



Paw Print Newspaper

Official Ridgedale Middle School News



Nov 2023

71 Ridgedale Ave, Florham Park,
New Jersey- 07932

Issue # 5

THE BOYS BRING HOME THE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW

By: Sarah Schmit
Staff Writer



Photo credit: Mr. McParland

The Boys Soccer Team is starting their season on a great note. The 2023 RMS Boys Soccer Team is made up of 25 players, with 18 of them being 8th graders, and the rest underclassmen. The team is led by Mr. McParland, and he helps the boys become better soccer players on the field. He says, "This team has delivered the whole season. They secured the #1 seed in Group 2 and just need to FINISH this with 100% effort and heart." Their team works 100% on the field and works together as a team. The record is 12 wins and 1 loss this season.

The team is led by 4 hard working captains, Ryan Medich, Dylan Sugg, John Roper, and Mark Perillo. They start their games strong, with their defense lineup, including Ryan Medich, Daniel Raphael, Lucas Gambino, Dylan Sugg, and Dylan Brown. They lead their team throughout the whole game. A motto from the team is, "Protect the turf" and "Our House."

These boys are amazing on the field. A special shout-out to Peter Garing with the leading score of goals, and John Roper with the second most goals scored. On October 3rd, the boys had a home game against Parsippany Central and they had a great win! The final score was 5-0, which was scored by James Byrne, John Roper twice, Francesco Maffei, and Adan Gjonbaldj.

The boys once again walked off the field with a win! The team is gearing up to defend their Group 2 title at the end of October! The team is strong, so they will be able to defend their title and continue to represent RMS. On November 2nd, the boys won the championship game!

They worked one hundred percent on the field and never gave up. The boys soccer team defended their Group 2 Morris County title with a 7-0 win over Wharton. The team stampeded through the bracket with 8-1 win over Lincoln Park, 7-1 win over East Hanover and a Championship blanking of Wharton. In the Championship game, Peter Garing continued his amazing goal-scoring with 5 goals, Mason Marchal and Francesco Maffei also hit the back of the nets for the Panthers. RMS goalie Mark Perillo posted the shutout saving all 5 of Wharton shots.

The boys did great on the field in all positions. Ryan Medich, Dylan Sugg, Dylan Brown, and Daniel Raphael were beasts on defense, clearing all Wharton scoring attempts. Johnathan Berry, James Byrne, and Jon Roper were relentless all day in attacking goals. According to Mr. McParland, this was the most successful 3 year run of any boys team in RMS history. They compiled a total of 42 wins over three seasons, Congrats Boys!!



Ridgedale Goes to Rockettes

By: Lily Broyer
Staff Writer

It's November, which means it's time for the Radio City Rockettes to start their Christmas Spectacular Performance in New York City! You can buy tickets for the show on Ticketmaster, or buy tickets online on the Rockettes website. Tickets cost from \$49-\$649 depending on the date, time, and your seat. The show dates are November 17, 2023 - January 1, 2024. If you go see the Christmas Spectacular on December 19, 2023, at 8:00 P.M, you can see our very own RMS Select Choir open the Rockettes performance! We interviewed a Select Choir member, and Mrs. Lynch who is in charge of the choir, and this is what they said! First, we interviewed Sofia Ritrivi, an 8th-grade Select Choir member who has been doing select choir for three years.

We asked her, "Are you excited to perform at the Christmas Spectacular?" She said, "Yes, I am very excited and grateful for this opportunity." We also asked her how long she has been doing Select Choir and she said, "Since sixth grade." Next, we interviewed Mrs. Lynch. First, we asked her how the rehearsals are going and she said, "Our rehearsals have been going well after one month of practice! Our singers have been working hard."

There are still a lot of little things we need to clean up and polish though." Another question we asked her was her expectations for the performance, and she said, "All students audition for a spot in Select Choir. Since this is a group that also travels and represents RMS and Florham Park, one of the things people might not know is that our students in the Select Choir also sign a contract that includes behavior and attendance expectations."

Sergeant Rich: Making a Difference!

By: Emily Dwyre
Staff Writer

RMS had an assembly on November 1st. It was on cyberbullying and social media. Sergeant Tom Rich came to RMS. He has a business called, "Always Connected." He goes to multiple schools around the country and teaches many lessons. When he was at RMS, we had a great time, he told stories, showed some funny videos, and interacted with us students as well.

I asked some students questions about the assembly: "How did you feel about the RMS assembly?"

Ella Adochio said, "He made it fun by telling us stories about other kids and teaching us lessons about them." "What did you learn the most about at the assembly?"

Riley Magee said, "To be safe online."

"What was your favorite part about the RMS assembly?"

Savanna Bronsnick said, "When he was showing videos of his kids."

He showed us how to be safe online. He proved that it is dangerous by telling us stories about bad things that happened online. He showed us that we have to be responsible online and to never talk to strangers. I learned that you should always be yourself. He showed us a video about kids and teens and their differences, they were all insecure.

Overall his assembly taught us all a lot of important information about online safety and always being yourself.

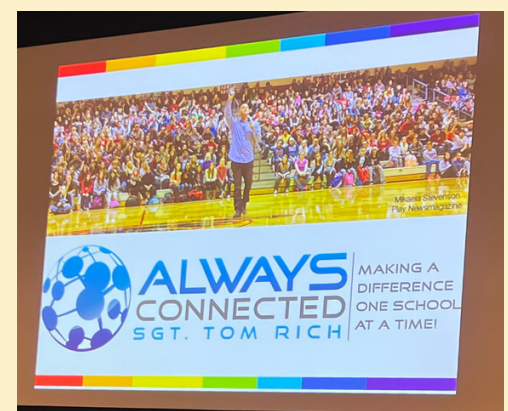


Photo credit: Ms. Mehta

By: Elizabeth Bambe and Sonia Ouksili
Staff Writers

Fall Festival

RMS had an assembly on November 1st. It was on colorful leaves of all colors fall off the trees and cool, crisp air is the start of a new season. The Fall festival was a great success for all across the community! Children enjoyed their time as they played with the farm animals and ate sweet treats. We had many volunteers from Ridgedale who saw the behind-the-scenes from start to finish. Lily Broyer, a volunteer at the festival said, "I volunteered so I can help out the PTA."

She volunteered at the popcorn station and enjoyed working with her friends and learned that you should always be prepared and on task when working on an event.

Idris Muhammad, a volunteer who helped at the Glitter Tattoo station, said, "I wanted to volunteer to help the young kiddos and make sure they're safe." He also says, "I thought the fall festival was a great way to help people and get their minds off of their troubles and stress." Idris thought the fall festival was a success.

As you can see, everyone enjoyed and loved the great, exciting event. Even with the volunteering, kids had fun, got snacks, and did much more. Kids surrounded the farm animals and everyone was amazed at how the goats quickly ate their meal. The PTA and committee brought amazing activities to the festival, such as bouncy houses, an ice cream stand, popcorn, a mini train ride, and an entire petting zoo! This was an amazing experience. I hope you were able to enjoy it as much as we did!



*Photo credit: Natalie Priore
Courtesy: Mrs. Krno*



Sports



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Girls Soccer: Season Summary!

By: Riley Magee

Staff Writer

As you might have heard, the Girls' Soccer Team has had an amazing season, making it to the final. They played their very hardest until the whistle was blown. They competed against Booton in the first round of playoffs, ending with an outstanding win of 10-0. They moved on to the second round of playoffs, going against Central Stirling, the number one-seeded team in the tournament. This was a tough game, ending in a 1-1 tie, forcing them to go into a penalty kick-off.

After 13 penalty kicks and lots of ups and downs, they pulled through with the win. The next stop was the championship game against Chester. On a fresh, brisk November afternoon, the championship took place. The girls put in their best effort but came up short against Chester. The team had a terrific season working and playing as a team.

Here is the inside scope from the coach and captains. When the new head coach, Ms. Shelus, was asked how she felt the team was doing this year, she replied by saying, "They are coming together and bonding as a team, which is great. Diversity has created new opportunities to develop new friendships, and skill-wise, they are doing well." The captains, Natalie Kelly, Bree Bertoline, Makalya Ferraro, and Taylor Martin, were asked the same question and shared similar thoughts about the team.

They started this year as a rebuilding year, since they lost some very skilled players from last year and started the season with new coaches. The captains also added that they still believe what the team is doing is good and persevering. The team looks forward to another competitive season



Photo credit: Taylor Martin

Little League Baseball

By: AJ Rossi

Staff Writer

This summer, The FP/EH Hornets made it to the regionals in Bristol, Connecticut to represent NJ. They played against other states like Rhode Island, New York and Connecticut for a chance to go to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Teams go through stages to go to the Little League World Series. The team has to go through district, then sections, and finally if they win states, then you go to a regional tournament where states will fight on ESPN for a spot in the biggest stage of the Little League World Series. The Hornets (team NJ) went to the regionals but lost to New York and Rhode Island, but beat Connecticut. The reason why it's so exciting is because you play in front of thousands and hundreds and thousands of eyes watching on the biggest broadcasting channel in the world, ESPN.

In regionals, there are a bunch of cool things such as breakfast, practice fields, the main field, wiffle ball fields, concession stands, batting cages, pizza at 9:00 pm every night, and the best part, team dorms. The team dorms are 12 beds with a coaches room, bathrooms and showers.



Photo credit: FPlittleleague.com

Also, there were ping pong tables and even a pool. The team played against Connecticut and won 3-0, and then that night, they went to the field to watch New York against Rhode Island. Instead of just 1 region, Bristol hosts 3 regions, which consist of the Metro Region, which is New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and team NJ. The New England region consists of Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire. The last region is the Mid-Atlantic Region, which consists of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and Washington D.C. When teams weren't playing, they would trade pins. You would get 21 pins and trade them to other teams for their pins.

In conclusion, The Little League World Series Regional Tournament was very cool and a great experience, and if it was that good, I wonder how Williamsport is, which hosts the Little League World Serie.



All About the Falcons!

By: Ella Adochio & Sophia Adesso
Staff Writers

The 6th Grade Football Team

The 6th grade Falcons have had a great start to the year. The A Team is on a winning streak, the B team is getting up there. Both teams are working hard for victory. The Head Coach for the football team is Tony Bassolino. The team has great strategies, and they work together. The team chants, “We’re ready” before every single game to get pumped up and hyped. Marco Priore says, “The team works together to pull out a victory.”

The 6th Grade Cheer Team

The cheerleaders for the Falcons have amazing coaches. The 6th grade team is led by Ava Adochio and Ally Massarano. The team always has a good spirit and they are always excited to cheer for the boys. The girls are learning new stunts every day, and they are putting hard work in every single practice and game, no matter what. The coaches have helped so much with stunts, making practice fun, and having everyone included!



The 7th Grade Football Team

The 7th grade football team is led by Head Coach, Rob Gossweiler. They are undefeated, and always ready to play. They have awesome teamwork and a chant. They say, “Break down the hut” to get them pumped. So far in the season, they are 5-1. When someone scores a touchdown, the football team jumps in the end zone.

The 7th and 8th Grade Cheer Team

The 7th and 8th grade cheer team is doing well! The cheer team is led by Amanda Cosentino, Jada Quiantela, Sofia Gossweiler, Sienna Quiantela, Mia Zirpoli, and Leah Solano. The team is doing really well. Their half time dance and their stunts have gone very far! These girls worked so hard learning new things to cheer for the boys!

The 8th Grade Football Team

The 8th grade football team is led by John Sugg, John Miscia, Paul Cosentino, and Mikey Fillipone. They are all incredible coaches! The team is hard working and they are doing very well. They have a record of 2-3. Instead of a chant, they count to three and say, “family.” Michael Miscia says, “A couple of things that I enjoy from my team are building relationships and hanging out outside of football!”





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Cross Country Participants
Photo credit: Mikaela Tall

CROSS COUNTRY

By: Mikaela Tall

Staff Writer

Cross Country is a fun sport. Ridgedale Middle School has a great Cross Country team and has won a lot of awards for winning championships for the sport. RMS has many amazing sports teams, and the Cross Country team is amazing, too. If you are interested in the Cross Country team, you have to try out. There are tryouts for the away team, and everybody that wants to do Cross Country is automatically on the home team. The away team travels far for races, but it's worth it because they win a lot of them. The practices are from 3:00-3:30, and meets can be from 3:30-4:30 or 4:15-5:30.

At the end of the Cross Country season, there is the Great Race and each grade for boys and girls Cross Country goes against other towns and it's over 100 kids. After that, the championships are on. 7 girls and 7 boys compete in the championships. It's the hardest course and race you will ever run because the track is usually about 1.7 miles. The track they run is mostly in the woods, where it's muddy, roots from the ground coming out everywhere. It's a great challenge and really fun to do, so be sure to sign up!



Winter Sports



WRESTLING

By: AJ Rossi

Staff Writer



Winter season here!

Wrestling is a great sport. It takes conditioning, strength, a growth mindset, and it's an all rounded sport. In wrestling weight and age are considered. Wrestling is a great sport because you not only become stronger, but you learn great technique and strategy.

If you train, you could be a great wrestler. My coach says, "If you practice hard in practice, the match will be easy." We look forward to a great season.

GIRLS AND BOYS BASKETBALL

By: Amelia Vodala

Staff Writer

This year, we've got an exciting season of basketball. Coaching the boys is Mr. Ring, and coaching the girls is Mr. McParland. The Morris County league in which RMS plays in is very competitive, and the girls season consists of 14 regular season games and playoffs. The boys season is 15 games, and the postseason is a county wide tournament against other schools in group 2.

Girls basketball tryouts are on November 3rd and 4th, while boys tryouts are on November 13rd and 14th. In tryouts, players will be evaluated on passing, dribbling drills, layouts, shooting, one-on-one drills, scrimmaging, and running. Teams are usually made up of 15-18 players.

This year, we have a lot of new people trying out. One of the 6th graders, Max Hillman, said, "I am practicing and very excited to try out." He also said that he is very excited to have a chance to play with older and more experienced players, and for the chance to improve his game. Some of our returning 8th graders also gave advice. Sophia Cacavelli said, "Work hard, practice, and be patient."

John Roper, from the boys basketball team said, "Work hard, keep practicing, and if you want to make the team, try your best and show passion." Our coaches and players are very excited to return, and we're all looking forward to a great season!



Clubs



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NJHS

By: Julia Ho
Staff Writer

As the new candidates apply, current members will be starting their “Bus Buddies.” Members will sit with younger Brooklake and Briarwood kids and model appropriate bus behavior. What an exciting opportunity for the NJHS members! I remember when I was getting inducted, and it was one of the best nights. I can't wait to meet the new members of NJHS.

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) has officially started. NJHS is a selected group of students that have a 3.5 GPA or above. NJHS has started the 23-24 school year off with many volunteer hours and volunteer jobs, and the students track their hours to hopefully earn an award at graduation.

YEARBOOK

By: Stephanie Rahe
Staff Writer

Yearbook Club meets every Tuesday. They are currently gathering photos for the yearbook, and they just confirmed the cover theme-- “Blue Waves.” Everyone is welcome to join the yearbook club as it is an after-school activity. Over the months till the yearbook comes out, they work on what should be in it, how many pages, and what photos to add on each page.

They also email the parents of eighth graders to see if they want to make a page, half a page, or a quarter of a page about their child with photos and a little paragraph about their child. Most eighth graders put in baby photos as well to show how much they have changed throughout the years.

SKI CLUB

By: Carmine Core
Staff Writer

Ski Club is a club run through the town. In order to join the Ski Club you must ensure you have a seat on the bus, which holds a capacity of 100 students. Families receive emails that explain how to go through the registration process through Camelback links. The Ski Club rules, expectations, and updates are continuously communicated throughout the ski season.

When I interviewed Mrs. Krno and asked her where we will be skiing, she said that we will be heading up to Camelback Mountain which is located in Tannersville, PA. Camelback Mountain, located in the Pocono mountains, is home to 39 trails and 166 skiable acres for all ski levels. It is a whole lot of fun.

Ski club will take place after school, on Thursdays in January and February.

The ski trips will take place on January 18th and 25th and February 1st, 8th, and 22nd. Dates are subject to change due to weather.

HOMEWORK CLUB

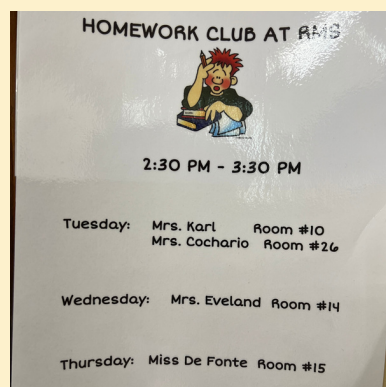
By: Grace DeSena
Staff Writer

In the Homework Club there are plenty of things to do, such as Math, ELA, Science, Social Studies, and more. When you are in the Homework Club, feel free to ask any of the teachers questions if you need help or are confused. I interviewed three students from Ridgedale Middle School who attend the Homework Club.

Students in the Ridgedale Middle School Homework Club started on October 3rd after school from 2:30 to 3:30. You can attend the Homework Club on different days with different teachers. The club is facilitated by Mrs. Karl and Mrs. Cochario on Tuesdays, Ms. Eveland on Wednesdays, and Ms. DeFonte on Thursdays. You should find a good day to fit it into your after-school schedule. The Homework Club is a great time to get your homework done with different teachers. You can do any subject in the Homework Club.

I first interviewed Lilly Tigeleiro and she said, “The Homework Club is a great place to do your work. You can get so much work done for any subject. Best of all, the teachers are always willing to help you.”

I also interviewed Jude Gondevas and he said, “The Homework Club is great because you get help from your teachers and you get to be with your friends.” Lastly, I interviewed Raiyn Peterson and she said, “The Homework Club is a great way to get your homework done with different teachers. The best part is you can also be with your friends so you can help each other out.” As you can see, The Homework Club is a great quiet space to do your work.



STEEL DRUMS

By: Dylan Marshall & Taylor Bock
Staff Writers

The steel drum players Ryan Smith, Sean Lee, Nathan Fritts, Marco Panarello, Nicholas Ritrivi, Brandon Asistido, and Allison Dolan. They will be in a section of the winter concert which is on December 14th.

They practice every Wednesday after school. Ryan Smith says, “Steel drums can be hard at first, but after practice, it gets easier.” The concert on December 14th will be an amazing event, and the steel drums are going to crush it! Be there!

ART CLUB

By: Mia Broyer
Staff Writer

Are you interested in art or after school activities? If so, then join the Art Club, ran by Ms. Bulleit. The Art Club takes place in room 17. The club does many fun activities such as pottery and watercolors.



The students will even work with 3D pens and more. The club meets every week, on Wednesdays, and all grades are welcome. The club runs from 2:30 to 3:30. The club currently has 20 to 30 members.

Photo credit: Ms. Bulleit



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STUDENT COUNCIL

By: Charlotte Renzi and Savanna Bronsnick
Staff Writers



Photo credit: Mrs. Cantwell

Taylor Martin is an 8th grader at RMS. What is a secretary? A secretary keeps record of meetings and takes care of reporting on council activities. We asked her some questions and this is how she answered. What school activities do you do? She says she is in student council, peer leadership, soccer, basketball, and ski club.

What is the President? It is A leadership role and responsible and directs meetings. Also the president's efforts on student activity events and planning, President Michael Priore is an 8th grader and ran for president and he got it!! We asked how are you going to keep our school improving and how will you keep the school nice. He answered saying he is going to improve the experience at Ridgedale Middle School by doing everything in my power. He will do donut days and many other fundraisers.

What does a vice president do? It is responsible for assisting the president and using a leadership Role if the president is not there or unavailable. Braden Edelle, our vice president! We asked Braden how he is going to help the president of our school. He answered saying he plans to help to create a tutoring program for students who need some extra help. He also talked to Michael about changing hot lunch options so that students can enjoy lunch more. He and Michael also came up with raising money for amazing things like Chick-fil-A days along with school tricky trays and guessing how many candies are in the jar. Braden and Michael came up with amazing ideas together and I think they are going to do great

What is a Facilitator? The facilitator assists in planning and makes all the plans. The last person we interviewed was Kailey Vuong. We said what does a facilitator do? She handles the bulletin boards. She also makes slides and flyers for the TVs around the school, and she is works with the PTA to organize events. I think that Kailey is going to do amazing things.

CHEMISTRY CHALLENGE

By: Rhea Thakar
Staff Writer

The Chemistry Challenge is a long going tradition here at RMS. It is something that everyone looks forward to. It includes experimenting and everything that kids are excited to do in Science. Not everyone gets into the Chemistry Challenge.

Students have to keep their grade at a 90 or above in science to qualify. Mrs. Russo, administrator for the Chemistry Challenge, says:

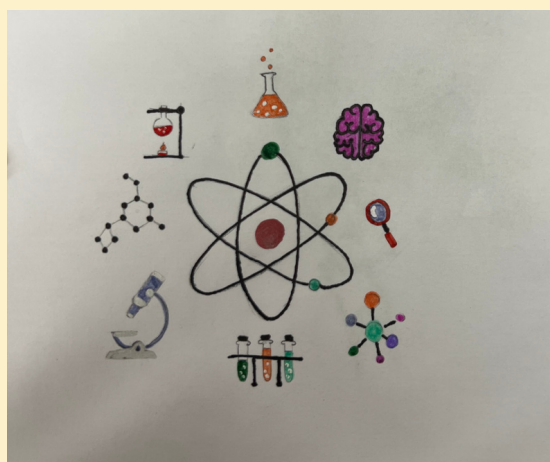
What is the Chemistry Challenge and what are your hopes for it?

“It's a long-standing tradition that we have done here at Ridgedale for decades. We compete against other schools. If we win, then it goes to the state-level competition, then nationals.”

What is your experience with the challenge in the past?

“I have done it for the last 8 years. We have had a student go to nationals in the past. We work together in teams. If you do not know chemistry that well, you can also contribute to the team. It is the greatest club ever.”

In past years, students have had so much fun and Mrs. Russo plans to keep it that way. Make sure you join!



SPEECH AND DEBATE CLUB

By: Alexey Denisenko
Staff Writer

The History Club is now the Debate Club. Instead of researching history, now we debate with other people in the club. You may ask: Why did the History Club turn into the Debate Club? Good question, the club debates because now, they are solving school problems.

Recently, they were debating on whether students should wear school uniforms. They did a vote and ended up with 50% for not wearing uniforms and 50% for wearing uniforms.

This one was a hard one for the team. For now, the club does not have an answer for that one yet. The Debate Club is very fun and a good opportunity to learn to debate and practice speaking with others about a specific topic. The club will have more good things to debate about as time goes on.

Photo credit: Sachin Vinod





Feature



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TECH CLUB

By: Jacob Vilarino
Staff Writer

When you first did that form at the beginning of the year asking you which clubs you wanted to be a part of, which clubs did you pick? Well, I picked Tech Club and that was a pretty good decision. Tech Club is one of the best clubs in the school. Now some people might have not picked Tech Club because maybe they thought, "This isn't for me." But trust me, Tech Club is a club for anyone, and you should try it out. One of the activities we are doing this year is building solar power cars that will compete to enter into the Jr. Solar Sprints race in May. We went to the Thomas Edison Museum for a field trip.

Photo credit: Mrs. Barta

We learned facts about Thomas Edison, the strategies he used to invent stuff, and at the end, we built a machine to fix an issue Thomas Edison had. It was a fun field trip and one of my favorite field trips of all time. That's only some of the stuff we will be doing at Tech Club this year. Meetings happen on Wednesdays. If you are interested in joining, talk to Mrs. Barta.



BOTANY

By: Marlena Kutlu and Camryn Shepard
Staff Writers

Have you ever heard of botany? Well, at RMS some people love to participate in the after school activity. Botany is the study of plants and also lots of fun. In the Botany Club you will enjoy planting and dissecting a variety of plants, such as a cactus, a peach lily, or even a pitcher plant. Botany meetings are Thursdays at 2:30 - 3:30. And even if you don't sign up, you can come whenever you want. Jordyn Stevens from Botany Club says, "Mr. Eggleston makes the Botany Club really fun." In the first botany meeting, according to

Jordyn Stevens, they dissected pitcher plants. "They smelled really bad, but we had a lot of fun working with our friends." Karl Policarpio says, "It's a very underrated club." Plants include grass, trees, bushes, flowers and more! They contain oxygen, food, energy, and medicines. They can create a habitat for animals.

Here at RMS, a pollinator garden is being installed behind the soccer field for the botany club, which will help bring in natural pollinators. At the Botany Club meeting they harvested prickly pear seeds. Prickly pears can be yellow, red, or purple. Lauren Wronko says, "I think the prickly pear seeds were very interesting. I learned a lot, and it was really fun." Botany is a great club to participate in and we hope to see you at club meetings!



New Teacher Profiles



- How has your experience at Ridgedale been? - My experience is fantastic and everyone is super nice. I like the atmosphere. I also enjoy coaching a lot.
- What are you looking forward to this school year? - I'm looking forward to seeing the pollinator garden.
- Do you have any goals that you would like to accomplish this year? - I want to make sure that the pollinator garden is used inside and outside of class.
- How do you feel being a full-time teacher versus a part time teacher? - I think it's better being a full-time teacher because I get to build better relationships with my students.
- What made you want to be a teacher? - I want to spread my knowledge and help others.



**MR. EGGLESTON -
SCIENCE**

- How is your experience at Ridgedale so far? - My experience is great. I worked in RMS before, and it's fun working with older students.
- What are you looking forward to this school year? - I'm looking forward to seeing how students can handle more responsibilities.
- Do you have any goals that you would like to accomplish this year? - I want to see many of my students do really well, have fun, be nice to each other, and form a good working community.
- How is your transition from Brooklake Elementary School to RMS going? - My transition has been good. I worked at RMS before, so I'm used to it.
- What made you want to be a teacher? - I like helping people and want to help people in the best way.



**MR. CHIARAVALLO
SPECIAL
EDUCATION**



Feature



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- How has your experience at Ridgedale been? - My experience at Ridgedale has been very positive. I have formed many close friendships with coworkers. It is nice to be back with everyone this year!
- What are you looking forward to this school year? - I am looking forward to teaching some of the students that I had last year. I am also excited to get to know some of the new students that I have in my classes this year.
- Do you have any goals that you would like to accomplish this year?- Goals I would like to accomplish are getting to know my students and some other students that I do not teach through extracurricular activities. I also have a goal to stay organized.
- Was it a challenge to come back to RMS? - It was a bit of a challenge transitioning back to teaching after having a baby. It was hard to leave my son, Luca. However, my husband is now home with him which has made the transition easier!

MRS. DALO - ELA/SPECIAL EDUCATION



MR. WARD - ELA

- How is your experience at Ridgedale so far? - My experience is good and I really like it here. I enjoy getting to know the teachers and my classes.
- What are you looking forward to this school year? - I am really looking forward to learning about my classes and talking to my students about good books.
- Do you have any goals that you would like to accomplish this year? - My goal is to make sure I can learn the most to help my students the most.
- What made you want to be a teacher? - While I was a part of a tutoring job I learned that I was good at it helping people and wanted to help people more.



MR. CROSETTO SOCIAL STUDIES

- How is your experience at Ridgedale so far? - My experience has been good. It's nice to see my old students and get to meet new students as well.
- What are you looking forward to this school year? - I'm looking forward to teaching a new topic and all the new activities at RMS.
- Do you have any goals that you would like to accomplish this year? - My goals are to be able to help each student learn about history and social studies.
- How is your transition from Briarwood Elementary School to RMS going? - My transition has been really good and everyone is super helpful.
- What made you want to be a teacher? - I want to help students grow and achieve their best potential.

- How is your experience at Ridgedale so far? - My experience is good and interesting. I am excited to see my students everyday.
- What are you looking forward to this school year? - I am looking forward to seeing my students in different clubs and activities as the school year continues.
- Do you have any goals that you would like to accomplish this year? - I would like to have my students improve by the end of the school year and I'm looking forward to seeing myself grow in the community.
- What made you want to be a teacher? - My coaches and teachers had such a strong influence on me and I wanted to help someone else.

MRS. SHELUS GYM



All New Teacher Profiles:

By: Devina Chatterjee and Leah Sherer
Staff Writers



Feature



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IN-DEPTH CONVERSATION WITH MR. STEFFNER

By: Sean Lee & Sachin Vinod

Staff Writers

RMS is heralded into another year, teachers and students having to be preoccupied with busy schedules. The same goes for the principal himself, as he plans for many new changes this year. In this interview, we cover many topics with our beloved principal and learn more about RMS.

Students across RMS always wonder what new things RMS has in store for them like new clubs, activities, and things they can do for fun. When we inquired about this, the first thing that he emphasized was a student leadership committee. This committee was made to help students raise their voice and share opinions around the school, the ideas of the committee is similar to the one of Peer Leaders. Our school this year will also be funding the installation of a pollination garden for Mr. Eggleston's Botany Club. The pollinator garden will make the activities of the Botany Club so much more enjoyable, making more people want to join it.

Our school adds a few new activities each year, some good and enjoyable and others that were simply not appealing to us students. Therefore, we wanted to know what Mr. Steffner regretted doing last year and what he does not want to repeat this year. When asked about this, Mr. Steffner told us that he believed that nothing we do at RMS should be removed; what we strive to do at RMS is treat those activities as stepping stones and improve on them to make them more fun for the students and the teachers.

Speaking of activities, Mr. Steffner also talked about what he enjoyed doing last year and thought improved the school in a positive way. Mr. Steffner thinks the students really enjoy spending time out of the classroom and enjoy activities such as the Pep Rallies, the HIC field trip, and the field day at the end of the year; Mr. Steffner also does not regret the inception and development of the Paw Print and Wordsmith, as it helps teach students several literacy skills and writing articles or reports on a topic are common in most jobs

We may not know it, but we, as RMS students, are a principal in decision-making around RMS. Mr. Steffner says ever since he joined this school, we students have played a big role in the decisions our principal makes. One idea that Mr. Steffner tries to enforce in RMS is student input around the school. Mr. Steffner and the staff often send surveys to us on decisions for student activities and other things around the school that we vote on; there is also a student council, in which the leaders are voted on by students of RMS. This committee works with teachers to decide on doing multiple fundraisers and campaigns each year. The reason why we do this is because it gives students experience in taking leadership and raising their voices, as they will have to do that later in life.

One of the most important pillars of our school is our teachers. Teachers play an enormous role in decisions made by the principal, Mr. Steffner told us that if our teachers do not commit the way they do, most of the activities we plan would not be possible.



Photo credit: Mrs. George

The only reason we have clubs after school is because teachers commit to an extra hour instead of going home. Field trips are only possible because teachers volunteer their time to chaperone; if Mr. Steffner wants to add a new course, a teacher must agree to teach it. They play a huge role in our school.

One of the key takeaways we had in our interview with the principal of RMS is the transfer of power to the collective student body. In addition to expanding the voice of students, Mr. Steffner has also mentioned the influence of teachers in decision-making. With the integration of new clubs, all staff and students can expect a different experience each year.



RMS PLAY PREVIEW: CHEERLEADERS VS ALIENS

By: Liana Banasiak and Sophia Fritts
Staff Writers

You may be wondering, “What will RMS be performing for the fall play?” The RMS Drama Club will be performing a new modern show called *Aliens vs. Cheerleaders*. This play is written by Qui Nguyen. He was the producer of last year's Fall Play, *Orange is the New Glass*.

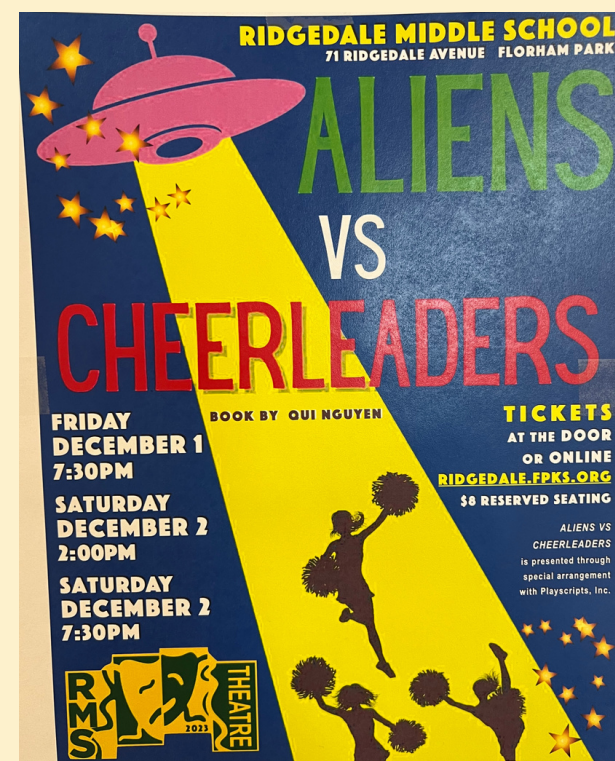
What is “Aliens vs. Cheerleaders” about? This show is about a group of aliens who abduct two teenagers. They are then led to Principal Forsman of Saint Valley High. There, the aliens encounter the Saint Valley High cheerleading squad. However, when the cheerleaders lead unsuccessful, it's up to “hipster - outsider” Molly, and her “nerdy sidekick” Louise, to save planet Earth.

We know you probably have a lot of questions about “Aliens vs. Cheerleaders”. We interviewed Ms. Harris for the inside scoop. Why was “Aliens vs. Cheerleaders” chosen as this year's fall play? Ms. Harris said, “Mostly because it was really funny, and there are a lot of interesting roles.” When and where will people be able to get tickets? Ms. Harris said, “People will be able to purchase tickets starting the first week of November. The link will be on the RMS homepage.” How much will the tickets cost? Ms. Harris said, “The tickets will cost \$8 when paid for with cash, and \$8.50 when paid for online.” Lastly, what is your favorite part/scene of this year's play and why? Ms. Harris said, “Right now it's when the aliens fry the two students' brains. I also really enjoy the pep rally scene.”

“Aliens vs. Cheerleaders” stars Nora Mannion as Molly, Kylie Mesz-Atchison as Louise, and Serafina Foley as Ya-Wi. We asked them what their favorite thing about Drama Club is. Kylie Mesz-Atchison said, “I'd have to say that my favorite part about Drama Club is the people that are in it. Because of the Drama Club, I've been able to make lots of really good friendships.” The next question we asked was how long they had been doing theater. Serafina Foley said, “I have been doing theater for 2 years so far.”

The third question we asked was how they liked the show so far. Nora Mannion said, “I am loving the show very much this fall.” The last question we asked them was why they auditioned for the Fall Play. Kylie Mesz-Atchison said, “I auditioned for the Fall Play because I love the theater, and I always look forward to doing it!” Nora Mannion said, “I auditioned for the Fall Play because I love doing theater and I'm very passionate about it.”

As you can see, RMS Drama Club's “Aliens vs Cheerleaders” has been a big hit so far. It is a funny, action-filled show with very talented actors and actresses. Make sure that you come to see the show on December 1st and 2nd. You won't regret it!



RMS BAND: HIGHLIGHT

By: Kimaya Kamdar
Staff Writer

The RMS band program is an amazing opportunity for kids at RMS! The band has two groups--7th and 8th grades and 6th grade band. These groups rehearse 2 first periods a week and practice for their showcase at the winter and spring concerts. They also have small performances and opportunities to perform in the community, such as the annual H.P. Band night. This event is for RMS and HMS students to join and play with high schoolers during the Friday night football game. Students have fun and have a sneak peek at high school at H.P.

Mr. Leone commented on HP band night:

Students at RMS have the amazing opportunity to go up to Hanover Park High School, rehearse with them, and then perform with their marching band during one of the home football games. It is such an excellent chance for our students to interact with their older peers and gain some valuable insights into what it takes to play in such a high-level group. They always end up learning so much! Each year we have had more and more kids participate, and I think this year we have about 25 kids participating. We want everyone to participate next year!

The band will rehearse some of the pep band songs that the marching band plays in the stands during the football game. These are songs like "Louie, Louie", "Will You Be My Girl", and "The Hey Song". My personal favorite instrument is the cello. I grew up playing the trumpet all of my life, but there is something about the rich, beautiful tones of the cello that have always inspired me. Any student can ALWAYS join Band or Strings here at RMS, no matter what grade they're in.

The door is always open for anyone to join. We have such an amazing RMS Music family that becomes a really tight knit community of friends. I am always so happy for any student, regardless of grade or ability level, to join our ensembles and become a part of creating beautiful music together!

The Band performs at different events such as the N.J. Devils game

TAYLOR SWIFT: THE ERAS TOUR

By: Emily Dwyre

Staff Writer

Taylor Swift made a movie after her very famous “Era’s Tour.” It is called, “Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour.” She made a movie to show everyone about her “Era’s Tour” Concerts. The 2 hour and 45 minute long movie was filmed in Los Angeles. The movie was her whole concert; she played 42 songs, showed a bunch of fans, showed the special effects that happened during the concerts as well! Makenna Kelly said, “My favorite song and album from the movie is “Reputation” and the song is “Are You Ready For It.” When asked about how she felt about the movie, Josslyn Stavrou said, “It was very fun, and I recommend it. It felt like you were at the concert.” Sarah Schmit states, “It was an exciting feeling, everyone was hyped. Everyone was standing, screaming, singing, and dancing. It was too loud though.”

It is clear the movie is a fan favorite.. Taylor swift played almost all her songs but didn't feature, “No Body, No Crime,” with Haim, “Long Live,” “Wildest Dreams,” “The Archer,” and “Cardigan,” in her movie. She did play many of the other songs she published. “Overall Taylor had a great idea and gave an amazing experience for everyone.” Lilly Tigeleiro said. e loved and created something that wasn’t what people wanted.



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

By: Gauryanshi Saini

Staff Writer

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated annually from September 15 to October 15 in the US. The celebration starts mid-September and ends mid-October and it occurs simultaneously with many Hispanic countries' independence day celebrations, like Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

They all celebrate their independence on September 15 while Mexico celebrates on September 16, Chile on September 18 and Belize on September 21. Hispanic Heritage Month originally began in 1968 for a week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded to a month in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan.

Hispanic Heritage Month is dedicated to celebrating and recognizing all the accomplishments of Hispanics and Latinos. Hispanic Heritage Month is important because it shows the contributions of Hispanic people around the world.

Photo credit: Mrs. Cuoto's Board



IPHONE 15

By: Henry Ledoux and Jacob Vilarino

Staff Writer

This article is about the brand new iPhone 15. According to reports, it has very limited features, it is expensive, and it is very similar to the old iPhone.

The iPhone 15 has very limited features. They have only made “changes to the camera,” which they make every single year. They added a button on the side which allows the user quick access to the camera. Although this is a cool addition, it is not useful. You could easily open up to the camera with a couple of seconds.

The iPhone 15 is expensive. The iPhone 15 pro is \$1,000 and the pro max, which is basically the same thing but one inch bigger, is \$1,200. Apple charges thousands of dollars for the phones, and when a new one comes on the market the older model loses its value.

Finally, the iPhone 15 is very similar to the old phone. If you put one iPhone 15 and 14 side by side in the same color people would not be able to tell the difference. If you gave someone the new iPhone, the only thing that they would say is different is the action button, it feels more comfortable, and “it has a better camera.” Ask yourself, is it worth getting the new iPhone?





HALLOWEEN AROUND THE WORLD

By: Audrey Buzza and Makenna Kelly
Staff Writers

All around the world, on October 31st (or a different date), people celebrate Halloween in many different ways. You probably heard about the most common, like costumes, candy, trick or treating, and fun! Pumpkin carving, painting, decorating, haunted houses, hay rides, and treats are what Halloween is all about. Pumpkin spice and everything nice! However, what if I told you different people around the world either don't celebrate Halloween but do something similar, or they celebrate differently than us?

Halloween is celebrated in many different ways around the world. Although in Japan, Halloween is also celebrated on October 31, it is a newer holiday for the Japanese. Not only that, but trick or treating is not popular and unheard of to lots of people. You may be wondering why trick-or-treating is unpopular in Japan. Well, it's because it is considered rude to disturb people to ask for candy, and show up unannounced to a stranger's house. In Japan, Halloween is all about the costumes. There are always BIG costume parties, street costume parties, parades, and costume contests. Also, Japan's version of Halloween is called Obon. In Japan, Halloween is more of an adult occasion rather than for kids. Japanese Halloween is known as the biggest Halloween celebration in the world

Halloween is celebrated differently in China than the United States. For example, Chinese Halloween is called the Ghost Festival. Unlike the United States, Chinese Halloween is celebrated on the 14th day of the seventh lunar month.

In China, Halloween is not commonly celebrated, it is usually celebrated by tourists and students from out the country who attend universities. Although China doesn't celebrate Halloween like we do, , they do celebrate some different spooky holidays of their own.

According to Love To Know, "They celebrate days of the dead and ghost days throughout the year. These celebrations have a religious background, and the people that celebrate believe that during these days, the barrier between the living and the dead becomes very thin." Another example of Halloween being celebrated differently in China is that there is a Halloween tradition in China called Teng Chieh. You place food and water in front of photos of relatives/loved ones. Then, you light bonfires and lanterns to light the spirit's path back to earth. This shows that China celebrates Halloween in a different way than ours.

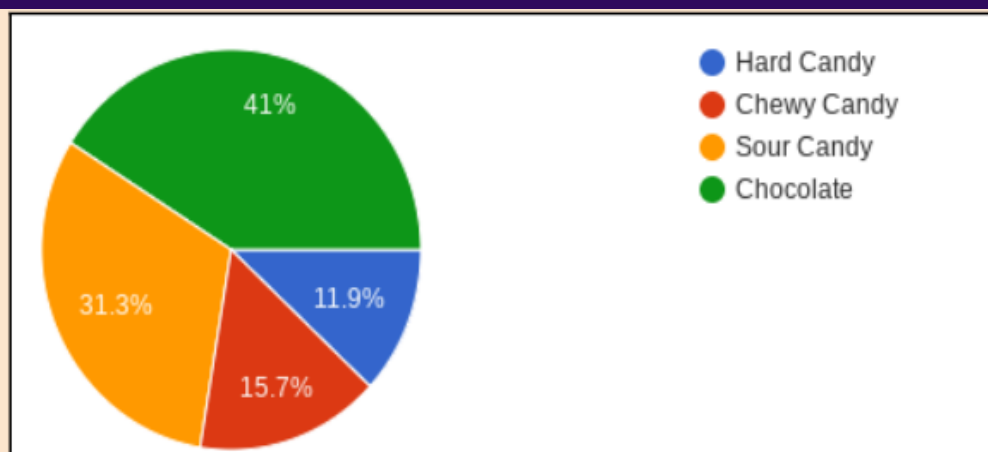
Halloween is celebrated differently in Mexico than the United States. For example, in Mexico, people refer to The Day Of The Dead as the Mexican Halloween, but they are really 2 separate holidays on 2 different dates. Another example of Mexico celebrating Halloween differently is if you're celebrating Halloween in Mexico, you will hear chants such as, "Queremos Halloween!" This means, "We want Halloween!" You may be wondering what the difference is between The Day Of The Dead and Mexican Halloween. Well, they are different in many different ways. For example, The Day Of The Dead also known as Dia De Los Muertos. It is a unique celebration that Mexico does. According to Villa Del Palmar, "It's a unique celebration dating back to the ancient Aztecs who believed the souls of departed loved ones were close by, providing guidance and comfort.

To help honor them, families would create ofrendas, altars, with food and drinks." This Mexican holiday celebrates the rich heritage of the country. For Mexican Halloween, Mexican children celebrate among friends and family, as they wear costumes, and go trick or treating. Unlike us, when Mexico goes trick or treating, they say "We want Halloween!" They say, "Queremos Halloween!" This is like how we say, "Trick or Treat!" Mexico celebrates Halloween almost the same as us. They dress up in costumes, go to houses asking for candy, eat treats, and have Halloween parties!

In conclusion, different places around the world celebrate Halloween differently. Places such as Mexico, China, and Japan celebrate Halloween differently than us. Different places around the world have different traditions, and celebrate in different ways, like trick or treating, costume parties, and more.



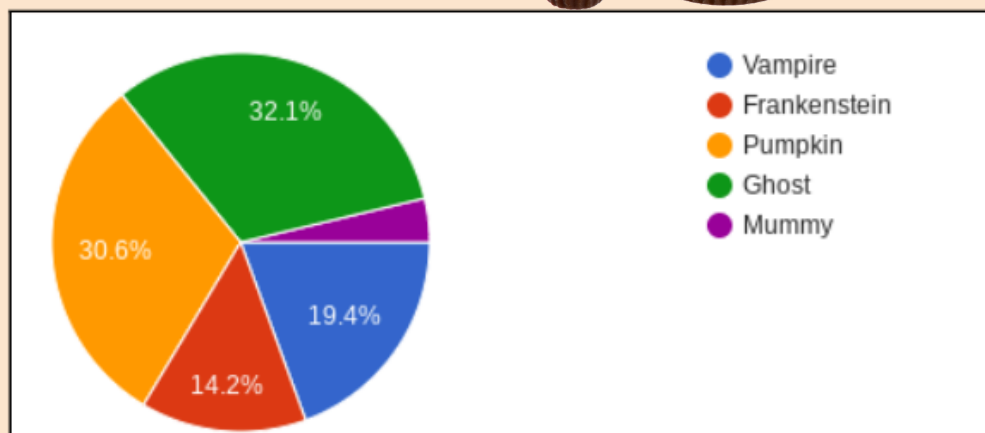
Resources: Variety of credible sources/websites



We asked people what their favorite type of candy is

Ella Adochio says, "My favorite candy is chewy candy because it has a very wide range of different candies and types."

- In 4th place, with 11.9%, is hard candy
- In 3rd place, with 15.7%, is chewy candy
- In 2nd place, with 31.3%, is sour candy
- In 1st place, with 41%, is chocolate



We asked people about their favorite Halloween character

- In 5th place, with 3.7% is a Mummy
- In 4th place, with 14.2% is Frankenstein
- in 3rd place, with 19.4% is a vampire
- In 2nd place, with 30.6% is a pumpkin
- in 1st place, with 32.1% is a ghost!

What is your favorite Halloween costume?

Carmine Core says, "My favorite Halloween character is Frankenstein."

What is your favorite Halloween song?

Makenna Kelly says, "My favorite Halloween song is Monster Mash because it is really catchy."

Audrey Buzza agrees.

Grace DeSena says, "My favorite part of Halloween is hanging out with friends."

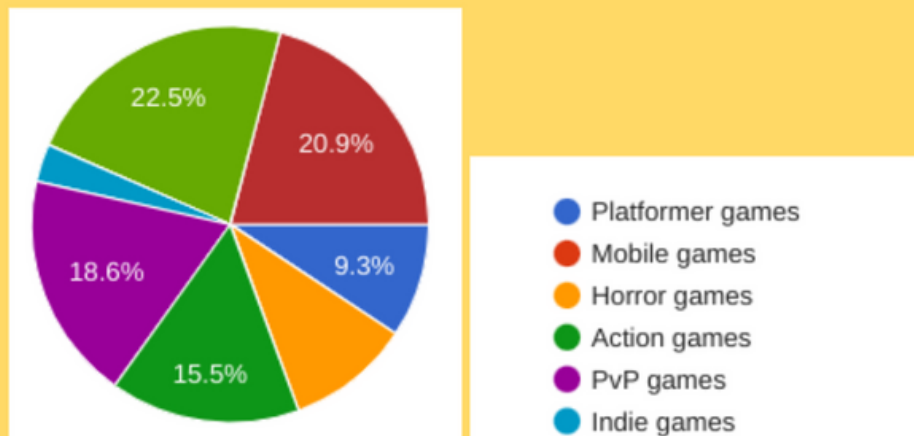




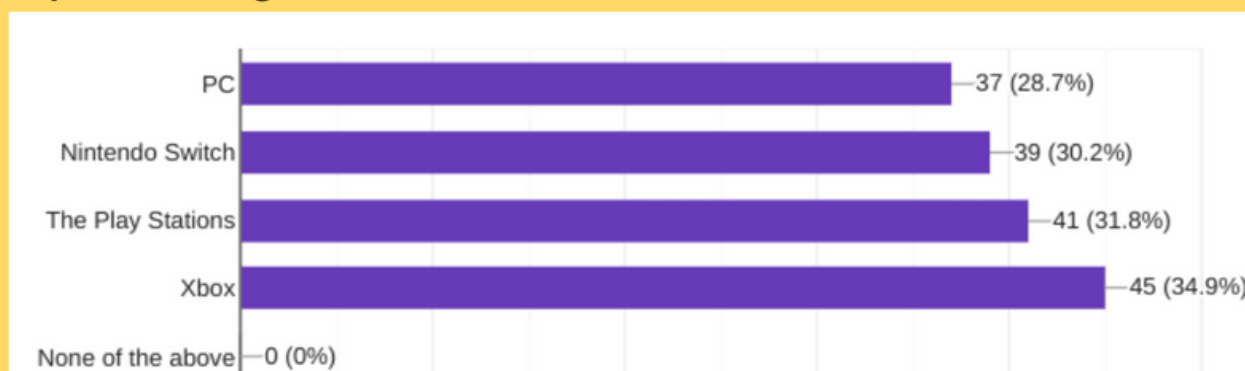
Gaming Survey

Survey by: Logan Lee

Popular Types



Popular Gaming Consoles



Weather Update

By: Tyler Johannessen and Brayden Szonyi

Staff Writers



The weather is getting colder and people are starting to wear long sleeves and long pants. It looks like we are going to have a pretty cold winter except for a few days. We are finally out of hurricane season. During the hurricane season, we had some hurricanes that reached CAT 5 out in the Atlantic. Thankfully, the hurricane pushed back out to sea, but it still made landfall in Nova Scotia, Canada.

It slowed down to a hard tropical storm as it pushed back out into the Atlantic Ocean. The hurricane was crazy. It reached a top speed of almost 200 miles an hour.



The Conflict: Gaza Strip

By: Gauryanshi Saini
Staff Writer

The history between the Palestinians and Israel stretches far before modern times. The Gaza Strip was a part of the Ottoman Empire before being occupied by Britain in 1918 -1948 and then by Egypt in 1948-1967. 20 years after Israel became an independent country in 1948, they had apprehended The Gaza Strip from Egypt and the West Bank from Jordan in the war in 1967. The Gaza Strip was occupied by Israel for 38 years, increasing tension and violence over the years, which led to a lot of riots and violence for a long 4 years. In 1993, there was an agreement called "Oslo Accords" instituted between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization, which had aimed to succeed in the "right of the Palestinian people of self-determination."

In 1994, the Palestinians became the governmental authority of the Gaza Strip. In 2005, Israel had left control over the Gaza Strip, removing 9,000 Israeli soldiers. Hamas, one of the political parties located in the Gaza Strip, has been in power since the 2006 elections.

None have been held since. The Gaza Strip's land, air, and sea have had an Israeli blockade since 2007, with the United Nations saying that the blockade is causing Gaza to gradually de-develop. Israel states that the blockade is to maintain control over the Gaza Strip's borders.

The Gaza Strip is considered dense, as it is double the population of Washington DC, with a population of 2 million. World Bank statistics show that Gaza has the highest unemployment rates in the world, the United Nations estimates that around 80 percent of Gaza's residents depend on international aid for basic necessities. This is an ongoing geopolitical issue that is growing by the day.



Resources: The Washington Post

NFL Week 5 Recap

By: Danny Mitchko, Dante Bagnara, and Matthew Gallant
Staff Writers

Records and facts.

The NFL season is just starting up, and it's very clear what teams are the best. The San Francisco 49ers are off to a hot start going 5 - 0, and so are the Philadelphia Eagles starting off 5 - 0. On the other hand, the Carolina Panthers are having a bad start going 0 - 5. Meanwhile, in the AFC, the Kansas City Chiefs and the Miami Dolphins are at the top with a 4 - 1 record. The Dolphins will be a tough team to beat later on in the season, especially because they beat the Broncos 70 - 20 in week 3. This year the Super Bowl is going to be hosted in Las Vegas, Nevada at Allegiant Stadium.

The New York Jets and the Giants

Our home teams, the New York Jets and the Giants, are not having the best start. First of all, the Jets traded for Aaron Rodgers, but in the first five plays, he tore his Achilles and ended his season. The Jets were one of the Super Bowl contenders because of their defense and their offense, but now we hope Zach Wilson will come in clutch. The Giants quarterback Daniel Jones left the Dolphins with a neck injury, and a bunch of other players are hurt with ankle sprains and other injuries.

The NFL Early Predictions Based On Week 5 Stats

The NFL is just starting up and even though it is only week 5, we already have a good picture as to who will make the playoffs and who might make it to the Superbowl 58 in Las Vegas. Right now, there are only two undefeated football teams that happen to be in the same conference, the NFC (National Football Conference). The teams that are undefeated are the San Francisco 49ers and the Philadelphia Eagles. These teams are favored to make it to the NFC championship, one round before the Superbowl. In the AFC (American Football Conference), the Kansas City Chiefs have 4 wins and 1 loss, they have the highest AFC power rankings, and they have made it to the AFC championship 6 times in a row. The



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