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# The Knightly Times

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# Time Square's 2021 Virtual Ball Drop

## The New Year's Eve Ball Drop in Times Square will be Virtual This Year

By: Evelyn Fu

For the first time since 1907, there was no crowd to cheer on the famous New Year's Eve ball drop in Times Square. This year, the 2021 New Year's Eve ball drop occurred virtually as the world continues to deal with the coronavirus pandemic. Event organizers stated that this year's ball drop happened "visually, virtual, and safely". The countdown to midnight last year was very different from the previous years in response to the changes and challenges that 2020 faced.



Last year was the first time that crowds were not able to fill the sidewalks and streets in Time Square. The ball drop had been a tradition every year since 1907. Despite the years 1942 and 1943 when the celebration had been suspended due to World War II, crowds still gathered in Times Square to celebrate the new year. More than one million people showed up at Time Square in 2019 to watch the New Year's Eve ball drop while it was broadcasted to billions. This year's ball drop was not the same.

### New Virtual Offerings

The Time Square press release stated that the event featured "a virtual enhanced celebration that brings Time Square and the Ball to you digitally no matter what."

"This year there will be significantly new and enhanced virtual, visual, and digital offerings to complement whatever limited live entertainment or experiences -- still in development-- will take place in Time Square," Tim Topkins, president of the Time Square Alliance said.

There was an extremely limited number of people for broadcast purposes, but there were not crowds of the public. Although, crowds didn't fill Time Square, there was an opportunity to participate in the event virtually. Jamestown, the owner of One Times Square, which is where the ball drops, has created an app, "virtual world of Times Square," to allow people at home to celebrate. The app broadcasted the virtual New Year's Eve events for everyone to experience Time Square during the New Year's Eve ball drop.

As you can see, the New Year's Eve ball drop turned out very different this year in response to the COVID - 19 pandemic still going on. The countdown to midnight this year was unlike any other year because of the challenges that 2020 faced. There were a lot of changes in this year's ball drop. These are some of the biggest changes in the Time Square's 2021 Ball Drop:

- The ball drop was virtual; crowds of the public did not fill in Times Square during the celebration
- There was many new virtual and digital offerings
- The “Virtual World of Times Square” allowed everyone to celebrate the ball drop from home
- People could watch the broadcast live in Times Square from the live cameras, webcast, or the selection feeds.

## What Will Happen in the Ball Drop?

Just like the previous years, news, people and pop culture from the year was placed into the celebration. Musicians, performances, artists, and entertainments also took part of the New Year’s Eve 2021 ball drop. Performances by K-pop superstars, BTS, Post Malone, Sam Hunt, Alanis Morissette, and other artists performed in the ball drop. The celebration also noted where we have been and honored the courageous spirits that have helped us travel through these challenging times into the New Year.

“We will miss everyone this year, but we will bring our celebration to you, whether you want to turn off and turn away from the bad news of 2020, or turn to the new year with a sense of hope, renewal and resolution, you’ll be able to join us virtually like never before as part of the Times Square 2021 celebration,” Jeff Straus, president of the Countdown Entertainment said.

Even though the Time Square ball drop did not look the same this year, everyone was able to join the century-old tradition from home because of the new virtual, visual, and digital offerings. The people working in the Times Square Alliance and the Countdown Entertainment worked super hard to make the celebration safe and creative for all of us to celebrate. Just like the companies said, the celebration brought Times Square and the ball to you no matter what and everyone was able to take part virtually in the Times Square 2021 ball drop like never before.

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## Can Sports Handle the Impact of COVID-19?

By: Sreehaas Mannepalli

The NBA and NFL are the most popular sports in the USA. But which is safer during the coronavirus is the question. Both sports have been open but today we will see which has seen more improvement.



First, let’s talk about the bubble program which the NBA has used with its players. It is located in Orlando and was created by the NBA to protect its players. 20 NBA teams play here. It is technically a lockdown.

Before the bubble, in around March players were testing positive and the NBA shut down until the first players arrived on July 7. The bubble wasn't only a stadium but a home for the players. The bubble provided everything the players would need from barbershops to pools. 88 games were being held and there wasn't a single positive test after July 13, until the end of the season. This shows that the bubble is highly effective in preventing Covid 19. Other leagues like the NFL which has two bubbles in Canada have been working. Even the NBA finals were played here.

Now let's look at the NFL. Football is America's sport but it isn't too popular with doctors. A survey showed that 90% of the 146 doctors interviewed who were asked would you rather play in the NFL or NBA said that they would play in the NBA because of its protocols. Unlike the NBA, the NFL doesn't use the bubble. At first, everyone thought the season would go smoothly after the ingenious virtual draft technique but things started to go haywire. COVID-19 poses the biggest threat to the NFL. The first few weeks went ok and then three weeks into November when the second wave hit the NFL cracked down hard on their restrictions which mandated that meetings be held virtually, outside, or in a practice bubble, with participants safely distanced. Also banned are contact between players outside the facility, except for travel and games. The league reduced the number of people allowed in an area and increased the use of face-coverings and face shields. Just recently the Denver Broncos had to play their whole game without a quarterback because all four of them were on the reserve COVID list. Some NFL players/coaches just ignore these warnings. For example, last week the Steelers vs Ravens got postponed three times because of 10 straight days of positive tests for the Ravens including Lamar Jackson who is their quarterback, and the reigning MVP for the league. Most of these cases were tracking down to their coach who didn't report his symptoms and didn't wear a mask. All players get tested daily for COVID 19 and health experts think that putting players in a bubble would be best but it will take time for the players to adapt to the bubble system.

Now let me tell you about another successful sport which is the NHL. Ice hockey is another one of the four main leagues in the USA and Canada. One of the biggest accomplishments in national sports was the NHL being able to finish its season. It conducted over 33,000 tests and came back with zero positive results. How did this work out you might ask? Here's how. The league has two bubbles in Edmonton and Toronto and 24 teams play here. They practically bought hotels and put fences around them, added comforts, and basically made a city. They not only put housing and dining but plenty of outdoor space and many players say that they feel very safe inside a bubble. The bubbles were close to the arena so that travel wouldn't be an issue. At first, the players were isolated and then gradually things started opening. At first, the NHL planned to start its 2020-2021 season in December but now they are thinking about starting it towards the beginning of 2021 with a date of January 13th.

So in conclusion, the choice is yours. Are national sports good? Which ones have done a good job in preventing COVID 19? But health officials say that the NHL and NBA have done a good job to prevent the virus.

# Kamala Harris's Biography

By; Diya Senthil

It was November 3, 2020, Election Day! Everyone's pumped up to vote for who they like better, Donald Trump and Mike Pence or Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. ABC News says, "This year's president and vice president are..... Joe Biden and Kamala Harris!" Everyone is really happy, and looking forward to the years that will come ahead of them. Kamala Harris is the first Asian-Indian American to become vice president. She made history! Do you want to know more about Kamala Harris? Well, let's dig deep into her history, and find out about her.



Kamala Devi Harris was born on October 20, 1964, in Oakland, California, and she is currently 56 years old. Her parents are immigrants: Kamala's mother from India, and Kamala's father from Jamaica. As a child, she lived in Oakland and Montreal before earning her bachelor's degree at Howard University and her law degree at the University of California's Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco. Before her election to the Senate, Harris served as San Francisco's district attorney and as the Attorney General of California.

Kamala has spent her life fighting injustice. It's a passion that was first inspired by her mother, and more people. Kamala Harris was a former senator from California. She is a prosecutor and politician. Did you know that Kamala Harris is also an author? She wrote 3 books which are named *The Truths We Hold*, *Superheroes are Everywhere*, and *Smart on Crime*.

Kamala has a great family. She has a supportive mom named Shyamala Gopalan Harris, and a father named Donald Harris. Kamala has a loving sister named Maya Harris, and a husband named Douglas Craig Emhoff. Finally, she has two step-children named Cole and Ella who she loves dearly.

Did you know that apart from her career, Harris is also considered to be an excellent and passionate cook? On her Instagram, you can find videos and photos of home-roasted turkey or casseroles, with a touch of Indian or Mediterranean flavor. She also participated in a cooking show on YouTube, politics and cooking aside, Kamala also has another passion: music. Her favorite genres are hip hop and rap.

Kamala has a great life and she achieved what she wanted to complete. Fun fact: Her father taught at Stanford University. Her mother, the daughter of an Indian diplomat, was a cancer researcher. Kamala's younger sister, Maya, became a public policy advocate and organized a campaign. What a talented bunch! Overall, I think that Kamala worked hard, and she is an amazing woman.

# Cheer Cheer Christmas

By: Afsheen Fathima

Have you ever thought about Christmas? Well, you probably have because Christmas just ended. Did you know that Christmas is not all about candy and presents? What is it about, you might ask? That's what I am here to explain to you - what Christmas is all about. Christmas, or Feast Day of the Christ, celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. The holiday originally came from Christians, but everyone celebrates it. They celebrate it exactly on December 25 because that was Jesus's birthday. Christmas is important to many Christians because it reminds them that Jesus, the son of God, came to Earth for all people. This is symbolised through the visits of the Wise Men and the shepherds. I hope you now know what Christmas is about.

What is your favorite part of Christmas? There are many things to do, but I will be explaining the history behind Santa Claus! A man named Saint Nicholas, or Kris Kringle, was admired by his kindness; he became the subject of many legends. It is said that he gave away all of his inherited wealth and traveled the countryside helping the poor and sick. One of the best-known St. Nicholas stories is the time he saved three poor sisters from being sold into slavery. Over the course of many years, Nicholas' popularity spread and he became known as the protector of children and sailors. His feast day is celebrated on the anniversary of his death, December 6. This is very different from the real Santa we know, which makes it real interesting!

Since some people come from different countries, I will tell how people celebrate Christmas in America and some fun facts about Christmas. People in America like to decorate the outsides of their houses with lights and sometimes even statues of Santa Claus, snowmen and reindeer. Cookies and glasses of milk are often left out as a snack for Santa on Christmas Eve! Some people put up a tree in their homes and decorate it, and many also put up stockings. Towns and cities often decorate the streets with lights to celebrate Christmas! Some fun Christmas facts are how Christmas trees were first used by ancient Egyptians and Romans, and that Santa didn't always dress up in red clothes. My mind exploded on the last one! I really enjoyed these.

I loved learning about Christmas, Santa, and the fun facts. I hope you got all the information you need about Christmas, and for those of you who do not know how Americans celebrate Christmas I hope you got the traditions to try this year!

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# Soul

By: Akshita Mohapatra

The movie *Soul* is a movie I recommend for everyone. This beautiful movie is sure to touch your heart and make you grateful for your life. This movie is about a man whose name is Mr. Gardener. Mr. Gardener falls into a hole and arrives into the world where souls' get their personalities before they enter Earth. Mr. Gardener helps a soul who struggles to find their spark.

When the soul accidentally falls into Mr. Gardener's body, Mr. Gardener realizes how even though you may not be rich and wealthy, life is a beautiful stage and that you should enjoy every minute of it. Mr. Gardener gets his body back but then he purposely brought himself back into the world so that the soul can get a life. The teachers there also help Mr. Gardener and bring him back into Earth. Mr. Gardener loves his life, enjoying every minute and he is proud that he helped a lost soul.

In my opinion, this amazing movie is sure to be a huge hit and will touch your heart from the minute it starts to the minute it ends. So buy or rent *Soul* and join Mr. Gardener on the wildest adventure of his life!

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# Christmas Customs

By: Emma Shrivastava

Ho Ho Ho! Popular traditions celebrated on Christmas are Elf on the Shelf, advent calendars, and baking gingerbread men.

Elf on the Shelf is a cherished Christmas custom that became trendy in 2004 when a woman and her children introduced the tradition to the world with a self-published book. According to the tradition, the elves typically begin arriving after Thanksgiving. Once Santa's miniature helper has settled down in the house it has chosen, the children must give the elf a sobriquet, or a nickname. When the elf is named, it gains its magical powers. Each day the elf monitors the children and each night, the elf flies to Santa to report if the kids are naughty or nice. The next day, the elf constructs a whimsical scene. When the children awake they may find the tiny red creature climbing the Christmas tree or staging a snowball fight. On other days, the elf may prepare a traditional North Pole breakfast or draw adorable minions on bananas. Elf on the Shelf is a humorous tradition that stimulates the imagination when the "elf" designs creative scenes.

Advent Calendars originated in Germany in the 19th century. The first advent calendars were handmade poems or pictures. Advent calendars are creative containers or flap ups with numbers that represent each day of the month of December. Along with each number is a treat or trinket. Some people may put 24 in the first box and countdown to Christmas while others start with 1 and count up with the

days. No matter how it is done, children find advent calendars exciting to wake up to every morning and to countdown to Christmas with a daily surprise.

Lastly, the beloved and delicious gingerbread man is a mouthwatering holiday dessert. The first gingerbread man was created by, believe it or not, Queen Elizabeth I. She shaped these Christmas candies to look like visiting dignitaries and then presented the gingerbread replicas to the dignitaries. How to make them? The main ingredient is, naturally, ginger bread. Also needed are flour, cinnamon, ginger, baking soda, cloves, salt and nutmeg. When these are stirred together, knead the dough, shape it into the shape of a man, and bake it. Then decorate the top with candy. Yum!

In conclusion, these trendy traditions are a thrilling way to celebrate Christmas.

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## Koalas' Endangerment

By: Jiya Kohli

Koalas are very charming creatures. These cuddly animals' habitat is in trees. These tree-hugging animals reside in Australia, their only habitat. Unfortunately, due to the wildfires in Australia, the koala's



habitat is being taken away from them. Not only are their homes being taken away, but also their lives. Due to these fires brewing in Australia, virtually half a billion koalas have been killed from these raging fires. These adorable creatures are losing their habitats, and without their homes, they cannot survive.

You can help with the koala's endangerment anywhere in the world. One way you can help these innocent creatures is by adopting one and saving a life. Another way you can succeed in helping the koalas is by sponsoring a forest or an acre of koala's habitat. You could also donate to koala endangerment charities. Some favorable charities you can donate to are the Australian Koala Foundation, World Wildlife Fund- Australia, and the International Fund for Animal Welfare

An interesting fact about these curious creatures is that koalas are not actually bears, they are marsupials! Another fact about koalas is that they are colossal sleepy-heads. They can sleep up to 18 hours a day! They can also survive on a diet of eucalyptus leaves and can eat up to a kilogram a day! These creatures barely drink water! They obtain all the moisture they need from their eucalyptus leaves. These charming animals' lives are being placed at stake, but you can help. You might suspect it will not even help, but everything helps every minuscule donation, sponsor, and etc.



# Hoverboard

By: Sohum Gulati

Have you ever been on a board that you can maneuver with your own weight? Well, I have, and that board is called a hoverboard! Now there is a new hoverboard that floats above the ground!

You can ride a hoverboard anywhere. It can be ridden in the house, outside, and more. The hoverboard has big wheels that let kids ride on bumpy areas without falling. The hoverboard can be ridden inside without ruining the wood on the floor. Even better, the board can also ride on rugs with no problem. The only way a hoverboard can damage the ground is if the rider hits something and the hoverboard clacks on the ground.

A safety feature of the new hoverboard is the self-balancing mode. Although the self-balancing hoverboards are more expensive, they are worth it. The reason why is that if a kid is starting to fall over, the self-balancing mode will make the hoverboard straighten. It also helps the kid stand up straight. This can be very useful because the more people that buy this type, the fewer people will get hurt on hoverboards.

The hoverboard is easy to master. You might start out by barely moving, but in the end you will be able to ride long distances. First, you will want to get on while holding someone's hand. Then to control the hoverboard, you will need to put pressure on the pads. If you want to go forward, put pressure on the front of your feet. If you want to go backward, put pressure on the back of your feet. To turn right you will have to put pressure on the front of your left foot and pressure on the back of your right foot. To turn left you need to do the opposite. You will have to put pressure on the back of your left foot and pressure on the front of your right foot.

The age group of six years old and up are suggested for the hoverboard. The reason has to do with the weight requirement. If the kids are too light, the sensors might not be able to feel where they are putting pressure. Due to that, the hoverboard might read the pressure wrong and shoot in a random direction or it might not move at all! The hoverboard can carry up to 220lbs or 100 kg. If the weight is too much, the hoverboard may malfunction.

The main reason the hoverboard is a big craze is that many kids want a way to move around without doing any work. The hoverboard also lets kids move around in a fast, fun way. The hoverboard is a craze for the ages of 8 and up.

Some reasons are

1. Kids love music. Kids can take the hoverboard palace to place and if they ever get bored they can just connect a device to the hoverboard and listen to music on the go.
2. Kids can take it on the go. The hoverboard is small and lightweight so kids can take it on the go.

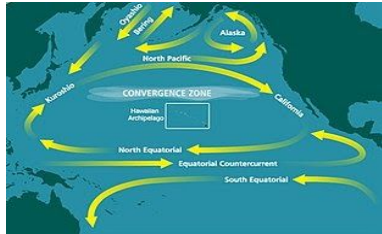
On August 15, 2015, Lexus released the SLIDE Hoverboard. The SLIDE Hoverboard is the board of the future. The reason is that it actually hovers! The Lexus Hoverboard has special metal inside the board that is cooled to -321 Fahrenheit. The special metal is an expensive one in which when it is cooled enough it hovers above a magnet. To ride the board you must go to an area where there are magnets under you. If you rest, the hoverboard there it will hover. This hoverboard costs about \$10,000.

If you like hoverboards, you may even want to buy one. The hoverboard is available on Amazon, Walmart, Best Buy, and other places as well.

# Plastic World In The Pacific

By : Deepsikha Sahu

Do you know about a new continent discovered by scientists? It's made up of garbage! Don't be surprised, it's true. Not all trash ends up in the dump. Rivers, beaches and the rain can't catch everything.



In fact, Earth's largest landfill is not on the land at all, it's in the ocean and popularly known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. It's located in the Pacific Ocean between California and Hawaii and sometimes also called as Pacific Trash Vortex. The garbage patch is divided into two areas, the Eastern Garbage Patch, between Hawaii and California, and the Western Garbage Patch extending eastward from Japan to the Hawaiian Islands.

When scientists first looked at the Garbage Patch from above they were very shocked. It covers an approximate surface area of 1.6 million square kilometers - an area twice the size of Texas and three times the size of France. The garbage is made up of exceptionally high concentrations of plastic, chemical sludge, wood pulp, and other debris trapped by the currents of the ocean originates from the Pacific Rim, including countries in Asia, North America, and South America. Researchers from The Ocean Cleanup project claimed that an estimated 87,000 metric tons of plastic inhabit the patch, totaling 1.8 trillion pieces. 92% of the mass in the patch comes from objects larger than 0.5 centimeters, while 94% of the total objects are represented by microplastics. Some of the plastic in the patch is over 50 years old, and includes items such as plastic lighters, toothbrushes, water bottles, pens, baby bottles, cell phones, plastic bags.

It's estimated that between 1.15 million to 2.41 million tonnes of plastic are entering the ocean each year from rivers. More than half of this plastic is less dense than the water, meaning that it will not sink once it encounters the sea. The stronger types of plastic show more resistance in the marine environment, allowing them to be transported over extended distances. They persist at the sea surface as they are transported by converging currents and finally accumulating in the patch. Once these plastics enter the giant garbage patch, they are unlikely to leave the area until they degrade into smaller microplastics under the effects of sun, waves and marine life.

Fishing nets are the largest source for trash to reach the ocean. Fishing nets are less expensive and that is why fishermen leave them after their use. They catch fish but then leave the fishing nets behind. These fishing nets swim through the sea and reach the Garbage Patch. Fishing nets can float and that is why it is easy to travel all the way to the Garbage Patch. Scientists predict that a major portion of the Garbage Patch is filled with fishing nets. These fishing nets also hurt, harm and injure animals in the ocean as they go. Some sharp fishing nets can also kill the creatures in the sea. Scientists have been finding dead animals in that area. As more and more plastics are discarded into the environment, microplastic concentration in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch still continues to grow and a new size of the Garbage Patch is being analyzed by scientists, but it's believed to have increased "10-fold each decade" since 1945.

Plastics are very harmful to the environment, our ecosystem can harm ocean life too. Due to the shiny nature of plastic, ocean creatures get attracted to them. Creatures in the ocean think that it's their food and

are getting endangered because of this. This is also affecting the food chain. There is approximately eight percent of microplastic in the Garbage Patch. Microplastic means little pieces of plastic. The rest three quarters of the Garbage Patch is megaplastic. Megaplastic means big chunks of plastic. Scientists are trying many ways to clean the Garbage Patch. One way that they are trying is to drop nets into the ocean and take out a little trash at a time, but every time they get even larger globs of trash. Also scientists have noticed that most of the Garbage Patch is made up of plastic that can be recycled, but in order to recycle many plastic recycling industries need to set up. Scientists also proposed to use surface currents to let debris drift to the seashore by using floating booms.

Luckily boats are still able to go into the Garbage Patch. Some ships have sunk but most of them with stronger engines have crossed the Garbage Patch, so only ships with strong engines are sent to the Garbage Patch for research. These days even the submarines and drones are being used for collecting closer photos, videos and samples. Scientists have been trying to develop the ocean cleanup system that does not interfere with marine life. Many recent ocean cleanup systems and recycling machines have found a way to reduce the growth of the Garbage Patch, but they still have not been able to completely stop the growth and that is why we still need to be careful about the danger to our world where we live. Scientific community is continuously working hard and trying to get an even closer look at the Garbage Patch and the research continues.



The Greater Pacific Garbage Patch is now a poster child for a worldwide problem; plastic that begins in human hands yet ends up in the ocean, often inside animals' stomachs or around their necks, finally to the human body through the polluted food chain. So to help the Garbage Patch not grow too quickly and cleaning up the garbage patch in the longer term, it's a combined responsibility of every citizen, fishermen, scientific community and the federal governments. Fishermen should take home their nets after using them. Citizens should try to minimize the use of plastic and possibly use only recyclable materials. We need to separate the recyclable trash and the non recyclable trash. Recycling

will save some plastic and paper from going into the sea and eventually the growth of the Garbage Patch. Hope together we can stop growing the Garbage Patch and clean it up sooner than later.

## Native Birds Of New Jersey

By: Mahreen Hydari

As we all know, COVID-19 has made all of us quarantine in our houses for the last few months. While quarantined, many of us have started paying more attention to the birds that are visiting our backyards, and has made us wonder more about nature and its surroundings. New Jersey is home to many different species of birds because of its temperate climate. The most common birds in New Jersey are:

### **Blue Jays**

Blue Jays stand out due to their bright blue colors. They are mostly found in South Florida, Central



America, and Northeastern Texas. Blue Jays can fly 20-25 miles per hour. Their diet includes nuts such as acorns and seeds. Their predators are hawks and owls. Its lifespan is 7 years in the wild. Blue Jay's range in length from 9 inches to 12 inches.

Interesting facts: Blue Jay's pigment in feathers is actually brown. The oldest known wild Blue Jay was about 26 years

old. The Blue Jay is not an official state bird of any state.

### **Woodpecker**

Woodpeckers are known for their strong beak and making knocking noises with them. Woodpecker's diet includes nuts. They are found worldwide except in the continent of



Australia. Woodpeckers range in length from 3 inches to 20 inches. Interesting facts: Woodpecker's tongues are twice the size of their bill. Woodpeckers like to make music. Woodpeckers peck 8,000-12,000 times a day.

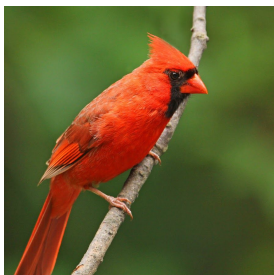
### **American Goldfinch**



The American Goldfinch can be easily spotted because of its bright yellow color. They are migratory birds and can be found anywhere in North America depending on the season. They are 4 to 5 inches long and weigh 11 to 20 grams. Its diet mostly includes seeds. Its life span is 3 to 6 years in the wild. Its predators include snakes, squirrels, blue jays, hawks, and cats.

Interesting facts: American Goldfinch is the state bird of New Jersey, Iowa, and Washington. American Goldfinch molts or sheds twice a year turning to its bright yellow color in the spring. The record age of American Goldfinch is 11 years old.

### **Northern Cardinal**



Northern Cardinal has a bright red color that makes them stand out. It's a songbird that can range in size from 8 to 9 inches. It is found in most of the Eastern United States and some parts of Canada. Its diet includes beetles, grasshoppers, caterpillars, leaf buds, flowers, and wild fruits. Northern Cardinal's lifespan is 3 years in the wild. Their predators include hawks, shrikes, bald eagles, golden eagles, and owls.

Interesting facts: Male Northern Cardinals attack other intruding males and sometimes attack their own reflection in mirrors and windows. The longest living Northern Cardinal was 28 ½ years old. Cardinals are named after the Cardinal priest who wears red robes.

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# The Online Library Program

## The Online Way Of Checking Out Library Books

By: Yukti Malik



Do you miss going to the library and getting books? Well if you do, you are in luck. JMI has started a new library program where you can check out books online, and then you can go to the school and pick up your book.

To check out your book, there is a special website that you have to use, it is called Destiny Discover. On the website, you can search up the specific book that you want by title, the series, or the author. If you are not sure what book you want, you can go through different categories of books. On the website, it appears like there are so many more books than when you actually went to the library. It looks like that because those are all of the books, but when you went to the library in a regular school year, there weren't too many books, because other people had taken them out.

When you find a book that you like and would want to have, then you can put it on hold. There will be a button that says hold, next to an image of the book. You can only hold one book at a time. After about a day or two, our school librarian, Mrs. Coyle, will email you that your book is ready to be picked up. Make sure you pick up the book within two days; if you do not, then the book will go back into circulation. If many people have a certain book on hold, then it might take a couple of days for Mrs. Coyle to reach out to you and tell you that your book is ready to be picked up.



When you go to pick up your book at school, a teacher will be there to give you the book. It is a very simple process: You tell the teacher there your name, and your book, and then they will hand it to you! You have to return the book within two weeks. If you are not done reading the book yet, you can renew it. You can renew it by emailing Mrs. Coyle and telling her that you want to renew your book. Once you have done that, Mrs. Coyle will go into the system and change the due date of the book.

When you return the book, it will go into the quarantine box, where all of the books go when they have been returned, for three days. The school will also sanitize all of the books to make sure they are clean.

This new library program is fantastic! If you don't have any books at home, this is the website to go! **\*The Destiny Book check out system does not operate when the district is full remote.**

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## Why Should Children Get Pets?

Written By: Khushee Matani

Children should get pets because of many, many reasons, and this article is going to cover most of these reasons. I hope you enjoy it!



Exercise and workouts are hard to expect from children because of video games, TV's, and now, because of remote learning! Everyone is at their devices, typing away. In these circumstances, children are hard to blame. So, getting a pet will get children up and moving! Most animals want to play, play, play! Playing with an animal will get you some good exercise!

Most of the time, just losing a caged animal, like a hamster, will cause a child to run around the whole house to get them back, believe it or not, is better workout children can do when they are trying to do a workout.

You see, the modern generation believes that video games, Netflix, and sleeping are better than going out for a walk, or going outside for a bike ride... or anything like that. So a pet would change that. Like the examples above, you get to know your pet better, and you get a workout!

A pet is the best "all the time" companion and love provider. Sometimes, children can get bored, after school, like me. And, to get unbored, sometimes the way we think is best is just video games and technology. It's not the best for our eyes, and brains, and academic performance, but, if you had a pet, they would play with you, and love you. And sometimes, if there is an older and younger sibling, the pet could keep the younger sibling busy, while the older one completes his/her work. Then, they could make a schedule, or share the dog and play with it!

Also, when somebody is sad, a nice pet is someone you can talk to, or snuggle with and it really helps, because pets don't hold grudges. They'll be with you every step of the way. Additionally, sometimes having a pet can reduce self-doubt, and increase self-confidence. Don't you think that having a pet with you that thinks you are their home and family and their life will make you feel like you're important? Valuable, too. I think it will. As you can see so far, pets are very helpful in living a balanced life.



Believe it or not, even parents and guardians will benefit from a pet! Most adults want their children to grow to be responsible as an adult. A pet can help with that. From cleaning up for them, to spending time with them so they're (the pet, not the child), not bored, feeding them, and bathing them, pets will teach even the littlest children responsibility. Like I said above, bathing pets, feeding them, and just overall taking care of their lifestyle is a lot of responsibility. Of course, parents/ guardians can help their child take care of the pet; the brand new family member. This brings me to

the next point. As children are growing, hanging out with friends, watching TV, and playing video games are more ideal for them, and children are not to blame. BUT, adults in the family can bond with their children by teaching them how to handle the pet, and this can go very well.

Also, getting a pet to play with will reduce the chances of parents/ guardians hearing "I'm bored!" or any other phrases like that. When adults are busy, sometimes they can get annoyed when their child comes and says they are bored and have nothing to do. If a child has a pet or gets one, a) they'll never be bored! And b) if they are bored, still, parents have the advantage to ask, "Then why do you have (pet's name)? Play with him/her!"

When I first asked my mom for a pet, she told me that a belief in our family was that when we're getting a pet, we're taking it from its home. And now, before you're like "oh yeah..... That's true. I don't wanna pet if we're taking it from its home", you're actually not taking it from its home. You're not getting a stray dog, or a stray squirrel, or a stray animal straight from the forest, or your backyard or anywhere, right? If you are getting a pet from a shelter, you are helping the animal. Why would an animal be in the shelter if there wasn't a reason? There must be. Those animals must've lost their parents, injured themselves, got lost, or any other reasons which separated them from their family. All you're doing is giving love to an animal as if you were its family; the love the animal's own family couldn't give the animal.

I will admit, pets can cost a lot at first. For example, getting a dog will cost you a little more than \$700, 800, or 900 the first year, or 7-8 months, you get him/her, but doesn't it make sense? The dog needs food, clothes, a leash, a food bowl, a water bowl, and a lot more. And think about this, too. If the dog was your brother, or sister, or any of your family who needed these normal life necessities at once, you would buy them, right? Your dog is part of your family now...

Also, the price will decrease each year, since you already have the more "permanent" things you need.

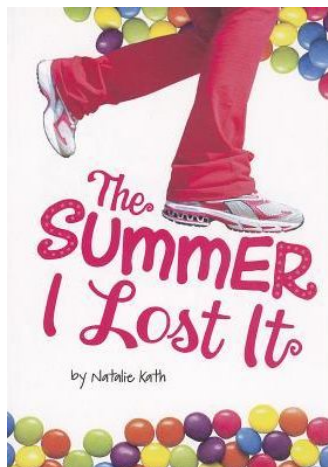
All in all, I hope you now believe that getting a pet is an advantage, not a burden. There are many things to consider about getting a pet, but I truly believe that getting a pet is an enjoyable experience.

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# Book Review: *The Summer I Lost It*

By: Simran Bhasin

The book, *The Summer I Lost It*, is awesome! Actually, if you have not read this book, then this is the perfect article for you. The author of this book is Natalie Kath. Get ready to dive into a book review!



In this book, the main character is Kat. Kat is a girl who is overweight and obese. Her doctor told her that she had to lose at least 15 pounds in order to get out of the obese level. She never looked at the number on the weighing scale in the doctor's office when they were weighing her. She did this because she knew a number that she would be unhappy with would pop up. Kat decided that she had to do something about this instead of putting it off. She considered Fat Camp, and thought it would be a good idea since it seemed to work well when her aunt went to the camp. Since it would be Kat's parents who were paying for the Fat Camp, she concluded that she would ask her parents during dinner that night.

Later in the day, Kat sat down for dinner that night. She made sure she had her research done. When she sat down at the dinner table, she started to speak.

After dinner that night Kat was left mad. Her parents denied her idea about Fat Camp. They said it cost thousands of dollars and that they couldn't afford it. Kat was furious about this. How was she ever going to lose 15 pounds if she couldn't even go to Fat Camp? Kat contacted her aunt and tried to discuss ways to lose weight without going to the camp.

Her aunt had many great ideas but not any that Kat was crazy for. That same day, her mom gave her a gym coupon and set a challenge. If she lost 15 pounds by the end of the whole month she could go to her favorite waterpark since Kat would be more comfortable to be seen in a bathing suit. As time passes, Kat got used to the process. She would go to the gym and eat healthy. On the way, Kat met a boy who also went to that gym. Kat and the boy became very good friends.

When Kat finally lost 15 pounds, Kat and her family went to the waterpark. When Kat reaches, she gets a call from the boy. Something amazing happened! Read the book on your own to find out the ending...

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## Student Council Elections

By: Trisha Ojha





Have you ever voted before, either at school, or for the president of the United States of America?

Usually, schools have elections for the school president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. Also, at the beginning of the year, we vote for student council representatives that represent your own class.

Here at JMI, we have voted this year for the 2020 - 2021 school year. We did the voting for two days. The first day was for the secretary and treasurer, and the second day was for president and vice president.

Last year when we voted, we went outside, on the blacktop, to listen to everyone's speeches. This year of course is different because of the pandemic. Because of this event, we voted in Google forms. When we voted, we first looked at all the candidate's speeches and decided whose speech was better; then we voted! When everyone votes in the whole school, at the end of the day, Mrs. Abatamarco announces the winners! At JMI, they first announce treasurer, then secretary, vice president, and lastly president!

This year, the treasurer is Arnav Doshi, the secretary is Yukti Malik, the vice president is Harish Jade, and the president is Ranya Chaudary. These winners were all the highest voted for their choices. When we voted for representatives for the class, we did the same thing. Mrs. Abatamarco did not announce the representatives, since there were so many for each class. Your homeroom teacher counted the votes and then she announced the winner.

Student council truly gives you the opportunity to foster skills like leadership, communication, teamwork, organization and public speaking, all of which you need in university. Not only do these skills help you in class, but they're also super valuable if you're interested in co-op programs and job applications. The purpose of the student council is to give students an opportunity to develop leadership by organizing and carrying out school activities and service projects. In addition to planning events that contribute to school spirit and community welfare, the student council is the voice of the student body. Student councils do fundraisers and can make your school truly a better place to live in.

# Warriors

By: Rachael Rackhara

What types of books do you like? Fantasy? Adventure? Mystery? Well, don't worry if you don't

have a type of book you like. If you're wondering what I am talking about, read on! I have a great series of books for you to read. The series is called... *Warriors*! You may have heard of the *Warriors* series. The first series is focused on Rusty, a house cat who meets a clan cat named Graypaw one lucky night. Bluestar



invites him to Thunderclan, and he accepts. He goes on many adventures with Graypaw and his friend Ravenpaw.

Thunderclan's enemies are Riverclan and Shadowclan. Windclan isn't an enemy, but a rival, and later an ally. War is happening between the clans, and some deaths are more mysterious than others. There are five series, each focusing on a different cat. Their names are, The Prophecies Begin, The New Prophecy, Power of Three, Omen of the Stars, and Dawn of the Clans.

The author of these are Erin Hunter. She has also written *Seekers*, and *Survivors*. These *Warriors* series will keep you glued onto the book until you have reached the last page. I can tell you this for a fact because I have read the series The Prophecy Begins, and The New Prophecy. Heads up! Every book has a twist and/or cliffhanger at the end!

The detail is absolutely incredible. It is written in a third person POV, but still tells the thoughts of the main characters. Best of all, Erin Hunter used an idea which was completely original. Sure, she may have gotten inspiration, but she has made one-of-a-kind books.

In summary, this is a great series which I think children will enjoy thoroughly. It will keep you glued onto it until the very last page. It is mystery, adventure, drama, every genre you can think of...all in one book. Erin Hunter is a #1 New York Times bestselling author.

## Out of my Mind: A Book Not to be Missed

By Ananya S. Mahidhara

If you are struggling on finding a book to read, then I suggest you read *Out of my Mind* by Sharon M. Draper. In *Out of my Mind* Draper wrote about a girl named Melody Brooks who has a condition called cerebral palsy. Due to this condition she can neither speak nor walk. Melody is very intelligent, but no one knows that because she is not able to speak her mind out about what is going on in her head. She goes to an inclusion school, and the children are not very nice to her there. Melody finds out that there is a quiz team in her school! She gets into the quiz team, and is determined to win, and for people to find out that she is much more than just who people think they are. Will Melody be able to face her challenges on the quiz team and prove her intelligence to her classmates?

I liked many aspects of this book, including its descriptive wording and intriguing plot. When I read the novel, I could really visualize every scene that occurred. This made me enjoy the book even more, because it was as though there was a movie going on in my head as I read it!

Another great feature of this book is the book's interesting plot. An example of this is when the author builds suspense as Melody's teacher is announcing who made the quiz team. Scenes like this put the reader on the edge of their seat, curious to learn what happens next.

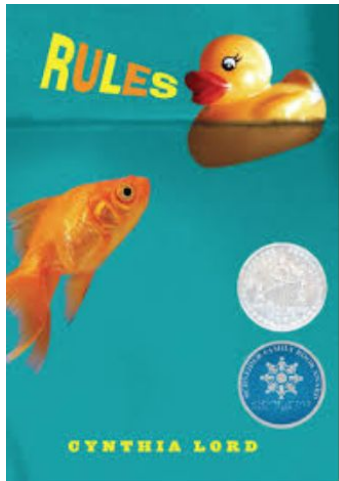
In the end, I truly enjoyed this book because it was moving and poignant. I could empathize with Melody's frustration and anger in times when her condition prevents her from sharing her thoughts. Throughout the book, there were many instances in which I wanted to jump within the pages and help Melody out myself.

In conclusion, I think that this is a great book. I would rate this book 9/10, and I encourage others to read it too. This book was great to me because of all the lessons that it taught, and the intriguing plot. I recommend that you read this amazing novel by Sharon M. Draper!

## The Greatest Book Award Goes to...

By: Jiya Ashar

Have you ever read the book Rules? If not, then you have to read it. The book rules is by Cynthia



Lord. It's about a twelve-year-old girl named Catherine, who has a brother named David, with autism. All she ever wished for was a normal life, but she never got that because of her brother's behavior and actions. She always has to take care of David, her brother, and look after him. He does many unusual things that embarrass her and she spends so much time making rules for him that he sometimes doesn't even follow! Her parents always revolved around David and his disabilities. She never got the attention that she wanted. But that summer, a twelve-year-old girl named Kristi, moved into Catherine's neighborhood. She had always wanted a neighbor her age, and now she has one right next door to her! She also goes to OT with her mom and David where she meets Jason, a boy around the same age as her, but he can't talk or walk. In the end, Catherine ends up messing things up with her family, Jason, and Kristi because of her bad behavior pushing everyone away. That incident makes her ask herself,

what is normal?

Cynthia Lord got the idea to write this book because she has two children, a son and a daughter. Her son has autism. Her daughter then said, "Mom, how come I never see families like mine in books and on TV?"

Cynthia Lord then went searching for books with families like hers, but she didn't find any happy books. She made the biggest parts of rules from her imagination. The characters are not from her family and the story isn't true, but it can always happen.

In the book, Catherine is a really great artist and has to take care of her brother all the time. She feels kind of jealous and left out sometimes because of the attention that they are giving David and not her. She also gets fed up with him because of the rules he keeps breaking, and the rules he still has to learn. But, she still cares about him a lot, and in the end, she says that David side by side with her is all she needs.

The book Rules has a very good meaning. It is about kids having disabilities and how you should respect them just like you would to other people. You should be kind, caring, mindful of what they can and can't do, and you shouldn't treat them carelessly.

# Joe Biden

By: Vihaan Singh



The new president has been elected! President Joe Biden has entered the White House! Joe Biden is now the 46<sup>th</sup> president. You may remember the historical 2020 elections that introduced our new President and Vice President. If you want to learn more about President Joe Biden, keep reading to find out about his personal life, accomplishments, and more.

Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. Was born on November 20, 1942 in Scranton, Pennsylvania. When he was a kid, he attended St. Helena School. As a child, he struggled with a stutter, so kids made fun of him and called him names. Soon, he overcame his stutter by reading, memorizing and saying lines of words in front of a mirror and got into the prestigious Archmere Academy. Joe Biden played in the football team and was an amazing wide receiver. He continued his football journey in college. He graduated from Archmere Academy in 1961 and then went on to study at the University of Delaware, where he studied history and political science. Though he was not very interested in academics early on, the election of John F. Kennedy encouraged him to take a deeper interest in politics.

During a spring break trip to the Bahamas, he fell in love with a Syracuse University student named Neilia Hunter. He became more engaged in academics when he was inspired by Neila. Joe got into Syracuse University Law School after he graduated from Delaware University in 1965. Biden and Hunter got married the next year. Biden had three children with Neilia. Joseph (Beau), was born in 1969. Robert (Hunter), was born in 1970, and Naomi (Amy) was born in 1971. He graduated from law school in 1968 and moved to Wilmington, Delaware to start practicing law. He became a very active member of the Democratic Party and was elected to the New Castle County Council in 1970. In 1971 while he was a councilman, he started his own law firm. In 1972, he ran against J.

Caleb Boggs for the US Senate seat. Biden won and became the 5<sup>th</sup> youngest person to become a senator in US history. But soon, Biden receives heartbreaking news that his wife and children had been caught in a car crash, and Neilia and Naomi died in the accident. His two sons were badly injured. Biden was devastated but used the encouragement of his family to move on. He did not go to the ceremony to welcome him as a senator but instead took the oath of office right next to his son's bed



in the hospital. But luckily, he found love again and in 1977 remarried Jill Biden, our new First Lady. He and Jill had a daughter named Ashley.

Biden served a notable time as a senator from 1973 to 2009. During the time, Biden won respect as one of the country's leading foreign experts and served as chairman for the Committee of Foreign Relations for many years. In 1987, Biden decided to run for president. But he dropped out because some reports said that he had plagiarized part of a speech.

All throughout his campaign, Biden had been having severe headaches. Shortly after 1988 he discovered that he had two life threatening brain aneurysms and he had to undergo brain surgery. The result of the brain surgery started to make blood clots in his lungs and Biden had to undergo another surgery. But, after surviving the seven-month recovery period, he returned to the senate as good as new.

In 2007, 20 years after his failed attempt, he tried to run for president again. But his campaign did not do very well, so he dropped out again. Some months later, Barack Obama was chosen as the democrat to run for president and chose Joe Biden as his vice president. He gladly accepted. Joe Biden also played an important part in the elections by communicating and spreading the campaign to important states like Pennsylvania and Ohio. On November 2, 2008, Barack Obama was elected as the 44<sup>th</sup> president and Joe Biden the 47<sup>th</sup> vice president. In 2012, the Obama-Biden team ran for president again opposing Mitt Romney. They won re-election and served another term.

A few of Vice President Biden's biggest accomplishments included supporting President Obama on the Osama Bin Laden mission, helping to pass Obamacare, and leading the cancer moonshot task force. The Osama Bin Laden mission involved tracking down the leader for the 9/11 attacks and capturing him. Vice President Biden helped pass Obamacare, which provided free health coverage for 20 million people who previously didn't have it. He also led the cancer moonshot task force, which helped research for cancer treatments and increased funds to help find a cure.

In Nov 2020, Joe Biden defeated President Donald Trump to become our 46<sup>th</sup> President. As we start 2021, let's welcome our new President Joe Biden and we look forward to the next four years as he leads our Country.

## JMI's Chess Club

By: Saara Dash



If you are looking to learn an indoor game, I suggest chess as a very good option. Since we are in the east coast of America, where the climate is cold and

everyone is cooped up inside the house, I think you should play chess. This game is a strategy game where you have to plan your moves. It makes you think.

Why should you join JMI's chess club? There are many reasons why someone would want to join JMI's chess club.

The chess club is held at school so it's very convenient for the working parents as well as kids. They can directly go to the club right after school is over. Parents do not have to worry dropping students off to the club. For the ABC students, it is a very good way of using their after school time. They can play chess and have fun at the same time so they don't have to be bored. Most importantly, you get to play with your classmates, schoolmates, friends and teachers.

What is chess? Chess is a board game. It is a two player game, where there are 16 pieces for each opponent, one side has black pieces and the other side is white. The board is like a checkerboard with 64 squares in total. There are eight pawns, two rooks, two knights, two bishops, one queen and one king. You might think the king is the most powerful piece, but the most powerful piece is the queen, and the weakest piece is the pawn. The goal is to checkmate your opponent's king.

I started playing chess one year ago when I was seven. I started playing with my teacher once a week. My dad asked me if I wanted to learn chess. I did, so I joined. I didn't know much about it when I first started. But after continuing practicing and going to the chess class, I started to understand chess more and more throughout the learning process. Then I started playing with my dad. I didn't really care about winning or losing. Either way is good for me because I can learn from my mistakes.

Are you interested in joining JMI's chess club? Well, I think you should join JMI's chess club next year because if you don't understand it on the first try, I am sure after a few classes, you will understand, and will enjoy, and be a pro at it. Just in case you don't know chess that well, I would suggest joining the intermediate or beginner group.

Hope to see you at JMI's chess club!

