What do elves learn in school?

A: The elf-abet

The Daily Gramps - The Town Road



By Jordan Black

Halloween Coloring Contest

Rules:

Decorate the pumpkin! Prizes will be given out for:

- Best Art
- Funniest Pumpkin
- Most Creative/Halloween Themed

Name: _____

LEAP Teacher: _____

