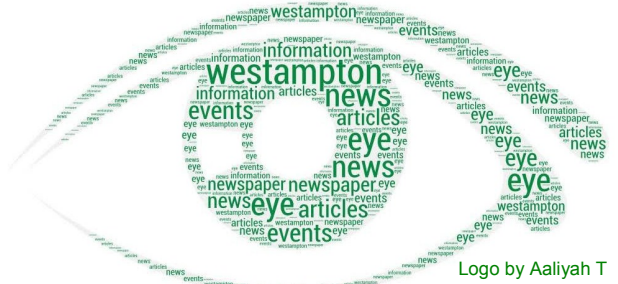


The Westampton Eye

Aaliyah T., Editor in Chief • Hailie Anne W., Design Editor
Editorial Staff: Alexis C., Assata A., Saniya S. • Ms. Soult, Advisor

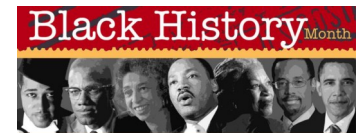


Please see page 12 for an important announcement from Mr. Andris!

Celebrating Black History: African American Read-In

By Alexis C.

WMS participated in their first African American Read In. As you may remember from Holly Hills, the African American Read In celebrates African American authors during Black History Month (February). This National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) sponsored event consists of having guest readers from the community come in to read to students. Students from NJHS and Battle of the Books, parents, grandparents, community librarians, and both the former and current mayor of Westampton came to our school to read to our students. The event was planned by our school librarian, Ms. Soult. It took place at WMS on Friday, February 3 during all Language Arts classes. Some of this year's featured reads were *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson, *Stella by Starlight* by Sharon M. Draper, *Harlem* by Walter Dean Myers, and *A Picture of Freedom* by Patricia McKissack, all of which you can check out at the school library media center. What did you read in celebration of the Black History Month and the African American Read In?



New Year, New You: Our Resolutions

By Hailie Anne W.

People all over the world welcome each year with New Year's resolutions. Some are easy to achieve and some may be a bit more difficult. I interviewed several WMS students to hear their resolutions for 2017.

Alexis C. said she would like to study better. Another student, Noor E., had a resolution do better in school. Saniya S.'s resolution was to be more organized.

In comparison to national resolutions, the most popular in the U.S. were become healthier, get more

organized (which was also popular at WMS), live life to the fullest, learn new hobbies, spend less/save more money, travel more often, and read more.

New Year's resolutions encourage people to change for the better. Just trying to improve one thing at a time could go a long way and cause you to have a better year!



Bullying Prevention and Awareness

By Alex M.

Bullying has been a big issue in schools for decades. Going back to the 18th century, peer-on-peer harassment was just as commonly seen as it is today. Of course, during that time, bullying was newly recognized and little understood. What may be seen as violent behavior today might not have been in that time. While bullying in schools remains a huge issue, throughout the years several events and studies have taken place that have made a significant impact on bullying and have expanded its meaning in many ways.

An important thing to know is what

to do when you are a victim of bullying / cyberbullying. It is best to ignore because the less you respond, the more likely they are to stop. Another thing to know is what you can do to prevent bullying/cyberbullying. You should be careful who you friend or accept into your inner-circle, try not to spend too much time on social media, and stay away from group chats. Kids should know how to cope; you will need to use all your resources. Do this by blocking, de-friending, letting a trusted adult know, and taking pictures or having copies of the offense.

"Kids sometimes try to brush off their bullying by saying they were

just kidding or joking. It's only a joke if both parties are laughing," Ms. Malecki, school counselor said. She is a great consultant for these kinds of problems. A trusted adult like Ms. Malecki, Mr. Andris, Mrs. Herriman, or any other teacher is there for you.

If you tell an adult about being bullied, it will not make the problem worse. When you tell an adult, they will make sure it will be anonymous and find help. So remember, consult any trusted adult, use all resources to stop the person, and discover your personal coping preferences.

**Editor's Note: Mrs. Malecki had been contacted for this article, and is a wonderful resource for WMS students.*

WMS Lip Sync Battle Review



By Riley S.

This year was the first ever Lip Sync Battle at WMS. The tryouts were held on November 2, 2016. There were 12 teams trying out for the battle. Two weeks after tryouts, students discovered who made it. One thing that surprised the kids was that teachers could have groups, too. There were 8 teacher groups but they did not have to try out. Alternatively, they had to find a group that they wanted to be in and tell the student council representatives, Ms. Crass

and Ms. England. The night of the Lip Sync Battle, they had a long lunch table in the back of the audience for the groups that weren't performing at that time. After a group was done performing, they walked to the back of the stage, out to the hallway, and to the back table. There would be about 2-3 student groups, then 1 teacher group. Winners were determined by a sound app in Dr. DiSalvo's phone that would see how loud the crowd was cheering for each group. The winning group got up to 112 decibels! The student group who won were

eighth graders Jenna P., Erin H., Maddi M., and Brinda P., who sang "Baby" by Justin Bieber. The teacher group who won was Ms. Giordano, Mrs. Kline, Mrs. Mara, and Ms. England who sang "24k Magic" by Bruno Mars.

Congratulations to all winners and participants!



STEM Exploration: Mission to Mars

By Saniya S.

Create a school. Put it on Mars. Those were the orders our WMS Mission to Mars team was given. Simple, it may seem, when you disregard Mars' severe weather patterns and hurling dust storms. Unfortunately, that wasn't an option. This STEM project, released by AJ Juliani on November 28th, asked students in a K-12 setting to create a prototype school that could potentially be placed on a recently colonized Mars. Participating students from ROGATE and STREAM had to discuss potential threats and safety procedures that could either make this school a success, or completely demolish it. There were many aspects of Mars'

composition that the team had to take into consideration, such as weather patterns, seasons, daylight, resources, etc. Any component that was not thoroughly researched or taken into liability would destroy this school if it really was placed on Mars.

The Mission to Mars team was limited to using cardboard, construction paper, glue, and duct tape. With the donated items they received, the team had to construct this school once they had an outlined plan and a final blueprint. The given due date was the December 22, but due to a few absences, the team missed the contest deadline. However, our team did not give up, and kept building the school for the rest of WMS to view.

To present our final design, our videographer, scriptwriter, and narrator created a video highlighting the several components of the building-- the wind and solar energy component, the entrance and main building, and the dome. Our team did an amazing job creating the school. Click the link below (online version) or type the URL into a computer to watch the video presentation of the Official Academy of Mars.

<http://westamptonlmc.weebly.com/16-17-stem-contests.html>

Team Members: Hailie Anne W., Ezekiel W., Emily S., Aaliyah T., Aleksandra K. (also our videographer), Logan B., Saniya S. (also our narrator), Aidan S., Jimmy T., Saul W. (script writer), Kyle M., Nick M., Saige J., and Julia W.

As we transition to our bi-monthly newspaper, each edition will recognize two teachers who have made an impact on our school. We would like to congratulate **Mrs. Kish** and **Ms. Soult** on receiving the Staff Spotlight for January/February. These teachers have made an outstanding impression on their students.

Be sure to vote for the March and April Staff members on our Google Form, sent to your WMS G-Mail.

January Staff Spotlight: Mrs. Kish

By Noor E.

Mrs. Kish is a 5th grade Language Arts and Social Studies. She has also worked with 4th graders at Holly Hills; however, she prefers teaching 5th grade. She also tutors students after school. Mrs. Kish expects that her students try their best and never give up. You can often see her former students enthusiastically greet her in the hallway, or visit her.

"Mrs. Kish is fair and so organized!" commented Hailie Anne W., a student of Mrs. Kish for both 4th and 5th grade. "She was always nice to everybody and was a really cool, nice teacher," added Alex M., another former student.

Before she started teaching, Mrs. Kish was an accountant. She thought accounting was very unfulfilling and sought a new career where she could make a difference. After

resigning her accounting job, Mrs. Kish went back to college and majored in education. Since then, she has been working at Westampton School District for 14 years.

Mrs. Kish likes to hike, garden, and spend time her children and grandchildren. She appreciates the consideration of the students who voted for her.

verb
adverb
noun
pronoun
adjective
vowel
consonant



February Staff Spotlight: Ms. Soult

By Saniya S.

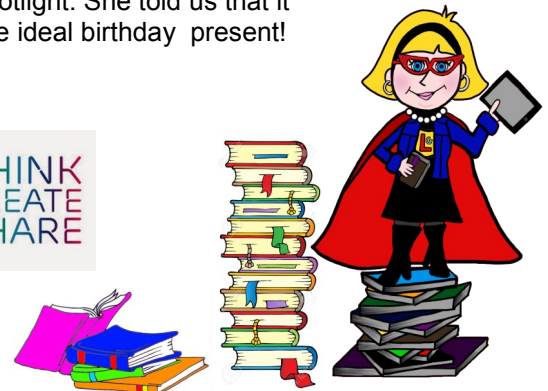
Ms. Soult is the library media specialist at WMS. In addition, she is the advisor for many of the enrichment programs offered at our school, such as ROGATE, STREAM, Battle of the Books, Gold Satori, newspaper, and special STEM projects. She expects each of her students to strive for their personal best. It does not mean being the smartest in the class, but always trying your hardest.

Ms. Soult been teaching for seven years, with experience teaching students in grades five through twelve and community college. She has been teaching at WMS specifically for two years. As a child, Ms. Soult loved visiting the

public library and also benefited greatly from the skills she acquired in ROGATE and from her influential teachers here at WMS and RVRHS. These factors combined inspired her to study journalism in undergrad, earn her Masters degree, and become a librarian.

In her spare time, Ms. Soult enjoys travelling, photography, reading, crafting, playing videogames, and hiking. She is honored to be chosen for this month's spotlight. She told us that it was just the ideal birthday present!

THINK
CREATE
SHARE



Students Abroad: Hungary

By Zaya M.

In June 2016, I went on vacation to Hungary. Hungary is a central European country bordering Slovakia, Croatia, Romania, Austria, and Ukraine. From the East Coast of the U.S.A., Hungary is an 8 hour trip by plane. I took a nighttime plane, so I was practically asleep the whole time. When we got to Hungary, we arrived in Budapest, the capital. It is a bustling city like NYC! Budapest was very fun because there was lots of ice cream, like gelato, which is a very soft, rich ice cream. It was fun to be in a city with new cultures and delicious food.

The next town we went to Siofok. It is on Lake Balaton, which is the largest lake in all of Europe. It was very clean and nice, and my family enjoying swimming in it. I got to do a wipeout course in the middle of the lake, which was very exciting! We also rented a small boat to ride further into the lake. The boat had a slide, which my sister and I enjoyed for the two hour rental, which was plenty of time to have a lot of fun.

The next morning we drove to a town

called Haviz. This town had relaxation baths, filled with cleansing mud. After my family spent the day relaxing, we bought stuffed animal cats and had more ice cream. By the time we got back to the hotel, I had already eaten three ice cream cones!

After Haviz, we went to Badacsony. This town was opposite of Siofok. As you can see on the map, Siofok is on the eastern side of the lake while Badacsony is on the western side. This Lake had tiny waves, unlike Siofok which had no waves at all. Then, we drove to some relatives' houses. Most of them lived without air conditioning. We were in the house where my grandfather was born and we also were at my grandfather's sister's house, and she had a raspberry field in her backyard. She made me and my sister raspberry juice. After 7 relatives' houses, I had eaten at every single one. Boy was I full!

Finally, we went back to Budapest. There was a waterpark in our next hotel called Aqua World. There were waterslides for the whole family. After spending two days at

AquaWorld, we went to another hotel in Budapest. There we met my mom's cousin, Timi, and her husband, Peter. All of us went out to dinner and had a lot of fun. Two nights later, we had to go back home. Going to Hungary was a great experience!



Support Staff of the Year: Mrs. Moody

By Krysten W., Zaya M., Tatiana M.

Mrs. Moody is a preschool aide who won Support Staff of the Year. We took some time and interviewed her regarding her thoughts on receiving such an honor.

Question: How does it feel becoming Support Staff of the Year?

Answer: "I am overwhelmed!"

Q: Were you very surprised when you realized you

won?

A: "I was completely surprised when I heard my name."

Q: What have been your most memorable classroom moments?

A: "I love my job and enjoy the preschoolers every day, they are so cute and sweet and bring me so much joy."

Q: How does this change your life at WMS?

A: "Being named support staff of the year doesn't really change my life here at WMS, it just makes me more appreciative of everyone."

Teacher Of The Year: Ms. Crass

By Ian M.

Recently, someone special at Westampton Middle received the Teacher of the Year award for the 2016-2017 school year. The winner? Ms. Crass! Ms. Crass is one of the mathematics teachers for 6th and 8th grade, and has been teaching here for 3 years. She also is one of the advisors for the Student Council. The *Westampton Eye* reached out to her about winning this prestigious award, and here are some of her thoughts:

What was your first reaction when you heard your name on the announcements winning Teacher of the Year?

When I first heard my name announced, I was very surprised! We have so many amazing teachers at Westampton, so I was not expecting to hear my own name. I was thrilled, though!

Simply put, how has this award made you feel?

Appreciated. It's nice to have your hard work acknowledged!

How long do you think you'll remember this moment?

Forever!

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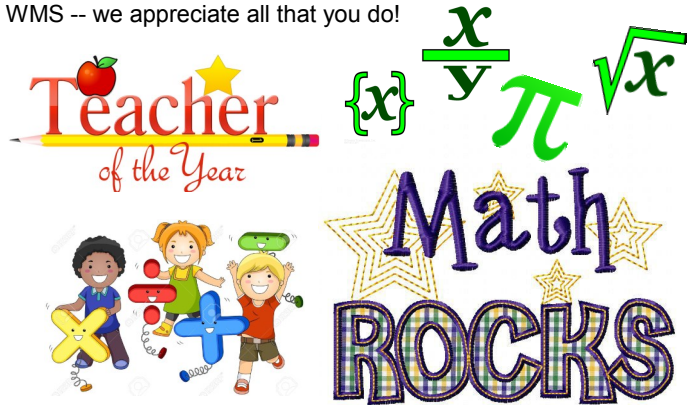
What has been your proudest teaching moment?

I am proud when I hear my students say that they like math. I know that math isn't everyone's favorite subject, so I love knowing that my students are having fun while learning!

How do you believe that your mother reacted to your accomplishment?

I think my mom is very proud. After all, she is the reason I decided to become a teacher! I think knowing that she was the inspiration behind me becoming the teacher that I am must make her very happy.

Congratulations to Ms. Crass from the students and staff at WMS -- we appreciate all that you do!



Valentine's Rocks!—Rock Candy Recipe

By Sophie L.

Make red colored rock candy on a stick. It's a sweet treat for everyone. Here's a recipe to make it. Please have a parent or guardian watch you and help you, as this does include using a stove.

- 1 wood skewer
- 1 glass jar
- 1 cups water
- 1.75 cups sugar
- Food coloring

Prepare your skewer by wetting it and covering it completely in sugar then let it dry. Prepare your jar beforehand by taking a clean jar and hanging your skewer from the top. Make sure the skewer or thread is hanging about an inch from the bottom of the jar. When you start making the candy, start by bringing the cup of water to a boil. Add your sugar in then stir and let it dissolve. Let the sugar boil for about 10 more minutes before turning the heat off. After 10 minutes of boiling, take the pot off the burner and add in the food coloring.

Let your sugar solution cool for about 10 minutes and then pour it into one of your prepared jars using a funnel. Secure your skewer from the top and make sure it's sturdy. Once you have your skewer hanging in the jar, don't move it. Wait for the sugar to harden and enjoy your homemade rock candy!



Festive Recipes for February

By Zaya M.

Do you like to cook and bake? Even if you think you can't, here are some delicious and easy recipes to bake in February.

Heart Salad

Ingredients

- Strawberries
- Watermelon
- Pomegranate
- Raspberries
- salad tongs
- Bowl
- Heart-shaped cookie cutter

How to Make it

Cut each fruit into heart shape with cookie cutters and put all hearts into bowl. Mix

them up with the salad tongs. Enjoy!

Mini Love Cakes

Ingredients

- 3 cups of flour
- 1 egg
- 1 cup of milk
- red or pink food coloring
- small bowl
- Spoon
- Microwave

How to Make it

Pour three spoonfuls of flour, one egg, one cup of milk, and red or pink food coloring into the bowl and mix. Put bowl into microwave and cook for two minutes. Be



careful taking the bowl out, and cut into slices. Enjoy!

Cupid's Hearts

Ingredients

- Oreos
- Frosting
- Ice tray
- Freezer
- Plastic bag

How to Make it

Crush up Oreos in the plastic bag, then evenly pour the Oreo crumbs into the ice tray and put in freezer for two hours. Let the Oreos sit in room temperature for 15 minutes and then form Oreos into heart shapes. Finish off by coating the hearts with pink frosting. Enjoy!

Lady Giants: Reigning Champs!



By Aaliyah T. and Tony T.

Congratulations to the WMS Lady Giants basketball team for a successful 2016-2017 season under Coach D. Carmichael. The Lady Giants had an amazing 17-1 (17 wins & 1 loss) season.

The girl's basketball season lasted from 11-17-16 until 2-7-17. On December 12, the girls fought to compete in the playoffs. Many athletes and parents spoke to the Board of Education, and the team performed well enough to qualify for the playoffs.

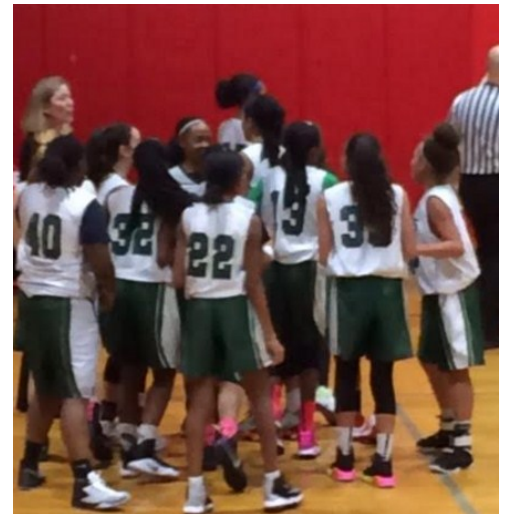
In the end, the girls went to and conquered the championship game at

Rancocas Valley Regional HS on February 7, 2017.

Congratulations to Alexis M., Alexis L., Cierra H., Michayla C., Kylie B., Assata A., Jimmie A., Isabella L., Aaliyah T., Rayven H., Sophia M., Elsa K., Nevaeh B., and Tiana R. on a great season!



Right: A team huddle at the championship game. Photograph by Tony T.



Below: Two perspectives on the exciting championship game

Spectator Perspective	Athlete Perspective
"I thought it was a good game. Right off the bat I thought the Giants could win."	"The most important thing was to not have any nerves. It was great to be able to win the championship after fighting so hard at the BOE meeting and on the court."

Sports Poll: NFL

By AJ G., Tony T., and Nick M.

The Westampton Eye Sports Poll is back again, asking students "Who is your favorite NFL team?" There was a whopping 86 votes for the Philadelphia Eagles. The second place was the New York Giants with 67 votes.



Logo	Team	Votes	Logo	Team	Votes
	Philadelphia Eagles	86		Washington Redskins	17
	New York Giants	67		New England Patriots	16
	Pittsburgh Steelers	42		Baltimore Ravens	15
	Dallas Cowboys	37		Seattle Seahawks	12
	New York Jets	32		Arizona Cardinals	7
	Miami Dolphins	27		Green Bay Packers	6
	Carolina Panthers	22		Indianapolis Colts	2



Above: results from the poll

Senior Citizen's Dinner in Review

By Krysten W.

Senior citizens in our community were treated to dinner and music at the WMS Senior Citizen Dinner. There were many refreshments for the citizens to eat while enjoying the show. Some of our school's small instrumental ensembles played "Up On The Housetop," "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas," "Silent Night," and "Joy to the World" directed by both Ms. Beekman and Dr. DiSalvio. The chorus sang "Frosty the Snowman," "Jingle Bell Rock," "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." The citizens enjoyed all of the students' performances and the holiday cheer our students provided. It was an enjoyable time for everybody who participated.



Quirky Holidays



Fruitcake Toss Day

Date celebrated: January 3rd
By Zaya M.

During Christmas, some people get fruitcakes. Some eat the fruitcake, some just toss it in the trash, but the rest save it for January 3rd, to throw it around as far as they can.

The origin of the holiday dates back to 1995. The first toss of fruitcake was in Manitou Springs, Colorado. People try to toss the cake as far as they can. Whoever can throw it the farthest wins. Celebrators even put their face into the cake when they've lost!



Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day

Date Celebrated : Last Monday in January
By Krysten W.

Feeling a little stressed lately? Then this day

is definitely made for you! Pop some bubble wrap with us! This day is made for people who had a stressed day or just need to get their madness out. Maybe you're an adult, child or grandparent who is going through struggle. Grab some bubble wrap at the store and get to poppin'. If your friends are feeling stressed, grab some bubble wrap and get them poppin', too. You'll feel better once you pop the bubble wrap, so grab some and join the fun!



National Hugging Day

Date celebrated: January 21st
By L'Nasia B.

This day is for people to give hugs and share feelings toward one another. Also, on this day it doesn't matter who you hug, it's about why you hug—which is to show love, care, and peace. A simple hug can warm someone's day if they were feeling morose. It may seem awkward, but it is a way to show a friend you care. Hugs can alleviate our stress and calm us down. There's other health benefits, too. Scientists have discovered that a single hug for a sick patient will lower

severe symptoms, whereas the patient can get healed quicker. That goes to show that when you hug someone, everything changes!



Peculiar People Day

Date celebrated: January 10th
By Jada G.

Are you peculiar? Then this is a day for you! Peculiar people are unique and extraordinary. Peculiar characteristics can have conflicting views on if people feel they are good or bad. We should celebrate our differences and the things which make us unique. Do you consider yourself peculiar? To celebrate, make some popcorn and maybe watch *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children!*



Students of the Month—December & January

By Jada G.

December

5th grade

- Ashton P.
- Micaiah J.

6th grade

- Austin R.
- Imani M.

7th grade

- Jason B.
- Mya F.

8th grade

- Chris R.
 - Cierra H.
- Musician**
- Rosie G.

January

5th grade

- Zaya M.
- Jayden L.

6th grade

- Harken R.
- Jaden H.

7th grade

- Jessica B.
- Kelton B.

8th grade

- Melanie N.
- Nicholas G.

Musician

- Avery H.

The Music Scene: What's Hot for 2017

By Hailie Anne W.

Are you a music fan or listen to any of the following artists: Lorde, Charli XCX, Bebe Rexha, Ed Sheeran, Sia, Calvin Harris, or Taylor Swift? Well, you are in luck! These artists and many more will be releasing new albums in 2017.

Not all artists have announced what they will be calling their new albums yet,

but Sia has released her album title: "We Are Your Children," which was released early in 2017. According to Metacritic, the release date of Bebe Rexha's album "AYF (All Your Fault)" was January 17, 2017; Big Sean also came out with an album called "Decided" on February 3rd.

There are many other artists coming out with new music this year, too. To find

your favorite artists' album release dates, you could check out iTunes at <http://www.apple.com/itunes/charts/>.

iTunes Charts



Above: Top songs in February 2017



App Review: Super Mario Run

By Ian M.

The new game *Super Mario Run* is breaking records in app stores everywhere since its release. *Super Mario Run* had an astounding 37 million downloads within the first week, topping *Pokemon Go's* 7.5 million. However, the public has mixed ideas about the new installment, such as if the app is worth \$9.99.

This is a big development for Nintendo, as it answers the long-awaited push to get their content on mobile devices. When Beta was released, IGN Entertainment revealed that there will be a 'free demo': the first 3 levels will be free, but the other 21 will cost money. The game is based on the original Super Mario game, where

Princess Peach is captured by the despicable Bowser, and Mario resorts to save her. "Engadget" praised the graphics of this game and stated "replayability should be excellent." *Time* magazine noted "simple, and the gameplay is rich and addictive."

User reviews have not been as generous. Over 54,000 reviews have been written on the Apple App Store, but only with an average of 2.5 stars. Mainly, the public's criticism to the game is the cost of Worlds 2-6, which is \$9.99. According to macrumors.com, critics say "Nintendo's argument has always been that the cost will help assuage parents' worries about their kids overspending on in-app purchases, but many users have now taken to the App Store to give the

game a low score because of its cost." Interestingly, Nintendo's stock has plummeted by 13%, possibly as a result of a disgruntled fan base.

I downloaded the game to see what it was all about, and 'sacrificed' the \$10 for Worlds 2-6. In my opinion, the game deserves a 4 star review. I feel *Time* and *Engadget's* reviews were spot-on, and the game was worth every penny. The graphics are outstanding, there are almost no bugs, it has simple controls--it's fantastic! What are your thoughts? Do you think it's worth the money?



Book Review: The Red Queen

By Alexis C.

The book *The Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard was a phenomenal example of literature. *The Red Queen* takes place in a war-torn world: those with red blood, and those with silver. Those with silver blood, or Silvers, wield a variety of powers and are given positions of authority and royalty. Those with red blood are powerless and live practically as slaves to Silvers, and are forced to take part in

the war. When the main character, Mare Barrow, becomes stuck between the two worlds, she must try to help in the war while also trying to understand herself. Filled with plot-twists and deception, one quote from this book comes to mind: "Anyone can betray anyone." A book filled with excitement and plot-twists, *The Red Queen* is one of my top recommendations for this year.



Movie Review: Rogue One, A Star Wars Story

By Brendan C.

After almost 20 years of waiting, fans finally got what we wanted: a good *Star Wars* prequel. The movie (rated PG-13; runtime: 2 hours 13 min), takes place between episodes 3 and 4 and centers on Jyn Erso (*The Theory of Everything's* Felicity Jones), a girl whose father was taken away from her at a very young age by the sinister Orson Krennic. Now she finds out that her father is working on a "planet-killer," a weapon we all know as the infamous Death Star. After

discovering this, she sets out to not only find her father, but to help stop the Death Star with a team of other Rebels, played by Diego Luna, Riz Ahmed, Donnie Yen, Wen Jiang, and Alan Tudyk.

At first I was skeptical; after all, if they failed their mission to steal the plans, the events of Episodes 4, 5, 6, and 7 would not have unfolded, so I knew how it would have to end. However, director Gareth Edwards, who also directed the 2014 reboot of *Godzilla*, took advantage of what he was given to create a well-made, well-structured chapter in the *Star Wars* universe

that will leave audiences dazzled long after the credits roll.

Final Rating: A+



Tech Review: iPhone 7

By Tatiana M.

Have you seen or heard about this new technology? The iPhone 7 has wonderful updates and a lot of people traded in their iPhone 6 as a result.

So why are people upgrading? A couple of reasons are cosmetic, like color and quality. People especially prefer the jet black iPhone 7 to its predecessor. The iPhone 7 has many cool new features, too, such as the clear view camera lens and

being waterproof. Apple says it is officially waterproof and can be submerged 1 meter deep for about 25 to 30 minutes.

However, some people have a huge problem with the new iPhone 7. While the majority of people say that the new piece of technology is totally safe and has no flaws, some say it could be unsafe. Apple claims the iPhone 7 is waterproof, but is that really true? Scientists, on the other hand, say the new iPhone 7 can't even handle a splash of water! It is

important to note the warranty does not cover water damage, either.

What do you think of the iPhone 7? You could find more interesting facts at <http://www.techradar.com/reviews/phones/mobile-phones/iphone-7-1327947/review>.



Advice

By Sophie L.

"I can't stay organized. What should I do?"

A way to keep organized is to get some jars to keep pencils, pens and other objects together in your locker. Another good thing to have in your locker is a dry erase calendar. It helps keep track of what you need to do. You can also consider a letter tray, which keeps certain papers in one place, or an accordion

folder. Another option is to get drawer dividers or a tray organizer for your home desk so you have a small place for your paper clips, staples and supplies. Finally, you can also get a cork board where you can hang stuff up (like a calendar or study guide) that you need to do. I hope this helps you stay organized this year!

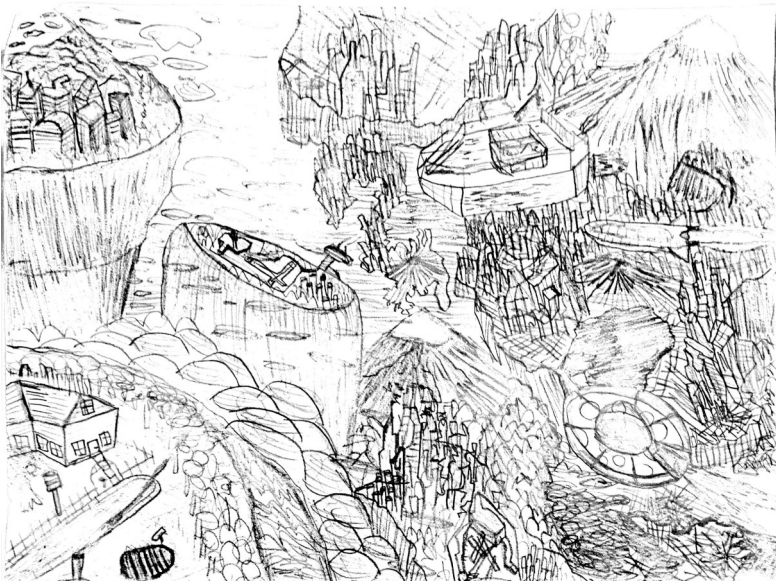


**Editor's Note: Mrs. Malecki is consulted for this column and is a wonderful resource for students.*

Have a question you would like answered? Fill out an Advice Slip in the library for a chance to have your question published in the next issue!

WMS Creativity Showcase

Art submissions judged by Haillie Anne W. and Mrs. Greeby; Written submissions judged by Aaliyah T. and Ms. Soult



By Matthew R.



By Krysten W.



By Matthew R.

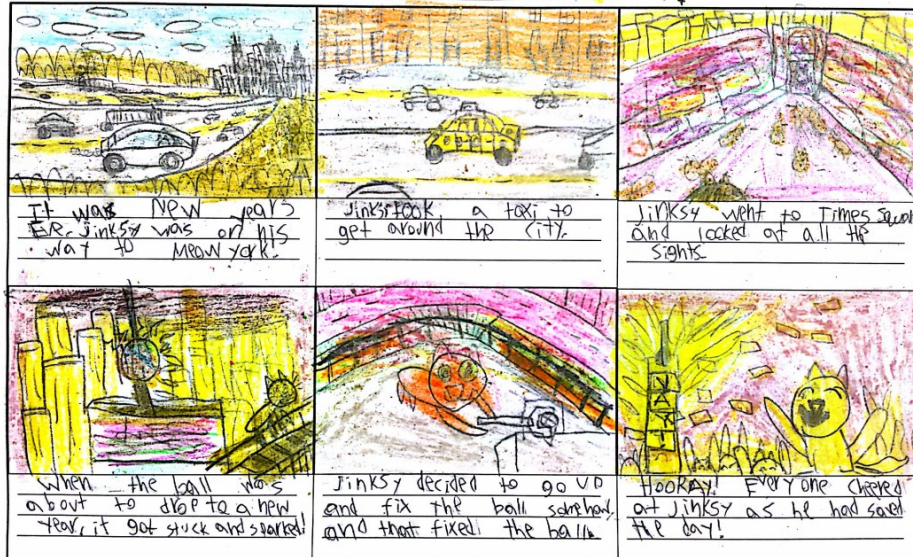
About the Creativity Showcase

By Alexis C.

The Creativity Showcase is a competition open to every student in Westampton Middle School. Students are allowed to submit a large range of mediums including, but not limited to: inspirational quotes, photographs, poems, drawings and short stories under 250 words. The rules are that the piece must be original and appropriate; students can't submit pictures of other students, portraits, or selfies, as the newspaper goes online and such would be a privacy concern. Students will be expected to submit their piece in the box in the library which is clearly labeled at Ms. Soult's desk. Written submissions can be shared via Google Docs. For any additional information, please contact Ms. Soult in the library.

Comics

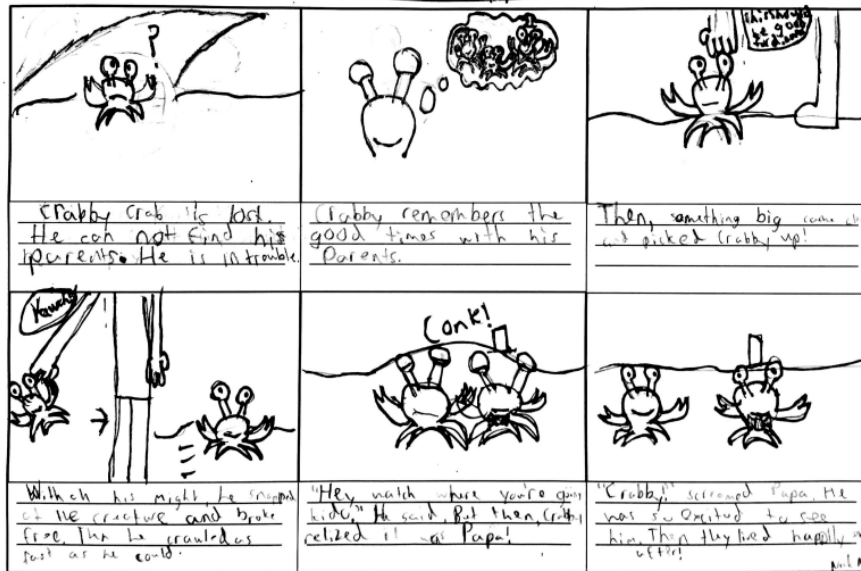
JINKSY



By Matthew R.

Crabby Crab

By Nick M.



By Nick M.

NAEP is Coming to WMS!

An Important Announcement from Mr. Andris

“The Nation’s Report Card and You”

Soon you may notice some of your classmates receiving hall passes to excuse them from class on February 22, 2017. You will probably wonder: What are they for? Where are these students going?

A select number of our 8th grade students (62 to be exact) have been chosen to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress, also known as NAEP. You may be thinking that NAEP is just another test, but it’s not. NAEP is different from our state assessments because it represents students across the country.

Ever heard of The Nation’s Report Card? That’s NAEP. The assessment results are released as The Nation’s Report Card, and they help the President, Congress, and all of our educators make decisions about how to improve our education system. NAEP is what the general public will hear about on the news when reporters discuss what students are learning.

The actual assessment takes about 120 minutes. During that time, students will take an assessment in mathematics or reading on tablets or in paper booklets. All students will be asked questions about their educational experiences that may be related to performance, such as homework and reading habits. Student scores are anonymous and will not affect student grades or academic records in any way. Instead, they will be combined with the

scores of other students to produce results that reflect student capabilities nationwide.

Students who are selected to participate in NAEP have an important job to do. NAEP will provide a national snapshot of what students have learned in school, and it is essential that students take it seriously, try their best, and answer all the questions they can.

If you would like to see questions or results from past NAEP assessments and learn more about NAEP and why it is important for students, check out NAEP on Twitter and Facebook, or visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/students>.

