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**VETERANS
DAY**

Veterans Day Concert

By: Alex P., Grade 5

This year's Veterans Day concert was a blast! This holiday started November 11, 1918. Our student musicians in band and chorus were very successful, and a delicious breakfast was provided by Wegman's. We interviewed Ms. Beekman, one of our music teachers, for her input on this day.

Did you think the concert went well?

"I thought the concert went very well. The guests were happy and the students performed great."

Would you want to have this event again?

"This is an annual tradition that we want to continue!"

What did you think the audience thought about it?

"I hope they were moved by the sentimental words and music of the students."

What was your favorite part?

"I really enjoyed 'A Song for Peace' and the last song where veterans and current military could stand and be honored."

Many thank you's are needed for many different contributions to this special event:

- Thank you, Ms. Beekman and Dr. DiSalvio for directing the music ensembles.
- Thank you to all the military and veterans who attended. A special thanks to Dr. Petruzzelli, Mr. Andris, Mrs. Murray, Mayor C. Andre Daniels, Mrs. Greeby, WMS office and custodial staff, WMS staff, and music parents.
- Thank you to the Symphonic Band for playing such a beautiful song, "A Song for Peace." We heard flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets, and bells in this piece. Also thank you Holiday Chorus for singing "Let It Shine" and the "Army Forces Salute." They were such beautiful songs.
- Congratulations to Mayor C. Andre Daniels and Mr. Stranahan on your award.
- Thank you Ashwin B., Anna H., and Alex P. for being brave and writing such meaningful letters. In addition Nicolas A. and Kristina P. had a marvelous flute duet, "America."
- Thank you Mayor C. Andre Daniels for the presentation of The White Table for all the soldiers that have risked their lives for us.





Happy
Holidays!



Winter Holidays: Hanukkah and Its History

By: Zaya M., Grade 6

Hanukkah is a widespread holiday celebrated by Jews around the world. In 2017, it was celebrated from Tuesday, December 12th to Wednesday, December 20th. According to history.com, Hanukkah means “dedication” in Hebrew. Hebrew is the language spoken by some Jews and individuals from Palestine and Israel. One of the most popular traditions of Hanukkah is lighting a menorah, a nine-branched candelabra on which one candle is lit each night. This holiday was first celebrated to honor the Jews when they defeated Greek-Syrian oppressors, or Greek- Syrians that kept Jewish people in subservience and hardship. In conclusion, this eight day celebration is the most popular Jewish holiday.



Winter Holidays: Kwanzaa- A Time Of Prosperity

By Steve A., Grade 6

As our time of thanks ends, many people in America start to celebrate Christmas, a widely celebrated winter holiday. But many people scramble to celebrate Kwanzaa, another popular holiday. Kwanzaa is a Pan-African holiday celebrated by many African descendants across the world. Pan-African means relating to all people of African descent. It is celebrated throughout the course of seven days. It was created by African and Pan-African professor Maulana Karenga, according to the Official Kwanzaa Website, and it was first celebrated in 1966-1967, centered around seven key principles: Unity, Self-Determination, Purpose, Creativity, Cooperative Economics, Collective Work, and Faith. Similar to the holiday of Hanukkah, a candle is lit each day to represent one principle. Maulana says, “The Kwanzaa holiday, then will of necessity, be engaged as an ancient and living cultural tradition which reflects the best of African thought and practice in its reaffirmation of the dignity of the human person in community and culture, the wellbeing of family and community, the integrity of the environment and our kinship with it, and the rich resource and meaning of a people’s culture.”

Source: www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org

Winter Holidays-Chinese New Year

By Steve A., Grade 6

On January 1st, many people in America and around the world celebrate New Year's Day, the start of a new calendar year. But in China, many people gather together to celebrate Chinese New Year, or the Lunar New Year. According to history.com, the Spring Festival, as it's also called, is the biggest social and economic event in China. It also serves as a dynastic and religious holiday. Even though it is not exactly known when it was originated, it has definitely evolved since its origin. Instead of renewing family ties, young people now take the opportunity to relax and take a break from work. According to Wikipedia, the holiday originated from a myth about a monster named the Nian. The Nian would terrorize and eat people, especially children. One particular year, the villagers decided to hide from the terrifying beast. One old man decided to stay behind and try to fight the dragon. The villagers assumed he was insane, but left him to his plan. When the villagers returned, everything was in tip-top shape. The old man had put up red paper everywhere and set off firecrackers. The villagers thought he was a god who had come to save them, then realized that the monster was afraid of firecrackers and red paper. From then on, the villagers wore all red, and the Nian never returned. During Chinese New Year, people make sacrifices and practice rituals that are believed to bring good luck. At this time, elders also give children money, which is also supposed to bring good luck. Despite the differences this holiday has from others, it emphasizes the importance of giving, with a little bit of luck on the side!

Popular Gifts

By Ian M., Grade 8

With Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Hanukkah (a.k.a. The Big Three) in the rear view mirror, it's the one time we can reflect on the things we all get to experience during the winter holiday trifecta: family time and of course, presents! Speaking of which, a survey was sent to the students of WMS, asking them to list their "top-dog item" on their holiday wish list. The answers were incredibly diverse ranging from a gold chain to an iPhone X. The most repeated response, receiving 11 out of the 50 responses, was the "New Video Game/Console" option of the survey. This was probably due to the plethora of consoles being released in the past year. These consoles included the XBOX One X and S, the PlayStation 4 Pro, the Nintendo Switch, and the New Nintendo 2DS. Next up was the "cash" section, receiving 9 votes (18%). In 3rd place was the "merchandise from a celebrity" area, which took in 8 votes (16%). In 4th was the "prepaid/gift cards" section (10% of votes), and a tie for 5th. A three-way-tie consisted of the choices "clothing", "nothing", "just a family get together!", and "a new bike/scooter". The rest came from the "other" section, on which some students answered things such as "make-up", "books", "a laptop", and, believe it or not, "cheese". What's your "top-dog item"?

New Year's Resolutions

By Jady J., Grade 7

January is here, and everyone is trying to stick with their resolutions. A resolution which will make 2018 somehow better than 2017. To be honest, not everyone follows this, and some forget. Setting a resolution helps keep us accountable of daily goals which normally we might quit, a new year's resolution is one to keep.

Setting a goal should be one you are willing to keep, a resolution which won't take years to do. A resolution is something you can do to make your life better, or to make other people's lives better.

Yet keeping the resolution for some people is the hardest thing. Start slow and then go big.

Pace yourself for what you want to achieve and don't force yourself to do something you don't want to do. You should be willing to do something to improve your life. Make sure that whatever goal you're making is within your capability.

Have fun with your resolution! Be as creative as you want. Wish to make your room a winter wonderland, make huge unicorn cookies, or make your own clothes or style? Then be yourself! Make sure whatever your resolution is that it's for you. Not anyone else. Just you.



Toys for Tots

By Lucy A. and Katherine M., Grade 5

The Toys For Tots drive was ran by the National Junior Honors Society through December. The drive ended December 13th. Mrs. Giveans encouraged bringing in toys to earn your team Renaissance points. Which team did you think would win, White or Green? Students from both teams worked hard and brought in stuffed animals, which had to be packaged or have a tag on them. The other toys brought in included dolls, board games, and action figures, but these are just some examples. This year we surpassed our goal, too, helping provide many toys for kids in need.

So how are Renaissance winners chosen? When you bring in a toy, you received a raffle ticket. Then you were placed in a raffle to win a gift card! On Thursday December, 14th the winners were announced. There were three winners, first place: Ben P., second place: Kaylee A., and in third we have Anthony S. Sorry White team! The Green team won. Maybe next year, White team, and it was still for a great cause! What team were you hoping would win?



Santa Breakfast

By Riley S., Grade 6

On December 16th this past season, students and their parents had the opportunity to visit Kris Kringle himself and have Breakfast with Santa; not only were they stuffing their faces with delicious treats, but the guests were entertained with WMS Holiday Chorus, who sang Christmas carols 'till their heart's content. This lasted from 10:15 to 10:30. Admission was \$5 for the breakfast. Participants could also look at the Holiday Shop to find the perfect gift for a loved one. Hope to see you next year!



Quirky Holidays: Milk Day!

By Gabriella W., Grade 5

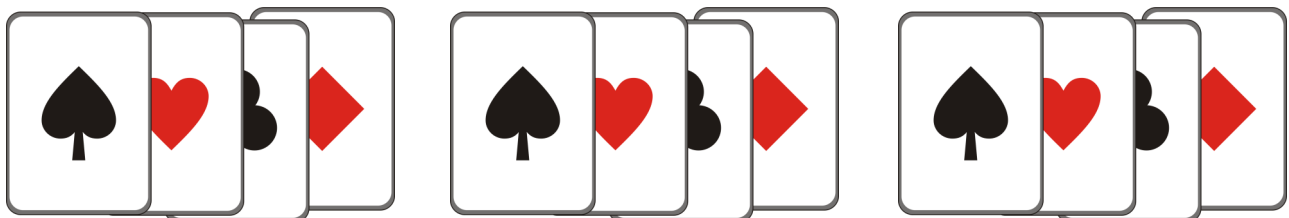
Do you like cuddling with your family while enjoying some milk and cookies? Well, on January 11th, you can start a magnificent day with a glass of milk. On this day, you can drink chocolate milk, strawberry milk, or even plain white milk to celebrate -- you may have guessed it -- Milk Day! The origin of the holiday is how historically milk was not served in sanitary bottles. The way milk was transported back then, it could contain germs and spoil very easily. According to Days of Year website, this holiday is also about how kids need nutrients, and milk is a great way to encourage getting calcium and other essential nutrients. If you are interested in learning more about this holiday, go to www.daysoftheyear.com.



Quirky Holidays: National Card Playing Day!

By Miranda C., Grade 6

Who doesn't enjoy hanging out with your family on a chilly day by the fire? What might you be doing to keep yourself occupied? Something fun to do with you family might be to play cards, especially on December 28th. According to "holidayinsights.com," this day, December 28, is National Card Playing Day. According to the article "Card Playing Day," "Card Playing Day is the perfect time to spend an hour or so playing cards with family and friends." This quirky holiday is one of many unusual holidays celebrated worldwide, considering the fact that it is basically just a day devoted to playing cards. This holiday arrives at just the right time, as the holiday is located a few days after Christmas. Why, you ask? The article explains "the kids are getting bored of their new toys. It's time to turn to card games for a calmer, relaxing, and more slow-paced form of fun and entertainment." On this holiday, you can get together with your family and put the electronics away. It's the perfect time to play some old card games, like Spit, Memory, Rummy or Blackjack. Have you ever just wanted to sit down with your family and play games but no-one wants to? Well, now you will have an excuse!



December Staff of the Month Mr. Andris

By Steve A., Grade 6

If you go to WMS, chances are you've probably met Mr. Andris, our principal. He's participated in many of our school events, yet his claim to fame is to volunteering to get slimed at our Spring Fling (an event in which students donate money for the PTO to create themed baskets to auction. If you donate money, you receive a chance to slime Mr. Andris). When asked about his knowledge of slime, he said he knows nothing about slime, but that "Mrs. Pruss in the main office is a slime-making expert." If you've ever been in Mr. Andris' office, you've noticed that instead of sitting on a normal chair, he decides to sit on a bouncy ball. We're sure he's gotten lots of questions about it, but we decided to ask him and tell the entire student body, once and for all: "I've been 'on the ball' (No pun intended...) for three years. It helps me to strengthen core muscles." Core muscles are very important to our principal. He says that he genuinely enjoys his job as a middle school principal, and the kids and staff are all wonderful. According to "The Principal Who Sits On A Ball," his father has had the most influence on him. He is the "[...]most honest and genuine person I know(...)" and taught him the "difference between wants and needs" while working long hours for his 11 children. The "original" Mr. Andris is a retired Captain in the US Navy. Sports, specifically football, have also had an effect on our Mr. Andris' life. Playing football from the age of six through college, Mr. Andris says he learned lessons of dedication and hard work. When further questioned on what he loves about this school, he made it known that his favorite lunch item is the corned beef special with pickles and chips. He also said his favorite events are the ones in which the fine arts groups, like band and chorus, participate. He says it is amazing how those students can put in so much effort and yet maintain a great work ethic in the core subjects. Congratulations, Mr. Andris!

January Staff of the Month Mrs. Perry

By Lucy A., Grade 5

For the month of January, WMS students chose Mrs. Perry as the Staff Member of the Month. Here's a little bit of information about Mrs. Perry. First, she LOVES Starbucks. Mrs. Perry teaches 5th and 6th graders. She teaches Social Studies for 5th graders, and teaches Language Arts for 6th graders. Mrs. Perry is a mom of two kids: a son and a daughter. Her favorite football team is the Eagles; she LOVES her Philly sports teams! (Her hope is that they win the Super Bowl). Mrs. Perry also likes to read a lot! I am glad she was picked for Staff Member of the Month for January, since she's such an amazing teacher.



Star Student— Tiana R.

By Nick M., Grade 6

Recently, 8th grader Tiana R. has gone out of her way to make some generous donations for our schools Stuffed Animal and canned food drives. I interviewed her and asked her a few questions. When asked how many stuffed animals were donated, she responded with 25 stuffed animals! That is more than twice as many stuffed animals as I have ever owned. Also, when asked how many cans donated, she responded with six. Furthermore, when asked how this reflected her as a student, she responded with that it made her a more helpful and caring person. When I asked her on what motivated her, she said that she had so many stuffed animals that she did not know what to do with them. So, she decided to donate them to the stuffed animal drive for kids in need. Lastly, when Tiana was asked if she planned on doing more things like this at RVRHS (Rancocas Valley Regional High School) or BCIT (Burlington County Institute of Technology), she said that she plans on doing all of the drives like this at RVRHS. Congratulations Tiana R.!



Students of the Months

List by Nick M., Grade 6

November Students of The Month

Grade 5:

Gianna G.
Isaac L.

Grade 6:

Naveah L.
Gabriel I.

Grade 7:

Jazmin K.
Janathan S.

Grade 8:

Laurel Y.
Owen P.

Gold Card Winner:

Ava C.

Musician of The Month:

Carmen G.

December Students of The Month

Grade 5:

Lucy A.
Brady M.

Grade 6:

Abby O.
Nick M.

Grade 7:

Aniyah B.
Deshaun C.

Grade 8:

Hailey S.
Kelton B.

Gold Card Winner:

Aidan C.

Musician of The Month:

Jessica D.



Spirit Week

By Erin C., Grade 5



The WMS Spirit Week is here. It started on January 29 and ends February 2. Spirit Week is the week that you can earn points for your Renaissance team. Student Council organizes the whole week and the Renaissance Rally at the end of the week. So you should thank them for the event throughout the week. Without Student Council, this cool stuff wouldn't happen.

WMS spirit week has been awesome! There are some really cool days with fun stuff planned:

- Monday was "PJ Day."
- Tuesday was "Squad Day" (match with your friends).
- Wednesday is "Grade Battles!". The grade level with the highest percentage of participating students will win a no homework night!
 - 5th grade = wear yellow!
 - 6th grade = wear blue!
 - 7th grade = wear pink!
 - 8th grade = wear red!
- Thursday is "A Look Into Your Future" (wear high school or college gear).
- Friday is Renaissance Day (wear your Renaissance color for the volleyball tournament).

Thank you Student Council for an exciting week!

Kids Cook: Gluten Free Flourless Peanut Butter Cookies

By Jake W., Grade 5

I tried the cookies and in my opinion, they were delicious! Also, you could add toppings such as Hershey Kisses. For half the cookies, I put Hershey Kisses in them, and it made the cookies two times as good! Don't add kisses to this gluten-free treat if you're allergic to peanut butter or eggs, though. Hope you enjoy it!

Ingredients:

- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1/2 cup of sugar
- 1 large egg, well beaten
- 1 teaspoon baking soda

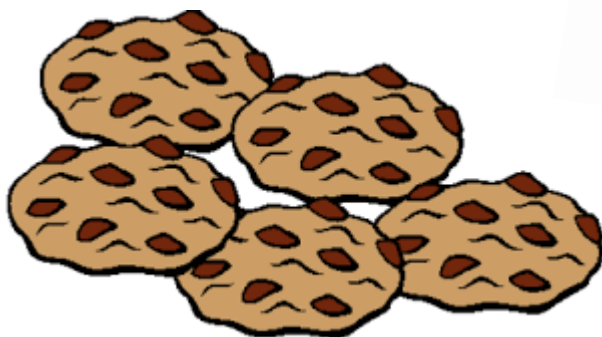
Makes about 2 dozen cookies

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees and grease cookie sheets.
2. Beat together peanut butter and sugar in a large bowl with an electric mixer until smooth.
3. Add beaten egg and baking soda to peanut butter mixture and beat until well combined.
4. Roll teaspoon of dough into a ball and place it on the cookie sheet.
5. Place dough balls one inch apart on cookie sheet and flatten with tines of fork making a cross pattern.
6. Bake until puffed and golden pale for about 10 minutes.
7. Cool cookies on baking sheet for about 2 minutes and then transfer with spatula to rack to cool.
8. May be kept in airtight container at room temperature for 5 days.



This recipe is from <http://www.geniuskitchen.com/recipe/flourless-peanut-butter-cookies-17943>



it's
Cookie
time!

Sports: Giants Basketball

By Jake V., Grade 5

In December, I spoke to Coach Harper regarding our boys basketball team. Here are his thoughts about this year's boy's basketball team.

Who do you think is giving their 100% best?

I think the whole team has given their 100% best all year. [...] Three players that stand out in regards to having an unwavering output of effort all year long are Jermiyah P, Malik A, & Rasheem H. But during this past week, every player has made it a point to go 100% in everything they do. We are starting to look really impressive.

How would you describe the qualities of teamwork displayed by your team?

Our team is just that...a TEAM. No single player makes or breaks our success. They have done such an amazing job grasping the idea that we are only as strong as our weakest link. With the philosophy in mind, each player does and says whatever positive thing they can to lift the game and/or spirit of a struggling player. And every player struggles at one point or another. Luckily, we have players that care about one another.

This year's boys and girls basketball teams include:

- Myles C., Colin D., Jaden D., Rasheem H., Robert K., Kaddesh K., Joshua O., Malik A., Tyrell B., Christian O., Jerimiya P., Ronald R., Jerrod B., David G.
- Nevaeh B., Danielle G., Rayven H., Autumn H., Elsa K., Isabella L, Katerra L, Brianna O., Tiana R., Aaliyah T., Sky F., Sophia M., Alayna C.

Favorite NHL Team

By Jake W., Grade 5

Do you enjoy watching football? Recently, Westampton Middle school was surveyed on their favorite football teams. Below are the results from teachers, students, and staff. According to the table, about two thirds of the people who voted chose the Philadelphia Eagles. This means that 50 out of 76 people who responded chose the Philadelphia Eagles. That is not surprising because the Eagles are doing very well in the NFL (National Football League), and is the closest to New Jersey, Westampton in particular. Also, they have a pretty good quarterback, Carson Wentz. Unfortunately, he got injured in Week 14, playing against the Los Angeles Rams. Let's hope the Eagles win the Super Bowl this year!

Team	Percentage of Votes
Philadelphia Eagles	65.8%
New York Giants	13.2%
Washington Redskins	7.9%
Denver Broncos	2.6%
Dallas Cowboys	1.3%
New England Patriots	1.3%
Atlanta Falcons	1.3%
Seattle Seahawks	1.3%
Green Bay Packers	1.3%
Pittsburgh Steelers	1.3%
New York Jets	1.3%
Indianapolis Colts	1.3%

Fall Book Fair Update

By Max B., Grade 6

At the book fair, there were many popular books, but the ones that stood out were Refugee by Alan Gratz, and Grumpy Cat. Much of the proceeds from the fair are used to purchase books for the school library, as well as support other events and activities sponsored by our PTO. There was no monetary goal; instead, they had a goal for a number of books sold. We sold 410 books out of our 500 book goal — that's a lot of books! All students who made book purchases were given a raffle ticket for the ability to slime Mr. Andris; but since we didn't reach the reading goal this time, no one was able to slime him ... yet. I say "yet" because we will also have a Spring Book Fair as a fundraiser for library books. Make sure to check it out this spring and let's reach our goal (incentive to be announced!). *Adviser's note: Thank you to our PTO for all of your book fair help and continued support of our school library, and thank you students and families for your participation!*

Josh Drean Assembly

By Willarose T., Grade 5

Josh came to our school two years ago, and again this year. He travels all over the country to discourage bullying, because he was bullied as a kid. He came to our school to spread his message, but he is a very talented performer, too. He lived in Boston, and went to Harvard University for college. He was a mascot when he was in college, and then he was a street performer. When he was a mascot he did tricks, too. He does beat boxing, and his animal beat boxes are especially funny. He also plays the harmonica and the trumpet. He was the class clown. His hobbies include soccer and Pokémon. Do you want to learn more about Josh Drean? You can find him on social media like YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, and Musical.ly.

Smart Phones that Don't Get Enough Spotlight

By Tej P., Grade 5

Looking to purchase a new phone? After I did research, I found that while the phones listed below aren't very popular, they aren't that bad!

[Huawei Honor 8](#)

Basic Facts:

- Two back facing cameras
- Affordable price
- High quality
- 8 core processor, 4GB of RAM, 2 SIM card capability
- 8 MP front camera, and 12 MP back camera (both cameras)
- 3000 mAh battery
- Fingerprint sensor on the back for extra security
- Display can be used with gloves

[OnePlus 5](#)

Basic Facts:

- Snapdragon 835
- 6GB of RAM
- 5.5-inch display and full HD Optic AMOLED
- 3,300mAh battery
- Corning Gorilla Glass 5 screen
- 16MP rear camera with dual LED Flash
- Runs on Nougat v7.1.1
- Dual SIM card capability



[Xiaomi Mi Mix 2](#)

Basic Facts:

- 15.2 cm. Display
- Ultrasonic proximity sensor
- four-sided curved ceramic backplate and 18-karat gold-plated decorative camera
- IMX386 rear camera sensor, large 1.25µm pixels, and 4-axis optical image stabilization
- Snapdragon 835
- 6GB RAM, and 128GB of storage
- Dual ADC HD voice recording
- Aerospace-grade aluminum alloy frame
- 12 MP back facing camera

Review: Videogame: Overwatch



By Aaron B., Grade 5

Overwatch is a first person shooter with two teams, each with six players. Overwatch has been out for about a year now. Overwatch is a first person shooter with two teams, each with six players. There are four different modes, they have "Competitive Play" which is ranked, and Quick Play which is just for fun, an arcade is also included, and you can make your own game, or join a game created by someone else. At the moment there are 25 playable characters. You can earn skins, voice lines, sprays, and other fun accessories. Voice lines are things that you can make your character say. Sprays are things that you can put all over the map. You can get these by opening Loot Boxes for which you get by leveling up. They have different events based on what is coming up, like holidays or other fun events. These fun events can be a Christmas event, Halloween, Easter etc. All characters have their own special abilities. The storyline of this game is that there are four heroes in a group called Overwatch. They saved the world from the Omnic Crisis, which happened more as a precursor to the game's plot. The Omnic Crisis are robots taking over the world. The characters are organized into four groups: Attack, Defense, Tanks, and Support. The Attackers are well at attacking and getting kills. Defense can defend the point or payload. Tanks have a lot of health, and Supports heal your team. They have Overwatch tournaments for which you can get a team and compete in. They have something called Blizzcon. Blizzcon is a real life event that happens every year; during the celebrations, you can dress up as heroes from the game or any game that Blizzard (the creators of the game) has created. Blizzard comes out and talks about their game and holds press conferences about future events. All in all I recommend that you save up your money and buy Overwatch; it's truly an amazing game.

Review: Videogame: Roblox

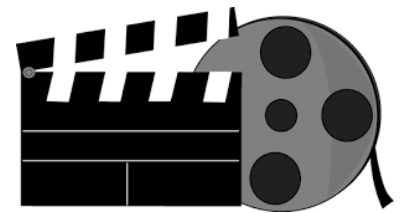
By William M., Jr., Grade 5

Do you like playing others' creations? Or would you prefer to develop games? Have you ever wanted to just do both at the same time? If so, I've got a site for you! Roblox is a gaming site for all ages, in which you can download the Player, then play a fellow user's game or create your own. Since you have an online avatar, you can personalize it with a currency called Robux. If you would like to purchase additional items you may buy Robux with real-life money. It's best if you ask your parents first before entering credit card information, though. This will prevent you from racking up charges on their cards. If your parents do not allow you to buy Robux using credit card, the next time you go shopping at a retail store like Target, ask to get a Roblox gift card. Once activated at register, you must go to the Roblox website and redeem it onto your account. To create your own games, you can purchase Builders Club, which is a paid software that allows you to code and design games. This is another reason to have a gift card redeemed on your account. If you like to play games, you may like it; however, if you don't like games, maybe Roblox is not for you. In conclusion, Roblox is an astounding entertainment for all ages, whether you want to design or play user-made games for free.

Review: Movie: A Dog's Purpose

By Aniya W., Grade 5

A Dog's Purpose was a sad but funny movie. Although I cried the entire time, the movie was truly amazing. At times it's happy, and then it's sad or leaves you on a cliffhanger. It's about a dog who experiences different lifestyles as different genders, different breeds, different jobs, and different lives. So that means the dog had about 5 lives which were completely different. In its first life, he is male and he meets a boy who wants to have him, but the parents are not sure because they don't want to have to buy stuff and take care of a dog. After some persuading, the parents finally agree to take him in. They are best friends to the moon and back, but sadly, all good things end. In another one of his lives, she is a female police dog. Her caretaker is really lonely, and the dog is just what he needs. In another one, she is a girl and she's a Corgi! A Corgi is a dog breed. But the women taking care of her give her pizza instead of dog food, which isn't healthy. Overall, I thought it was a great movie made by Lasse Hallstrom, and would recommend it.



Review: Website: Learning Ally

By RJ O., Grade 5

Learning Ally is an audiobook app that allows you to download and listen to books. Some books even have different voices for every character, which makes it fun to listen. While others don't like the different voices, some people enjoy hearing different sounds of voice going into their ear. You can use the app to search an author or title of a book and it will show up. Also, most of the books are free! It's a good app for people who have dyslexia, have trouble reading, or are blind and can not read non-Braille books. I also think it adds magic to the stories. You can imagine what you hear from the audio and make a "movie" in your head. I prefer to imagine a movie in my head with a book in my hand more than I imagine a movie with an audio book, though. However, I like the ease of the system to search for books in the app. In conclusion, I think Learning Ally is a great app for everybody to enjoy stories.



Book Review: Encyclopedia of Monsters

By Julia W., Grade 6

What happens when you compare a book to help you understand things with a book of monsters? It's like thinking that, for example, chocolate and grapes are gross (of course, not to everyone), but when you taste that combination of flavors, it creates heaven! The book is all about monsters, and as the title would suggest, tells you all about them. What I found interesting are the very useful, brief description of those monsters. I have read the book numerous times yet I still enjoy reading it over and over again.

Some of the silent monsters are really on the edge of distinction in your mind. Not all the monsters are evil and not all pages are about monsters. Some pages are about ghosts or mythical creatures. For example, a poltergeist that is in the book, would have to be a legend to read because it's a bit spooky, but in general the poltergeist active ghosts. Also, not all the monsters, ghosts, or mythical creatures are discrete. For example, the Loch Ness Monster is a mythical sea creature; you may have heard this from somewhere before.

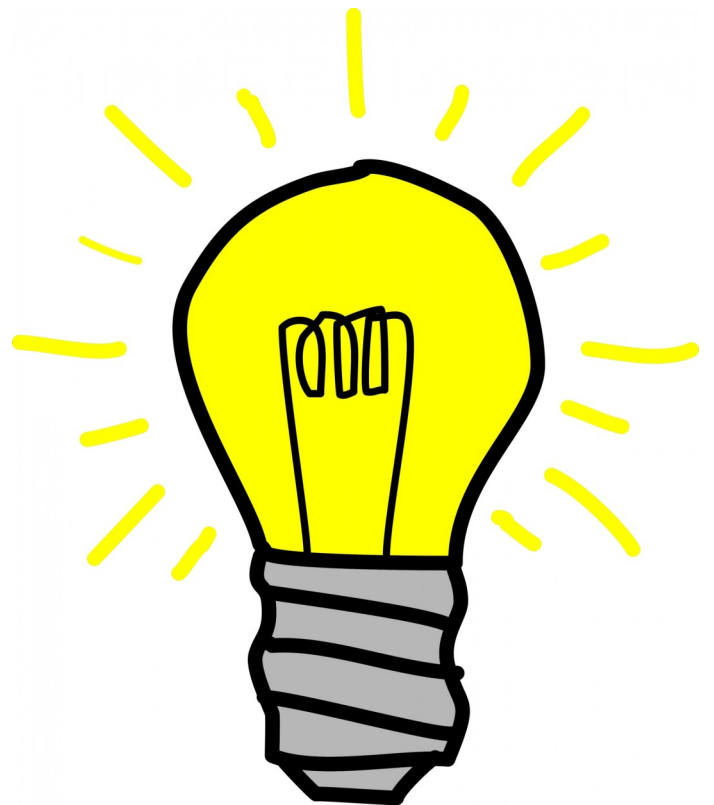
I think this book would be very suitable for people who enjoy spooky content. But, be warned: the monsters might scare your socks off! Hope you'll enjoy the book if you decide to check it out in stores or library.

Inspirational Quotes

Chosen by Steve A., Grade 6

"It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace."

- Agnes M. Pharo



Comics

The Angry Pebble!!

Inspired by Liza Koshy



You see that oval on one of the those Lillipeds? Yeah, well that's me.



My name is Bruce. I'm a very, super, extra mad pebble. Pebbles, just a pebble.



Oh, and over there are the rocks. They're all popular. Even ants like them.



But, no one likes me. Not even fish. They all say I'm loud or something. What do they mean?



They're cool kids. I'm just a piece of the background. Doesn't that make me feel mad. It doesn't even make sense.



Every Body Rocks, But Me

By Julia W., Grade 6

Creativity Showcase



By Matt R., Grade 8

Word Search

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

Word Bank:

Snow
Cold
Igloo
Christmas
Marshmallow
December
New Years
Skiing

Snowboarding
Snowman
Snowflake
White
Kwanzaa
Reindeer
St. Lucia Day

By Tej P., Grade 5