

Potter Pride Newspaper

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Powering Through The Pandemic

By Abigail Foster, 8th-grade reporter

This year has been different for everyone in many ways, but Morton Junior High School is extremely lucky to currently be able to have in-person classes. Special safety measures have been implemented, such as face masks, extra cleaning, and social distancing. Also, if a student sits next to someone who contracts Covid-19, then they must stay at home for two weeks.

Jaedyn Robbins, an 8th-grader, went through a two-week quarantine during the first semester, and while she experienced some challenges during that time missing out on in-person musical rehearsals and working hard to keep up with her schoolwork, she also benefited from her quarantine in a couple of ways.

She said, "I loved being able to have family time. My family definitely became stronger." To entertain herself, she "read a lot of books, did baking, and video called [her] friends to stay in touch." Thanks to modern technology, she could still talk to people and tune in to Google Meets for various after-school activities.

Rebecca Smith, 8th-grade student, was sick with the coronavirus last semester. She said, "I still had to follow my school schedule, turn in assignments on time, and join lots of Google Meets. I liked getting to spend more time with family, even if we were all sick. It was nice to

sleep in and get extra time for other activities." However, she was certainly happy when she recovered and returned to school.

Rylli Koener, an 8th-grader who went through quarantine, said that she gets much more out of being in the classroom than remote learning. She said, "I think teachers are doing a fantastic job and should send out an email in the morning when we can see it and maybe get [the assignments] done early...most teachers do this." Another helpful strategy that some teachers have used is an "Absent Learners" folder in Schoology to make it clear what students need to do at home. No one should discount the Herculean efforts of teachers to ensure that all kids have the opportunity to learn and grow, despite this pandemic.

Ultimately, there have been many difficulties as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, MJHS, as well as the rest of the world, has risen above this situation. People have found ways to maintain relationships through technology, such as Zoom and texting. Memes, songs, and funny videos have given people reasons to smile. Everyone has learned, now more than ever before, that Charles R. Swindoll's words couldn't be more true: "Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it."

Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

Feb. 3: Early Dismissal @ 11:00 A.M.

Feb. 15: No School (President's Day)

MARCH

Mar. 3: Early Dismissal at 11:00 A.M.

Mar. 5: Early Dismissal at 11:00 A.M.

MARCH CONT.

Mar. 5: End of Third Quarter

Mar. 29-Apr. 5: No School (Spring Break)

Students and Staff

Green Team Student Spotlight

By Aaden Lamar, 7th-grade reporter

Zach Weber is a 7th-grade student who is on Green Team. He is involved in a lot of activities at school -- he plays baseball, participates on the swim team, and is in the marching band.

His favorite hobbies are playing video games and ping pong, making models of boats, and mowing his lawn.

When reflecting on how Covid-19 precautions have affected his day-to-day life, Weber shared a very unique position. He said he feels like "it has changed me because of the appreciation of being able to go to school and getting

to socialize with my friends." He also feels that the school has "taken really good precautions with having us maintain social distancing and having masks on for the majority of the day."

To say the least, Weber has a great personality and is willing to make friends with anyone.



White Team Student Spotlight

By Addison Kellington, 7th-grade reporter

Lucy Kaufman is a 7th-grader on White Team, and she is our January White Team Student Spotlight!

Q: What is your favorite subject? Why?

A: "My favorite subject is probably social studies because we get to learn about history and politics."

Q: Are you in any extracurricular activities? Which ones?

A: "I'm in the school musical, and I did cross country."

Q: What do you do in your free time?

A: "I walk my dog Rocky, and I like organizing things."

Q: Where did you go to elementary school?

A: "Jefferson"

Q: What's your favorite food?

A: "Shrimp"

Q: How many siblings do you have?

A: "I have four siblings -- two sisters and two brothers."

Q: What would your dream day look like?

A: "I would have a sleepover with some of my cousins and get ice cream with them."

Counseling Corner

By Danielle VanMeenen and Beth Spaniol, MJHS Counselors

Adopted from Middle Years, Resources for Educators, a division of CCH Incorporated, 2017

Q: I've heard that students need "grit" to be successful. What is "grit", and how can I develop it?

A: Grit involves perseverance, courage, and resilience—basically sticking with tasks or goals until you see them through. Having clear goals will help you to develop grit, enabling you to stay with something when the going gets tough and to overcome problems along the way. Those who have grit see failures, rejections, and challenges as opportunities to learn. Instead of feeling defeated, they feel empowered to make changes that will help them get closer to their goal. You can foster grit by looking for examples of people you admire persevering when times are difficult. Try to notice how they handle adversity and adapt those skills to difficult situations you may face in your life. It can also be inspiring to read stories about famous people who have overcome obstacles on their path to success. For instance, Dr. Seuss had his first book rejected by 27 publishers before it was accepted. Ask Mrs. Akers in the LMC for recommendations for books where people demonstrate grit! A final suggestion is to always look for what lesson can be learned when things do not go as planned. Even if it was a tough lesson, coming away with new knowledge can always be looked at as a win.

Students and Staff

Encore Faculty Feature

By Chloe Holland, 8th-grade reporter

Mrs. Vollhaber is an encore teacher at Morton Junior High and teaches Project Lead the Way. She has been teaching for 15 years, but this is her first year at Morton. She attended Bowling Green State University in Ohio and went to Illinois State University for grad school.

One of her favorite things about teaching is the “student interaction. I really enjoy getting to know my students.” Other than getting to know her students, her favorite memory from teaching is “when students come back after I’ve had them and they say they are doing something with their life because of my class.”

After 15 years of teaching, she knows she made the right choice to go into education. She had a Spanish teacher in high school who especially encouraged her to become a teacher.

This year, so many things are different because of Covid-19 precautions, and it has affected her classroom in different ways. Mrs. Vollhaber said, “We are not able to do as much teamwork or group work, which is usually something I do all the time. I also don’t get to have as much of that facial recognition with my students because of masks.”

Overall, Mrs. Vollhaber really enjoys being a teacher and is excited for many years to come at MJHS.

Red Team Faculty Feature

By Addie Gosteli, 7th-grade reporter

Mr. Williams is the Red team Science Teacher at Morton Junior High School. He grew up in a little town called Sherman, which is outside of Springfield. When he was a kid, he enjoyed anything related to science. He knew that he wanted to do something with the sciences in his career.

Mr. Williams went to Sherman Elementary, Williamsville Junior High, Springfield Lutheran High School, Illinois State University for undergrad, and St. Xavier University for grad school. In all of the schools he went to, he had great teachers, but especially in grades 6-8. He said, “They were able to teach while also engaging the class in fun ways.”

His favorite thing about teaching science is getting to have students experiment and create labs and projects. He said, “These are things I remember enjoying in junior high science class, so I enjoy getting to pass it on.”

In his free time, Mr. Williams loves to spend time with his family, play volleyball, and do projects around the house. His favorite books are the science textbook, *The One and Only Ivan*, *Harris and Me*, and *Dream Like a Champion*.

Mr. Williams is a great teacher, and MJHS is proud and lucky to have him!

Green Team Faculty Feature

By Gen Reinhart, 8th-grade reporter

Mrs. Rabe is the Green Team social studies teacher at Morton Junior High School. She said that her favorite part of teaching is “being with [her] students and interacting with them.”

She continued, “I think my favorite unit of teaching is the election unit as well as talking about the electoral college, especially during an election year.”

When talking about some of her most memorable teaching moments, she said, “I had a couple classes last year (2019-2020) that we chatted about my family and how things were going in my life, and I just felt like we connected together well, and it was fun to be in there for those hours.”

This year, as teachers and students know, there are many differences due to the necessary Covid-19 precautions. Mrs. Rabe said that due to some of these restrictions, it can be harder to connect with students since she takes a lot of facial expression cues.

These insightful thoughts from Mrs. Rabe give students a glimpse of being a teacher and the other side of the relationship. Thanks to Mrs. Rabe for all she does for the junior high!

Book Love

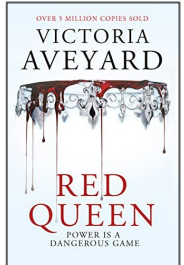
Book Recs

Compiled by Lexie Dentino, 7th-grade reporter
(Book descriptions from Amazon)

Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard

"Mare Barrow's world is divided by blood—those with common, Red blood serve the Silver-blooded elite, who are gifted with superhuman abilities. Mare is a Red, scraping by as a thief in a poor, rural village, until a twist of fate throws her in front of the Silver court. Before the king, princes, and all the nobles, she discovers she has an ability of her own. To cover up this impossibility, the king forces her to play the role of a lost Silver princess and betroths her to one of his own sons. As Mare is drawn further into the Silver world, she risks everything and uses her new position to help the Scarlet Guard—a growing Red rebellion—even as her heart tugs her in an impossible direction."

-Amazon



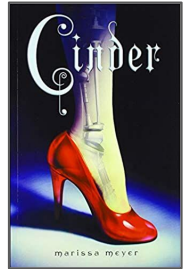
"Anyone can betray anyone." -Prince Cal

"Rise, red as the dawn." -Multiple characters throughout the book

The Lunar Chronicles by Marissa Meyer

"Cinder, a gifted mechanic, is a cyborg. She's a hard working citizen with a mysterious past, reviled by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister's illness. But when her life becomes intertwined with the handsome Prince Kai's, she suddenly finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle, and a forbidden attraction."

-Amazon



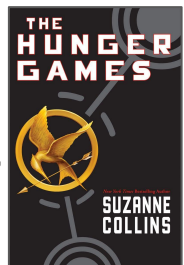
"Blisters bubbling across her skin." -Marissa Meyer

"I don't see that her being cyborg is relevant." -Prince Kai

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

"In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by 12 outlying districts. The Capitol keeps the districts in line by forcing them all to send one boy and one girl between the ages of 12 and 18 to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV. Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen regards it as a death sentence when she steps forward to take her sister's place in the Games. Still, if she is to win, she will have to start making choices that weigh survival against humanity and life against love."

-Amazon



"May the odds be ever in your favor." -Effie Trinket

"I volunteer as tribute!" -Katniss Everdeen

Word Power

Compiled by Valerie Smith, MJHS
Secretary

Word: resilient

Pronunciation: /rəˈzilyənt/

Part of speech: adjective

Definition

- 1: (of a person or animal) able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions
- 2: (of a substance or object) able to recoil or spring back into shape after bending, stretching, or being compressed

Examples

The rubber sole on a sneaker is **resilient** and stands up to a variety of ground surfaces.

Surviving difficult times made Harry Potter more **resilient**.

Book Love

Author Spotlight

By Olivia Huff, 8th-grade reporter

Michelle Paver

Wolf Brother, Spirit Walker, and Soul Eater

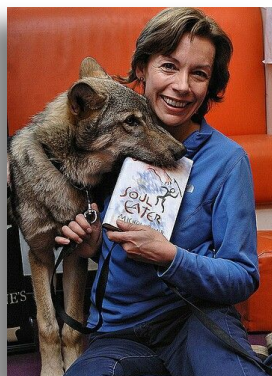
If you like adventurous, dark, and mysterious books, then you will love the *Chronicles of Ancient Darkness* series by Michelle Paver. The first book is *Wolf Brother*, which gives a lot of background knowledge on the life of Torak and how he met Wolf and Ren (his best friends).

Torak is part of the Wolf Clan along with his father. They are the only ones left of the Wolf Clan, and the bear is hunting for the spirit walker, which is assumed to walk with the forest clans and be the only one able to defeat the soul eaters and stay at peace with the nature spirits. Torak is on an adventure to find the spirit walker, but will he be able to find it before the soul eaters spread terror and darkness all through the forest?

The author, Michelle Paver, won the Guardian award, an award given to the person who created the best newspaper of the year, in 2010. Paver was born in Malawi, Africa to a Belgian mother and a South American father. The very first book she got published was *Without Charity* in 2000.

Michelle Paver is very well known for her *Chronicles of Ancient Darkness* series. To help her get a feel of Torak and his life, she basically did some of the things Torak would have done or did. She rode on horseback in the Forest of Finland to Lapland, and she ate elk heart and slept on reindeer skin.

If you are looking for a very exciting and thrilling adventure, read *The Chronicles of Ancient Darkness* series.



(www.goodreads.com)



(aimeecarter.com)



Aimee Carter

Simon Thorn and The Wolf's Den

Squeak, squeak, squeak -- what's that sound? That is the sound of rats kidnapping Simon's mom! The book *Simon Thorn and The Wolf's Den* by Aimee Carter has a ton of adventure and twists in it.

Simon had just found out that his mom was an Animalgam, which means someone who has the ability to change from human to animal at any time. Simon was confused because he had no idea what he was just told, but it turns out that there are five fractured kingdoms of the Animalgam world (Land Mammal, Reptile, Bug, Sea Animal, and Bird), and he might be the only one able to save them.

It turns out his uncle is also an Animalgam, and it's his uncle's job is to protect Simon...for certain reasons that you will find out when you read the book! Why do you think Simon has to be protected? Why do you think Simon is the only one able to save the Animalgam world?

Aimee Carter is known for 4 series: *The Goddess Test*, *The Zac Trilogy*, *Simon Thorn*, and *The Blackcoat Rebellion*. Carter started writing fanfiction at age 11 and has never stopped writing since. Her first book of the *Simon Thorn* series was published in 2016 (*Simon Thorn and The Wolf's Den*).

Book Love

4 Simple Ways to Access Books During a Pandemic

By Melissa Kruse, MJHS Instructional Coach

So you want to read books? Excellent! Reading is one of the most amazing things you can do for your brain. Soar to new heights of creativity, elevate your writing skills, and build background knowledge that will help you in all content areas by R-E-A-D-I-N-G. If you're looking for ways to access books online when you're at home, here are 4 simple things you can do.

MJHS Digital Book Library

The Morton Junior High School library has books available to read online!

1. Go to destiny.morton709.org
2. Log in with Google
3. Find a book!



Once logged in, you'll see eBook options, and each book will say whether it is currently OUT or IN. If it's IN, you can check it out to your device. eBooks through the MJHS library can be checked out for two weeks at a time. After that period, the book will automatically disappear from your iPad and return to its virtual shelf. BUT! If you are not done reading it, you can go back into the app and check it out again.

If you prefer to check out a physical book, you will see options for that on the Destiny page as well. Just email Mrs. Akers with your book request, and she will put it on hold for someone to pick up. Physical books can be checked out for three weeks at a time at MJHS. BONUS! We want you reading, especially during a pandemic. There are no library fines at MJHS this year. Happy dance.

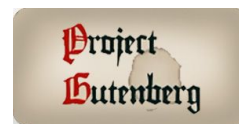
Epic!



Download the Epic! app onto your iPad. Then, create a profile. You'll need your parents to link their email address since you are a minor. It's that easy to get started! Epic! has many digital and audio book options available.

Project Gutenberg

Wanting to read some classics? The website Project Gutenberg has over 60,000 free eBooks, all in the public domain. Dive into some classic stories, like Peter Pan, Wizard of Oz, and Grimm's fairy tales.



Morton Public Library

If you prefer reading on your phone or home device, you can connect to eBooks with the Morton Public Library's Axis 360 app. Here's how...

1. Download the app.
2. Search for Morton Public Library District.
3. Enter your Library Card ID information.



The MPL also offers a drive up book valet option if you cannot enter the building and prefer a physical book.

We hope these options make reading during quarantine more feasible for you!

Sports

Pass, Set, Hit!

By Taylor Rice, 7th-grade reporter

The 7th-grade and 8th-grade girls have recently been going to volleyball camps for the past weeks. It didn't matter if they had had lots of experience or just started volleyball -- anyone could try out! Over the few camps, lots of students have said that it has been a lot of fun and definitely helped them improve in the sport.

One of the 7th-graders who attended the first volleyball camp, Ava Ray, said, "The coaches at the volleyball clinics have taught me a lot I could never figure out before. The coaches are super nice and always had something for us to do."

People are also hoping for a good volleyball season if Covid-19 doesn't prevent students from playing. Ray said, "Covid-19 has definitely changed a lot. We're not guaranteed a season but very hopeful for one. Social distancing did affect some of the partner work we got to do at the clinics. The masks did make a lot of people tired and more exhausted, but if we continue to wear them and social distance, hopefully there will be no doubt in a season."



Dribbling Past the Pandemic

By Caela Myers, 7th-grade reporter

When you get into junior high, students have the choice to try out for a sports team. However, with all that's going on this year, it will probably look different, especially one sport in particular -- basketball. The first question is, are there any definitive plans for a season?

The 7th-grade girls coach, Mr. Swearingen, has answered this question by saying, "Right now, we still have a season scheduled in March and April. We will have fewer games and a shorter tournament at the end of the season."

With social distancing and Covid-19 precautions, a question arose of whether there will be the same number of people on a team. The answer to this is yes. There will still be 15 students on the team.

Overall, this season is going to look a lot different than usual, but students are looking forward to still being able to play!



Morton Potters Basketball Logo

Clubs and Activities

Finding Inspiration Through Reading

By Ella Grayson, 7th-grade reporter

Over the course of the year, Mr. Carter has held a book club every month for the book *Relentless Optimism* by Darrin Donnelly. The book covers everything from successful careers, positive thinking, and baseball.

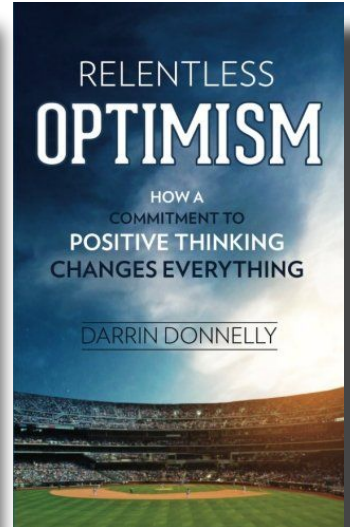
Hannah Bankert is in the book club, and when asked what was currently happening in the book, Bankert replied, "Right now the main character is in a slump and is trying to get out of it."

Her favorite parts of being in the book club include meeting new people and the life lessons learned from the book. Not to mention the donuts!

Bankert stated that she would recommend this book to anyone who couldn't find anything to read. She said that the book club left an impact on her, because she has "met a lot of new people and learned a lot!"



Darrin Donnelly
artworks-000330257640-hh1h3z-t500x500.jpg



Here to Help You Get It Write!

By Hannah Strubhar, 8th-grade reporter

Got a writing assignment you just can't get right, no matter how hard you try? Don't let the challenge drop your grade. Instead, come visit the Writing Center!

The writing center is a group of students who writes the school newspaper, and the club is run by Ms. Shore, Green Team ELA teacher. The Writing Center is also open from 3-3:45 P.M. on Mondays and 7:15-7:50 A.M. on Thursdays for peer feedback if you ever need help on an assignment. In the Writing Center, students spend lots of time brainstorming ideas for the next newspaper and helping other students who need help with their writing homework.

Interested? It's never too late to stop by, or even join in! In normal years past, the club has taken field trips to Bradley University to learn from writing professors and college students who are learning how to become English teachers. Due to restrictions, we have had to change this for this year, but Ms. Shore is still searching for a way to get the experience virtually.

The Writing Center is a fun and engaging experience. You get to make friends, write about topics that interest you, and be with a group who enjoys the same things as you.

Lydia Smith, an 8th-grade student who is new to the Writing Center this year, said, "I came to the Writing Center last year for help, and everyone here was so kind and helpful. The students had become so close with each other as friends." She said the experience has helped her learn to help others and look for things in her own writing she never would have before, and seeing her work published in the newspaper is an amazing experience.

So, what are you waiting for? If you are interested in joining, visit Ms. Shore in Room 212 for more information, or just stop by Mondays after school or Thursdays before school if you ever need help on a writing assignment. You can also use this [link](#) for written feedback from the peer tutors instead. Hope to see you there!

WRITING CENTER

Clubs and Activities

Drama Club: Full of Character

By Emma Belsly, 8th-grade reporter

This winter, a new club has started at Morton Jr. High School, the drama club! The drama club is hosted by Mrs. Gorshe, who is hoping to teach students better acting and playwriting skills.

One may wonder exactly what being in a drama club means. Mrs. Gorshe said that “Drama Club is a place to show your creativity” and that students are “writing their very own original play and will perform it in a round circle with added music and props.”

This is a great place for anyone with a love of acting, writing, or both to collaborate with fellow students to create and act out their own play.

This club is for any students who want to join. Mrs. Gorshe stated that students should join because they get to “be a part of a creative process that will be 100% authentic!”

Despite Covid-19, this club has been able to persevere. To stay safe, they have been taking safety precautions like social distancing and wearing masks.

Ultimately, this club is a great place for anyone with a love of the creative and performing arts. Always remember that if you want to embrace your theatrical side, it's never too late to join!



Band Marching to the Top

By Rachel Clauson, 7th-grade reporter

Band is a great way to make new friends while learning about music and having fun. There are two 7th-grade bands, one before lunch (standard) and one after lunch (ensemble). Both of the bands are directed by Mrs. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Arbisi.

“My favorite part of band class is that we have a lot of fun and there is always a lot of laughing,” said Ella Estes, a 7th-grader in band. “I also love how you make a lot of friends.”

In band, students also learn new songs and techniques

of how to play better.

Addie Gosteli, a 7th-grader, said, “My favorite song is the Harry Potter Melody.” The farther students get in the year, the harder songs get and the more they work on them.

In 6th grade, students can choose between orchestra and band. Gosteli said, “My dad had let me play his alto saxophone when I was in 5th grade, and I just loved it. Both of my parents were in band when they were kids and they said they loved it, so I decided to do band as well.”

The band has a few concerts each year. So far, they have had a fall concert where they played music from movies, and a Christmas concert where they played “Up on the Housetop,” “O Christmas Tree,” and “We Wish You a Merry Christmas.” When asked what her favorite song was, Estes said, “We have played so many great songs, and I don’t know if I can pick just one!”

Estes plays the flute and Gosteli plays the tenor saxophone, though before Christmas she played the alto saxophone, which is smaller and plays higher than the tenor. They both love the instrument they play and look forward to band class every day.



The MJHS 7th-grade band performed a concert in December that was streamed on MPTV.

Clubs and Activities

Why Join Orchestra?

By Ella Arthur, 7th-grade reporter

As Ludwig Van Beethoven once said, “Music is the one incorporeal entrance into the higher world of knowledge which comprehends mankind but which mankind cannot comprehend.” So, what really is an orchestra? Most people would say an orchestra is just a group of musicians performing together, but it’s not. An orchestra is a family of talented people that love performing and want to express themselves and bring joy to the world through music.

MJHS started its orchestral program in 1980. It started out with about only 12 people in 7th and 8th grades combined. Ever since, more and more people have joined. Today there are about 30 people just in the 7th-grade orchestra.

Teachers have been inspiring kids to explore the music industry and give it a try. Who knows, maybe someday you could become one of the greatest musicians in history. Himani Patel, a White Team 7th-grader, said, “I would definitely consider making performing in an orchestra a real job when I’m older. I love getting to play my violin.”

There are many reasons why kids love music. Music can be an escape from all of the stress in everyday life. Studies have shown that making music can “lower blood pressure, decrease heart rate, and lessen anxiety. Making music enhances the immunological response, which enables us to fight viruses” (livescience.com).

This year the 7th-grade orchestra students have been learning many new techniques. One of them is vibrato. According to the site “How to Improve Singing,” “Vibrato is a musical effect consisting of a regular, pulsating change of pitch. It is used to add expression to instrumental and vocal

music. Vibrato is typically characterized in terms of two factors: the amount of pitch variation and the speed at which the pitch is varied, also called the rate of vibrato.”

Students join orchestra for many different reasons, too. Caela Myers, a White Team 7th-grader said, “I wanted to join orchestra because I wanted to learn how to play an instrument that I could take with me and play my whole life.”

Being in orchestra has many benefits. Rogan Collins, White Team 7th-grader, said, “I’ve made a lot of new friends and I’ve really enjoyed getting to play my violin with them.”

If you like meeting new people and exploring new music, you should consider joining orchestra, too. Most people who join love it and don’t regret it. If you love music and making friends, the orchestra students strongly recommend giving it a try.



The MJHS orchestra performed a concert in December that was streamed on MPTV.

Creative Experiences in Art Club

By Ethan Estes, 7th-grade reporter

Mrs. DuPont is the sponsor of art club here at the junior high, and she answered some questions about the club. If you’re interested in learning more, you can contact her for more information! Thanks to Mrs. DuPont for all she does for MJHS!

Ethan: What day is art club on?

Mrs. DuPont: Art club is on Tuesdays after school.

Ethan: What do students normally work on in art club?

Mrs. DuPont: Students sometimes work on free choice, other times more advanced projects like mini murals or special tools like scratch art.

Ethan: If you had to do any different clubs, what would they be?

Mrs. DuPont: Other than art club, I would want to do a board game club or a book club.

Games

Winter Word Search

Compiled by Ella Arthur, 7th-grade reporter

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

FIRE
SNOW

COLD
HOTCOCOA

HOLIDAYS
SNOWFLAKE

Would You Rather...

Compiled by Ella Arthur, 7th-grade reporter

- Would you rather live in Antarctica or outer space?
- Would you rather have 5 dogs or 5 cats?
- Would you rather be incredibly funny or incredibly smart?
- Would you rather be 5 years older or 5 years younger?
- Would you rather start a colony on another planet or be the leader of a small country on Earth?

Jokes

Compiled by Lilia Volkova (7th-grade reporter), Chloe Holland, and Gen Reinhart (8th-grade reporters)

I invented a new word: Plagiarism!
(from Reader's Digest)

Q: What did the policeman say to his belly button?

A: You're under a vest.
(from 101 Corny Jokes)

Q: What do you call a boomerang that won't come back?

A: A stick.
(from parade.com)

Word Scramble

Compiled by Lilia Volkova, 7th-grade reporter

1. tewinr nodlearndw
2. smonnaw
3. crfas
4. taco
5. dcayn ecan
6. oesiock
7. ziazrdlb
8. srentsep
9. ksotcgins
10. eret
11. ikisng
12. alblnsow ghtfi
13. iisfetvtes
14. liicec
15. tho loatchcoe

Answers: winter wonderland, snowman, scarf, coat, candy cane, cookies, blizzard, presents, stockings, tree, skiing, snowball fight, festivities, icicle, hot chocolate

Games

Sudoku

Compiled by Lilia Volkova, 7th-grade reporter
From sudoku.com

Level: Easy

	5	1	3		9			6
	2		8	7	1	3	4	5
			2					
2	1	9	7	6	4		3	
			1	3				
7	3				8		6	2
5			4	2				3
			9	1	5			7
1	9					2		

Level: Medium

	1			7	2			4
	9	6		3		2	5	7
		8			9			3
			4	1				
			7				2	9
7				2		5		
9	6							
			3			7	4	
		7		8	4	1		

Level: Hard

		8				4		2
			3	2		7	8	
7		2	5		6			
		3		5				4
		9	7	4		2		
		6	2					
						5		
9					5	6		
6	2					1	9	

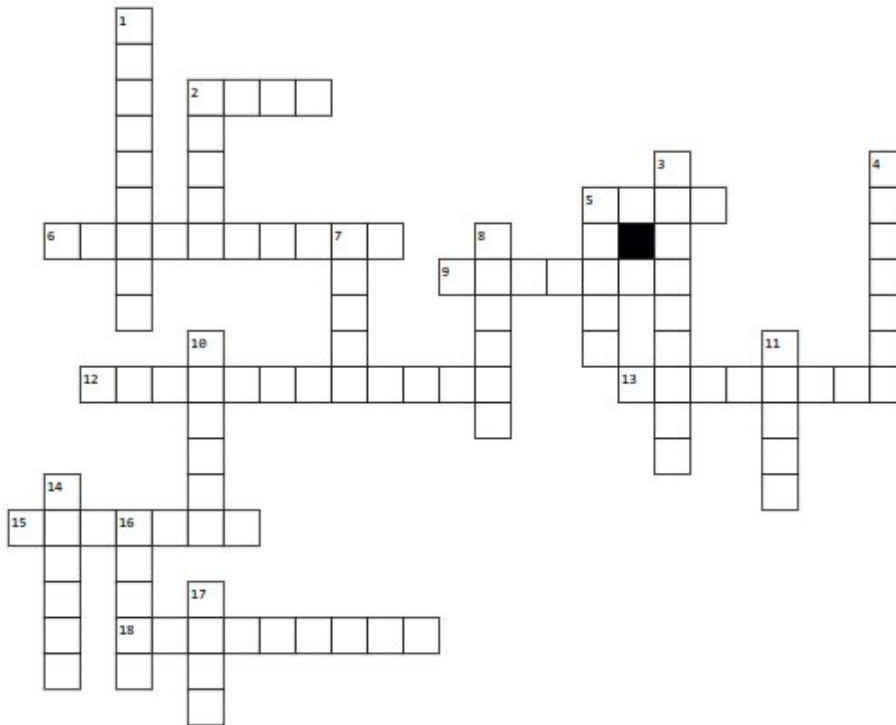
Level: Expert

				7			4	5
4						8		
8		1						
	8				2			
			5	9			6	
2	1				4			
5			4					3
		2						7
			6				5	4

Games

Crossword Puzzle

Compiled by Lydia Smith, 8th-grade reporter



Across

2. you use this to prevent ice on your driveway
5. planks on wood you wear on your feet so you can glide on snow
6. popular Christmas flower
9. To change habitat seasonally
12. you might serve this with marshmallows
13. wear these on you ears to keep them warm
15. how Santa enters a house
18. roasting on an open fire

Down

1. dancing from the cold
2. you wear me on your feet and legs. I rhyme with "box"
3. going to sleep for the winter
4. gloves without fingers
5. a length of cloth to wrap around your neck
7. house made of ice
8. the coldest season
10. hanging spike of ice
11. the sixth reindeer
14. you use this to remove snow from the sidewalk
16. the month winter ends
17. temperature, in Celsius, at which water freezes

Answer Key

