

Potter Pride Newspaper

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Tickets Flew Off the ShELF!

By Rylee Hernan, 7th-grade reporter

Students at MJHS performed the musical of Elf Jr. on February 2-4, 2024. The whole cast and crew did an amazing job!

Trevor Estes, 7th-grader, played Buddy the Elf and was the lead in the musical. He spoke about the auditioning process for him as a main character in the play, talking about how he did many script reads along with doing a few 'cold reads' (improvised acting) when they called back all of the people being considered for the different roles.

He said that a huge difference between being in the main cast and either ensemble or backstage crew is that you really get the chance of connecting with the audience when playing your character. He also said that while the memorization of the many different lines was stressful, it's extremely fun to be in lots of scenes.

As far as advice for those wanting to be in his position, he said, "It's going to be very busy and you need to dedicate a lot of time to it. Be prepared for that."

Isla Thompson, 7th-grader, was a part of the ensemble of the Elf Jr. show and one of the final soloists in the musical.

She shared about how for her audition process, she went to the orchestra room with other students wanting to join,

and she had to practice singing and dancing along with acting out different scenes of the musical with small groups.

She explained that each member of the ensemble was able to create their own unique characters based on how they played them. Due to the fact that they weren't pre-made characters, they could have their characters be whoever they wanted.

Isla also talked about how the ensemble is a lot different from the main cast and backstage crew as you interact with pretty much everyone. When asked if there was any advice she had to give for people wanting to do what she does, she said to be nice to the directors and keep working hard. Make sure you always try and audition because even just auditioning is a wonderful experience.

Great job to everyone involved in the production of Elf Jr.!



Writing Club Members

Selah Davis
Rylee Hernan
Maggie Hunsley
Juliet Luker
Adam Lunt
June Lyons
Grace Mulconrey
Adelyn Robbins
Tinley Sarff
Beatrice Schrock
Maeve Stoller
Isla Thompson
Elly Veatch
Advisor: Ms. Shore

Upcoming Events

MARCH

March 6: Early Dismissal;
Leadership Academy

March 8: Early Dismissal;
End of 3rd quarter

March 25-29: Spring Break

APRIL

April 1: Spring Break

April 3: Early Dismissal;
Leadership Academy

MAY

May 1: Early Dismissal;
Leadership Academy

May 24: Last day of school
for students

Students and Staff

Making Musical Memories in Pep Band

By Selah Davis and Elly Veatch, 7th-grade reporters

Pep band is a fun extracurricular activity for the members of MJHS band. Those who joined the pep band meet every other Monday to learn fun, well-known songs such as “Don’t Stop Believin” and “Shut Up and Dance.”

The members play before the beginning of either boys basketball or girls volleyball. It’s a carefree time with little to no pressure. Pep band is run by the Morton Junior High band director Mrs. Fitzpatrick; she teaches the music to all of the students and makes sure they are ready to play in front of everyone.

Beatrice Schrock, 7th-grader, is a part of the pep band and plays bass clarinet. Her favorite song out of the selection for pep band is “‘Don’t Stop Believin’ since it’s swift-paced and fun.” She said that she’s loved pep band as an extracurricular and that it’s always exciting.

Schrock added, “My favorite part about pep band is that I can practice more songs and spend time with my friends.” She also said that she chose to do the pep band because she thinks regular band is great, and she wanted to do more. She said, “I hope to continue playing pep

through high school with my friends, but I’m not sure about college yet.”

Lily Middleton is also a part of pep band, and she plays trumpet. Lily thinks that “pep band is amazing so far.” She said, “My favorite song is ‘We Will Rock You.’”

Her answer to what is her favorite part of pep band is, “I love hanging out with my friends and playing our instruments together.” Lily decided to do pep band because it sounded like fun. She thinks she will continue pep band through at least 8th grade.

Pep band is a great way for students who are in band but not part of sports to come together and cheer on the Potters in basketball and volleyball. The nights are fun and engaging for all of the students attending, whether they’re a part of pep band or just watching.



Student Spotlight

By Selah Davis, 7th-grade reporter

At MJHS there are many different students. The student spotlight for this newsletter was a very difficult pick because of the many talented people on the Green Team. The student spotlight for this article is Lily Middleton!

Lily is a part of the MJHS volleyball team and plays trumpet in the MJHS band. When asked what made her join the volleyball team, she said, “I have always loved playing volleyball. I’ve played on club teams for years and wanted to try for the school team.”

She also said that she enjoys volleyball because it’s a fun game and she gets to play with different people and work on new skills. She thinks her team will do this well! “We’re off to a good start and are learning to play well together. Hopefully we’ll keep it going!”

Lily is also in band. She chose to play the trumpet because her older brother played it and she already had one at home. If she could play any other instrument, she said she would play “saxophone. I really think they’re cool and like the sound of it.”

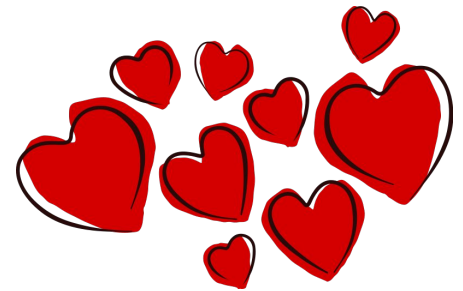
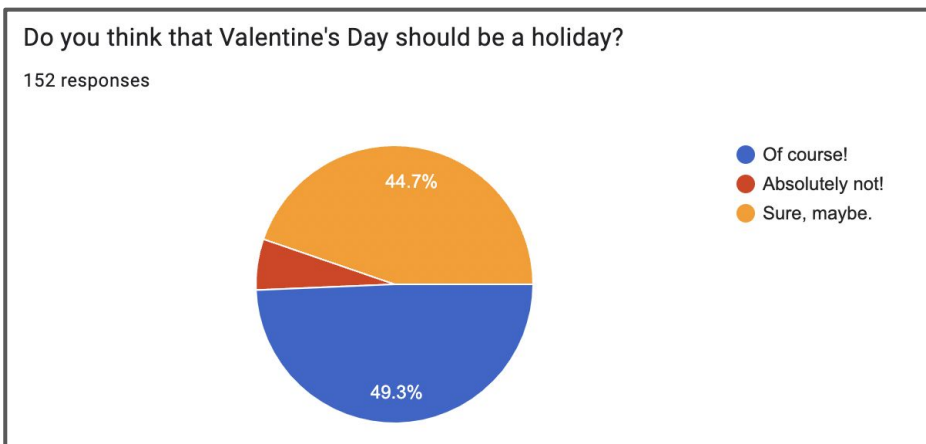
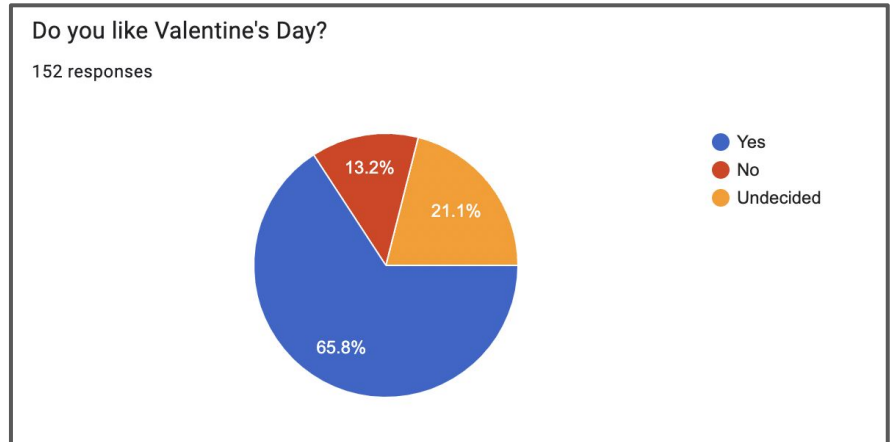
Her favorite pastimes outside of school are making art, playing games on her phone, and hanging out with friends. Finally, when asked about something that is surprising about her that others may not know, she replied, “I don’t know. I’m not surprising. I have a lot of random information and maybe people don’t know I’m diabetic.”

Students and Staff

Valentine's Day Poll

Compiled by Adelyn Robbins, 8th-grade reporter

Valentine's Day is coming up soon! Some of the MJHS students participated in a poll about their opinions about Valentine's Day. Here are the results!



Counseling Corner

Compiled by Danielle VanMeenen and Beth Spaniol, MJHS Counselors

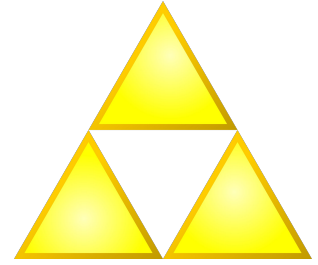
Adopted from *Middle Years, Resources for Educators*, a division of CCH Incorporated, 2019

Q: My teen spends a lot of time on social media. When they see classmates' posts, they think they have perfect lives which makes them feel inferior, lonely, and anxious. What can I do to help?

A: Suggest that your teen compare scrolling through social media posts to watching a movie trailer. The trailer doesn't tell the whole story—it just shows scenes that will attract viewers' interest. On social media, children (and adults!) tend to share happy moments, not ones that are boring or embarrassing. If your teen feels jealous of a classmate's vacation pictures, for instance, have them think back to a trip they took, perhaps when you went camping last summer. Ask which moments from the trip they would and would not want to be made public. Also, set limits on your child's social media use. Maybe they can check their accounts once after they finish homework and then log off for the evening. Though that may not initially be a popular idea, kids need time away from social media to experience real life—not the lives their friends are "creating" online. Overuse can lead to one getting caught up living in comparison to others, negative self-image, and jealousy, all of which are unhealthy for one's mental health. Their outlook will be more positive if they work to limit use so that they can live in the present and build authentic relationships.

Book Love

Novel Preview



**From *Hyrule Legends: Secrets and Stones*
By Adam Lunt, 7th-grader**

The little girl lay awake in her bed well past the time she should have been asleep by. She was listening hard to the sounds of her parents' voices speaking animatedly from the next room of the small hut over. This behavior normally wouldn't have warranted such excitement and confusion as was making its way through the girl's body now. On most nights, after the little girl was safely tucked away in bed, her father discussed what had happened that day with her mother. These recountings were often long, dull, and didn't keep the little girl's attention for more than a few minutes.

But the girl could tell that tonight was different. Her parents were speaking much more quickly and energetically than usual. As she listened, the little girl could make out a couple of words through the flap to the other room.

"—died a couple hours ago, by the looks of it," came her father's voice.

"How? What happened?" came her mother's.

Who had died? The little girl thought hard. It couldn't have been anybody in their village, they were a peaceful people with no weapons. But, the girl contradicted herself, maybe someone fell off a cliff into the ocean. That had happened many months ago, when a young boy strayed too far from his mother's watchful eye. The little girl remembered seeing the body being lifted out of the ocean by two fishermen while going on a walk to the local well with her mother. The little girl had been confused; *Why doesn't he sit up while in the boat?* She had asked her mother. Once they had made it home, her mother explained that the boy couldn't feel or think anymore, that all life had left his body. The girl was still confused, but decided not to question her mother further, as she was now silently weeping and the little girl felt like she was intruding on something private.

"—Don't know." Her father's voice brought the little girl back to the present. "Some men from the village went looking for him after he didn't come back from his evening walk in the woods. I saw them come out of the forest with the body. It was covered in vines; they said they had to hack them away with rocks."

"But then who will be our new chief?" asked her mother.

"I don't know. The village is holding a meeting tomorrow to discuss it."

The little girl shifted in bed and the wooden bedframe creaked. The voices outside stopped abruptly. The little girl heard footsteps outside her room and the door opened to reveal her mother standing there. By the light of the moon, the little girl's mother looked almost ghostly; her eyes were bloodshot and she was slouching slightly. The little girl wondered how late it must be for her mother, who was normally so beautiful, with her flowing locks of golden hair and her bright blue eyes, to look this tired.

"Are you all right, sweetie? You should be asleep by now."

"I know," the little girl said feebly, sitting up in bed. "Mama?" the girl asked suddenly.

"Yes?"

"Who's died?"

Her mother sighed heavily. "You don't need to worry about that, sweetheart."

"Oh," said the little girl.

Her mother smiled, but there were still shadows under her eyes. "I think it's time you got some sleep, okay?"

"Okay," said the little girl.

To read *Hyrule Legends: Secrets and Stones* in its entirety, go to the student works section of the LMC or email Adam Lunt (Green Team) for access to the Google doc.

Clubs and Activities

Gaming in T3 Club

By Adam Lunt, 7th-grade reporter

Mr. Parrott, the Green Team science teacher, has been hosting T3 (otherwise known as Tabletop Time club) for the past six years! With all that time comes some pretty great knowledge and expertise with both board games and Dungeons and Dragons.

If you don't know, T3 is an after-school club that meets on Wednesdays. It deals with board games, card games, Dungeons and Dragons, and much more! Basically, T3 has everything without a screen. Mr. Parrott says that his favorite part of T3 is "finding new games and then sharing that with others and having them enjoy it too." If you're not in T3 or think it's boring because there's no screens, fret not, for there is truly something for everyone in T3.

As for Dungeons and Dragons—D&D for short—many people don't know what it is. D&D is a collaborative role-playing game, in which players act out characters. The characters go on adventures and quests decided for them by the DM, or Dungeon Master. The DM controls the game and creates the path for the characters to walk.

Mr. Parrott has been playing D&D since he was a kid! "I've been playing since junior high. At that time D&D was in edition 3.5. Nowadays it's in the 5th edition so it's been 20+ years."

When asked what his favorite character he ever played was, Mr. Parrott said, "It was one of my more recent characters named Krankle who was a gnome paladin [also called a holy knight]. He rode around on a capybara and was devoted to peace. So I never really attacked but defended everyone else in the party."

As for his favorite adventure, or campaign, that he's gone on, Mr. Parrott said this: "It was about 6-7 years ago in an online campaign I was in with other teachers from around the world (we met up because we were all dads who taught who wanted to play D&D). The campaign lasted over a year and we went from 1-2 playing once a week. It's the only campaign I've been a part of that actually reaches the full arch of the campaign."

There's no denying that T3 is a great way to meet new people, role-play, and play games. If you're interested in joining, talk to Mr. Parrott in Room 109. He will be more than willing to tell you about it and even play games with you.

Writing Club

By Adelyn Robbins, 8th-grade reporter

Writing Club is an awesome club where you write the news about what's going on in our school and keep everyone informed and updated on different events. Writing Club meets every Monday from 3:05 to 3:40 P.M. Another thing we do at the Writing Club is creative writing. You should definitely think about joining the club next year if you're interested in writing!



Basketball Season Updates

By Maeve Stoller, 8th-grade reporter

Basketball season has been excellent for both boys and girls basketball. The 8th grade boys basketball team is not done, though – they are on their way to sectionals to dominate once again.

The 8th grade boys basketball team is obviously doing really well. So what's their secret? Teamwork and a lot of practice. They treat each other with kindness and respect, whether it's a win or a loss, and when practicing they make sure to perfect everything they do!

Brighton Sledge, one of the 7th-grade boys basketball players, said, "It's a blessing that I was able to be on the basketball team, but it's not about me – it's a team sport. We're a family."

The girls basketball season is done for the year. They did great throughout this year. In their last game, they lost to Evans but still went out with a bang because according to 8th-grader Izabelle Keller, "instead of moping around and being all sad on our last bus ride home, we spent our last time together singing Christmas songs as loud as we could. Even though we lost, I wouldn't have wanted to change that ride home for the world."

Great job, Potters!

Clubs and Activities

Learning New Skills in Cooking Club



By Selah Davis, 7th-grade reporter

Cooking Club is one of the many extracurricular activities that you can do at MJHS. The members of the Cooking Club meet every other Thursday and cook or bake something different. From pancakes to sugar cookies, you are able to create a variety of delicious treats for your own consumption.

While teaching the members to cook, it also teaches the importance of cleaning up after yourself and leaving things better than you found it. Even though the Cooking Club hasn't been available for a large part of the school year so far, it has been a fun and satisfying experience.

A couple of members of the Cooking Club were asked questions about the club itself. Joelle Hodel, an 8th-grader, and Kaelyn Hokinson, a 7th-grader, both had similar views on the Cooking Club and its activities.

Both Kaelyn and Joelle said that thus far they have enjoyed Cooking Club. Joelle said that her favorite thing to bake was the waffles while Kaelyn said that her favorite was the cookies.

Kaelyn said that she joined Cooking Club to meet new friends while Joelle joined since she loves to bake and cook and wanted to meet new people. When asked what her favorite part of cooking club was, Joelle said, "Getting to make things that I may have not made yet, and hanging out with my friends." Kaelyn said that her favorite part was meeting new friends.

In Cooking Club, the members are taught about the importance of cleaning up and leaving things better than you found them. Both Kaelyn and Joelle said that this was very important.

Cooking Club is a fun extracurricular that anyone can do despite their experiences with baking and cooking. If you would like to join the club, you can contact Mrs. Hartzler or Mrs. Trilikis.

Junior Prelude Prepares for Concert

By Rylee Hernan, 7th-grade reporter

Junior Prelude is a group of orchestra students that practice music at a more advanced level than their peers. However, that's all that really seems to be known about the group in the greater student body. Read on to find out what happens in this group and how it functions from the perspective of a Junior Prelude member, Olivia Feilner.

Jr. Prelude meets at 7:00-7:50 A.M. on Wednesdays and learns many songs that they play at various events. When asked about why she decided to join Jr. Prelude, Olivia said, "I wanted to learn harder songs for more of a challenge," going on to describe how she had to send in a video of a song she played on her violin for Mr. Martin and Mr. Getz to judge to get accepted into the group.

As far as advice goes for those wanting to join Jr. Prelude, she said that you should really just try your best. She also said that if you get denied the first year, don't stop the next. Jr. Prelude is a majorly 8th-grade dominated group, and if you get denied the first time definitely try again in 8th grade.

Currently in Jr. Prelude, they are practicing three new songs for an event coming up. Be sure to attend one of their events throughout the rest of the year!

Games

Sudoku

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

Unscramble It!

Compiled by Adam Lunt, 7th-grade reporter

prial hosewrs ribng
aym lorewsf

Answer: April showers bring May flowers

Wordsearch

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

Jokes

Compiled by Adam Lunt, 7th-grade reporter
Jokes from weareteachers.com

“What is a witch’s favorite subject in school?
Spelling!”

“Why did the dog do so well in school?
He was the teacher’s pet!”

“Why do magicians do so well in school?
They’re great at trick questions!”

“Why was the broom late for school?
He over-swept.”

“How many letters are in the alphabet?
11: T-H-E-A-L-P-H-A-B-E-T”

Candy	Caring	Chocolate
February	Flowers	Friendship
Happiness	Love	Valentine