

# MUSTANG MONTHLY

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

## Advice for Next Year's 7th and 8th Graders by Donnie Scacco

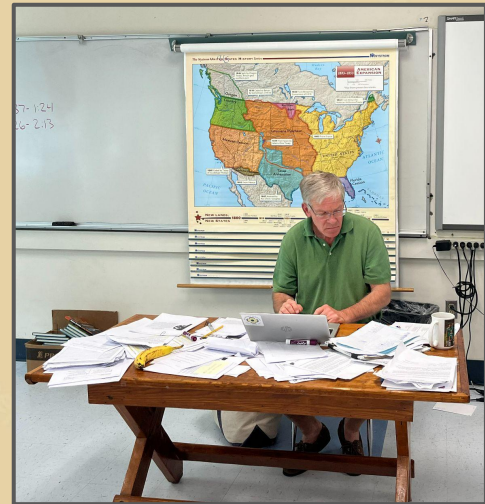
One of the biggest challenges during middle school is when you move into a new grade unprepared. So... Why not change that? Here is some advice specifically aimed at MMS's incoming 7th graders and 8th graders.

### Advice for Incoming 8th Graders

Let's start with our incoming 8th graders. 8th grade can be a tough year because of the preparation for high school, more work, more responsibility, and other challenges. It is important to form relationships with peers and teachers, as well as enjoy the last grade of middle school.

According to Mrs. Rivellini, the 7th and 8th grade English teacher, when she was in middle school, she had formed strong connections with teachers and was afraid to leave them. Along with that, Paraprofessional Miss. Burrows says, "get to know your teachers and their preferences." This will help to form connections and also show respect to your teachers.

That being said, 8th graders should be equally aware of their future beyond middle school and into high school. Mrs. Rivellini said that "you should definitely be conscious of grades and behavior if you intend on getting into private high schools." Getting prepared for high school is a very important part of middle school and is an even bigger step. *(continued on page 2)*



# ***Advice for Next Year's 7th and 8th Graders***

## **by Donnie Scacco (continued from page 1)**

Mrs. Martland, the 8th grade Math teacher and 7th grade Advanced Math teacher, specifically says that she wants people to understand that the 8th grade curriculum and classes are getting you ready for high school, and behavior and expectations are going to be high. While Mrs. Rivellini's point about connections is important, Mrs. Martland states that she learned she needed to be more responsible and not rely on the teachers so much for help.

Similarly, Mrs. Cassidy, one of the 8th grade social studies teachers, says to "pay attention to yourself, focus on what you need to be doing, try your best, and be your own self-advocate." This means overall, the need to balance both connections, academics, and awareness of expectations is great.

### **Advice for Incoming 7th Graders**

Next up I'm going to talk about the incoming 7th graders advice. 7th grade may not seem as tough as 8th grade, but the work can be much more challenging than what you experienced in 6th grade.

Nathan Cooney, a 7th grade student, states to "manage time well" and "be ready to adjust." Being ready to change and adjust is really an important skill, because work piles in, and can sometimes be overwhelming when you fall even a little bit behind.

Eliana Dani means that too when she says "it is important to stay on top of your homework." She even was in the middle of organizing a board in her locker which was to organize her work.

In addition to homework, quizzes happen frequently. Liam McKay-Moity simply but significantly says to study, which is one of the most needed things, but also one of the most lacking things. To put this in simple words, if you try to "wing-it" on a quiz or test without studying, you will almost never do well.

Additionally, Madi Lucuk says also, "you should organize your time well so that you have free time." While there is the fear of falling behind, staying on pace can reward you with more time and less stress. Madi also states that "you can always work harder," which simply means that if you have "perfect" grades, you can always train yourself to be better, be smarter, improve, and even get more ahead.

To conclude, even when you are struggling, the problem is there to make you stronger and not push you down. The French teacher, Madame Ganti says that "everybody makes mistakes, but if you don't learn from them, then there is no point. If you don't reflect then it isn't worthwhile, and you will make the same mistakes. Learn from your mistakes so you are a better person tomorrow." If those aren't inspiring words, then I don't know what is!

# ***Support for Ukraine*** by Sophia Dickens

Currently there is a crisis going on in Ukraine. Over the past few months, Russia has been targeting Ukraine. The reason for this is that Vladimir Putin, Russia's leader, had an initial aim to invade Ukraine and unseat its government, ending for good its desire to join the Western defensive partnership, NATO. Putin failed to capture the capital Kyiv and after a lengthy stalemate, turned his dreams to Ukraine's east and south.

## **What is the history behind this?**

Over the centuries, the Russian and Austro-Hungarian Empires, Poland, and Lithuania have all exercised jurisdiction over Ukraine, which first announced its modern independence in 1917, with the building of the Ukrainian People's Republic. Russia soon turned back control of Ukraine, making it part of the just established Soviet Union and having power in the region until World War II, when Germany invaded.

## **What are people doing about this crisis?**

Many people have been showing their support. President Biden signing the bipartisan Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act to deliver an additional \$13.6 billion in military, humanitarian and economic aid to help Ukraine defend itself from Russia's unfair further invasion. People who don't have as much power as Biden have also been helping by putting up flags and letting their loved ones go to help train the Ukrainians.



*These are the flags that people have been putting up outside of their homes.*



*People gather in front of the White House on February 27th to protest Russia's invasion of Ukraine.*



*Members of the US Military supporting Ukraine.*

# *The Disappearance of Madeleine Mccann*

## by Kassidi Houck

Madeleine Mccann was a three year old girl who went missing on May 3, 2007 during a family vacation while her parents dined just 100 feet away. Madeleine was asleep with her two siblings with her parents periodically checking on them. When Maddie's mom, Kate, went to check on the kids at 10:00 p.m. she found Madeleine missing from her bed.

Though the hotel was notified that Maddie was missing **and** there was a sighting of a suspicious man running in the opposite direction holding a child the night Maddie went missing, it took police four days to close off the area and begin a proper search. On May 26, 2007, 23 days after Maddie went missing, police released a sketch of a man that was thought to be a person of interest in the case.

The case went quiet until May 2013, 6 years after Maddie went missing, when British police reviewed the case claiming they've identified a "number of persons of interest" in the case. In 2014, British police seemed to be making progress as they flew to Portugal and searched the resort Maddie went missing from while also planning to make arrests even though no one was ever charged.

The case went quiet again until June 2020, when police revealed a 44 year old German prisoner has been identified as a person of interest in the case. Then, in April 2022, police officially named Christian Brueckner as a suspect in little Maddie's disappearance.

The prime suspect in the case, Christian Brueckner, has a little more of a complicated story. Brueckner, at the time 29, was recently released from jail and wanted a fresh start, so he went to Portugal. When Maddie went missing, Brueckner was only a few miles away from the resort but claims he was never near the resort when the kidnapping took place.

Shortly after the kidnapping became public, Brueckner abruptly left Portugal with no explanation. He layed low and out of the media until April 2020, when police announced they had a new person of interest in the case, a 44 year old who was in jail for unrelated charges. Police didn't reveal his identity until April 2022.

Brueckner has stated he had nothing to do with little Maddie's disappearance and says he has a solid alibi that can be backed up but has yet to provide police with any type of information. Police began to suspect Brueckner while searching property related to another missing persons case, when they found many suspicious items.

The investigation is still ongoing and while Brueckner has provided portuguese police with new information, his claims have yet to be verified. The Mccanns hope to still be reunited with their daughter, who would now be almost 19, alive but hope for closure.



# Top 3 Places To Go This Summer by Luke Bevilacqua

As the school year comes to a close, many are left with the question, "What on earth am I going to do for one and a half sweltering months?" Hopefully this article will give you some answers, keep reading to learn about some of the top three places that you can visit in Connecticut this summer.



## Brownstone

The first location which is highly praised, takes you to Portland Connecticut, the home of some of the best outdoor fun in CT. It has everything from a ropes course, to cliff jumping, it even has an entire floating water park! Ctvisit.com labels it as the "Ultimate adventure park": it has everything a kid, teen, and adult would want to do. Along with the ropes, cliff jumping, and waterpark, there is rock climbing, wakeboarding, swimming, kayaking, snorkeling, scuba diving, 14 zip lines, and a rope swing. Opening on Memorial Day weekend to the public, Brownstone is ready for you!



## Lake Compounce

Another popular summer attraction is Lake Compounce. Located in Bristol, Lake Compounce is a huge amusement park, with roller coasters, arcades, water slides, a water park, and a variety of different activities and rides that will fill up a nice summer day. One of the most popular attractions at Lake Compounce is Boulder Dash, a heart Jarring fast roller coaster that takes you though some of the forest. Reaching top speeds of over 65 miles per hour, it is not for the faint hearted. If you don't like fast rides and roller coasters, lake compounce has bumper cars, an entire kids section, and friendly rides and arcade games.



## Mystic Aquarium

The last fun place for you, your family, and friends to visit is Mystic Aquarium and seaport. Located in Mystic Connecticut, the aquarium is perfect for a family trip. With many sea life exhibits and tours Mystic is a great place to visit. Animals include sea lions, beluga whales, penguins, octopus, seals and much more. Believe it or not the whale exhibit is the largest outdoor whale exhibit in the entire United states. With a 750,000 gallon outdoor water area for whales and seals it is one of the coolest places in the aquarium. You can even pay to get up close, and even learn how to train the wales themselves. Along with sea life, Mystic is home to a dinosaur exhibit. The exhibit called "Jurassic Giants" takes guests back in time to encounter clawing, roaring dinosaurs that look like they come to life! Furthermore, with thousands of families and people attending, Mystic has a great reputation. People say " we are members here and have been 5 times I think. It's a fun place for kids, lots to see though it's not overwhelmingly big." and "It's a very nice and peaceful place with lots to see. I wish I could visit more frequently." Clearly mystic is a great destination to visit whenever you're free this summer.

In conclusion, Brownstone, Lake Compounce, and Mystic Aquarium are all great places. There are several other places to visit this summer. To find out more check out this website to see some of the best places to go over the summer.  
<https://www.planetware.com/tourist-attractions/connecticut-usct.htm>.

# A French Tradition: Crêpe Day! by Ryan Murray

This article is dedicated to Madame Ganti, who teaches 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade French. Madame is a phenomenal teacher that makes learning the french language unbelievably fun, and exciting. She creates a family of students, and a wonderful, inclusive, and bright environment! On behalf of the 7th Grade French Class of 2022, thank you Madame!



*Madame Ganti wearing her wonderful "Bistrot de Paris" apron, after making crêpes, while posed in front of her Crêpe day sign!*

L'Egoïste de Marcel LaVergne

L'égoïste dit:

Moi,

Je suis adorable et formidable!

Joli et poli!

Sincère et super!

Voilà, c'est moi!!!

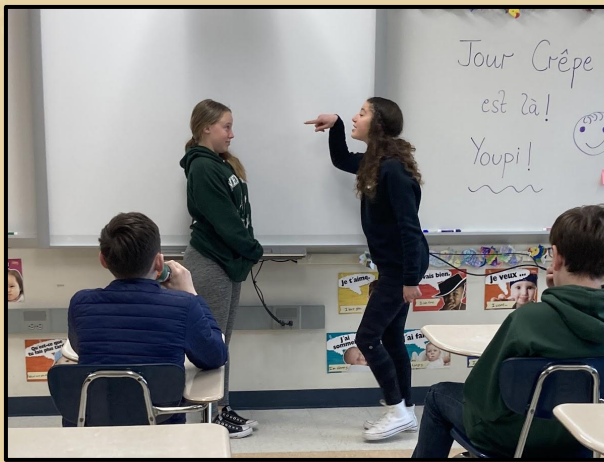
To most people, L'Egoïste is just a poem, but for the 7th Graders here at Memorial, it is a rite of passage into not only 8th Grade, but also Crêpe Day! For those of you that don't know, Crêpe day is a beloved celebration day to honor students after learning the french poem, L'Egoïste. Students rehearse, practice, and recite the poem until memorized, where they are then graded on recitation, enthusiasm, and fluency.

This year, each student pitched in to bring either a topping, beverage, or make the crêpe batter itself. As they rehearse aloud to the class, Madame prepares crêpes for every student! While waiting, she also offers students delicious madeleines and croissants.

Just a few weeks ago, this year's 7th grade class enjoyed their very first crêpe day, and Madame Ganti's first since Covid. Here are what some of the students thought about the fun french food celebration, "It was such a fantastic experience, and I thank Madame Ganti for the best day ever!!" says 7th Grade student Payton Pentino. Cian Flanagan stated, "Crêpe day was exquisite because of the fun we had and the delicious french food. Très bien!"

Lastly, 7th Grader Henry Bullard said, "The food and the experience was very enjoyable. I think the poem was fun and I think it was a cool idea for Madame to incorporate saying the poems, while eating the crêpes!"

Overall, both the french students and I can agree that Crêpe day was fantastic! Once again, thank you Madame for all the hard work to plan and create this celebration for us; and we look forward to learning more about French food in the coming years with you!



*7th Grade French Students Jordan Kovach and Payton Pentino rehearsing an enthusiastic rendition of L'Egoïste, before enjoying some delicious crêpes.*

## ***Catching Up With Mr. Buckley*** by Thomas Harris

Mr. Buckley has been one of the longest working teachers at MMS, teaching for a total of around 24 years, and has been working at MMS for 22 years. Before that Mr. Buckley worked at Hamdon. Now, Mr. Buckley mainly teaches 8th and 7th grade, but he has also taught 6th grade as well. Before teaching, Mr. Buckley worked at a bank.

But what many people might not know about Mr. Buckley is that he played ping pong as a kid, and he started playing it at a very young age at 6 years old. Although some of us don't enjoy going to school, Mr. Buckley looks forward to it. He doesn't see it as going to work, but rather as going to school to hang out with everyone. Mr. Buckley also has a grandkid (who is super cute), and as Mr. Buckley describes, being a grandfather is fun, and it feels good to be one.

When asked why Mr. Buckley chose to teach Social Studies, he replied with: "Teaching Social Studies is like a story. It's interesting to learn about the past, and it's like telling a story." The best thing that Mr. Buckley enjoys about his job is seeing everyone walk up the stairs each morning. And now for the question that you've all (probably) been waiting for... if Mr. Buckley could pick a different job besides being a teacher, it would be a play-by-play announcer for the Red Sox.

Thank you Mr. Buckley for being a wonderful teacher to all, and for being an inspiration for everyone.



## ***This Year in a Word (or more)*** by Lily Scozzafava

With the 2021-2022 school year coming to an end, we asked members of the MMS faculty to try and describe this rollercoaster year in a word, phrase, or coined catchphrase. Down below are the wonderful words from the staff here at MMS.

Mr. Walsh: "rollercoaster"

Mrs. Martland: "finally back to normal"

Ms. Jarret: "loquacious" (lō ' kwāSHəs)

Senora Viveros: "hoy es viernes"

Mrs. Steinmetz "rollercoaster"

Mr. Tait: "normal is overrated"

Mrs. Rivellini(Alegi): "nascent"

Mrs. Velleca: "Here for the kids"

Mrs. Bourque: "It's been a rollercoaster"

Mrs. Bronson: "challenging"

Mr. M: "Basketball"

Ms. Chicano: "very nice to see all of your smiling faces"

Mrs. Cassidy: "Everyone wants pre-pandemic schooling, and not being able to give that to families is really challenging."

Mrs. Edley: "Happy to be back with no remote learning"

Mr. Titone: "A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor"

Ms. Andreson: "A lot to learn"

Ms. Post- "Glad to be back with no masks!!"

Mr. Duval: "continue to be great learners and community-minded and you will be successful. Be curious, not judgemental"

Mrs. Cimelus: "This has been a rollercoaster year...lots of ups and many downs but in the end I think we had some fun."

Mr. Foley: "Interesting"

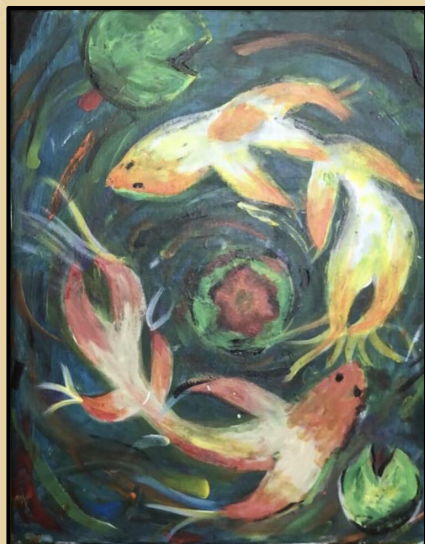
Mr. Gaipa: "Now it's time to close those Chromies."

# Celebrating the Winners of the CT Writing Project Contest by Ryan Murray

Here at MMS, we have some very exciting news! Several of our students have won the Connecticut Student Writing Project. I asked 7th Grade ELA Ms. Jarret, who organized the contest here at Memorial, what is the CT writing project?

"The Connecticut Writing Project is a group that puts on multiple writing contests every year. One of the largest yearly contests is called the Connecticut Student Writers Contest. Writers in grades K-12 all over the state submit amazing fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and art pieces to be reviewed by a panel. Winners of the contest are recognized, and their entries are put into a yearly Connecticut student magazine that is printed and published! There is also an awards ceremony, each year at UConn, to honor the winners. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to write for a real audience, and show off their amazing writing skills. Region 15 has been submitting to this contest for quite a few years, and we have had quite a few winners."

**Right: Lexie Howe's Platinum Winning Cover Art on Koi Fish!**



We are excited to announce that these winners include, Kevin Weitekamp with an honorable mention in art and Keela Walsh with an honorable mention in the fiction writing category, Marlo Gabriele and Camilla Reyes who won a silver award in fiction, as well as Lexie Howe who won overall in the Art Category, and finally Jill O'Connor and Elianna Palmieri who won overall in the nonfiction category.

I interviewed overall winners Jill O'Connor and Elianna Palmieri about their submissions and this is what they said: Jill wrote a beautifully poetic narrative about her experience with grief after her father's passing, when she was seven. A well written and touching story, congratulations Jill! Winner Elianna Palmieri was inspired by the phenomenal story of Malala Yousafzai, and wrote her own inspiring story about activism and advocating for children's educational rights! A very moving story, congratulations Elianna!

Once again, congratulations to all of the winners on your phenomenal victories!



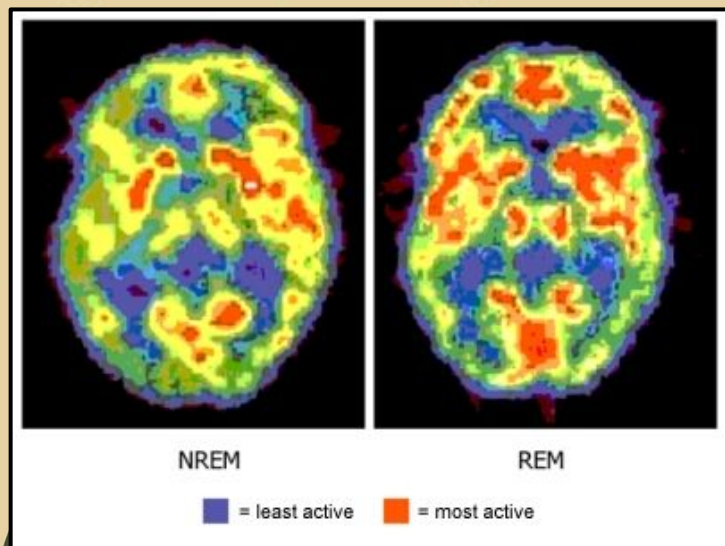
**Above: From left to right, Keela Walsh, Marlo Gabriele, Lexie Howe, Miss Jarret (7th ELA), Jill O'Connor, Elianna Palmieri at the celebration night of the Student Writing Contest!**

# What Do Dreams Mean? By Marlo Gabriele

Everyone has dreams, in fact you dream every night but you most likely don't remember. Dreams are like taxes: they're inevitable, bound to happen, unavoidable. But, why do we dream? What does it mean? And can dreams tell the future?

So, this brings us to our first question...why do we dream? Dreams are hallucinations mostly occurring during a stage in our sleep called REM (rapid eye movement), which is pretty much self explanatory. An example is if you are climbing up stairs in your dream, your eyes will likely be going up and down, or if you're watching a tennis game they'll go side to side.

But some people become aware of what they are dreaming and can control what they do in their dream. This is called lucid dreaming. Lucid dreaming occurs during REM, because that's when your most vivid dreams occur. If you look at a sleep study, it shows brain activities to be much like they were when the person was awake. Some sleep disorders can cause lucid dreaming, or make you more likely to lucid dream. One study found that people with narcolepsy had a higher frequency of lucid dreams.



*Your brain during REM*

But this doesn't mean that you can't lucid dream. In fact, some people train themselves to lucid dream. The trick is to remember your dreams. How do you do that? Keep a journal and write down the dreams you had that night; if you can't remember your dreams, then try drinking 3 large cups of water before bed: you will wake up more often, and this will allow you to recognize dreams more easily once you fall asleep, which in turn can help trigger lucid dreams.

When you're awake, your thoughts have logic in them, to a certain extent at least, and when you sleep your brain is still active, but your thoughts or actions often make little sense. This is likely because emotional centers of the brain trigger dreams rather than logical regions. Though there is no hard evidence or definitive proof, scientists think that, "dreams are usually autobiographical thoughts based on your recent activities, conversations, or other issues in your life," states Healthline. That's why when you have a test or quiz to study for, studying right before bed helps you retain the information you just reviewed.

And humans are not the only ones that do this, birds do too. "Zebra finches are such dedicated musicians that they appear to rehearse their songs during sleep," states New Science "while zebra finches sleep, their brains spontaneously reproduce the activation patterns they make when they sing during the day." Which in turn, perfects their song.

So, this brings us to the question, what do dreams mean?

Scientists and researchers still don't entirely know what the role of dreams exactly is, but there are theories and many beliefs as to what dreams mean. Some may include, representing unconscious desires and wishes, interpreting random signals from the brain and body during sleep, and consolidating and processing information gathered during the day.

Many even claimed that their dream told the future. But there is little evidence supporting these claims. Although some research suggests that certain types of dreams can predict the onset of illness or mental decline in the dream, "For example, in people with Parkinson's disease, dreams containing negative emotions are correlated with future cognitive decline" states Sleep Foundation.

Dreams are still a mystery, we haven't done too much research into the subject, but we have our guesses. Science has allowed us to learn much about the human brain, but we may never know for sure the meanings behind our dreams. Because, as WebMD states it, "Dreams have fascinated humanity since the beginning of time and will probably continue to puzzle us."

***“Dreaming is like a way to escape from reality,  
and depending on the type of dream,  
you just might wanna stay there.”***

***(Words and artwork contributed by AC)***



# ***How Is Climate Change Affecting Us Right Now?*** by Ryan Murray

Sea levels rising. Record breaking temperatures. Intense droughts. Shrinking freshwater supplies. Climate change has been featured in a blur of news stories since it was first reported in the early 19th century. It has since become one of the most prominent and pressing debates in politics throughout the 21st century. As scientists continue to research, note, and graph climate change, millions of people have taken this issue into their own hands. According to the Guardian, over six million people participated in climate strikes worldwide, pressuring our government for action, including the climate strikes of September 20th, 2019; which broke the record for the largest climate change protests in world history. But in order to build an opinion on climate change, and more importantly find a solution, we must understand how climate change works and how it is affecting us right now.

In order to understand this myself, I researched into one of the most dominant organizations in the climate change debate, The Natural Resources Defense Council, otherwise known as the NRDC. They are a non-profit organization, specializing in conservation efforts towards our earth, animal life, and climate change. They argue that not only is climate change an environmental issue, but also relates all the way back to another world issue, the wealth gap. The NRDC stated, "Record floods. Raging storms. Deadly heat. Climate change manifests itself in myriad ways and is experienced by every living being, although not equally. Throughout the world, the economically disadvantaged and people of color—those who have contributed the very least to the root causes of climate change—are the most likely to suffer from its worst impacts." We are not only hurting our environment, but we are also simultaneously making other world issues much worse, and more difficult to fix. We are overwhelming ourselves with issues and climate change itself sits right at the center of it all.

However, in order to fully understand our connection to climate change, we must comprehend what exactly causes climate change. Scientists have discovered that the main root of climate change, lies in our carbon footprint, and how we are damaging our atmosphere. Carbon gasses are released into our atmosphere from processes such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and other human activities, and once they reach our lower atmosphere, they slowly cause it to deteriorate. This weaker atmosphere allows higher amounts of the sun's energy and radiation to pass through to our planet, resulting in abnormal weather patterns, increased temperatures, ultimately leading to many dangerous situations for mankind.

So finally, how is climate change affecting us, and why should we care? Climate change will only hurt us worse as time goes on. Right now, we are seeing the mere surface level of effects on us and our planet. Scientists have concluded that recent intense and severe weather, droughts, and temperatures are courtesy of climate change. 7th Grader Weather Connoisseur, Payton Pentino stated, "Due to climate change we are supposed to get 9 - 10 named hurricanes which is around average but due to the rising temperatures of our oceans, it acts as fuel for the storms meaning this hurricane season, the storms will be more powerful bringing 10 - 15% more rainfall, which is all due to the climate crisis." Marine and animal biologists have proven that climate change is a direct source of the recently increasing wildlife extinction rates. Environmental scientists have reasoned that climate change is a direct root of rising sea levels, air pollution, water pollution, and other environmental consequences. We are seeing the effects of climate change firsthand ourselves. Here in Middlebury, we have seen heavy rains and tropical storms, heavy snow in April and October yet barely any from December to February. Record breaking temperatures in the high 90's even closing in on 100 degrees fahrenheit. Weather enthusiast and 7th grader here at Memorial, Payton Pentino stated, "2 years ago we saw temperatures reach 101.5 degrees fahrenheit." 101.5 degrees. Our crops, our summers, our health, will never be the same if this continues. But why? Where is the action?

Climate change has become a political event since first discovered. Sadly, most of the roots of climate change economically benefit our countries, therefore benefitting most of our politician's agenda's. But is our economy really worth more than our planet. As of right now, astronomers have not located a second planet for us; therefore. if, or should I say when, this planet becomes uninhabitable, our species will end. There is no economy in a future without our planet. There is no government in a future without our planet. There is no humankind, in a future without our planet. So join those fighting, to save our future.

# MMS Summer Athletes by Megan Widlar

Here at Memorial many of our students play sports during the Fall, Winter, and Spring seasons. But a small number of athletes also play over summer break. I interviewed Corrine, Allie, and Caroline, on what summer sports they do and why they like them so much.

First I interviewed Allie (pictured on the right). Allie plays lacrosse over the summer through Gold Coast Lacrosse Club. When asked what her favorite part about playing Gold Coast is, she said “ I enjoy playing because it involves lots of teamwork and is a fast moving game.” One of her other most enjoyable parts is meeting new people and making new friends. Allie believes a summer sport is important because it keeps her active and busy.

Next I interviewed Caroline. She swims at the RYWC Makos. Caroline’s favorite part about swimming is hanging out with her friends and competing. “ I love meeting new people and keeping busy.” She also mentioned that she plays a summer sport to get outside, and so she is active.

Lastly I interviewed Corrine (pictured on the right, bottom row, center). Corrine plays Softball over the summer through Pomperaug Youth Softball. She has played softball for 7 years. Her favorite part of playing softball is helping her team make big wins.” I have many friends that play softball and it keeps me active.” Corrine believes it is important to play a summer sport because it keeps you in touch with friends from school.

As many of our athletes believe a summer activity/sport is very beneficial. Getting involved in your community can lead to some new friends, or even a new hobby!



## Have a great summer, MMS!

# ***This Year's 8th Grade Volleyballabaloo Tournament***

## **by Ayla Feratovic, Annie Greenwood, and Mr. Gaipa**

The 8th Grade Volleyballabaloo was a blast this year, with a total of four eighth grade teams: The Momee Monsters, WreckingBalls, GOAT, and the Setting Ducks.

We also had two teacher teams: Team One with Mr. Duval, Ms. Jarret, Mr. Titone, Mr. Chiarella, and Team Two with Mr. Buckley, Mr. Schumacher, Mr. Mullen, and Ms. Bronson.

Most people were excited to play against their teachers. They claimed to show no mercy. Some of the teachers that students were most looking forward to playing against were Mr. Buckley, Mr. C, and Mr. Duval.

8th Grader Logan Y. said, "I am most looking forward to play Mr. Buckley because he's the GOAT."

8th Grader Joe F. noted, "I am most looking forward to play anybody but the teachers because we lost to both of their teams" Joe had to sit on the sidelines due to an injury, but did his best coaching his team during the tournament. "My career was cut short because of a tragic injury," Joe said. "I broke my wrist."

Another 8th Grader Luke A. said enthusiastically, "I am mostly looking forward to play Mr. Duval because he is at his peak ability."

While most students had just started to play recently, some teachers had been playing since college. Ms. Bronson said that she took a class in college on how to play volleyball! 8th Grader Corinne S., however, said she had been playing for only two years.

We interviewed Mr. M to get his perspective on the tournament, one he has organized for the last several years. Mr. M said this is the third time they've run the tournament, missing two years due to COVID restrictions. While there always have been staff who have played, more and more have participated over the years. Normally, Mr. M would have invited Student Government to sell refreshments and more people come to watch, but again he wanted to play it safe.

As you can see, teachers were a big part of this tournament this year. Many students were excited to play them. And even though some of us lost to them, we still had the best time.



# A Profile of Lesley Gore: Artist and Activist by Emma Sander

Born Lesley Goldsteinand, but later changed to Lesley Gore, was a singer, songwriter, actor, and activist. She was born May 2, 1946, and died of lung cancer on February 16 2015, and was incredibly well known during her time and after, but throughout her fame, her queerness was often erased and ignored. Gore was a confident, straightforward Jewish lesbian who used her popularity reach to bring awareness to women's rights as well as LGBTQ rights.

When Lesley Gore was only 16, she found Quincy Jones, who would later produce with singers like Michael Jackson, who helped her produce her first song "It's My Party" which was number one on the top one hundred for pop and rhythm and blues which brought a lot of attention to both of them. She had two other hits, "Maybe I Know" and "You Don't Own Me". Gore didn't originally write her own songs at the beginning, but later she was nominated for an Academy Award for "Out Here on My Own", a song that she did write, in the film Fame which was directed by her brother, Michael Gore, and Dean Pitchford. Many of her songs were used in advertisements, campaigns, and other televised things. "You Don't Own Me" was used in many ads supporting marriage equality and reproductive rights, most of her songs were big symbols for feminism and women's rights.

Lesley Gore was popular during her time because of the way she presented herself. She came across as this witty, empathetic, angsty, and heartbroken girl, comforting the other teenage girls who were suffering from heartbreak or self-pity. People loved her because she was in the same boat as her fans. After "You Don't Own Me" came out, it showed another side of her, the side that wasn't just a starry-eyed teen. This started her feminist movement, helping those same heartbroken girls with self-worth and independence in a male-dominated world. At the height of her popularity, she allowed herself to become both a bratty young teen and a strong assertive woman. Her songs went from love-struck to seeking vengeance throughout her albums.

In 2004, Lesley Gore publicly came out as a lesbian while hosting a series on gay and lesbian issues on the PBS series, In the Life. Gore lived in a time when it was frowned upon to not live a heteronormal lifestyle. She said that although the music industry was "totally homophobic," she never felt the pressure to hide her sexuality.



*Lesley Gore and producer Quincy Jones at work in the studio. The two collaborated on "You Don't Own Me" and a handful of other 1960s hits. (Donaldson Collection/Getty Images)*

In 2005, while interviewed by Ellen, she explained that she hadn't known she was a lesbian until her 20s. She had dated both men and women, but her first serious relationship confirmed her preferences. Gore didn't feel the pressure to hide her sexuality or let the world know because she felt as though the people who were most important in her life already knew and that was enough.

In the 60s, schooling for women started to flourish and become more common. Gore attended Sarah Lawrence College where she studied British American literature and drama during the height of her career. During her time at school, she explained that "It would be very foolish of me to leave school to go into such an unpredictable field on a full-time basis." She wouldn't let her career get in the way of her higher education so she dedicated only her summers and breaks to producing and touring, which, ultimately, ended up being a pretty smart move. During this time, she volunteered for Robert Kennedy's presidential campaign and explored more political activism while exploring herself as well.

In 2005, Lesley Gore released her final album "Ever since" which was praised and featured on movie soundtracks and tv shows. She died in 2015 from lung cancer and had lived in New York with her dog and partner, Lois Sasson, for at least 30 years. Gore is a very important role model to many people, showing them how to be true to themselves and how to live the life that they want to live.

# A Review of *Harry's House* by Nora Santoli

If there are 1000 Harry Styles fans I am one of them. If there are 100 Harry Styles fans, I am one of them. If there are 10 Harry Styles fans, I am one of them. If there is 1 Harry Styles fan that is me. If there are no Harry Styles fans I have passed away. Unless you've never heard the frequency of my voice or live under a very lonely isolated boulder you would know that Harry Styles' new album *Harry's House* dropped May 20th and I've already bought half of the shares of the merch store. I'm literally over the moon and when I say over the moon I mean after watching the "As it was" music video I had an out of body experience. So today I'm going to be telling all of you my predictions on *Harry's House*. The album will already be released by the time you're reading this so if my conspiracies are correct you owe me 10\$.

Recently in pop culture science you know I spend at least 2 hours of my day just looking at celebrity gossip. Harry was seen in a bed in the middle of a park in what appears to be pajamas? Now when else do you ever wear pajamas in bed besides the morning and night? WHEN. YOUR. SICK. Oh what's that? I hear HARRY HAS A UNRELEASED SONG NAMED MEDICINE. Now many of Harry's fans have suspected a "rock album" but being the #1 Harry styles fan in the school is a big title and comes with many responsibilities and being his #1 fan I know one thing for sure and Harry is not making a rock album. This man wore a pleather suit once and y'all are assuming a side bang, black eyeliner and chains.

Now speaking of a big fat lie, Harry's new (un) significant other that shall not be spoken of \*cough\* \*cough\* O-o-o-livia wilde has a history of scandals including homophobia, transphobia, and stealing my husband. Therefore I think Harry's album will be a series of love songs directed towards her and maybe his past but Harry has also had some pretty big changes lately including, tour, a nail polish line, and changing his starbucks order to a vanilla latte with a pump of caramel cream. So he could pull a plot twist and write about One Direction.

Harry Styles in a recent photoshoot



*Harry's House* Album Cover



Now. I have a very important dramatic reading of the day I have been dreaming of my whole life. Harry is releasing a *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine. Once upon a time Nora Santoli downloaded instagram. She did this in hopes of sharing her nerdy outfits and cute Harry Styles edits. Never would I have suspected to see a middle aged man sitting on top a inflatable ball nor did I expect a billboard stating " wherever you go.....there you are" which is straight facts because everywhere I look he is there in my room... he's a cardboard cutout... on my computer, he's literally my background, profile pic and cursor. This sent me into orbit and you guessed it, a mental breakdown, but only Queens cry over a 28 year old British man. I have no words, predictions or conspiracies. This man is anything but a open book he's a glued closed book in fact so no predictions coming off this billboard. :(

So in conclusion until May 20th comes around I am 100% correct and all my opinions and predictions. If you can take 1 thing away from this article I can tell you HARRYS.HOUSE.WILL.NOT.BE.A.ROCK.ALBUM. Also on a serious note this will be my last article of this year :( i will miss you all and spots are open for the new pop culture, harry styles, queen, slay, one direction loving, comedian. If I had to sum up my experience at Memorial Middle School I have one thing to say: "slay" that's it xoxoxo -your favorite

# A History of Mother's Day by Ramin Qurbani

Mother's Day is a holiday celebrated on May 8th, the holiday celebrates mothers, and what they do for us, how they care for us, etc. and presenting them with gifts for what they do. The American version of Mother's Day was created by someone named Anna Jarvis in 1908, but then became an actual, official holiday recognized by the government in 1914. Though, Anna Jarvis denounced the holiday and spent the rest of her life after 1914 trying to remove the holiday from the American calendar.

The first versions of Mother's Day were celebrated by the ancient Greeks and Romans, who held a bunch of festivals in honor of the goddesses of motherhood, fertility, etc. who were named Rhea and Cybele. Though, these holidays might or might not have been the actual roots of Mother's Day. The (also debated) real roots of the holiday is from the Christian festival called "Mothering Sunday".

Mothering Sunday was once a major tradition in the U.K. and some parts of Europe. Mothering Sunday usually fell on the fourth Sunday of Lent. It was originally a time where faithful people of the religion would return to their main church in the area around their home; their "mother church" for a special type of service.

Over time, Mothering Sunday turned into a more secular holiday, where children would just give flowers and other things to their mothers. The custom of this faded in popularity before merging with the American Mother's Day in the 1930s to 1940s.

In the 19th century, before the civil war, Ann Reeves Jarvis helped start "mother's day work clubs" which taught women how to care for their children. These clubs later became a force in a region of the country that was divided. In 1868, Jarvis decided that he was going to organize "Mother's Friendship Day" which was a really early version of Mother's Day.

Another person, Julia Ward Howe wrote the "Mother's Day Proclamation" in 1870. This Proclamation asked mother's to unite to promote world peace. In 1873, Julia Howe also started a "Mother's Peace Day" to be celebrated on June 2nd every year.

Another person, Juliet Calhoun Blakely, probably inspired a Mother's Day celebrated locally in Albion, Michigan. Somewhere in the 1870s, two people, Mary Towles Sasseeen and Frank Hearing organized another Mother's Day sometime in the late 19th century and the early 20th century. They were both renowned as the "father of Mother's Day".

The "official" Mother's Day holiday came to being in the 1900s as a result of Anna Jarvis, daughter of Ann Reeves Jarvis. After her mother's death in 1905, Anna Jarvis started Mother's Day as a way to celebrate and honor how mothers sacrifice so much for their children.

After getting a lot of financial backing from a department store owner, John Wanamaker, located in Philadelphia, they organized the first official Mother's Day celebration in May 1908. They celebrated it in a Methodist church in West Virginia. They also saw thousands of people attend the Mother's Day event in one of John Wanamaker's stores in Philadelphia. After the amazing success of the Mother's Day celebration, Ann Jarvis decided to make the holiday a national holiday added onto the calendar. She started a letter writing campaign to newspapers and politicians stating that most American holidays were biased with male achievements.

By 1912, most of the states, churches, and towns in America had added Mother's Day as an annual holiday. Ann Jarvis also created the Mother's Day International Association to bring light to her cause. In 1914, her goal had been achieved as President Woodrow Wilson signed to make Mother's Day a national holiday as the second Sunday in May.

After creating Mother's Day as a day of honoring and celebrating mothers, she actually intended the holiday to be different. She intended the holiday for people to visit churches or their mother while wearing a white carnation flower as a sort of "badge". Though, once Mother's Day became a national holiday, there wasn't long before the commercialization of the holiday began.

Florists and card companies had the first hand in the commercialization of Mother's Day, selling flowers and cards in gargantuan bunches. Ann Jarvis had initially worked with florists to help raise light to Mother's Day. By 1920 she was appalled by how the florists she worked with commercialized Mother's Day to an extent that she publicly denounced the commercialization and urged people to stop buying Mother's Day cards and flowers.

Ann Jarvis then held a public campaign against people profiting from Mother's Day, publicly speaking against florists, confectioners, and even entire charities. She also launched lawsuits against any and every kind of group that used "Mother's Day" in their name. Eventually, she spent most of her personal wealth and time in legal fees, and by the time she died in 1948, she disowned the holiday and even actively urged people to stop celebrating the holiday.



## Where is the MMS Mustang? By Camila Reyes

Rules: Don't zoom in (if on computer), and don't spoil! How to play: Look at the picture and try to find the EXACT image of the mustang. If it looks similar but not the exact same, IT ISN'T IT! It also ISN'T EASY! PLEASE ACTUALLY TRY! Have fun and good luck! Hint: Look for the hint in the photo.



## The Last Day

By Amaris Fontanez, Camila Reyes, Elias Jabri, Olivia Williams



# MUSTANG MONTHLY

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