

MMS TIMES

Memorial Middle School - 1 Memorial Dr, Middlebury, CT 06762

An Unexpected History of Memorial Middle School By Emily Bevilacqua (Grade 8)

Our school, Memorial Middle School, has been around a pretty long time and thus has a very interesting history. It was originally built and opened in 1953 and was meant for grades K-8. The school had a very different setup and different classes when it originally opened. The Library Media Center wasn't even part of the school until it was opened in 1981! The main office used to be where the Tech Ed room is now and the teacher's room and nurse's office were next to it (where the art rooms are now). When a computer lab was added to the school, the computers were not even close to the computers we have today and the lab moved many times. The first computer lab was in the room outside of the media center. Later, it was moved upstairs where Mrs. Bunting's room is and finally, it was moved to Mrs. Pinto's room, where it is now. Around 1994 - 1995, MMS received access to the internet and opened a second computer lab in the media center. There was a big renovation project from 2001-2003 where a new full-size gym, the music room, and two more classroom spaces were added, and the administrative and guidance offices were moved to the old gym space. Our current computer lab also opened during this time.



This was the entrance to the library.



This is the window area; it is pretty similar to how it is now.



This is the courtyard area outside the library; the ground used to be made out of brick instead of gravel!

MMS also used to have some different classes! One of them was called Home Economics. In this class, students were taught sewing and cooking skills. In the room that is currently the computer lab, kitchens were set up with stoves, refrigerators, ovens, and even a washer and dryer! The Home Economics classes would even prepare and serve a holiday lunch for the staff each year! Another class, which we had up until two years ago, was drama. The people in this class used to perform on the stage with the whole school as the audience!

MMS has been around a long time and has taught students for almost 70 years! From computer labs, to renovations, to new classes, Memorial has changed over the years. The school looked different than it looked now. For example, when the Library Media Center opened, it looked different too, and there are some pictures of it below. All these changes made Memorial into what it is today. A special thanks to Ms. Marano and Ms. Valleca for their insight on our school's story!

Front Page - 1
News - 2-4
Politics & Opinion - 5-6
Here @ MMS - 7-13

Sports - 14-15
Arts & Culture - 16
Comics & Games - 17
MMS Times Staff - 18

Join our Google Classroom Page!
To join, use the following code:

222r6p3 - 6th Grade
tsf6s2a - 7th Grade
ukfjdpf - 8th Grade

Murder Hornets

By Emily Daukas (Grade 7)

You may have long forgotten about murder hornets, but they are back! In 2020, they came back to the US. Now in 2021, scientists are focusing their efforts on catching and stopping the hornets from nesting. Scientists from Washington, British Columbia and the U.S federal agencies joined forces to declare an open season on the Asian giant hornets.

This invasive species was first found in the U.S and Canada in 2019. Now in the spring of 2021, the predatory species are making nests. In Washington last year, there were 31 confirmed sightings of the hornets. Asian giant hornets are not after humans though; they plan to attack honey bee hives and decimate the bee population. Murder hornets can kill an entire colony of honey bees in just a few hours, leaving devastating effects. They then take over the hive, feeding their own young with honey bee eggs and larvae. The scientists call this their slaughter phase. During one recorded slaughter, each hornet killed one bee every 14 seconds. Washington is one state that relies heavily on honey bees and are therefore greatly worried by these murder hornets. The Washington State Department Of Agriculture wrote that Asian giant hornets are an "invasive pest that threatens pollinators and ignores international borders."

Scientists are encouraging the public to set up orange juice or brown sugar based traps. The hornets are rarely deadly but scientists warn that they are still a serious danger to us as their venom does damage human tissue. Giant hornets are ground nesters, and once their nest is disturbed, you have very little time to get out of the area before they come out. Officials are on the lookout for more giant hornets and are asking the residents in the area to help out. You can help too, by learning more about them.

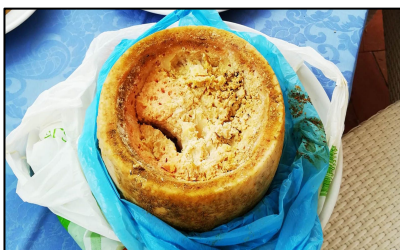


The World's Most Dangerous Cheese

By Luke Bevilacqua (Grade 6)

Casu Marzu, more commonly known as the world's most dangerous cheese, lives up to its name. For years, farmers and cooks have made Casu Marzu on a Italian island named Sardinia. They combine traditional pecorino with maggots. Yes, you heard that right, maggots. Farmers let skipper flies land on top of the cheese. The flies proceed to lay eggs, which soon hatch as maggots. They then go on to dig their way through the cheese, eating the proteins. Finally, when things seem to be as worse and as unbelievably disgusting as they could get, the maggots poop back out the proteins, turning it into a soft creamy texture.

Though there is a law prohibiting the commercial use of Casu Marzu, locals still sell it, saying that it leaves a spicy aftertaste. They serve it in restaurants, to neighbors, and eat it themselves. Along, with the \$60,000 fine, the maggots can burrow into your stomach and even cause enteric myiasis, resulting in cramping and nausea. However, with the undeniable risk, locals still are eating it to this day. Paolo Solinas, a 29-year-old resident, said, "The maggot infestation is the spell and delight of this cheese." No matter what they say, one thing remains in my head: I will never eat this cheese. Would you?



The Struggle Continues: Anti-Asian American and Pacific Islander Hate Crimes Spiraling Out of Control

By Katherine Vongsouvanh (Grade 8)

As of today, about 2,000 incidents of hate directed towards Asians have been reported to *STOP AAPI HATE*, a nonprofit organization that tracks incidents of hate and discrimination towards the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in the U.S., and 15% of those incidents included physical assault. Almost every day, we are greeted with horrific headlines regarding these issues: "Elderly Thai Immigrant Dies After Being Shoved to the Ground", "Filipino-American is Slashed in the Face with a Box Cutter", "Chinese Woman is Slapped and Set on Fire", etc. Unfortunately, the number of hate crimes such as the ones listed above has only been showing an upward trend.

Throughout the past few months of the COVID-19 pandemic, we as Americans have seen a mass amount of harassment, bullying, and violence towards several minorities. Recently, there has been a rise in anti-Asian American and Pacific Islander hate crimes. Phrases such as "Go back to your country", "Kung Flu", or "China Virus" only further magnify the xenophobia (dislike of or prejudice against people from other countries) that plagues America.

So where does this issue come from?

Although hatred towards the AAPI community has been prevalent for decades, we are beginning to see a spike in harmful crimes and actions today. Advocates for the AAPI community say that it could directly tie into slurs such as "China Virus", and other harmful words and phrases that further increase the anti-Asian sentiment in America. The impact of these words being used can be seen in an incident that happened on March 15, 2021, regarding a noodle shop in Texas. The owner, of Vietnamese descent, arrived at his restaurant that morning to find phrases like "Go back to China", and "Kung Flu" spray-painted in red across the windows. This is only one example; in a survey done by *STOP AAPI HATE*, it was found that 70.9% of people that reported a discrimination incident said that they experienced verbal abuse.

A question many of the 18.9 million Asian Americans living in the US may have is "Why am I being held accountable for an entire pandemic when I was born in the US the same as any citizen?" Amanda Nguyen, an activist, and non-profit founder, emphasizes this point. "The people attacking Asian Americans since the pandemic began can't really differentiate and don't care if we are X, Y, or Z. They have made us a scapegoat to enact their violence," she says.

The AAPI community is currently struggling in a crisis that is only escalating. On a daily basis, we hear about incidents, or don't hear about incidents where Asian Americans are being harassed, assaulted, or verbally abused.

We are living in a time when anyone can make a difference. You can help the AAPI community by spreading awareness and talking about the issue of anti-Asian hate crimes and doing your own research. You can support local Asian or Pacific Islander-owned businesses, and also support Ethnic Studies in your school system to educate people on the ongoing harmful stereotypes directed towards the AAPI community.

Now is the time to put an end to this perpetual issue. Rep. Judy Chu, D-Calif., Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus gives her thoughts: "This is the kind of thing that we're experiencing. An irrational blame on Asian Americans for the coronavirus. And that's why we are coming together."



Gianna and Samantha Rucki

By Kassidi Houck (Grade 7)

Starting off with where I left off: Gianna and Samantha Rucki went missing to escape their father, who was reportedly abusive towards the girls. However, after the girls were found 2 years later, police think that Sandra had more to do with the disappearance than she was letting on. The case was reviewed by an executive director and she said that some of the symptoms and aspects of the case match parental alienation, which is when a child is groomed by one parent to believe something else about another. Sandra denied having anything to do with the girls' disappearance, but the Dahlens claimed that Sandra and another supporter dropped the girls off at White Horse Ranch.

Sandra was convicted of parental alienation after Samantha and her son testified against her to court. She was found guilty of six counts of deprivation of parental rights. She was also sentenced to an additional 34 days in jail. She received 6 years of probation and was required to serve 15 days in jail at one point during that year. She also had to pay a fine of \$944 for each girl. However, she claimed that she was doing what every reasonable mother would do: protect her kids. David argued that the girls were never in harm's way and they never needed protecting.

Dede Evavold, the woman who helped Sandra hide the girls, was sentenced to six months in jail for deprivation of parental rights. The owners of White Horse Ranch pled guilty to one count of deprivation of parental rights and are set to be sentenced in May.

Silence Allows Violence

By Emma Sander and Caitlin Overhiser (Grade 7)

On March 3rd at 9:00 pm, Sarah Everards, a 33-year-old marketing executive, left her friend's house to start a walk home that should've only taken 50 minutes. She took various precautions to keep herself safe, such as taking well-lit streets and staying on the phone with her boyfriend the whole time. Yet, this was not enough. Her body was found the day after in a large builders bag, using her dental records to properly identify the body. Only five days later, Wayne Couzens, a police officer, was arrested and charged with her murder. This sparked a flame among people to finally put an end to gender-based violence and give justice to the many survivors.

Sadly, this was not an isolated event. Globally, an estimated 736 million women (about 1 in 3) above the age of 15 have experienced gender-based or domestic violence or been sexually harassed or assaulted at least once in their lives. Yet, out of 100 cases of sexual assault, 46 will be reported, 12 will be arrested, 9 get prosecuted, 5 will have a felony conviction, and 3 will spend a day or more in prison. This is because of numerous reasons, such as victim-blaming, shame, self-blaming, not being believed, and other reasons. Only about 23% of rape or sexual assault victims report the incidents, compared to 54% of robbery victims and 58% of aggravated assault victims.

Though sharing statistics and telling people stories about the issue is one step closer to bringing less gender-based discrimination, we need to do more. Prevention is one of the key ways to stop gender-based violence before it even starts. The first, and most important way to bring us closer to ending GBV is by educating yourself and others around you. GBV is violence that is directed at an individual based on his or her biological sex OR gender identity. It includes physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, and psychological abuse, threats, coercion, and economic or educational deprivation, whether occurring in public or private life. The main cause of GBV is deeply rooted in discriminatory culture and attitudes that perpetuate inequality and powerlessness, in particular of women and girls (even though women and girls face more of GBV, 15% of men are faced with it too). We need to start informing people on how serious this problem is in the world because it affects countless people and their families all across the United States. GBV, in any form, is scarcely addressed in schools because it's too "controversial" and "Sensitive" but because of schools avoiding this topic, more and more people in the US and around the world are being abused, harassed, assaulted, etc. Children in schools are harassed verbally and physically around the world and are too afraid to speak and confront the problem. By educating people, it helps people learn how to avoid it and how to, potentially, stop it.

Even more terrifying is what many are calling the "shadow pandemic". Since the COVID-19 outbreak and shutdown, every single type of gender-based violence has increased, particularly domestic abuse. Because of that, we need to start bringing more awareness into our school, so on Friday May 7th we would like everyone to wear some form of red to show their support and awareness on this matter.

Gun Violence in the U.S.

By Emma Bona (Grade 8)

Debates on gun reform have always been controversial. However, the need for it is becoming more visible with the exceedingly frequent amount of gun violence that's taken place this year and late last year. According to "Should More Gun Control Laws Be Enacted?" by ProCon.Org, "In the United States, mass murders committed with guns are so frequent that the vast majority of them are not even mentioned in mainstream media outlets." Waking up to a news article on a mass shooting that's taken place in the US has become a weekly occurrence. In fact, gun violence has grown so frequent that the mass shooting in 2007 at Virginia Tech now shares an anniversary with another shooting that took place this year on April 16th at a FedEx facility in Indiana.

You've likely heard on the news about recent shootings such as the shooting in a grocery store in Boulder, Colorado that took the lives of 10 people or the shooting in Orange, California at an office complex that claimed the lives of 4 people, one of them being a child. There was also a shooting at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis that claimed the lives of 8 people. In 2012, Congress redefined mass killings as single incidents that claim the lives of 3 or more people. But gun violence is just as much of an issue regardless of the number of victims.

Since gun violence has become so commonplace, you likely aren't aware of countless other mass shootings that take place and are not necessarily covered in news outlets. For example, according to "How Many Mass Shootings Have There Been in 2021 So Far? It Depends How You Count" by Matt Cannon, "A shooting in Houston on March 10, in which a man killed three people in a parking lot, could also be included. An incident in which a gunman killed three people in Memphis, Tennessee, on March 26 would also count towards the total." This goes to show that gun violence is, in a sense, an epidemic that the U.S. has yet to control.

Gun violence poses a threat to all Americans and has particularly affected the Asian community after a shooting in Atlanta left 8 women of Asian descent dead. This shooting is thought to be linked to the recent anti-Asian hate crimes that have taken place. Donald Trump, America's 45th President, referred to the Covid-19 as the "Chinese Virus" on multiple occasions and strongly associated the virus with Asians. Since then, there has been an increasing amount of anti-Asian hate crimes, including this shooting which sparked particular concern in the Asian community.

While many American citizens have the resources to make a difference in preventing gun violence, members of Congress are specifically able to do so. According to an article in the *New York Times* called "What are we doing? Democrats in Congress Demand Action On Gun Control as Republicans Push Back" by Catie Edmondson, "House Democrats passed two bills this month aimed at expanding and strengthening background checks for gun buyers, by applying them to all gun buyers and extending the time the F.B.I. has to vet those flagged by the national instant check system." It's important to acknowledge that even though Republican and Democratic senators may disagree on gun control, there is a common ground where we can make effective and bipartisan changes to prevent gun violence nationwide. The same article states, "Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa, the top Republican on the panel, said in his opening remarks that he was hopeful Democrats and Republicans could work together to make 'bipartisan, common-sense' progress on gun control."

If you're wondering how you can take part in ending gun violence, contact one of your state representatives (Rosa DeLauro or others) and show your support for gun violence prevention. Other forms of support can include signing petitions (many can be found on www.change.org/m/students-against-gun-violence), joining your local gun violence prevention organizations such as CT Against Gun Violence, advocating for change via social media (check out @chnge on Instagram and other platforms), and spreading awareness on the need for strengthened and effective gun reform.

A Public Service Announcement

By Emma Bona (Grade 8)

Organize.

Get involved with groups working to fight the climate crisis.

The Sunrise Movement

The Sunrise Movement is a youth movement to stop climate change and create millions of good jobs in the process. They have more than 400 local groups across the country. Find one here: sunrisemovement.org/hubs

Climate Justice Alliance

The Climate Justice Alliance is working to unite frontline communities and organizations to build a Just Transition away from extractive systems of production, consumption and political oppression, and towards resilient, regenerative and equitable economies. Get involved: climatejusticealliance.org

Find more groups local to YOU: 350.org/get-involved

Most communities have groups dedicated to taking action against the climate crisis.



Donate.

Donate to those fighting the climate crisis in various ways:

Greenaction
greenaction.org

Rainforest Foundation US
rainforestfoundation.org

Clean Air Task Force
catf.us

Greenpeace
greenpeace.org

The Sunrise Movement
sunrisemovement.org

Climate Emergency Fund
climateemergencyfund.org

Trust For Public Land
tpl.org

TREE
restoringempowerment.org

GRID Alternatives
gridalternatives.org

Indigenous Environmental Network
ienearth.org

350.org
350.org



@SOYOUWANTTALKABOUT

People of *all* races, ethnicities, ages, classes, and genders are subjected to police brutality. But it is two groups, specifically, who are subjected to the *most* police brutality: **Black Americans & low-income Americans.**

Black Americans are **3.23X** more likely than white Americans to be killed by police, according to a 2020 study by researchers from Harvard. Black Americans are also **1.3X** more likely to be *unarmed* when killed than white Americans.

The areas of the U.S. with the highest poverty have a police killing rate that is **3.5X** higher than areas with lowest poverty.

"Poor and low-income people, especially BIPOC, face a far greater risk of being targeted, profiled, fined, arrested, harassed, violated and brutalized for minor offenses than other Americans. A broken taillight, an unpaid parking ticket, a minor drug offense, sitting on a sidewalk, or sleeping on a park can all result in an encounter with police brutality." - Institute for Policy Studies

@SOYOUWANTTALKABOUT
SOURCE: HARVARD EDU. FEELSAFEPROJECT.ORG, IPS.DC.ORG

RESEARCHERS HAVE DEVELOPED A STRONG NEW "BIOPLASTIC" THAT DEGRADES IN 3 MONTHS!

TO ADDRESS THE GROWING PROBLEM OF EXCESSIVE PLASTIC POLLUTION, SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS HAVE LONG BEEN WORKING ON ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS. RESEARCHERS AT YALE UNIVERSITY DEVELOPED A NEW "BIOPLASTIC" MADE FROM WOOD POWDER THAT MATCHES THE STRENGTH AND VERSATILITY OF PLASTIC, BUT CAN THEN COMPLETELY DEGRADE IN 3 MONTHS.

@SOYOUWANTTALKABOUT X @000000000000
SOURCE: YALE.EDU

MORE THAN 1 IN 4 U.S. ADULTS IS NOW VACCINATED AGAINST COVID!

ACCORDING TO THE LATEST CDC DATA, 1 IN 4 ADULTS IN THE U.S. ARE NOW FULLY VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19. AND MORE THAN ONE-THIRD HAVE RECEIVED AT LEAST ONE DOSE OF THE TWO-DOSE VACCINES!

@SOYOUWANTTALKABOUT X @000000000000
SOURCE: CDC

Support efforts to fight against police brutality:

The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act (H.R. 1280)

The legislation aims to "hold law enforcement accountable for misconduct in court, improve transparency through data collection, and reform police training and policies." It has passed through the House and will now be considered by the Senate.

The BREATHE Act (breatheact.org)

H.R. 1280 offers money as incentives to police that improve training or ban chokeholds. The offer of more money for police is a large reason why many oppose the bill. The BREATHE Act is an alternative to H.R. 1280, and aims to "offer a radical reimagining of public safety, community care, and how we spend money as a society."

Ending Qualified Immunity Act (S. 492)

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley and Senator Ed Markey reintroduced the Ending Qualified Immunity Act in March. The bill aims to "eliminate the unjust and court-invented doctrine of qualified immunity and restore Americans' ability to obtain relief when state and local officials, including police officers, violate their legal and constitutionally secured rights."

@SOYOUWANTTALKABOUT
SOURCE: IPS

politics and opinion



Student Interviews

By Somya Nog (Grade 8)

Hello everyone! If you didn't notice already, we at the "Here @ MMS" section of the *MMS Times* recently conducted 3 different interviews via Google Forms; one for each grade with grade-specific questions. After collecting the responses, we've listed 2 - 3 responses per question, all from different people. Keep reading to find out what the school thinks about some important topics!

6th Grade

Q: What has been the biggest change from elementary school to middle school for you?

"Middle school feels a little more free with a bit more variety in classes and the fact we don't have the same classes everyday."

"The homework is a little more, but it is manageable, so the biggest change for me has to be the heavier backpack. I know in a normal year [with] no COVID-19 there would be lockers but still, that was a big change!"

"The thing that has [changed] the most is the [feeling] that you are older and in a completely different world."

Q: What are you looking forward to the most for the rest of middle school?

"I am looking forward to learning much more information about many of the subjects that I am doing this year... during the rest of middle school."

"The field trips in 8th grade! We haven't gone on a school field trip since 4th grade."

"I'm looking forward to the events and teachers I will get to meet."

Q: What would you like to know from the 7th and 8th Graders about middle school, if anything?

"What is something that I should look forward [to]?"

"How much harder does middle school get?"

"How do you balance all your work?"

7th Grade

Q: What has been your favorite part of middle school so far?

"Probably meeting new people, and making memories."

HERE @ MMS

(cont. d) "I love the freedom and all of the teachers and kids."

Q: Has this year been easier for you now that you've already been through a year of middle school? Why or why not?

"It is hard and easy at the same time. With COVID-19 and everything it is a tad harder, but since I've already been in MMS before, it is easier to navigate."

"It's been harder because for the entire year so far I've been distance learning and it's a big difference from being in school."

"Yes, it's gotten easier. My only issue is that when the teachers occasionally have to quarantine, they still assign the same amount, if not more homework and classwork. Even though we should still be doing the work (which we do), it's very difficult for most students, including myself, to keep up. Not having substitute teachers who understand and specialize in the subject isn't really helping. I know it's difficult to find the right substitutes and control the amount of work we get assigned, but there has to be something to help this."

Q: How has COVID-19 impacted you as a 7th Grader?

"Ever since COVID, there have been so many changes, with the social distancing, the masks, the fear of catching COVID, so much has changed, within the world and MMS. I feel that I could have had so many more opportunities this year, but I didn't get a chance to due to all our limits."

"It has taken away a lot of my social life and how I hang out and talk to my friends. I only hang out with 2 of my friends that I've had since 6th grade and before. It's very difficult to stay in touch and still talk to people I'm friends with and don't have classes with."

"It really has not changed me at all although it made me more aware of how lucky I was in my first year and I have a lot of respect for the sixth graders for starting middle school with COVID-19 in the way."

8th Grade

Q: What is your favorite MMS memory, and why is it so significant? This can be from 6th, 7th, or 8th Grade.

"Nature's Classroom! I had so much fun, it stinks that the 6th graders didn't have a chance to go."

(cont. d) "Probably my birthday last year, it was March 12th, 2020. It was the last day before quarantine, so that added a lot of significance. It was also just a great day. My friend group was doing great at the time and we went to go see a play [at] PHS that day, so we barely did any schoolwork."

Q: What are you looking forward to the most for high school, if anything?

"Having more independence and more opportunities."

(cont. d) "All [of] the electives."

Q: What "advice" would you give the 6th and 7th Graders, and perhaps even the 5th Graders, about middle school?

"I'd say that middle school isn't actually as scary as you think. Everyone builds it up to be this super strange and scary thing, but in reality, it's not really bad at all. The teachers help you adjust, and you get the hang of it pretty quick."

"As cliché as it is, be yourself. You'd be surprised at how much you change yourself for other people, so just watch who you're friends with and look for red flags."

"Just try your hardest in all your classes and don't let middle school pass by too fast because it is a great time of your life!"

We hope you enjoyed reading these responses; we certainly did! Thank you to everyone who completed the interview, and if you missed the interview, but would like to participate in any future MMS Times activities, please make sure to join the MMS Times Google Classroom page for your respective grade!

MMS PET SHOW

By: Ryan Murray (Grade 6)

Hello everyone! If you didn't already notice, the "Here @ MMS" section of the *MMS Times* decided to introduce a new article called the MMS Pet Show! We are so excited to share all of the wonderful pets of MMS with you! We received 40 entries but be sure to enter your pet if you did not last month, as this article will return next issue with new pets!

Be sure to sign up to the MMS Times Google Classroom if you haven't already so you don't miss opportunities to be featured in the newspaper!



Mrs. Edley's adorable dog Coda is 1 and a half years old! She is a rescue from Mississippi and a Bluetick Hound!



7th Grader Cora Tullo's veiled chameleon named Gombi is less than a year old and is absolutely adorable!!! He can move his eyes in different directions and was adopted during quarantine!

HERE @ MMS

HERE @ MMS



6th grader Nicole Alvarez's 1 year old guinea pig named Gasper loves to explore and go crazy! Nicole adopted Gasper during quarantine!



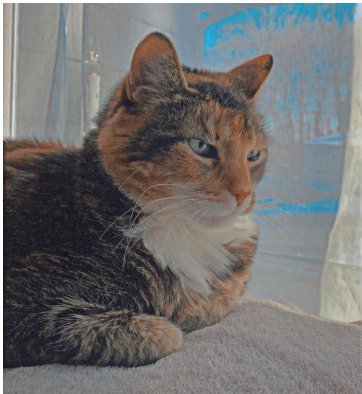
6th Grader Mairin Beekey's German Shepard puppy named Bella is from Tennessee and loves to have fun! Mairin adopted Bella during quarantine and loves her so much!



6th Grader Madison Greco's cute dog named Cooper is 5 years old. He loves swimming and is a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel.



6th Grader Delilah Salcito's chicken named Helen lays blue eggs and is 8 weeks old! Helen is super sweet and can fly pretty far!



6th Grader Payton Rainford's Calico cat Cali loves sleeping next to her sister! She is 13-14 years old and can be a little crabby sometimes but loves her family!



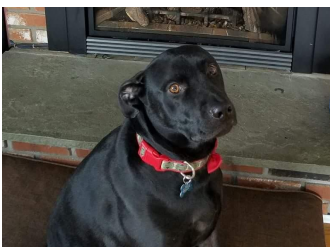
6th Grader Zoni Hammesfahr's 8 year old dog named Lucky loves chasing his tail and eating bubbles! Lucky loves his bandana and is, well, quite lucky!!!



6th Grader Emily Lame's wizarding cat named Oliver is nine months old and loves to dress up in costumes. Emily adopted Oliver during quarantine and loves him so much!



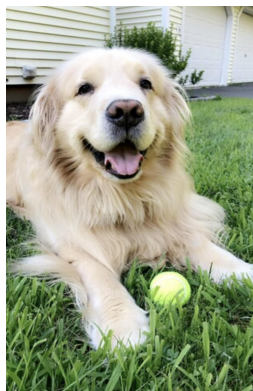
8th Grader Molly Grealis's dog named JP loves to bark at rocks and is obsessed with food! He is a 4 year old Chesapeake Bay Retriever and is a hungry and lovable companion!



8th Grader Shawn Biello's cool dog named Jamal is a lab and has a long tongue! He is also 11 years old!



Mrs. Orefice's dog Judge is named after Aaron Judge and is 3 years old! He is a pitbull mix and is sweet and loving!



7th Grader Maura Witowski's dog named Dallas is a golden retriever and is 7 years old! He has a bubbly personality but surprisingly does not bark!



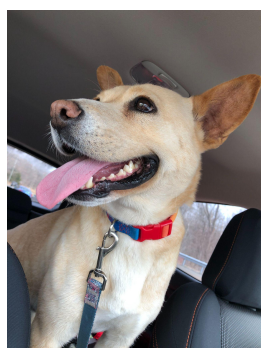
6th Grader Caren Nasr's loving poodle named Tasha loves hide and seek and knows all the best spots!!! She is super unique and loves cuddles and hugs!



Mr. Tait's inquisitive dog Biscuit, is 5 years old and can offer her paw on command. She also is a mix of multiple breeds!



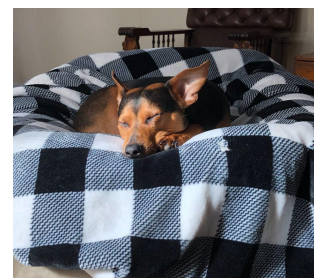
7th Grader Grayson Mengold's cuddly dog named Trey is an Australian Labradoodle and loves people!!! He is 1 year and 5 months old!



7th Grader Kiley Legg's cute dog named Delilah is 2 years old and a mix of 8 different breeds of dogs!



Mr. Gaipa's cat Izzy is 4 and a half years old and hates surprises!!! She is also a wonderful tabby cat!!!



6th Grader Jack Reeder and Mrs. Reeder's dog Logan loves to play hide and seek with Jack. He is 3 years old and is a rescue dog.

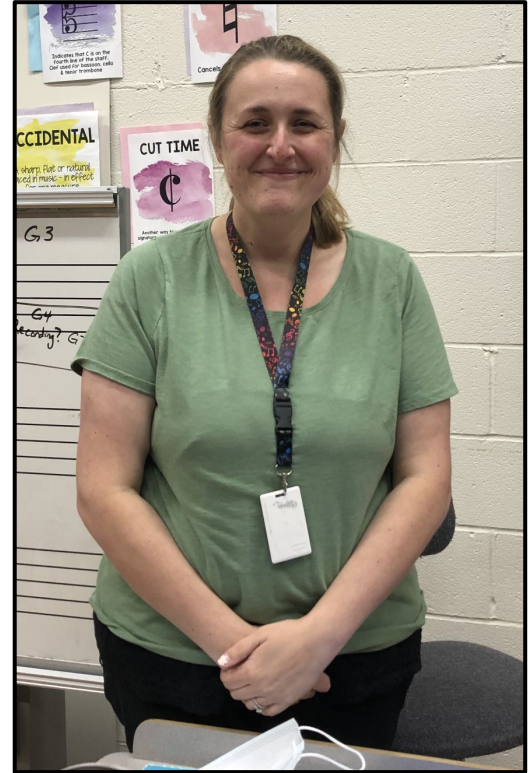


Mrs. Marano's dog Maggie is 13 years old and a Maltese. She is super loving and has an internal clock for when it's time to eat!!!

March/April's Teacher of the Month

By Somya Nog (Grade 8)

Hello everyone! It's that time of the month again; time to announce who March/April's Teacher of the Month is! Without further ado, this issue's Teacher of the Month is ... drumroll please ... **Mrs. Edley**, who teaches Orchestra and 7th Grade General Music! Congratulations to her! She won with about 12.8% of the votes (14 out of 109). It's clear that Mrs. Edley deserves this title because, according to her current and former students, she "is such a fun orchestra teacher", "picks good music for [the] orchestra", "helps [her students] learn new ways to play [their] instruments", "very cheerful", "taught [her students] a lot", "is really funny", and so much more. As one of Mrs. Edley's current students, having her for 7th and currently 8th Grade Orchestra and 7th Grade General Music, I can happily verify all of these statements. Additionally, Mrs. Edley is extra special to this year's 8th Graders (myself included) as she's been the only orchestra teacher we've had for over a year since 5th Grade. As usual, I reached out to Mrs. Edley and asked her a couple of questions regarding her teaching. Her responses follow:



Q: How does it feel to be March/April's Teacher of the Month?

Mrs. Edley: "Exciting! Thank you very much!"

Q: What is your favorite part about being a teacher/teaching at MMS?

Mrs. Edley: "I love the people I work with, and the students! It's wonderful to 'nerd out' with all of my orchestra students and see their abilities grow! Every day is a new adventure and it's always different!"

Q: Is there anything you'd like to say to your students?

Mrs. Edley: "Bring your instrument home! Just kidding... But in all seriousness, keep practicing, keep trying, and don't be afraid to fail, in music and all things! All of the adults in the building care about you and we are here to help you succeed and grow!"

Note: Mrs. Edley sent me these responses the week before spring break, so that's why she said "Bring your instrument home!"

Q: Why did you decide to become a teacher?

HERE @ MMS

(cont. d) Mrs. Edley: “After being involved in music growing up, it seemed like the natural next step. Now, I’m not sure I can picture myself doing anything else. Plus, music is fun to teach!”

Q: Anything else you’d like to add?

Mrs. Edley: “To quote Albus Dumbledore, ‘We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided.’”

Once again, congratulations to Mrs. Edley for being March/April’s Teacher of the Month! A special shoutout goes to our first and second runners-up! Surprisingly, we have a three-way tie for first runner-up: Mr. Morris, who teaches 6th Grade ELA, Madame Ganti, who teaches 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade French, and Miss Chicano, who teaches Health, our first runners-up, all received about 10.1% of the votes (11 out of 109). Mr. Buckley, our second runner-up, who teaches 7th and 8th Grade Social Studies, received 6.4% of the votes (7 out of 109). Congratulations to all of the teachers who were nominated, and see you next issue!



Share Your Voice! Complete Our Sports Section Poll

By Sophia Dickens (Grade 7)

The Sports Section wants to know your thoughts about sports! Below you’ll find a link to a Google Survey. Among other questions, we are wondering what is the school’s favorite sport!

It could be a sport that you like to watch but don’t like to play, or you don’t like to watch it but you like to play it, or you like to watch and play the sport. Some of the questions will ask why you like that sport, what tips would you give someone if they would wanted to play that sport, and more!

Some of the rules of this survey are:

1. All answers should be school appropriate.
2. People who would not wish to share there answers with others are not forced to.
3. Do not be afraid to type as much as you want--we love learning about our school community.
4. Anyone is allowed to vote--students, staff, and teachers.
5. All responses will be counted!

<https://forms.gle/qp6CDmQavocw1FcJ9>

This link will also be posted on our MMS Times Google Classroom Pages. Be sure to vote!

SPORTS

A Sign of the Times: Five Year College Athletes

By Allie McNerney (Grade 7)



This year's March Madness NCAA DI basketball tournament ended just less than a month ago with incredible performances from so many players and teams from all over the country. As I'm sure you saw, Baylor defeated Gonzaga in the championship, with a final score of 86-70 on April 5th. Some people may have been sad watching the games, having to see their favorite senior play their last game, but that may not be the case. Due to Covid-19, all winter athletes in NCAA Division I sports will be given an additional year of eligibility. This means that seniors who didn't have a season last year (their junior year) will be able to play on their school's team next season. They will either use that extra year to start a graduate program at their school, or use it at another school that offers graduate programs if their original school doesn't. This is very interesting because the average age of some teams that were senior-heavy this year is going to skyrocket, which may cause some controversy over whether it is fair or not.

Not everyone is happy about this decision for winter sports, including UConn women's basketball coach Geno Auriemma who said, "I don't like it. If you lose your season, I can see that. If you say, 'Hey, look, the fall sports guys, you lost your season. We'll give that back to you.' I can see that. That makes sense. But how are you going to let somebody play a whole season and then give them another year?" Geno expresses that he doesn't think the winter athletes really lost their season, and are being given essentially a free year. NCAA council member Grace Calhoun is positive about this decision though, saying, "These conversations have been a long time in coming because there aren't any easy answers, but I think we've put forward a great package that will be refined by the membership over time. We're headed in the right direction at least."



UConn Women's Basketball Coach Geno Auriemma

Softball This Spring at MMS

By Megan Widlar and Annabelle Greenwood (Grade 7)

After not being able to have softball and baseball last spring (or in person school!) at MMS, many softball and baseball players were excited when they heard the news that MMS would be able to have a softball and baseball season this year. We also knew that the dedicated softball coach and history teacher here at MMS, Mr. Buckley, would be just as excited. With the season beginning, we decided to interview him!

Q: How do you think COVID will affect this season?

Mr. Buckley: "I felt bad that we weren't able to get in the fall and winter sports, but the softball and baseball teams will be able to play with masks on and we are going to have a very successful season!"

Q: What will the tryout look like this season? Will you actually be cutting people?

Mr. Buckley: "It depends on how many people tryout. I want to make sure that everyone that makes the team gets plenty of playing time. In middle school sports, it's about playing time. I anticipate getting the right number and we got a good core. The 7th grade in particular has some very good players and will supplement a couple good 8th graders, maybe a 6th grader, and we'll be in very good shape."

Q: Who will be allowed to attend games?

Mr. Buckley: "I don't think they will shut down attendance, as long as everyone is spread out. We usually have a good turn out of students coming to our games as well as parents and teachers as they leave. Softball's lucky because they walk right past our field and are curious of how the game is going. We have nice kids and they're very good softball players, teachers usually like to support our games as do friends."



The softball team right before their first game

Arts & Culture

The Importance Of Arts and Culture

By Daniela Ardino (Grade 7)

Arts and Culture is art that might have something to do with religion, nationality or race. This comes in many forms such as musicals, art studios, museums, and much, much more. Arts and Culture is a mix of multiple opportunities for learning, entertainment, leisure, personal growth, and improving communication skills between one another. The great thing about Arts and Culture is that it brings people together no matter what religion, nationality or race they are. I think this is especially important in 2021 because of all the discrimination going on with race and skin color. Arts and Culture has no judgement whatsoever.



Google Arts & Culture . Google , artsandculture.google.com/. Accessed 22 Apr. 2021.

Ideas for Arts and Culture During the Pandemic

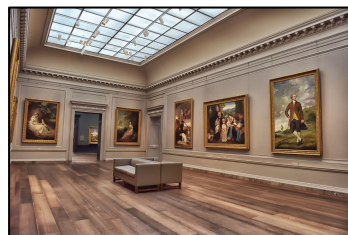
By Ramin Qurbani (Grade 7)

During the pandemic, there isn't really enough time for going to museums to experience arts and culture, but there are lots of other alternatives on the internet. For example, Google “hosts” a virtual museums tour where you can look at exhibits in a museum online, or you can do it yourself with lots of different drawing apps and utensils online, you can do virtual art anytime

One way you can get to experience arts and culture during the pandemic is to use the “[Google Arts and Culture](https://artsandculture.google.com/)” feature to see art and culture from around the world on your very own device. It's easy, you can click “Explore” to see all different kinds of artwork and artifacts, or you can search up a museum using the search feature to look at specific museums. I find this very simplistic and intuitive to use; I like this option a lot.

There are lots of different programs you can use to make art yourself, you can get an idea from the internet, like abstract art, or still life art; there are lots of different art styles to try out. You can use [Pixlr](https://pixlr.com/), an easy to use, free website to create art, or you can use Paint or Paint 3D, which come pre-installed with most computers. There is also [Krita](https://krita.org/), an easy to use, free MS Paint-ish website that allows you to make art in your browser. [Sumo](https://sumo.com/) is also a free-to-use art program. It also works like Pixlr and is easy to use too! There are lots of ways to do art yourself, and lots of them are free. If you don't have Photoshop or another program, you can use these browser programs to create your own art, with the exception of Paint or Paint 3D, which come pre-installed to most PCs.

In all, there are multiple more ways to experience arts and culture differently during the Pandemic, whether it is to go on a virtual museum tour, or doing it yourself. There are multiple different ways but these are just some of the experiences you can have.



Comics & Games

April Jokes & Word Search By Delilah Salcito (Grade 6)

What would a fish be called if it got the main role in the movie?

Does February like March?

Why couldn't the flower ride its bike?

What's a baby chick's favorite plant?

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

Blooming

Grass

Spring

Daisy

Green

Tulip

Flowers

Rain

Umbrella

MMS TIMES

Memorial Middle School - 1 Memorial Dr, Middlebury, CT 06762

WE WANT YOU! That's right, you there! Ask one of our staff members or Mr. Gaipa (Teacher Advisor) if you are interested!

Editors-in-Chief:

Emma Demiraj
Emma Avcollie

Design + Publishing Editor:

Isabella Batista
Assistant: Jovin Ltaif

Copy Editor:

Somya Nog

Here @ MMS

Section Editor: Somya Nog
Emily Bevilacqua
Ryan Murray

News

Section Editor: Luke Bevilacqua

Emily Daukas
Kassidi Houck
Caitlin Overhiser
Emma Sander
Jasleena Thind
Katherine Vongsouvanh

Arts & Culture

Section Editor: Daniela Ardino
Tea (Amaya) Hernandez
Ramin Qurbani
Nora Santoli

Comics & Games

Lincoln Macumber
Delilah Salcito

Sports

Section Editor: Allie McNerney

Sophia Dickens
Annie Greenwood
Megan Widlar
Maura Witkowski

Politics & Opinion

Section Editor: Sophia Ltaif
Emma Bona

Advertising Team

Manager: Kamya Keerthivasan
Mason Karpovich

Website:

<https://teenstutorteensmiddlebury.weebly.com/>



Teens Tutor Teens is an Organization made by teens for you.

Do You Want Academic Help Or Think You Need It?

Don't Be Afraid To Ask For Help

Email:

kamya.k@teenstutorteens.com

We Will Figure Something Out