

# The Wells Street Journal

Winter 2022 Collection



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**MUSTANGS**

# School Happenings

## Hallie Wells Middle School National Junior Honor Society

*Jeff Hou, Staff Writer*

The Hallie Wells Middle School National Junior Honor Society is composed of around 60 eighth-grade students who display service, leadership, and academic excellence. Our officers for the 2021-2022 HWMS NJHS were elected in October. Our officers are Jayson Lee (President), Zaheen Ahmed (Vice President), and Jeff Hou (Secretary). Congratulations to the 2021-2022 year's officers and also to all candidates on their campaigns.

So far, the HWMS National Junior Honor Society has helped organize the Gallop and Gobble in November and Operation Christmas Child, which will help countless children in need for the holiday season. The National Junior Honor Society is also in the process of helping in outdoor clean-ups and SSL paper organization. The HWMS NJHS has also planned to make bracelets for cancer patients and provide peer-tutoring in the future. More information will be coming soon!

The Hallie Wells Middle School National Junior Honor Society sponsored our school's "Soup-er" Bowl in the wake of the 2022 Super Bowl.

Lastly, members of the National Junior Honor Society will be applying for a nationwide contest for a \$500 reward. Out of countless middle schoolers in their own National Junior Honor Societies, only 500 will be chosen out of the whole nation. To members of the HWMS NJHS, make sure to register for an NJHS account and submit your application by March 10. To everyone else, let's cheer on our fellow classmates and wish them the best of luck.



# Creative Writing

## Poetry Collection

### Winter

*By Leela Desai, Staff Writer*

Snowflakes falling

Healing Sorrow

Falling upon a war reigned frontier

A horse calling

A new tomorrow

But what still resides in the heart, is fear

Crisp Cold Clear

Winter heals the sadness, and the tears

A blanket of snow

Shielding the deeds of the past

A new beginning, to start a new flow

A chance to redo at last

### Winter Time

*By Mithra Ganesh, Staff Writer*

The flowers

Seem sad,

Their heads tilt

With lost hopes of blooming

The leaves have disappeared

Into the cold winter.

The green has surrendered,

To the white

The sun will shine,

But it will be covered by the clouds.

Yes, the sun will shine

But it will shine all wrong.

The land is covered in white,

A blanket over the grass.

A few survivors sticking up,

But most of them seem dead.

# Creative Writing

## Poetry Collection

### Winter Time continued...

The world seems abandoned.

No one is out.

No one wants to see

The dead trees.

The world is an ice cube.

So cold and lonely.

It's Winter time.

Winter time

### Winter

*By Vivien Turturro-Iuzzini, Staff Writer*

Frost

Glazes our windows

Turning the world below

Into the wonderland

Of a child's dreams.

Ice crystals

On your eyelashes

Tinting the world

A glorious blue

As snow

Soft as clouds

Lands

Without a sound

On your upturned face.

# Creative Writing

## Visions of Punarok: Part II

by Miraya Mahajan, Staff Writer

With a confused look, I asked, “What? I’m from Punarok?? Could you explain what the Jukut actually is and introduce yourself?” Also, you mentioned that you want me to get rid of it once and for all. How do you expect me to carry out a quest like this? There are so many better people out there who can succeed at destroying the destructive force. Why did you *have* to choose *me*? I’m just an ordinary person--there’s nothing special about me...” Trailing off in methodic calculation, I was more invested in the reasoning behind being given this opportunity rather than my roots from some alien planet.

“I’m the legendary immortal being with magical powers from Punarok and has existed for approximately 400 years. The Jukut is essentially a monster that causes people to vanish in thin air, turning them into stone or even a tiny speck of sand! Can you imagine? You say that you cannot destroy the Jukut. Think for one minute. Did I choose randomly? No, it is because you ARE capable. Apollo, you have a gift of imagination that very few possess. There are so many things which you can achieve. I think you should realize that.”

“Okay, I get that I need to believe in myself more. But... I wonder the reason as to why this “Jukut” is seeking revenge on Punarok?”

“Oh, that... I don’t know. I’m not sure as to the complete story of the monster. You may have to find the truth along the way,” answered the immortal man with a look signifying that danger was near.

“Here, take the amulet,” the old man said as he handed me the special artifact. As I held it, I could feel a slight pressure on my hand. My palms were sweating, and my heart was racing.

“This will open a portal to Punarok and grant you magic powers. If you need to “contact me” due to any difficulties, you can click one of the jewels which should pop up a display.

# Creative Writing

You'll then see the name, "Wa'rtoko'i," so you have to press on it. On my end, I'll get a signal to indicate that someone is calling. Al-" he broke off as I interrupted him.

"Sorry for the interruption, but how will you get the alert? Why, you don't have another type of device for communication."

"No, no. My magic is very advanced! I don't need any type of device or gadget, especially since my telepathy skills have developed over the course of years. Immediately, my brain acts as a source for reading people's minds and talking to them; it processes the information, thus providing a response. One other thing I want to say is that your name is not "Apollo" on Punarok. You go by "Yu'ina'koun." Understood?"

"Yes, and I find the telepathy power interesting."

"It is, indeed. Though it comes with a price, and that's why I'm warning you to be careful with these powers. And, most importantly, the main key lies in one of the three words written in the talisman. Good luck!" he gave a small wink and disappeared in a blink of an eye.

*Here's what I don't understand. How come he wants ME to do the task? Just because I have a unique gift that no one else has doesn't mean I can defeat whatever this creature is. In fact, I can't even believe that I'm from the planet of Punarok. What a huge surprise! Could the day get any better? Taking a deep breath, I took the beaming talisman and entered the portal. In an instant, waves of shiny purplish shades circled around me. I was transported from galaxy to galaxy or through the cosmos. Now, here I was, in the legendary world of Punarok, about to prove my power or if I am able to achieve the goal.*

Walking through the Emerald-Green bushes/shrubs and trees covered with moss, I saw a shadow in the distance. A hideous creature as black as a dark night with red snake eyes suddenly appeared. There was a pungent odor that came along with the demon and enveloped the

# Creative Writing

surroundings. Punarokians were screaming with terror, but, some had no expression due to the fact that they were left in shock as their loved ones slowly faded into grains of sand and stone. You could imagine how much dread, grief, sorrow, and discouragement I felt.. To see these people who once had everything but were left with nothing... no faith or hope. Wouldn't you agree that it's traumatizing to say at the most?

During the middle, there was a sort of perturbed silence until a man with elf-like ears yelled, "Why are you doing this to our people? Don't you have anything else better to do instead of intentionally harming us? We have emotions as well and don't deserve this! All of us know the importance of family! We've got wives, husbands, daughters, or sons.."

When the man said these words, I felt a deep lump in my throat and felt the urge to let my tears out. I couldn't handle the pain anymore. This was something else and way beyond the boundaries.

The hideous figure, with a raspy and deep tone, explained that he's from a planet light-years away and is looking for a civilization to take over, so that his so-called "people" could live there. Therefore, he found this utopian society and decided to make it dystopian by letting these people live in constant stress. At least, this is what I could comprehend. Congrats, he apparently performed his task "so well" that I didn't even have a speck of courage to confront him.

"That's it. What he's doing is unreasonable. How does the old man expect me to play the cards and deal with the Jukut face to face?" my mind pondered.

Unfortunately, with a look of deep frustration, I got the amulet out of my pocket and contacted Wa'rtoko'i (old man). He received the ring, and a face showed up on the tiny "screen."

**To be continued in the Spring 2022 Collection...**



# Book Reviews

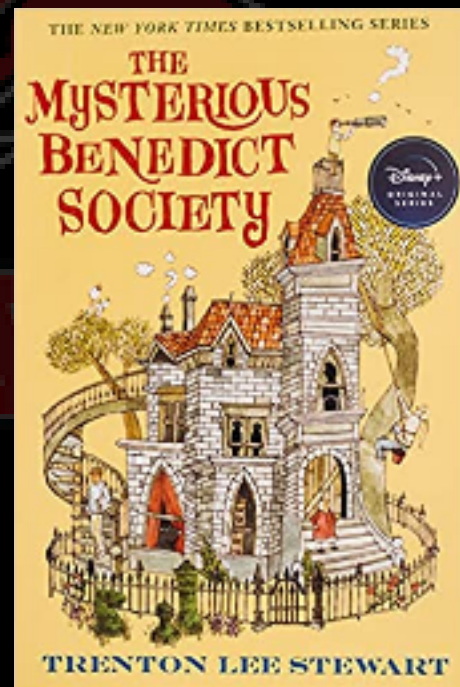
## The Mysterious Benedict Society

(By Trenton Lee Stewart)

by Julie Choi, Staff Writer

Reynard “Reynie” Muldoon is an exceptional student, but he spends his life in the Stonetown Orphanage instead of going to an enriching school as he deserves. But one day, a mysterious ad in the newspaper asks for gifted children to take a series of tests, promising that if you passed, you’d earn special opportunities. Reynie decides to enter, and qualifies along with Kate, Sticky, and Constance, three very talented children. They meet Mr. Benedict, the publisher of the ad. He explains that “The Emergency”, a state of panic that makes everyone demand for an instant change in the government, is created by one person. The criminal glorifies himself to seem like the perfect one to fix the government, but only plans to have dominant control. Mr. Benedict sends the children to the criminal’s institute and enroll them as students to spy on him, and only reveal their identities in the very end to stop him from globally affecting the planet.

Trenton Lee Stewart presented a creative, descriptive, and exciting novel that anyone could enjoy. As you read the story, the plot gets more and more thrilling until you finally reach the ending.

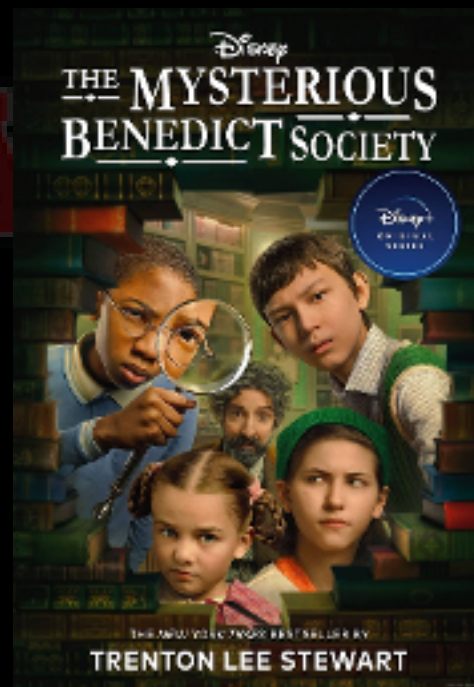
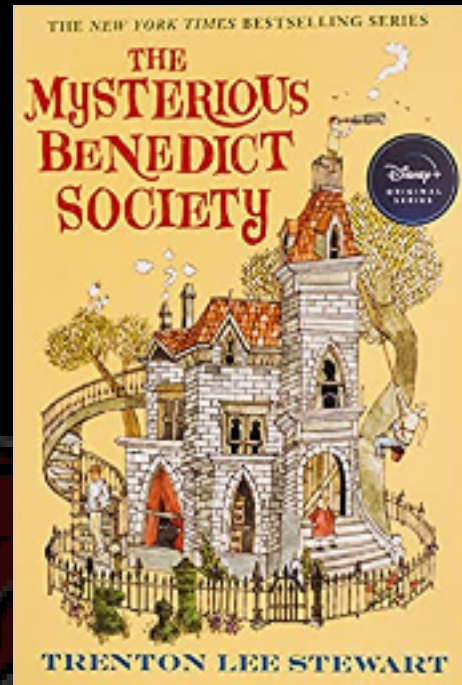


# Book Reviews

## The Mysterious Benedict Society

by Shreya Venkatraman, Staff Writer

Four orphans named Reynard (Reynie) Muldoon, George (Sticky) Washington, Kate (the Great) Wetherall and Constance Contraire were hand-chosen by Mr. Benedict after taking a test that was supposed to offer them a scholarship to Boatwright Academy. After passing all the tests however, they realized that they are part of an organization fighting to stop something called The Emergency that is spreading trouble and anxiety. To find out who is causing The Emergency, they have to attend a school where they are secret agents, spying on the school. Will they be successful? Who is in charge of the Emergency. Read the book in the Media Center or watch the show on Disney+.



# Book Reviews

## Witches of Brooklyn

by Shreya Venkatraman, Staff Writer

This funny graphic novel stars a young girl named Effie who, after her mom dies, moves to her aunt's house, Selimene and Carlota. It turns out that her aunts are witches and also herbalists. They heal people with their herbs and they also use magic though no one knows about it. Effie also is a witch who needs to help her aunt's help the famous pop star Tily Shoo. Will they succeed? Go to the Media Center and read this Black Eyed Susan Nominee to find out!



# Movie Reviews

## Home Sweet Home Alone

*Kaitlyn Choi, Staff Writer*



When a clever and sneaky boy named Max gets left at home while his family is in Japan, a couple tries to steal an heirloom at Max's home. Max needs to protect his home with many traps and tricks. Will he be able to successfully protect his home? Watch Home Sweet Home Alone on Disney+ to find out!

## A Dog Walker's Christmas Tale

*Kaitlyn Choi, Staff Writer*



When a college student who loves business and is fighting to build a salon in her town, she's forced to dog walk her neighbor's dog and ends up meeting this guy who also enjoys dog walking! Will she get her salon she wants? Read A Dogwalker's Christmas Tale to find out!



# Movie Reviews

## Jingle Jangle

*Kaitlyn Choi, Staff Writer*



Decades after his apprentice betrays him, a once joyful toymaker finds new hope when his bright young granddaughter appears on his doorstep. Will he be able to save Christmas? Watch Jingle Jangle to find out!



## Secrets of Sulphur Springs

*Kaitlyn Choi, Staff Writer*

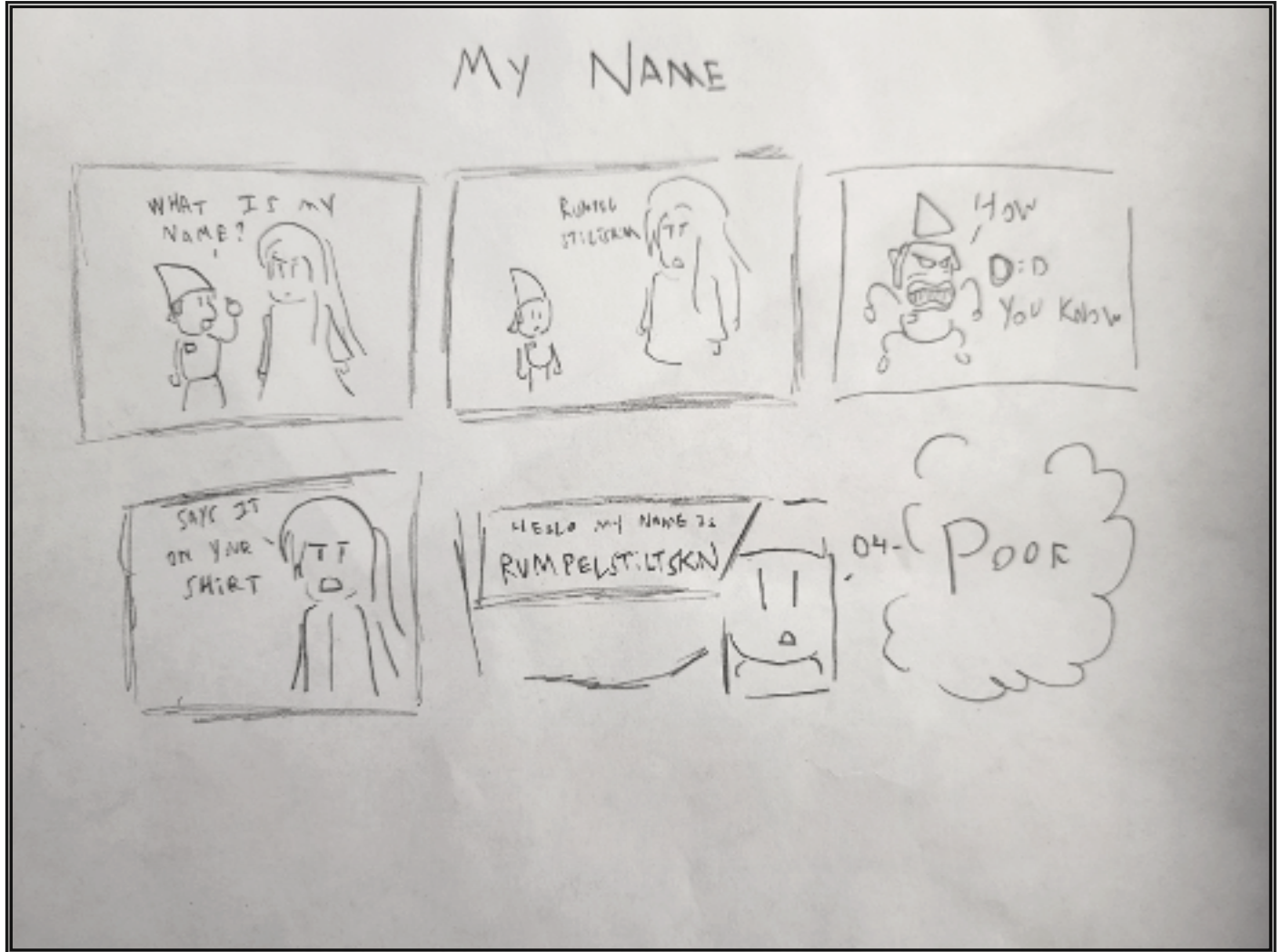


Love paranormal shows? Secrets of Sulphur Springs on Disney + and Disney Channel is about a girl named Savannah who disappeared 30 years ago. Griffin and his family unexpectedly moved into the hotel she went missing from. He meets Harper and both of them are trying to find out what happened to Savannah. Will they find out the truth? Watch Secrets of Sulphur Springs and Disney+ or Disney Channel to find out!



# Comics

Keshav Ganesh, Cartoonist



# Jokes

*Architsai Ramnath & Maadhav Bhatt, Staff Writers*

1. How does a snowman get around?
2. Who is Frosty's favorite aunt?
3. What do snowmen call their offspring?
4. Why did the farmer only wear one boot to town?
5. What is the favorite Mexican food of snowmen?
6. What did the snowman order at Wendy's?
7. How do snowmen greet each other?
8. Why was the snowman sad?
9. What do you sing at a snowman's birthday party?
10. What does a snowman take when he gets sick?

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# How To

## How to Make Mini-Apple Pies with Glaze

*Cindy Bagheri, Staff Writer*

Prep Time: 1 hour

Cook Time: 15 minutes

Total Time: 1 hour 15 minutes

Yield: 1 11" Cake

Difficulty: 7/10

### Ingredients:

#### Ingredients:

##### For Pastry

- 1 pack flaky puff pastry
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 2 apples
- 4 tbsp cinnamon
- 6 cardamom pods (crack open and use seeds)
- 2 tbsp butter
- 2 tbsp cane sugar
- 1 egg

##### For Glaze

- 1/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tbsp water

##### Materials

- Circle cookie cutter
- Peeler
- Tray lined with parchment paper
- Cutting Board

### Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees fahrenheit. Make sure you have lined your baking tray with parchment paper.
2. Peel and core both your apples, and then chop them into cubes (cut into thin slices, then cut slices into cubes.) Add the apples into a bowl, along with the cinnamon, sugar, cardamom, and butter. Mix together until the ingredients have covered the apples completely.
3. Roll out your puff pastry, and cut into 16 circles. Place one of the rounds on the tray, and add your filling into the middle. Place the other puff circle on top, and crimp the edges with a fork. Continue this until all your rounds are done, and the filling is finished.
4. Cut a plus sign in the middle of all your pies, and brush on the mixed egg. Sprinkle on the cane sugar, and place into the oven until the puff pastry is fully baked.
5. While the pies are baking, make your glaze. Mix together the powdered sugar and water together, making sure to add your water slowly, and stop after the powdered sugar is dissolved, but still thick.
6. Once the pies are done, allow them to cool for 5 minutes before drizzling on the glaze. Enjoy!





# How To



# How To



## Easy DIY Snowman!

*Kate Callahan, Staff Writer*

### Materials:

3 cotton balls

2 small buttons

6 mini black beads

orange felt

scissors

### Directions:

1. Take the three cotton balls and use the glue to connect them together (this will be the snowman!).
2. Take the two small buttons and glue them onto the front of the three cotton balls.
3. Take the orange felt and, using the scissors, cut out a small triangle. Then, glue it onto the middle of the top cotton ball (this will be the nose!).
4. Take two of the black beads and glue them above the orange felt triangle (these will be the eyes!)
5. Take the remaining four beads and glue them in a curved line below the snowman's nose (this will be the mouth!)
6. Display your snowman masterpiece!

## Upcoming

Thank you for reading this edition of The Wells Street Journal! Our next edition will be released in April of 2022.



Answers:

1. He rides an icicle, 2. Aunt Artica!, 3. Chill-dren, 4. He heard there would be a 50 percent chance of snow 5. Brrrr-itos 6. A Frosty 7. "Ice to meet you!" 8. Because he had a meltdown 9. "Freeze a jolly good fellow 10. A chill pill

Questions? Contact The Wells Street Journal Advisor: [Tiffany\\_L\\_Kiang@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Tiffany_L_Kiang@mcpsmd.org)