



The Knightly Times

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Digital Dilemma in Virtual Classroom

By: Mahreen Hydari



As we know, the Coronavirus pandemic started in 2019 and has stayed with us. Coronavirus is a very deadly virus and has caused a lot of death and suffering throughout the world. Coronavirus can spread by air so it is important for everyone to keep their distance from those who are not part of their family or their household. This resulted in schools closing throughout the world including New Jersey. As in-person schools closed, the classes had to go virtual. Students had to learn a new way of studying and how to deal with studying from home. The schools went virtual initially in March so the end of last year was spent from home for many teachers and students. Since no one was ready for a big change like that, it was very hard for everyone to adjust. Everyone needed to have a computer and internet at home. This is not the case for every student so it may have taken a while for everyone to get going. Once students were able to get online, they had to learn a new learning platform which was different from anything they may have been used to. The schedule also changed so students had to get used to starting at a different time and connecting to different classes. The overall school time shortened and a thing called small group was added to help students with their weaknesses in school. Because of online learning, there is also no longer lunch in the cafeteria and instead, you have to eat at home. Also, there is no longer any recess which means less socializing. That means you are not able to have any social interaction with your friends and others that you know.

Another important thing that has changed is the way the students are tested during school. Since all tests are now virtual, students have to go through a process that they might not be used to. The quizzes may be sent to them in Google classroom and they have to then open it, and stay continuously on video. Preparing for a test is also harder since now you don't have any in-person interaction with the teachers or the students which makes it harder to ask questions and to prepare for the tests.

Although a lot has changed in this time and all has been difficult for students and teachers, we are fortunate to be able to continue learning during a time like this.

Animal Crossing: New Horizons

By: Sana Gupta

Imagine landing on a deserted island where bugs, fish, and the sounds of nature and villagers greet you. You are welcomed by Nook Incorporation, and they show you around the island. You learn that you can make items using DIY recipes, which can help you catch bugs, and look for fish. As you explore more, you'll learn more information. This is the game of Animal Crossing: New Horizons.

Animal Crossing: New Horizons released on the Nintendo Switch and iOS through Animal Crossing: Pocket Play in March 2020. Additionally, Animal Crossing: New Horizons has many new features compared to older Animal Crossing versions. For example, there is a feature that you can get in



the game where you can change the layout of your island by changing cliff shapes and adding waterfalls. Moreover, you can also expand your shops and get more villagers, or neighbors. There is also an island rating system, so you can plant flowers, place DIY furniture, and get more villagers. Throughout the game, there are also festivals for festivals celebrated in real life such as Halloween, Christmas, Thanksgiving, and New Years'. Each festival has a different event that you can complete, with different characters that ask for things like ingredients for Thanksgiving and candy for Halloween. This also makes the game more interactive because the player is able to interact with the different characters in the event and in the game.

My favorite part about this game is the island rating system because you can figure out what things make your island rating go up or down. For example, too many trees or too little flowers can impact your rating. But, if you have an equal balance of stairs, villagers, flowers, trees, and DIY furniture, you can get a 5-star rating, which is the highest rating. Moreover, figuring out how many of each item you need is very fun, and this experimental process can take a while, but the result is worth it.

California Wildfires

Thousands of People Are Evacuating From The Extreme Fires Currently Burning in California

By: Evelyn Fu

The 2020 California wildfires have burned down more than three million acres of its land. It has also stretched past California into other states such as Oregon and Washington. With more than 20 fires every day in California, firefighters continue to battle the extreme fires endlessly. Thousands of people have been forced to evacuate from their homes due to the uncontrollable fires leaving many towns and homes burned down.

The August Complex fire in Northern California which started on August 17th, now became the largest fire in the state's history. A tree was hit by lightning, causing a fire to erupt. This happened in the Mendocino National Forest and has expanded up to more than 417,000 acres. The fire had begun as 37 different fires which had killed a firefighter and had burned down 26 different constructions. This is not the only fire, but more than 8,836 fires burned in California making 2020 the biggest wildfire season in California's history.

What Causes These Fires?

These large California wildfires occurred for a lot of reasons. Many of these fires started off small, but began to massively spread because of the high winds and heat. A small spark can easily turn into a huge conflagration for many reasons. The first reason the California wildfires are burning so badly is because of climate change. California's climate has gotten hotter and hotter in the recent years. The hot and dry conditions had made it very easy for large wildfires to burn down many structures and vegetation.

In the last ten years, nine out of the ten biggest wildfires in California's history have occurred and nine out of the ten hottest years recorded have happened since 2000.

The high winds also cause the wildfires to spread rapidly. The gusts of wind pick up the fire and carry them to other locations, sparking new flames for the firefighters to fight out. The wind also increases the supply of oxygen which makes the fire burn more rapidly. A few months ago, a number of fire tornadoes had come from the Loyalton Fire. "It's not like a typical tornado where it happens, everything clears out and you go and safely investigate," Dawson Johnson, the National Weather Service meteorologist told the *New York Times*. "In this case, there's a massive wildfire burning in the same location so the logistics are a lot more complicated."



Wildfire Evacuations

More than 90,000 Californians were forced to evacuate from their homes as the wildfires continued to spread throughout the state. Many also did not follow the guidelines and didn't evacuate because they did not have anywhere to stay or they decided to wait and see how much the threat the fire was. A lot of residents changed their mind after the fire and decided that it was best to follow the guidelines when evacuating because of the damage to their homes. It is very important to follow the safety procedures while evacuating.

These are some important steps to follow during an evacuation:

- Listen to emergency officials: if they say to evacuate, leave your home immediately
- Ensure that a wildfire action plan is prepared ahead of time
- Shut off the gas
- Make your home easy to spot
- Wet down your house
- Shut down all the doors and windows, leaving them unlocked
- Shut off air conditioning

These preparation steps can be very important during a wildfire evacuation. It can affect your family and home significantly to keep you as safe as possible. Jesse Strickland and his family were among thousands of people to evacuate from the Silverado Fire. As they drove away from their home on Monday, Strickland saw the orange glow of the fire peeking through the thick smoke, one mile away from their house. They were forced to turn around and drive back, finding another route from where they came from.

"We, fortunately, evacuated earlier this morning around 10ish. Took extra time to get on the freeway, but it was not too bad as they are now," he told *CNN News*.

Even though the California wildfires destroyed thousands of acres and evoked many evacuations across the state, they are now largely under control. Firefighters are working very hard to contain these extreme fires. Quiet, dry, and mild conditions continue through much of the week, but experts warn that the fires are still not fully contained. There are still many large fires burning throughout the state so it is very important to be alert of these wildfires and evacuate immediately if it occurs near you.

You Ready For A Puppy?

By: Simran Bhasin

Have you ever thought about bringing a companion such as a puppy home and thought how on earth you were going to care for the man's best friend? Or what were the pros and cons of owning a puppy? If these questions have swarmed in your mind before bringing your new puppy home, then this is the right article for you.

For starters, to own a pet like a puppy, you need to understand that caring for one can be difficult at times. For example, your fluffy friend is an animal with needs. It may be the perfect thing to cuddle with during a stressful time, and to hug when you are feeling down, but your dog needs rest (especially when at a young age). Your pet needs water and food. Good quality dog food is highly recommended. Once you have bonded with your puppy you will start to realize that your little friend will start to seek love from you! You want to show your dog that you can provide that love. Caring for your dog is a way to bond with your puppy. Make sure your dog is fed two times a day.



Watch out for the ingredients, and make sure that meat is included first when the ingredients are listed. When training your puppy, keep in mind that training can be frustrating. Never scold your puppy. It will not understand why you are yelling and fear you.

The main difficulty about caring for a dog is when you train one. Especially during potty training and crate training, since they are the most important for your dog to be taught and are tough to teach. Another challenging thing is that you need to make sure that you and your family are ready to have a dog. On top of that, if you decide to get a dog, you have to think of the price of the breed that you want and the price of all needs of that breed. Researching about your breed is a good idea when talking about expense. Something else to think about is when your dog makes accidents inside the house. Or when it is easier said than done for finding care when you are away for vacation.

On the other hand, puppies are really cute and fun to cuddle. After a period of time, your puppy will soon become attached to you and will follow you around! Note that in order to bond with your puppy, you first have to build its trust. Don't get frustrated if it takes time for your puppy to trust you. The love will form when the puppies are ready. Dogs are a good companion to be with and they make sure that you are not lonely. Dogs always make sure that you are happy. Another astonishing thing is that you get to spend all your holidays with your dog and have a good time. You also get to go places and make memories!

All things considered, even though there are many cons, it is still a joy to own a dog.

And The Album of the Year Goes to...

By: Jiya Ashar

Ever heard of the 4 member group, BLACKPINK? Well, you should check out their newest album. The Album dropped on October 2. It has some really good songs that you may or may not like. In some of their songs, they have collaborations with other music artists. Even though they are a k-pop music group, they have been #2 on the BillBoards chart with this very album!



Now, some people might think that their album name seems a little uncreative, but I can assure you that the songs inside are better than you ever imagined! It has everything: rap, pop, and chill. You can see how they made it and how hard they worked on it. You might think that because they are so famous that they do not work hard, get caught up in their fame, and do not care about anyone but themselves. Well, you are very wrong. They do care a lot about their fans at concerts

to make sure that they do not get hurt and are safe. You can feel all that love, passion, and hard work in their latest album.

Global Warming: Why The World is Heating Up?

By: Ananya Mahidhara

Earth's glaciers are losing 390 billion tons of snow and ice each year. The temperature of the Earth has increased 1.62 degrees Fahrenheit, and 2016 was the warmest year ever recorded. So, what exactly is the cause behind all of these problems? That would be global warming.



What Is Global Warming?

Global warming is the eventual heating of Earth's surface, and it happens when carbon dioxide (CO₂), greenhouse gases, and air pollutants collect into the atmosphere. These gases are released into the air as a result of the burning of fossil fuels. The pollutants and gases absorb solar radiation and sunlight. The radiation can usually escape into space, but these pollutants are strong, and they can last for years and years. The greenhouse gases trap all the heat in the

atmosphere, causing Earth's surface temperatures to rise, resulting in global warming.

What Causes Global Warming?

Now the next question is, what exactly causes global warming and the rise of temperature on Earth's surface? The heating of the Earth is caused mostly by greenhouse gases and carbon dioxide. But where are these gases coming from?

The gases that are causing the Earth to heat up are a result of human activity. The burning of fossil fuels such as coal and oil are resulting in an increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This surplus of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are collecting in the atmosphere. These gases absorb sunlight and trap heat, causing global warming.

Another cause of the gases in the atmosphere is deforestation. Vegetation and plants have carbon dioxide stored inside them. When humans cut down trees and other plants, all the carbon dioxide that is stored inside them get released into the atmosphere, resulting in the increase of these greenhouse gases.

What Are the Effects of Global Warming?

Global warming is negatively impacting Earth, and although the change that it causes seems unimportant, a lot of change over time will make a big difference.

Glaciers and the polar ice caps are melting because of the rising temperatures on Earth. This is causing a large rise in the sea levels. The rise in the sea level is creating more floods, which directly impacts people who are living in coastal areas.

Also, the rising temperatures are causing more wildfires in places that are already very dry and warm, such as California.

In addition, global warming is causing irregular patterns in the weather. For example, it will rain when it is not expected to rain and not rain at all in places expecting rain. This is causing unexpected floods and droughts. This is especially bad for farmers.

Despite these issues, there are many ways to reduce global warming and the problems that occur with it.

How Can We Stop Global Warming?

Global warming is very harmful to wildlife and our Earth. There must be ways to stop it from happening.

One solution to preventing climate change is using renewable energy, such as using solar panels. When people use nonrenewable energy, it releases harmful toxins into the environment. Coal and fossil fuels are examples of nonrenewable sources of energy. The burning of fossil fuels causes carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases to form in the atmosphere.

Another way that global warming can be reduced is by minimizing the wastage of water. It takes a lot of energy to pump and heat the water, and again, when you make energy you need to burn coal, causing carbon dioxide to form in the atmosphere. So when we reduce the wasting of water, like keeping the faucet off while we brush our teeth, it will use less energy, resulting in less global warming.

Another example of helping global warming stop is using better light bulbs. LED light bulbs use 80% less energy than incandescent light bulbs. It will reduce the amount of coal being burnt in the atmosphere, creating carbon dioxide.

In conclusion, global warming is very harmful to the environment and the Earth. But by putting in a small amount of effort, each and every one of us can contribute to stopping global warming. This can ensure that we keep our planet healthy and clean for a long time.

Treat Town

The Virtual Way Of Trick-Or-Treating

By: Yukti Malik



Were you sitting at your house eating candy that you bought from the store this Halloween? If you were, you were missing out on A LOT of fun. Since this Halloween was not like a regular one, we couldn't go trick-or-treating door to door. To solve this problem, Mars Candy, a candy company, created an app where kids could virtually trick-or-treat. Since kids trick-or-treat, you have to be 18 or under to create a monster profile, which is basically a trick- or- treater. Your parents could create a door, which the trick-or-treaters would virtually knock on. You would place the door on the map, which has everyone who created a door's door. You must be wondering, where would the candy come from? If the parent wanted candy, they would have to buy it with money. If the parent didn't want to purchase candy, that's okay. On your monster profile, you can go to random people's door's and get a treat from them if they bought any treats.

Okay, now you've heard about the treat, but now the trick! Trick-or-Treat, you must be wondering what the trick is for. In treat town, you can virtually play tricks on someone's door. For example, you can shaving cream, pumpkin smash, silly string, sparkle bomb, and etc.

If you want to have some Halloween fun, you can play games in the virtual arcade, like Twix Maze Escape, and Snicker Trivia. In the maze escape, the objective of the game is to solve the maze and bring the twix back home. In the Snicker Trivia, it mostly asks you Halloween related questions, and sometimes asks you random ones. There is also something called the Disney Haunted Mansion where you can get different outfits for your monster's costume. There are different costumes every day!

After Halloween, or before Halloween, kids can redeem their candy that they got from people's doors. There are 3 ways that you can redeem your candy: the first way is to redeem your candy online, so the candy will come to your house. The second way is to redeem your candy in-store, which means that you could redeem your candy at either Walmart, or Target. The last and third way is that you can donate your candy to someone if you don't want it.

If you did use Treat Town, then you would know how much fun it was to virtually trick-or treat. If you didn't use treat town this year, try to use the app next year!

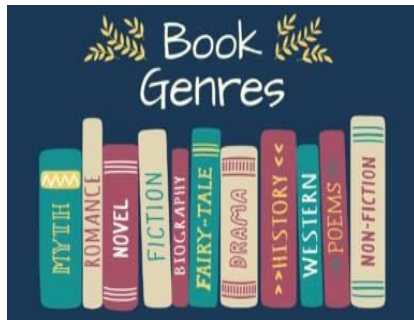
I'm Booked, Are You?

By: Vihaan Singh

I know we've not been able to socialize, meet friends, and have fun in school as we usually do, but that doesn't mean we have to stay bored when we're stuck at home. Don't know what I mean? Well, look beside you. See something? I'm talking about a book!

Many people regard books as, "Oh, I have to read more, come on!" You're about to see what kind of boredom-banishing magic they can work on you in this quarantine. Books are everybody's best friend.

Though for some people it may not feel like it, you just have to open your mind to them, and they might end up being your best buddy. Most importantly, there is a book for everyone. So many genres to pick from drama, mystery, poems, classics, fantasy, or nonfiction biographies, science, technology, geography or even history. For me, my mood each day decides my book. I can go from the crime fighting superheroes and anime, to Greek Mythology through the Percy Jackson series, to stories of brave kids in the “I Survived Series,” or even a book about the World War or the Civil War. And I am not just talking about our good old print books, there are many different formats. There are physical books, the actual ones you hold in your hands, e-books that you can read on an electronic device, and there are audible books, where a narrator reads aloud, and you can just listen. Audible books are usually on certain apps such as Audible, but you can also find podcasts that may read a different book each episode or make their own stories.



Imagine having to carry 100 of your favorite books. That would be heavy! But with an e-book you could carry all 100 of those books in one, lightweight device. I’d say that’s a handy tool. If you are tired after a long school day and don’t want to read but you want something to calm your mind, you need audible books. You can play the story on your phone and listen to it until you start dozing off in your own fantasies and create your own book ideas. Reading can be more than just looking at words on a page. If you love to cook, read a cookbook, try a new recipe and make a splendid weekend lunch for your family. My friend has a passion for baking and through quarantine, she has become an awesome baker with her baking books by her side. Or maybe you are like me, who loves to play computer games. Pick a book on Minecraft, and like me, before you know it, your Minecraft creations will surprise your friends. Or if science interests you, you can find some interesting science reads or simply visit the <https://www.sciencejournalforkids.org/> website that has become my all time favorite for a quick lunch time read on school days.

Books can lighten up any day if you make them your best friend. Not too long ago, many of us were quite disappointed with how Halloween went this year with no trick or treating. But my mom and I had a little reading campout inside our house with a perfect novel to still bring along our creepy spirit. And, if you missed Halloween, don’t worry, there is still time. Christmas will be here soon. Just hangout in your cozy tent in your room, reading your favorite fantasy novel, sipping on hot cocoa, popcorn, and of course some s’mores!! Or better still, maybe should we plan for a JMI virtual reading campout? Doesn’t that sound fun and are you all in?



Did you know that reading books can help make new friends with a virtual book club idea? As some of you may know, the JMI Grade 5 class is doing just that! I cannot wait for our book club, meet my classmates virtually, and read our book ‘*The Sisters Grimm*’.

I am hoping that these fun ideas have got you all excited about books. You can always search up popular kids’ book trends that have just been released. Some of my favorite series are listed below.

- Diary of a Wimpy Kid
- Big Nate
- Weird but True series
- I Survived series
- Max Einstein
- Percy Jackson series
- Land of Stories
- Harry Potter series

And here are some more of the newest books that have just been released during quarantine, *Diary of a wimpy kid*; *The Deep End*(book #15), *The Ickabog*, by J.K Rowling, and *The Bad Guys*; in the one (book #12).

And not to forget, have you ever heard of books that you read **backwards**? I am not kidding. Japanese kid friendly anime books written by Hayao Miyazaki are indeed read from **back to front**! Here are some titles. And some of the best animated movies made are based on these anime books by Director Miyazaki. Definitely top of my list.

- *Castle in the sky*
- *Spirited Away*
- *Howl's Moving Castle*
- *My Neighbor Totoro*

Lastly, remember the next time you look at books and think, “just a bunch of pages,” think again. It may be just the much needed enjoyable experience on a dull day in quarantine.

Game Review: *Among Us*

By: Manas Yedla

I think that the game Among Us is a really good strategy game and is very enjoyable!



Among Us is played like this: There are ten crewmates on a spaceship inside of space and in those ten crewmates there will be one imposter among them. The crewmates job is to finish all of the tasks around the spaceship like fixing the wires and ejecting the trash and more. When the crewmates finish all of their tasks they win and they also can win by ejecting all of the imposters which I will get to in a bit. On the other hand however, the imposter's job is to kill all of the crewmates on the ship. They can do this by killing the people at surprise. The imposters have many advantages that

crewmates don't have, like venting, which helps travel around the map quicker and hiding from other crewmates. Also, the other advantage they have is that they can start sabotages around the map which will

force all of the crewmates to go to the sabotaged part of the ship and fix it so the imposter can kill a person running toward the sabotaged part of the ship.

The only way the crewmates can kill the imposters is in an emergency meeting or when a dead body is found. The crewmates try to discuss and identify who the imposter is and the person with the most votes gets kicked out of the spaceship or gets launched in lava. The thing that is risky about voting is that you can also kick out innocent people and less the people the more likely the imposters are going to win. When an Imposter kills you, you will turn into a ghost. Being a ghost as a crewmate means you still have to do your tasks. However, when an imposter gets kicked out of the ship he turns into a ghost too! The ghost imposter does not have to do tasks but he still gets to sabotage the ship, and doesn't get to kill.

In conclusion I think that Among Us is a very good game that teaches strategy and trusting other people. The reason I like this game so much is that every single game there is something new and more exciting to do. Also, one of the key aspects of this is its simplistic graphics that compared some block-buster video game titles.

If you like this game it is also free to download on mobile so you can play as well!

America's New Leader

By Dhriti Vohra

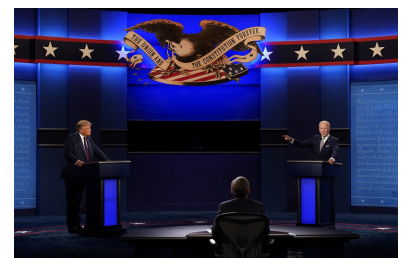
We all talk about the student council election, the class president elections but do we really talk about the presidential election, for America? We have a new President, Joe Biden. I thought you would want to know more about the elections in the country you are currently living in. Dig in to know more!

Votes

The elections started on November 3, 2020. The elections went on for quite a few days. Votes were counted as electoral votes. The candidate that wins 270 electoral votes wins the elections. This year, both candidates, Joe Biden and Donald Trump got more than 7 million votes, which was surprising because of Barack Obama's 69.5 million votes record in 2008. The votes were counted per state and the candidate that got more votes got a specific amount of electoral votes. The states with the most population, like Pennsylvania, mattered more because they were worth more electoral votes. Did you know that this was the first time since 1922 that the candidate that won the election didn't get the majority of votes in Ohio and Florida?

Debate

Debates are discussions between two candidates about what they will offer as President, about how they would solve situations happening or anything as long as it is accurate because you don't know what could lead to what in a debate. The debates started on September 29 and ended on October 22. As a result, this year's election had the least amount of debates since 1996. The debate between the candidates for vice president, Kamala Harris and Mike Pence happened on October 7, 2020.



President

The new President is Joe Biden. He won against Donald Trump. Joe Biden won't officially be the President or live in the White House until January 2020, because that's when the power is handed on to the candidate who is the winner. Until then, Trump will still be the President. Now that Biden's campaign won, Kamala Harris will be the new Vice President.



The Hands of Hope Food Drive

By: Khushee Matani



The Hands of Hope Food Drive is a community-based, and non-profit organization. Here, at JMI, every fall, we try to provide and donate as much food as we can to help the families in need. During this pandemic, the Hands of Hope Food Drive is determined to help as many families as possible, and we need your help doing that! Even one little donation can make a big difference! Did you know, in 2016, supporters of the Hands of Hope Food Drive donated \$99, 135 worth of money!? The worth of the food they donated was even larger of a number; \$152, 698! They fed 9,464 women, men, and children that year by providing 3,844 bags of food to families!

If you would like to donate, you should know: *NON Perishable* food is allowed. Also, please try to bring only boxed and canned items since these are more convenient. The Food Drive began on November 10th and ended on November 19th. If you still want to donate, contact Hands Of Hope.

Why? The Hands of Hope Food Drive does this in the hope of gradually wiping hunger in as many places as possible; one family at a time. Helping Hands of Hope is the least we can do after what Hands of Hope are doing. It is no easy task to feed so many people in one year, plus, the food costs a lot of money overall, yet still, Hands of Hope is progressing. This proves their dedication to wiping out hunger in New Jersey, and we all should respect that.

Book Review: *Tower of Nero - An Observation*

By: Emma Shrivastava

I've been waiting impatiently to read the fifth book in the *Trials of Apollo* series for a whole month. *Tower of Nero* was definitely worth the wait and it exceeded my expectations. The author of the

book is Rick Riordan. Some of his other works include *Percy Jackson*, *Heroes of Olympus*, and *Kane Chronicles*.

If you have read the first book of the series, then you know that Apollo was stripped of his immortality and was cast down to Earth by his powerful father Zeus in his mortal form, Lester Papadopoulos. After facing many daunting challenges and killing two emperors of the Triumvirate, Apollo must now confront the remaining homicidal emperor of the Triumvirate: Nero. He must accomplish this while battling the wicked snake Python, who hijacked the Oracle and gained control of its prophecies. Joining Apollo in his quests is Meg McCaffrey, his pesky younger demigod master. Can Apollo defeat his enemies and regain his immortality in the process?



The book would have been more enjoyable if the author was more clear about how Apollo defeated the Emperor. I was also disappointed by the secret tunnel transporting Apollo to the Python's lair. I was hoping for a more interesting mode of transportation similar to the one used in the first book when Rick Riordan utilized the labyrinth for Apollo to travel to Python's lair.

I really enjoyed the story because it was hilarious. For instance, Apollo continued to compliment Meg until she poked him in his wound with a dagger and effectively silenced him. Another reason I liked the story is the details. I especially liked when Python was described as, "A mountain of reptilian coils, rippling with muscle." Lastly, the book had a strong conclusion to the Apollo series. The ending was unsurprising, but the conflicts Apollo encountered were creative.

I recommend this book for fourth and fifth graders. *Tower of Nero* is entertaining, comical, and descriptive. If you liked the other books in the series, then you are in for a treat. This one is the best book in the series.

Interview with Ms. Cafro

By: Diya Senthil

Ms. Cafro is a new teacher at JMI. She started in the year 2019, when coronavirus began. Did you know that I was her student in 4th grade? To know more about her, I interviewed Ms. Cafro.

I asked, "What is it like starting to teach in JMI while the pandemic is happening?" She answered, "Starting school remote was pretty scary. But after a few weeks, it became easier, and when we transitioned to hybrid, it became much better because I was able to see some of my students."

Next, she answered the question, "How long have you been teaching and what schools have you been teaching in?" Ms. Cafro replied, "I've been teaching for 2 years at JMI. I have taught in Lincoln Elementary School, James Monroe, and JMI."

I questioned, "Why did you want to become a teacher?" She responded, "I wanted to become a teacher ever since I was a little girl. When my sister and I were little, we used to play school and we took turns being the teacher. Now, we are both teachers."

I asked, “What do you find most frustrating about teaching?” Ms. Cafro returned, “The most frustrating thing about teaching right now is that I am not able to be with my students, and it’s hard to do certain activities remotely.”

I told Ms. Cafro, “Tell me little about your family.” She answered, “I have a mom and dad who have supported me in teaching. I have a sister who is a 7th grade english teacher who inspired me to become a teacher. I also have the cutest orange cat named Bob.”

Ms. Cafro answered the question, “What are your interests or hobbies outside of the classroom?” She responded, “I love to do arts and crafts, and I can spend so much money at Hobby Lobby. I also love to cook and bake. And I love to ride my bike.”

I questioned, “What do you like most about teaching?” She replied, “My favorite thing about teaching is seeing all my students interact and watching how they grow over the year.”

I asked, “Have you been inspired by someone or something to choose this profession?” Ms. Cafro returned, “I have been inspired by my sister who is a teacher in Sayreville. She taught me to never give up and keep trying because teaching is so rewarding.”

Ms. Cafro answered the question, “Why did you want to teach at JMI?” She responded, “I wanted to teach at JMI because it has the best principal, hardworking teachers, and amazing students. JMI is like a family and if a student or teacher needs anything, someone is always there at JMI to help.”

I questioned, “What do you expect in your students?” Ms. Cafro answered, “I expect my students to always give their best effort, help each other, and never give up. For example, if something becomes challenging, I want my students to ask for help from their friends or teacher, and find a solution to their problem because when you don’t give up, it shows how hardworking you are.”

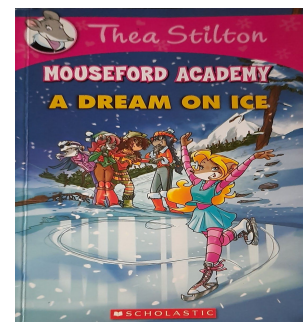
Book Review: Thea Stilton: A Dream On Ice

By: Nilani Bharathvajan

This book is one of the books in a series of 10 books called the *Mouseford Academy Adventures*. This series features 5 brave mouselets in college, called the Thea Sisters, who embark on adventures around campus and juggle their studies and activities at college at the same time. Their names are Colette, the fashionista, Nicky, the outdoor girl, Violet, the calm girl, Paulina, the adventurous girl and Pamela, the handy girl.

The story “A Dream On Ice” occurs during their winter semester, when a very famous ice skater called Tara Mousinski convinces their headmaster to host their very first Winter Games! There were many winter sports in it, like curling, figure skating, cross-country with skis, etc. And the best part was they had four whole days of winter fun and competition! Will the winter games be a success, or will the diva mouse Ruby Flashyfur ruin the fun for everyone else?

I really liked this book because no matter what difficulties were thrown at them, the Thea Sisters managed to stay calm and stay on the path to success. This story teaches you that you should always be happy and not change



your mood when life throws you a curveball. This book appeals to kids ages 11 and under. All in all, this was a terrific book.

How People Celebrate Thanksgiving All Around The World!

By: Afsheen Fathima

Have you ever wondered how other people celebrate thanksgiving in other places? Do they eat



exactly what the Pilgrims ate when they first came to this land? Well now I will explain everything to you with just a little bit of history. Sailing on a bright blue blanket were the Pilgrims and their ship, (The Mayflower). When they reached land they found people living on it. A man named Tisquantum showed them how to hunt, grow crops and built a shelter. The feast was celebrated by the pilgrims after their first harvest. They ate things like: lobster, clams, berries, fruit, and vegetables. It must have been hard for them to find the food

but thanks to Tisquantum everything was okay!

On thanksgiving there is one thing in common, sharing. No matter how far you live you always celebrate together. In Canada people celebrate thanksgiving by having a day off on the second Monday of October, they use the three day weekend to visit families. The things most Canadians eat are maple, roast turkey and gravy, harvest rice dish, mashed potatoes with fried mushroom bacon and onion, bread and celery stuffing, maple cranberry sauce, and mincemeat and pumpkin layer pie. That's making my tummy growl! In Australia people celebrate thanksgiving by doing it on the last Wednesday of November similar to the pre World War 11(2). The food that Australians eat are turkeys with stuffing, corn puddings and cheese grits, roasted sweet potato casseroles, bacon and green beans, pumpkin pies and walnut crusts, That's delicious! In Mexico people celebrate thanksgiving by considering it a time to give thanks to god for your blessings and spend time with your loved ones. It is also common practice for guests at a Thanksgiving meal to each say a short prayer of gratitude before the meal commences. They must be very thankful for everything they have! The foods they ate are, turkey enchiladas, chorizo pumpkin soup and candied pumpkin, cranberry salsa with cilantro and chiles. I found out one thing that is common in all the foods in these 3 nations: chicken!

Since some people came from different places around the world I now tell you how Americans celebrate thanksgiving and some interesting facts about thanksgiving! Thanksgiving Day is a day for people in the US to give thanks for what they have. Families and friends get together for a meal, which traditionally includes a roast turkey, stuffing, potatoes, vegetables, cranberry sauce, gravy, and pumpkin pie. Some interesting facts about thanksgiving are: that on the first thanksgiving turkey was not on the menu, in the feast, 50 Pilgrims, 90 Wampanoag Indians showed up and historians say that only 5 women were present, a woman named Sarah Josepha who wrote Mary had a little lamb convinced president Abraham Lincoln to make thanksgiving a national holiday, and there are four towns in the

United States named “Turkey.” They can be found in Arizona, Texas and Louisiana , and North Carolina. Those facts made my mouth drop!

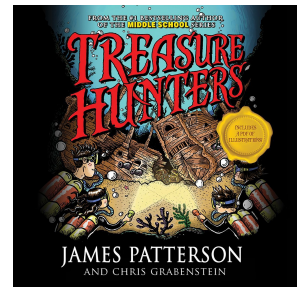
It was fun learning about how people celebrate Thanksgiving all around the world. I especially liked the fun facts I learned, I never knew that turkey was not on the menu! Almost every country has turkey. I cannot wait to learn more about Thanksgiving!

Book Review: Treasure Hunters Good or Bad?

By: Praveen Hariharan

I read a book called treasure hunters. The author of the book is James Patterson. James Patterson has written many interesting books. I have read most of them and for me they're very interesting. They are filled with actions, mystery, suspense and unexpected twists. Though I have read many of his books, let's focus on one book. The book is called Treasure Hunters.

Treasure hunters have four main characters Tommy, Storm, Bick, and Beck. They are sailors who look for treasures, they have their own ship and valuable stuff. The kids are homeschooled by their parents but one day when they were on their ship a huge storm came, when the storm cleared their dad is nowhere to be seen. Their mom went missing in Cyprus three months ago. Don't be too worried, as I was worried when I was reading the book, both missing characters (the dad and the mom) will come back eventually in the series.



The kids keep the business going by looking for treasures. They end up talking to their dad's friend who was referred to as the big man. Their dad had promised to give the big man an item exchange for an amulet someone tried stealing the item but didn't get away with it. They get their hands on the amulet but inside the amulet has a map. With the map they find treasures but hit a few twists and turns. At the end they find an evil man who they defeat eventually.

When I finished reading the book my mind was blown away. The story was great, so I would like to give it four out of five stars. The reason I don't give it five stars is because the beginning can be a little moving slow for readers, such as myself and the first time when I read it, I didn't want to continue until my friend told me the beginning is boring and you have to keep reading for it to get interesting.

So my final opinion is: Treasure hunters is a very good and interesting book, which I would recommend every fifth grader should read.

Movie Review: *Enola Holmes*

By: Jiya Kohli

Sherlock Holmes is considered a household name across Europe, where it originated, and now all across the world. The genius detective is known for his intelligence and natural talent to investigate and



solve mysteries. The lesser known Enola Holmes, sister to Sherlock, embarks on a trip to find her mysteriously disappeared mother, in a movie based on the novel written by Nancy Springer. Despite seeming like a funny, light hearted comedy, the movie showcases darker realities and focuses on controversial themes. Played by Millie Bobby Brown, Enola is a spunky young girl who refuses to conform to the standards of young women in her time.

The movie provides young girls watching it with a brave, independent, woman protagonist, who refuses to bend to the social norms expected of her. Many times throughout the movie, the audience sees Enola poke fun at the fact that women are expected to “act like a lady”. She defies gender norms, setting a positive example for her audience. I loved the fact that she didn’t want to stick to traditional beliefs set by those around her and made her own decisions. Seeing such a powerful female character was exciting and definitely made the movie even more interesting to watch.

Each and every character goes through immense growth that captivates the audience at every turn. In addition to Enola, we are introduced to her companion, a young rich boy named Viscount Tewkesbury, who is on the run from death. Throughout the movie, we see him progress from a scared boy running from home, to a man who wishes to make a positive change in his society. The growth makes every character intriguing and improves the quality of the movie. I loved that they provided the characters with change, rather than making them stay the same throughout. Watching the characters mature throughout the movie was both enticing and complimented the plot.

In addition to the challenge of gender norms, the movie highlights feminism, both relating to the time period of the movie and relating to today's reality. Multiple characters, both male and female, are seen to be fighting for women’s rights, and the movie challenges the notion that women aren’t able to do everything men can. While watching, I saw women who would beat men in fights, solve mysteries, and display intelligence equal to the male characters. These themes are a good influence on both children and adults watching the movie, which I definitely liked.

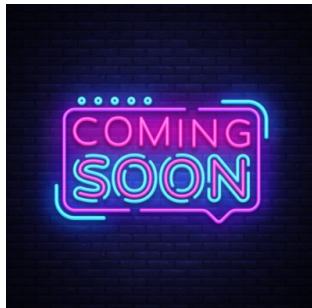
Lastly, the cinematic experience of the movie was astonishing! The plot contained twists and turns at every moment and left me wondering and at the edge of my seat. Just when the viewer thinks they have everything figured out, a new detail is put into play that throws off everything. The way plot twists kept coming made me love the movie even more. The footage captures the time period perfectly and people watching are transported into the world of Enola Holmes.

The one thing I didn’t like about the movie was that at times, Enola would speak directly to the audience and look straight at the camera. This was included to make the audience feel closer to the movie, but I thought it interrupted the flow and mood. However, even though I didn’t like this one aspect, the pros of the movie outweigh the cons and I still recommend it.

While watching with my family, it was interesting to see the individual reactions of each of us. While I focused mainly on the plot and characters, my sister dazed off, researching the many historical facts mentioned in the movie. I found the movie amazing. It touched everyone who watched it differently and was able to make me want to learn and watch more, which is something extremely hard for directors to make possible in their films. I strongly recommend the film to anyone. The riveting emotions entangled with witty dialogue are sure to entertain any viewer and draw them into the imaginary world Enola resides in.

Electronic Sign Interview

By: Sreehaas Mannepalli



Have you ever seen a sign while you are exiting the school building? It displays helpful information about school events but it is manual and you have to change the letters every time (which is pretty difficult). But now things are going to change! A few weeks ago on Mrs. Abatamarco's morning message, she sent a poll out about an electronic sign that we are getting for our school. This was exciting news for all of JMI and I was pumped! An electronic sign is a sign that is not manual. It is like the one at J.P Stevens. She didn't disclose more information about the electronic sign and I was still curious so I decided to interview Mrs. Abatamarco to get more information on this topic.

My first question was "Why did we need to replace the old sign?"

She thought for a moment and said "To get up to date with technology and work with the limited space that we have in front of our school."

Then I inquired "How will this benefit our school and what information will it display?"

She replied "Having this sign will make it easier to remind students and parents about upcoming events and it will display what the old sign did but will be easier to operate. It will display upcoming events such as the parent-teacher conferences that are coming up, important announcements, days off from school, and also birthdays."

Since it would display a lot of information I asked, "How much did the sign cost and if it is PTO funded?"

She explained that the whole sign cost \$15,000. \$10,000 was from the PTO and the remaining \$5,000 was paid by the school.

Then I got curious and asked, "Why didn't we get a board like this until now?"

She thought and answered "The school didn't have enough money in its budget to pay for this sign because of other things. Also, it took a very long time to even fundraise enough money for the sign,"

Then I remembered the poll that JMI students took to vote for what color words will be on the sign so I asked, "Do you have a result for which color words will be on the sign?"

She replied, "First of all, yes we have results but I'm the only one who knows the results but I won't reveal them just yet."

My final question was, "Will the board be an LED board or something other than LED?"

She answered, “ I’m not too sure but I think it’s an LED sign,” she looked it up online “Oh yes the sign will be internally lit by LED.”

She summed it up by saying, “I’m super excited for this sign to replace our old sign because it will be a great addition to our school and an excellent way to inform our school community about things that are going on in our school. Finally, I want to thank the PTO for helping fund this project and our JMI families support,”

Now hopefully you understand more about this sign and how it will help our school!

Green Team

By: Trisha Ojha



I’m sure you have heard of the Green Team. The Green Team was founded by Ms. Misko and Ms. Petry in January. The Green Team was created to help students and parents understand that they could help make a difference to not only JMI, but to their coteries and their homes. The JMI Green Team is made to help students make JMI a safer and greener place to learn. The Green Team started as a recycling initiative. It has become so much more in a short time. One program that the Green Team was involved in was the Pepsico Recycle Rally. The Recycle Rally was designed to encourage students to recycle. This game inspires students to recycle. Recycle Rally sets opportunities to students and their communities to set recycling goals. Just like this program, there is the NexTrex program that supports the same idea. I am sure you all remember dropping off your used up markers in a bin in JMI’s office. If you do, then you remember that JMI did a program called Crayola ColorCycle. The Crayola cycle re-used crayola markers instead of throwing them away. Similarly, the TerraCycle is a program that was created to eliminate the idea of waste. The GreenTeam has a lot of accomplishments that they have achieved. The GreenTeam has earned a Bronze Status for The Pepsico’s Recycle Rally program! We should all help them achieve the silver status for this year. Last year, the GreenTeam helped JMI students to recycle. By putting labels and stickers on the recycling bins and the trash bins, the students have been able to understand where to put their trash or recycling products. Joining the JMI GreenTeam will affect JMI well. If you join the GreenTeam you can help JMI become a greener place.
