

THE FALCON FLIER STUDENT NEWSPAPER



Frozen Jr. Melted Our Hearts! By PRANAVI BHAMIDIPATI



Anna, Olaf, Elsa, and Kristoff pose for the camera.
Courtesy of Lauren B

“All the worlds’ a stage,” said the famous Shakespeare, but could he have ever thought that there should be such a wondrous and wintry account of *Frozen* here at Lakelands Park? Beautiful it was, splendid to behold, as for the first time in forever, June began with the Spring Musical.

Lakelands Park’s Drama Club performed their version of Disney’s *Frozen Jr.* here at the school on June 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. With the combined effort of our Drama Club crew, Art students, and many, many, many others, the musical was a success.

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Backpack Jeff: Changing Lives One School at a Time By EMMA POLSKY

Jeffrey Young, better known as Backpack Jeff, is a motivational speaker, conflict resolution specialist, and spoken word artist. He is known for his ability to connect with people, especially students, and teach them about the importance of following their dreams and passions. This year, LPMS decided to invite him to speak at multiple assemblies in order to share his messages with the students at our school.

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Students listen attentively as Backpack Jeff performs one of his amazing poems.
Photo by Mrs. Tippetts

Backpack Jeff Inspires LPMS Students *Continued from Pg 1*

During the assembly in February, Backpack Jeff performed poetry and talked about how it is essential to stick to what we know is important as we move forward in life, and not let the challenges that come our way affect us in a negative way.

He explained that oftentimes, people allow their surroundings to have an impact on how they react in certain situations. He challenged us instead, to think about what is important to us and use our values to make a positive impact on our surroundings.

Throughout the assembly, Backpack Jeff connected with the students by sharing stories and poems that got the students interested and engaged. He also told us stories about himself, and told us about the challenges he faced throughout his life. This was especially impactful, as it gave students real life examples and taught them strategies to overcome their own challenges.

One thing that he talked about that stood out was how if we want to see changes in our lives, we have to make an effort to make positive changes in other people's lives. He explained that when we do good things for our surroundings, good things come back to us. During the assembly he said, "If you want things to get better, start doing better for other people. Start putting out the energy you desire to get back and watch everything in your life change."

Overall, the students had a great time listening to Backpack Jeff, and he left a lasting impression on our school. We hope he will come back to perform again in the future! You can visit www.backpackjeff.com or follow him on Instagram @backpackjeff or on Twitter @Backpack_Jeff



JA FINANCE PARK 7TH GRADE TRIP

By Richard H.

This year, on June 5th, 6th, and 7th, seventh graders went to Thomas Edison High School to participate in Finance Park. Ms. Flynn's class went on the 5th, Ms. Bourdet's class went on the 6th, and Mr. Alexander's class went on the 7th.

This field trip was a culmination of the Junior Achievement program, an educational program designed to teach students about financial literacy. This would help them learn about budgets and how to write checks, which will be useful for the future.

Students were assigned roles and had to learn how to manage their budgets accordingly. For example, Amy could be assigned the role of a single mother earning \$35,000 who has to pay child support and Amy would have to create a budget based on that.

The teachers promised it would be a fun experience, so what did you think?

For the First Time in Forever: A School Musical!

Let's see what our falcons had to say about the show. We interviewed the Drama Club teachers, Ms. Leblanc and Ms. Denzel first.

Q: How did you feel about the play?

A: The play went so well! I was impressed by the students and their ability to memorize all of the songs, lines, choreography, and stage blocking. On top of memorizing everything, they really turned on the charm and were funny, sweet, and fascinating to watch them interacting with each other and the audience.

Q: What made you choose Frozen Jr. as this year's musical?

A: Students at LPMS chose Frozen Jr. a few years ago, before the pandemic, and unfortunately were not able to perform it. We decided to do it this year in honor of their choice & to demonstrate that even though there's a pandemic, 'the show must go on!'

Q: What do you want to say to all the people who made this possible?

A: I am so incredibly grateful to our administration, to Jessica Rao, to Mr. Fitz, to Maxsym & Dmitro who created Elsa's Castle, to the families of the cast and crew who were very patient as we made many changes, including pushing the show dates back to June.

Q: When rehearsing this musical, what was your plan? What did you want your audience to feel?

A: We wanted the audience to feel the bond between the sisters, Anna & Elsa, but we also wanted them to have fun and enjoy the music and humor of Olaf, Kristoff, Sven, and the Hidden Folk.



Elsa sings in front of the the beautiful winter background by our background artists. Photo from Ms. Leblanc

Q: Any other comments?

A: We haven't announced which show we're doing next year, but I can tell you that it is going to be so much fun. Also, there's a place in Drama Club for everyone. Join the fun!

***Now, let's hear from our wonderful cast!
Let's see what they had to say!***

Q: What was, in your eyes, the best part of the show?

Reed L (Kristoff): When we were all up on stage singing Let It Go. That moment showcased what Drama Club is all about.

Q: What were you terrified of the most?

Maia Z (Various): I don't usually get scared so I wasn't terrified of anything because I knew if I messed up (which I did) it would be okay and my friends would have my back!

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The Drama Club Presents Disney's *Frozen Jr.*



Q: What were you proud of the most?

Liam S (Various): Of the camaraderie in the Cast and Crew. People like Lauren Briggs, Maleigha Gambrell, etc. held the group together. I conducted the ensemble backstage. But mostly, proud of people like Lauren, Maleigha, Jade, Karla, Siena, who overcame all the obstacles.

Q: How would you describe rehearsals?

Sofia C (Young Anna): They were tiring and a bit frustrating during tech week, but it was so much fun to do something I loved with my friends.

Q: How did you feel about working with your fellow crew members and performers?

Lauren B. (Adult Anna): At first it was a little bit hard to work and act with people but then as we got to know each other better I really saw how we became a really good group of friends, Throughout those long rehearsals everybody encouraged one another and we laughed a lot.

Q: Looking back on your performance, if you could give yourself some advice, what would it be?

Dionne S (Oaken): Be more loud and make mistakes, mistakes are the funniest parts

Q: What was the hardest part of your performance?

Abyssina Y (Housekeeper): The hardest part of the performance was probably the high notes that some of us could not get right.

Finally, let's hear from the Drama Club Crew! They made it all happen behind the scenes.

Q: What did you think of the play? If you could rate it on a scale of 1-10, what would you rate it and why?

Sofia F: 9! For the most part the show was really entertaining and fun but some fun but small mishaps occurred on the way.

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Photos Courtesy of Ms. Leblanc & Siena N

The Drama Club Presents Disney's *Frozen Jr.*



Our cast prepares backstage. Photo from Ms. Leblanc

We also interviewed some of the backdrop artists, for there would have been no setting, if it were not for the talented skill of these young artists.

Q: Why did you choose to participate in the making of the backdrops?

Haasya B: I love designing and painting and I thought it would be really fun and it was.

Emily H: I chose to help make the backdrops because it seemed like a very fun thing to do in my free-time with my friends!

Clearly, this musical was the fruit of countless, talented individuals who gave their all and presented a play beyond our wildest dreams.

On behalf of the Publications Team, we congratulate all of you, the cast, the crew, the artists, the teachers, and many others, without whom the play would not have been the same.

Although, there have been several requests for next year's play to be *Tangled*, and some are even suggesting *Encanto*... Let's see what play will show itself next year. Happy Summer!

Saanvi K: I think the play was amazing. I would rate the play a 10/10. I think I was amazing and everything went amazing. The cast did great and so did the crew.

Q: What was the hardest part of your job?

Ce M: The quick changes were the hardest because they had complicated costumes to change in and out of in very little time.

Q: What was your favorite part of the play?

Sofia F: Love is an Open Door. They [Hans and Anna] balanced each other out in a way.



Crew in action! Courtesy of Ms. Leblanc



Scan this QR Code to see other images/videos of the musical :)



Scan this QR Code to access a full list of the cast, crew and sequence of the play!

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be apart of this amazing family. I will most definitely be returning next year"
- Viviana Kozma-Crandall, Cast

LPMS Bittner Bowl Raises \$950

BY CARTER JODTS

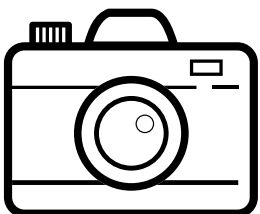
The annual Bittner day takes place every year the Friday before Memorial Day weekend. This year it was on May 26, 2023.

Teams compete in a (American) football match by grade-level. While the Bittner day is happening there are other activities leading up to it to get students excited for the end of the year. May 16 was Denim day and many people are wearing jeans and denim clothing to school. Tomorrow is eighties day. People will dress up like people from the 80s.

According to Mr. Bumgardner, "Matthew Bittner was a former health teacher, here at Lakelands Park. He battled a rare and aggressive form of cancer called Cholangiocarcinoma and passed on December 12, 2011. Each year since his passing, Lakelands Park comes together as a school and community to remember one of our amazing teachers."

Many students are preparing teams. I joined a team called the Spartans, so I was able to experience this event. I would definitely do it again because I got to play football with my friends. It was fun and a good cause to raise \$20. We raised \$475 each for the Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation and Lymphoma and Leukemia Society.

See Mr. Bumgardner or Ms. Cassels next year to sign up! **Scan the QR code below to see more action photos taken by Mrs. Tippets from the day!**



6th Grade Winner! Team Name: Fight Cancer



7th Grade Winner! Team Name: Pressure



8th Grade Winner! Team Name: Rod Wave Elite

End of the Year Events!

The SGA planned a fun end of the year calendar of spirit themes. Thanks SGA!

26 Day ABC Countdown to Summer				
June				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
X	X	X	1st Office Attire Day!	2nd Pink Day
5th Quadruplet Day (twin day, but with 4 people)	6th Rainbow Day! 	7th  Sock day (wear your crazy socks)	8th Tie-Dye Day	9th University Day Represent a University!
12th Vintage Day!	13th Wars Day 6th Grade- Green 7th Grade- Red 8th Grade- Blue	14th Xchange Day! (yearbook signing)	15th Year End Cleanup (clean out your lockers)	16th Zip up your backpack and go home for Summer!
Have a Great Summer!!				

AS SEEN ON TWITTER @LPMSFALCONS....

Arts Night and the Band, Orchestra, and Choir Concerts were a success!
Join us for the 8th grade celebration on June 15.

LPMS @LPMSFalcons · May 27

This week the hallways were full of projects from art, photography, tech ed, computer science, digital art, and communications. Please share any photos you took in our "set in the street" and ask your students to bring their work home to enjoy!



FUNDRAISING FOR 8TH GRADE

PROMOTION

8TH GRADE FAMILIES ARE BEING ASKED TO DONATE TOWARD THE FINAL PROMOTION WHICH WILL INCLUDE CARNIVAL GAMES, DJ AND MORE.

JUNE 15, 2023
5:30-7:30PM

\$20

YOUR STUDENT

\$40

YOUR STUDENT & SPONSOR STUDENT

\$250

SPONSOR ACTIVITY

\$\$\$

ANY DONATION AMOUNT

LAKELANDS PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
BEHIND SCHOOL ON FIELDS



SCAN ME

6th Graders Enjoy Outdoor Education

By Tyson Cook &
Riley Shahan

Outdoor ED was very well-liked this year according to many 6th graders and teachers.

Students were able to enjoy the Skycroft Center at the end of Quarter 2 and start of Quarter 3 during different sessions.

There were many activities, such as predator-prey, the night hike, the reptile show, and lots of others. The food was delicious according to many 6th graders including Jacob Lee, Alondra Valdivia, and Fiona Thomas.

Most of the students really enjoyed Outdoor Ed, but plenty wished they could bring their phones and electronics. Lots of students enjoyed the Confidence Course because even if you weren't with your friends, it was fun to work together and share ideas with those in your group. Plus, it was very fun to do and accomplish the tasks.

Fiona Thomas liked Predator Prey the best because it helps us understand how animals lived and survived, and Leo Jiang liked it best because it felt like you were playing Minecraft.

Many students also enjoyed sleeping in the cabins, because it was cool to spend the nights in a different place.

Katherine Bauer really liked the history hike and she found it very fun. Katherine Petrich liked the night hike the a lot because she found it very cool to see the difference "in the light."

Lastly, Leonardo Robertson liked the Confidence Course the best because he liked the people he was paired with and he liked that is group had lots of teamwork.

We hope 6th graders have lots of fun again next year and we appreciate all of the teachers who worked hard to make it happen!



Photos Courtesy of Ms. Elmore

Skycroft is located on South Mountain near Middletown in Frederick County. It provides a picturesque setting for the many exciting areas of study in the grade six residential program. Go to skycroft.org to learn more!

8th Grade Assembly to End Overdoses

By Pranavi Bhamidipati, Emma Polsky & Liam Slattery

Do you know what Fentanyl is? Did you know that 106,000 people died from overdose in the year of 2021 in the United States? Did you know that a student from Quince Orchard High School nearly died on the floor of a McDonald's restroom because he overdosed?

On Tuesday, May 16th, 2023, there was an 8th grade assembly about Fentanyl and Opioid Overdose. Fentanyl is an opioid that is fifty times stronger than the traditional heroin.

There have been many deaths in Montgomery County related to overdose. We heard from two individuals who were directly affected by this epidemic and learned that drug overdoses have increased exponentially over the past few years. The speakers at the assembly made it clear that these cases not only affect the person who overdoses, but each person that they have encountered throughout their life.

Let's Look At The Numbers

According to the data collected by Montgomery County Public Schools, there have been 11 deaths and 37 hospitalizations related to opioid overdose within our county. This is a staggering, 78% increase from 2021.

Unfortunately many high schools in our county have been reporting higher numbers of overdose cases for quite some time. The main problem is that two out of five opioid pills are laced with fentanyl. There are many fake pills that have been laced with fentanyl, and put young lives at the risk of consuming a fatal drug.

Symptoms of Overdose:

- Slow, shallow or stopped breathing
- Sleepy and unable to talk, or unconscious
- Blue lips or fingertips
- Pale/Grayish skin
- Loud snoring or gurgling sounds
- Small constricted, pinpoint pupils
- Limp body

How Can You Help?

The only cure against Opioid Overdoses is Naloxone, or more commonly known as Narcan. This reverses the effects of the Opioids and has been able to save thousands of lives. Majority of schools in MCPS have healthrooms and health-care professionals who know how to administer this medication.

If you suspect an overdose, call 911 immediately and wait for help. If you are worried about getting in trouble, keep in mind that the longer you wait, there won't be a life to save. Maryland has put into action The Good Samaritan Law, which is a law that will protect you from consequences in the case that someone needs medical attention from an alcohol or drug emergency.

If you are feeling depressed, are diagnosed with mental health disorders, or are having thoughts of suicide, talk to a trusted adult. Your parents, friends, teachers, counselors, everybody is here for you.

National Suicide Prevention Hotline:

Phone Number: 988

Website: [988lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org)

Montgomery County Crisis Center:

Address: 1301 Piccard Drive, Rockville, MD, 20850
Phone Number: 240 - 777 - 4000

MSP Retreat: Dream About It, Scream About It, BE About It!

By PRANAVI BHAMIDIPATI

There have been so many exciting things going on in our school, especially in the Minority Scholars Program (MSP), sponsored by Ms. Bourdet and Ms. Nelson, and led by our amazing MSP officers, Hanna, Grace, Aditi and Nicole.

On March 18th, 2023, all of MCPS's MSP programs met at Northwest High School, to better celebrate the diversity we all represent at the 12th annual MSP Retreat! Thousands of students, all the way from Blair to Poolesville arrived to celebrate. It was a wonderful and joyful experience, and definitely one of the best highlights for the MSP this 2022-2023 school year.

Before we move forward, let's understand what the MSP is and what it stands for. The Minority Scholars Program is a program where students of minority groups come together to battle issues of racism and prejudice in our society. We spread awareness of different cultures, religions, and societies through our monthly projects.

The day before the retreat, every attendee was given a T-Shirt to celebrate the 12th annual retreat of the MSP. The blue color was chosen, to showcase that we students are the blueprint for the future.

Inside the Northwest High School Auditorium, the stands were split up into sections to accommodate the many schools that would be taking part in the MSP Retreat.

At 9:15, the event started, followed by speeches of the people who made all of this possible, including the Superintendent of Frederick County. We then talked about the importance of MSP and how it started. Back in 2005, Walter B. Johnson High School, realized the amount of injustice done to students of minority groups in their



Group photo of LPMS MSP after the Retreat
Taken by Ms. Nelson and Ms. Bourdet

education. They noticed the subtle acts of racism, and they spoke up. They called for action, for a community to be made that would help to settle these injustices. That was when the MSP was born. 12 years ago, during the first MSP Retreat, there were only 50 students. Look at us today, when over 1000 people gathered to celebrate our diversity.

To recognize the majority of schools gathered there, a video was made to call roll. The noise was on a different level - worse than our grade-level lunches combined. When our school was shown, we screamed at the top of our lungs to symbolize where we were. Flashlights on, we waved our phones in the dark, representing LPMS proudly. Check out the video in the QR Code on the next page if you want to destroy your ears!

Then, the thousands of students split into small groups to discuss four important topics - Racism, Anti-Racism, Unity in the Community and Restorative Justice. Racism, bias, and prejudice must be taken seriously by everybody.

Minority Scholars Program Retreat Continued

Though many of us here at Lakelands Park take the community circles and No Place for Hate Lessons as a joke, some people do care. In fact, many people care, judging by how many people participated in our workshops on March 18th.

It is important to make sure that we never use derogatory terms in a way that makes other people feel less than they are, and makes them feel self-conscious of their culture. It is our responsibility to make sure that the community we belong to welcomes everybody, regardless of race, religion, background, etc.

We were divided into groups, and in these classrooms, we had very insightful discussions about the impact of racism today, how it affects us, what anti-racism is and what the difference is, what restorative justice is and how we can implement it in our school, and what problems we can work on solving within our communities.

Small discussions were led by MSP students themselves, who helped to facilitate the conversation. Many students like to think of MSP as a safe -place. A place where they can express themselves freely and be who they are. We discussed the impacts of racism in our community, how we can implement restorative justice, what anti-racism is and how we can work together within our own communities to solve problems in our society.

For some of these activities, our own MSP officers acted as facilitators. These two officers were the only middle schoolers in the entire retreat who were asked to facilitate a workshop with 5th graders. Hats off to our amazing leaders Hanna and Grace!

After the first two activities, the president of Poolesville's MSP described the challenges he faced by being African-American and having a stutter. How he never had the chance to find a community he belonged in, until the MSP.

Next, we experienced a beautiful fashion show, directed by Wootton HS. The mastermind behind it all, stated that she wanted the clothes to represent the anxiety and depression of the Coronavirus pandemic.

We also witnessed some beautiful dance performances, including the Last Minute Crew - the Quince Orchard HS K-POP dance group that came to Lakelands Park a couple of weeks ago! Check out the amazing performances by scanning the QR code.

A Special shout-out to Shivam Arora, a 7th grader here at Lakelands Park who participated in the second part of the talent show! His rendition of the third movement of the Moonlight Sonata was flawless! Great job Shivam! Check out his performance recording by scanning the QR code below.

Overall, the entire experience was beautiful. To see so many people gathered in one place to discuss the ways we can all make our society a better place to be. After a long time, I did not feel shy to express my feelings and opinions. Our voices were heard. If there is anything I have learned from this event, it's that we are responsible for change. Change won't come until you do something about it.

So remember...
Dream about it,
Scream About it,
Be about it!



Scan this QR Code to access the other photos/videos!

6TH GRADE VISITS RADIO STATION!



Students in Digital Literacy with Ms. LeBlanc interviewed the program director and toured the studio at Takoma Park Radio Station 94.3FM. You might hear our students' voices on air! Volunteers were able to record station messages.



Tennis Intramurals

By Richard H. Alisa L. and Aaron M.



Starting February 28th, Tennis Intramurals held by Mr. Bumgardner began as members joined the club to practice their tennis skills. No matter the grades or the skill, anyone is allowed to join. It includes practice with the basic forehands and backhands, volleys, and serves. The tennis club was a great way to spend time outdoors with friends, all while playing tennis. Equipment was provided for those who don't have it and for those new to after school clubs, you'd need to go down to the cafeteria at 3:00 PM. The club ended on Thursday, April 13th, but maybe you can join next year! Below are some pictures of the tennis club!



MEETING A FAMOUS DJ: LITTLE BACON BEAR



By Richard Hong, Alisa Lukomsky, and Aaron Mushro

On Thursday February 23rd, 2023, the Minority Scholars Program also had a guest speaker on February 23rd: Lil' or Little Bacon Bear who is a DJ. She helped answer questions about her career as a Hip Hop DJ. Below is a Q&A session with the Minority Scholars asking questions.

Q: How has your gender affected your Hip Hop career?

A: First off, I'm a woman. When I walk into a room, there's already preconceived notions about me about what I should do and even if I try hard, I can still get ignored so I try to be the best and better than I can be.

Q: How did you get the name Lil' Bacon Bear?

A: In eighth grade, I had a friend and I was nicknamed Lil' Bacon Bear.

Q: Who was your biggest inspiration?

A: Community. It's all about supporting the community, and serving the community such as doing interviews. I'm trying to connect you to the great Hip Hop artists.

Q: Why did you become a DJ?

A: When I was younger, I had trouble deciding what I wanted to do as I didn't really excel at anything. But music really connected with me so when I moved to Maryland, I went to a community college. I got a lot of nighttime show gigs as a DJ and went to college in the morning.

Q: What was your most nerve wracking gig?

A: Last year, at Youtube, they were paying me a lot of money to do this. During the event, the electricity went out and I couldn't use my DJ equipment so I played music on my computer because duh, I'm a DJ. Though honestly, all my gigs are a bit nerve wracking.

Q: Did you face any discrimination?

A: Being a woman, sometimes people will just go up to me and say "Hey! Do you need help moving that thing?" as though I can't do it myself. And sometimes they don't even realize that I'm the DJ and will ask me "Wow! Who's the DJ?"

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MEETING A FAMOUS DJ

continued

Q: Have you considered other music than Hip Hop?

A: Yeah actually during the pandemic, Youtube would come into my house and have me interview several artists and host the premieres online. I interview people like Dualipa, Miley Cyrus, and more.

Q: Who is your favorite songwriter or song?

A: Frank Ocean



Q: Have you ever played an instrument?

A: In 3rd grade, I played the violin and in 6th grade I played the flute. I was bad at both.

Q: What was your favorite subject at school?

A: I liked recess. I also really liked reading and writing and love reading books.

Q: What do you like to do?

A: I have a french bulldog that I like to take care of. I love hiking and you might find me on a good hike and I LOVE sleeping. Sleeping is the best.

Q: What's your favorite sport?

A: I played soccer in school and played in a variety of positions for the team.



Q: What's one of your biggest regrets?

A: Honestly, not being present enough. It can be really easy to be involved on your phone but it's really important to be present in life. I think that life is a blessing and that you should always be present and have fun with friends.

Q: Who has been the most important person to your career?

A: My mom and my family are just really great as they have supported me all the way and have loved me and helped me.

Q: Do you compose music?

A: No I don't compose music unfortunately. I wish I would though.

Q: If you had to describe your personality in a color what would it be?

A: Yellow, although my cousin said that I was a purple.

Q: What advice would you give to your future self?

A: To stick with it and be resilient.



You can follow her on Instagram or Twitter @littlebaconbear or listen to her live on 93.9 WKYS FM!

Talking to Our PE Teachers – Editorial Follow Up

By LIAM SLATTERY



Here at Lakelands Park we pride ourselves on constant inclusion and equality of all voices. In our last issue, we published a 7th grade Editorial called "Gloom in the Locker Room" which questioned the new locker room policies.

As many of you may recall, the article brought up concerns such as changing in the Stalls, PE Clothing and Shoes, and Timing. In accordance, we have come with a response from the PE teachers. Ms. Jenkins and Ms. Thom were able to share more information on behalf of the Physical Education Department. According to Ms. Jenkins, "while changing your clothes for PE is good for your hygiene and ability to participate if you are wearing restrictive clothing- it does not impact your grade if you choose not to. You are only required to have the proper footwear to participate."

She added, "If you would like to change your clothes I agree it can be a little uncomfortable at first, but to me, you wouldn't be exposing more of yourself than you possibly would at a pool if you are wearing certain undergarments." So, you aren't required to change clothing, but you have to change proper footwear. According to MCPS policy, "Shoes are to be worn at all times. Open toe shoes are not appropriate for PE, Science Laboratory settings, and Technology Education classes."

Next, was addressed changing in the stalls. "We understand changing in the stalls would offer more privacy, but that brings us to our next issue which is bathrooms. Students are encouraged to use the bathrooms while in the locker room before and after PE. If you know you have to use the restroom, then you can go before you leave the locker room or wait until you come back in. If students were using the stalls to change this would make it more difficult for students needing to use the restroom. We encourage bathroom use during locker room times because we are often outside which makes it difficult and time consuming to come all the way back in from the field and we are often playing games in larger group settings and it is difficult for teachers to keep track of who is coming and going and making sure everyone is accounted for," they said.

Finally, Timing. Ms. Jenkins said, "It is important to get to all of your classes on time and that is the expectation in PE as well. We know that our hallway is pretty far from certain places like the 3rd floor and the hallways can be crowded but the vast majority of students make it to class on time every day from every location in the school.

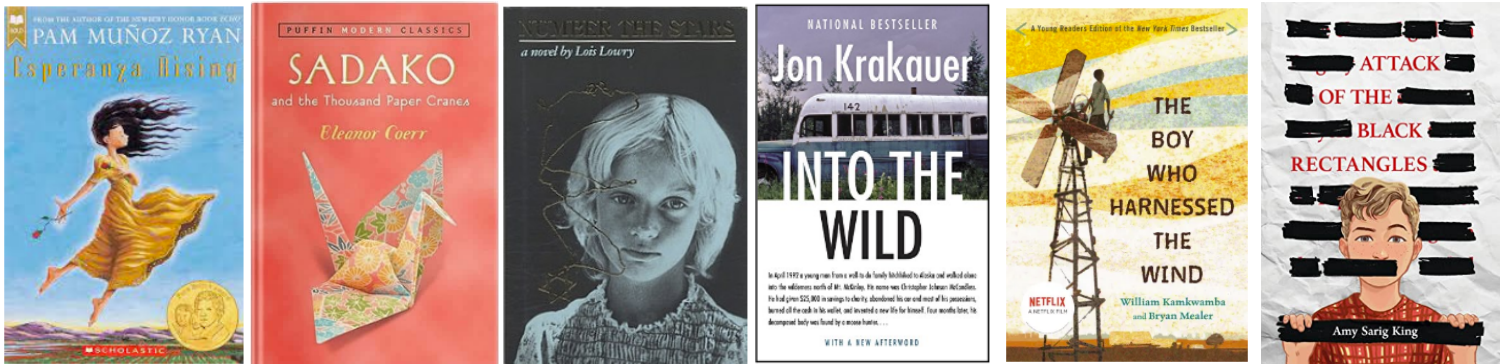
She also said, "I feel like we are pretty flexible as a department with students being in the PE hallway, but I would suggest talking to your teacher if you think you are having trouble making it to class on time so we could work on individual solutions."

With cooperation from both Physical education teachers and students, one looks forward to the positive changes to our fellow students and the benefit of all as we finish the year.



SUMMER BOOK LIST!

By RICHARD H



If you're bored and don't have anything else to read, give these books a try! You might be surprised by them. Some of these could become some of your favorite novels to read over the summer or on weekends!

Esperanza Rising

Esperanza had always believed she would live a privileged life on her family's ranch. She thought she'd have beautiful dresses, servants to clean up her home, and her Mama, Papa, and Abuelita to care for her. But tragedy strikes, and she is forced to flee with Mama to California and work in a Mexican farm labor camp. She wasn't ready for the hard work and financial struggles from the Great Depression, but when Mama gets sick, she needs to rise above the difficult circumstances because her and her Mama's life depends on it.

Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes

After the atomic bombs in Japan, Sadako was diagnosed with leukemia, an aggressive blood cancer, at age two. She was inspired by a Japanese legend of folding one thousand cranes in order to grant a wish. She worked with her friends in order to fold enough cranes to make a wish: to live through her illness and become part of her running team. Read this amazing book to learn more about Sadako and her inspiring story!

Number the Stars

Number the Stars is a Newbery Medal novel that details the struggles of Jews during World War II. It revolves around Annemarie Johansen, and how she must help her best friend Ellen, who must escape to Sweden, where Jews aren't persecuted. Annemarie and her family must help Ellen hide from the Nazi army and prevent them from discovering that she is Jewish, lest she be relocated to concentration camps.

Into The Wild

In April 1992, Christopher Johnson McCandless, a young man from a prominent family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked into the wilderness alone north of Mt. McKinley. He had given away all of his belongings to begin a new life. Unfortunately, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter four months later. How did he die in the wild? A mystery indeed!

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SUMMER BOOK RECS CONTINUED...

The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind

When a terrible drought struck William Kamkwamba's tiny village in Malawi, his family lost all of the season's crops, leaving them with nothing to eat and nothing to sell. William began to explore science books in his village library, looking for a solution. There, he came up with the idea that would change his family's life forever: he could build a windmill. Made out of scrap metal and old bicycle parts, William's windmill brought electricity to his home and helped his family pump the water they needed to farm the land. Read this true interesting story!

Attack Of The Black Rectangles

When Mac finds that the book, the Devil's Arithmetic has words blacked out, he thinks that there is something wrong. But when he discovers what words are blacked out, he is outraged as someone in the school is trying to censor it. His father tells him not to worry, but his mother and grandad have told him to do better. He tries to tell the principal, but he fails. Instead of keeping his words to himself, he'll learn the importance of letting them out and not letting anyone censor his thoughts. Read this book to learn about the ways that truth is expressed, and repressed...

Hope you enjoy all of these books to read, and have fun!

No More Fights!

By Ann-Claire Wamba

What do you do if you see a fight at school or in the community? Some days you walk to your class minding your own business, but then you might pass by a crowd of kids filming a fight. You see kids hating and hurting each other for no good reason. You only see punching. How do we stop it?

- Report to security staff ASAP.
- Don't involve yourself in the fight
- Never fight with someone.
- Talk to your Counselor or an adult for help.
- Put your phone away!

If we can't stop it now, someone can end up in jail or the hospital or worse! That's why we should stop middle school fights. It's for our safety and we should all get along.



Spring Flowers: A Short Story

By Aaron M. and Richard H.

When a new spring is born, there comes a new flower. In 500 B.C, the famous rose was touched, and in the 16th century a tulip was spotted. In 2200 B.C, a daisy could be smelled, and finally a poppy was heard in 3400 B.C. Now I could go on and on, but there was a new flower. A flower that can only be found in the place we call home. It's called a Black-eyed Susan. Susan was a flower who was sweet and kind, but she had trouble fitting in and finding a place to stay. Lets see how Susan fared with the sunflowers.

"Hello garden, hello dirt, hello sun, and hello to you!" Susan said in a happy voice.

"Eww what in the name of the garden's dirt is that THING!" Sunflower said in disgust.

"Oh hey Sunflower! How are you today? Did the dirt bugs bite you again? You know you go crazy when they bite you" Susan questioned.

"No! No! No! What are you doing in this garden of sunflowers?!" Sunflower said aggressively.

"What do you mean, Sunflower? I don't understand. I know, I am not a sunflower like you, but I am a close resemblance right?" Susan asked in a calm voice.

"No we are not, we are nothing like each other!" Sunflower said angrily. "You know what, get out! Get out of this garden! Get out of this dirt! Go back to your pot! YOU don't belong here!" Sunflower screamed.

"If you are going to yell at me, fine, I will go. I don't want to ruin my first spring by spending it with you." Susan said in a sad voice. And off she went. To Susan, it felt as if Sunflower had impaled her. Why would she do that? Unknownst to her, Sunflower was secretly jealous of Susan. Sunflower, and despite having told her to get out, she felt a bit sorry for Susan, for she too had struggled with finding a home. Anyways, let's go back and see what our flower friend is doing.

"Oh hello there, Cactus, can I stay with you for a while? My 'friend' insulted me and told me to get out." Susan said in a sad tone.

"Sure my little yellow friend, although I hope you can survive the heat." Cactus said in a kind voice.

"I will be fine and it is just sand and I doubt that that will do anything." Susan said in a calm tone.

"Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh! Hot! Hot! Hot!" Susan said in a shrill voice as she stepped on to the sand. "I'm sorry but this is WAY too hot for me to stay in." Susan said in a breathless voice.

"Well, I am sorry my friend, maybe you can stay with me in the winter!" Cactus said in a friendly voice.

"OK" Susan said sadly. And off she went. She traveled to a place of wintery cold. "Hello Lily-of-the-valley! How are you today?" Susan questioned.

"G-g-g-good," Lily replied.

"That's good, can I stay here with you? The desert isn't nice because the sand is too hot . Can I stay here with you?" Susan asked.

"S-s-s-sur-sure" Lily replied, shivering.

"Thanks. I needed a home to s-s-s-stay. Why is it s-s-so cold?" Susan asked, freezing.

"I-I-I-like it here...It's n-n-nice here." Lily replied.

W-w-w-well I'm s-s-s-s-sor-sorry but it's too cold. I'm leaving. G-g-good-goodbye L-I-I-li-li-lil-lily." Susan said, frustrated as she walked away. And off she went.

"Hello Venus Flytrap." Who was she kidding? Nope nope nope nope. Don't talk with a venus flytrap.

Poor Susan, she tried so hard to find a home. I hope the next plant will help Susan out.

It's hopeless. No food, no water, wait I am a plant of course I have food and water. Oh hello Mr. Stump, how are you?" Susan said in a delightful voice.



Spring Flowers (Continued)

"It's hopeless, nobody wants me to live with them. I think I will wither," Susan said, holding back tears.

"What's wrong little one?" someone said.

"Who's there?" Susan called. "Huh! Lilypad, what are you doing here?"

"Drifting." Lilypad responded.

"Oh, whatever."

"What is causing you despair, little one?" Lilypad asked.

"Well it's a new spring and my friend yelled at me! The desert is scorching! The snow is FREEZING! The TREES! The TREES yell at you! This POND is the last insult, the straw that broke the camel's back! It's way too wet for my DELICATE roots! What's next, the AIR is too windy for my flower petals?!" Susan said in a rage.

"Well ok. I'm sorry. But you're on your own. I can't help you anymore." Lilypad whispered.

"WHAT!" Susan roared. "When have you helped me? YOU are the PROBLEM! NOT ME!"

"Oh. Ok, sorry to bo-bothor you." Lilypad said timidly.

She walked for several days to find a place to live before spring was over. Day by day. Sunrise to sunset. She failed to find a home that she could be comfortable in. A home where she could have nice friends. Great conditions for her leaves and petals. Anywhere. Anywhere at all would do.

But soon her patience wore thin, and she confined herself to a desolated area of nothing but gray ash, dead shrubs, and no sunlight. Susan had struggled long and hard to find a home, and finally she gave up.

"Oh what's the use? I don't belong anywhere!" Susan bemoaned. "Maybe if I had just picked one or made friends with them I could be safe and happy."

Her new depressing home was too much to bear and so she decided to go back to the place where it all started. The garden of sunflowers.

She walked in the garden, expecting to be yelled at by Sunflower, but Sunflower was nowhere to be found. She walked around and asked a few tulips what had happened and the tulips said that Sunflower had regretted screaming at her and left the garden to find a new home where she wouldn't bother anyone. She had told the tulips that if Susan came, they would tell her that she was sorry and wished her happiness in the garden. Susan gratefully planted herself in the soil, beaming as the sun glowed on the garden. Though she wished to know where Sunflower had gone, spring was coming, and Susan was ready to enjoy it.



POETRY CORNER

We

By Pranavi Bhamidipati

*We began a story together
And now its over
No, we don't know each other
To be honest, we don't care about
everybody
But those close to us
But it doesn't matter
Your friendship probably touched their
hearts*

*Months have went by
Experiences and more
And now here we are
Nearing the end of this chapter
And preparing to write one more
We are almost done*

*So hang strong
'Cause by the time I see you in the future
I won't even remember you*


*We are almost there
Nearing the finish line
See, right there!
Get up and keep walking
Don't give up
Crawl if you have to
But keep moving*

*Don't let one success stop you from
Doing more
Keep on moving
Keep on trying
And you'll be stronger than you ever were
before.*

THE DAILY RANDOM HOLIDAY

may 2023

By Riley Shahan and Leonardo Robertson

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	National Mother Goose Day  1	National Brothers and Sisters Day 2	National Specially-Abled Pets Day 3	National Day of Reason 4	National Chocolate Parfait Day 5	National Nurses Day 6
National Tourism Day 7	National Teacher's Day 8	National Home Front Heroes Day 9	National Night Shift Workers Day 10	National Technology Day 11	National Nutty Fudge Day 12	National Apple Pie Day 13
National Decency Day 14	National Smile Power Day 15	National Love a Tree Day. 16	National Yellow Pig Day  17	National Pizza Party Day. 18	National Endangered Species Day. 19	National Quiche Lorraine Day 20
National Strawberries and Cream Day 21	World Water Day 22	National Drinking with Chickens Day 23	National Scavenger Hunt Day 24	National Tap Dance Day 25	National Paper Airplane Day! 26	NATIONAL JOE DAY  27
National Hamburger Day. 28	Memorial Day 29	National Creativity Day 30	Anti-Tobacco Day 31			

june 2023

By Riley Shahan and Leonardo Robertson

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				National Donut Day  1	National Fish and Chip Day 2	National Egg Day 3
National Cancer Survivors Day 4	National Mechanical Pencil Day 5	National Yo-Yo Day 6	National Chocolate Ice Cream Day 7	National Jerky Day 8	Donald Duck Day  9	Today is National Iced Tea Day 10
National Corn on the Cob Day 11	National Eat Your Jello Day, 12	International Rock Day  13	National Mac and Cheese Day 14	National Smile Power Day 15	National Nothing Day 16	National Eat Your Vegetables Day 17
International Sushi Day 18	Juneteenth 19	National Ice Cream Soda Day 20	INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA 21	National Onion Ring Day  22	National Vanilla Ice Cream Day 23	National Upcycling Day 24
Global Beatles Day 25	National Canoe Day  26	National Ice Cream Cake Day 27	National Milk Chocolate Day 28	National Camera Day  29	International Asteroid Day 30	

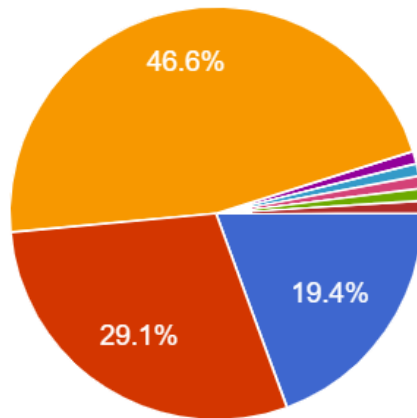
What Makes Class More Fun?

Survey By
NOA FRIEDMAN

Of all of the online games you play with your teachers which one is your favorite?

103 responses

Blooket wins! 2nd place - Gimkit 3rd place - Kahoot



- Kahoot
- Gimkit
- Blooket
- Quizizz
- Quizlet
- drinking lemonade
- blooket
- New game without computers
- Gimkit and Blooket

Summer Fun Crossword

By Aaron Mushro

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G A C K L S Q Z B M D N X H P
W N D A C E H F A V S A C Y U
R A I X N L V E T U C A E S K
E F V F I O R A N Z E S I E U
M K M E R C E S R B T U N A T
M S F A S U H I P T R N P S Z
U G A X E I S M N T V G O O Q
S K F X N S A N K G L L P N Z
P Y K E E C V Z C C L A S K J
C E E D A N O M E L E S I R N
F C A M P I N G H H H S C K A
D Q Q B M Z X N Z U S E L Y M
L I E P I C N I C W M S E N J
K J C H A T M X I I P I Y H I
Q N I F U C R M T N X W D B P
    
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- beach
- canoeing
- humid
- picnic
- season
- sunglasses
- swim
- waves

- camp
- cream
- ice
- Popsicle
- shell
- sunshine
- tan

- camping
- hat
- lemonade
- sea
- summer
- surfing
- travel

Summer Collage

By Riley Shahan



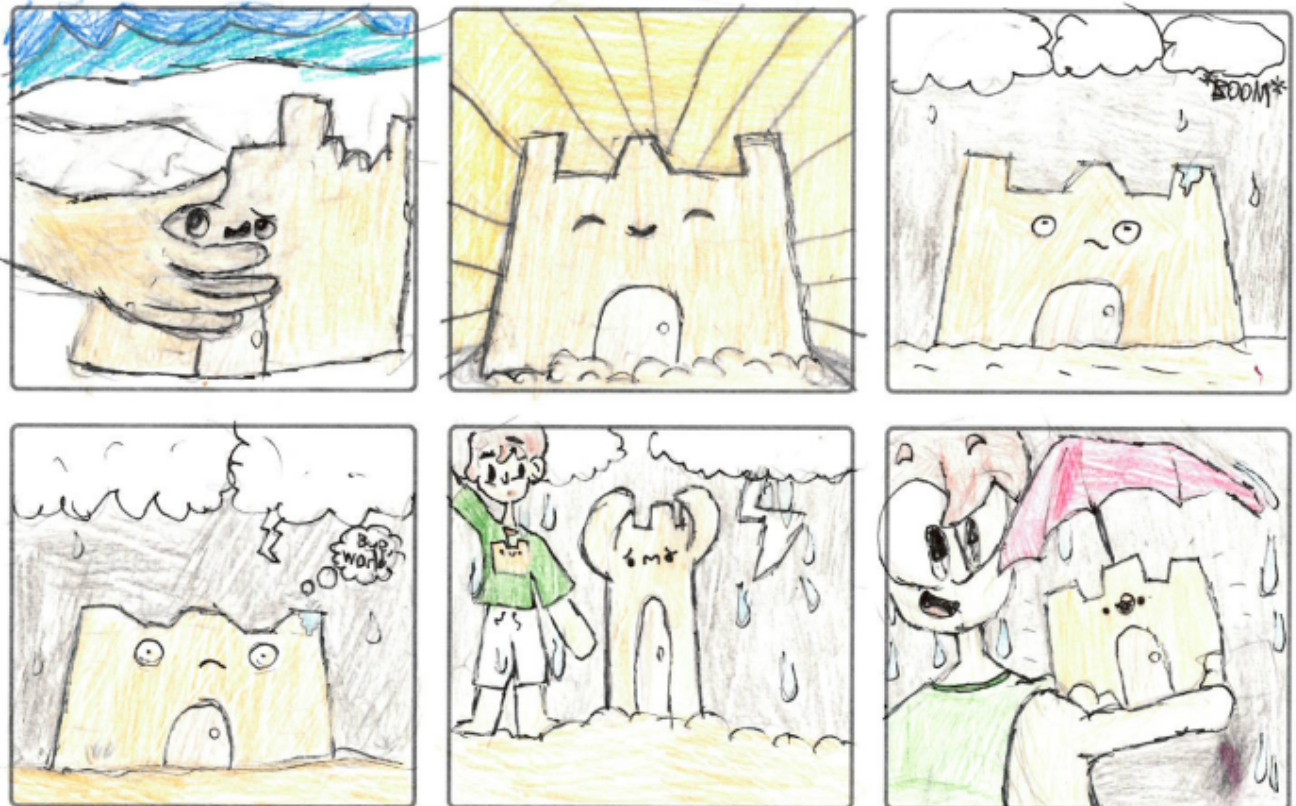
Spot the 10 Differences



By Himabindu Gorantla

Answer Key on Page 25

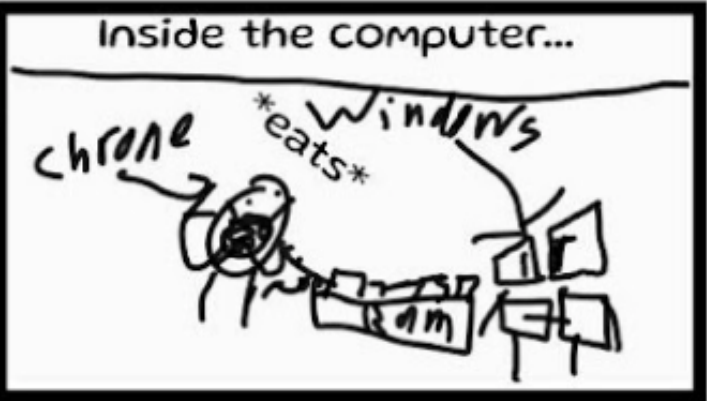
SENTICASTLE: The Sentient Sandcastle



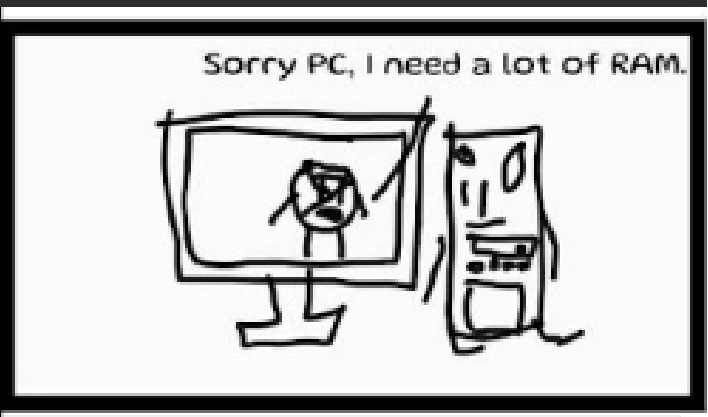
A Collaborative Comic By Leonardo, Dev, Riley and Alondra

The Misadventures of Kyle Issue no. 1: Chrome RAM be like

... by Leo Jiang

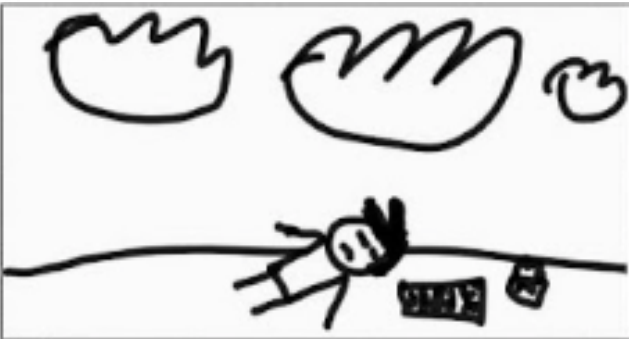
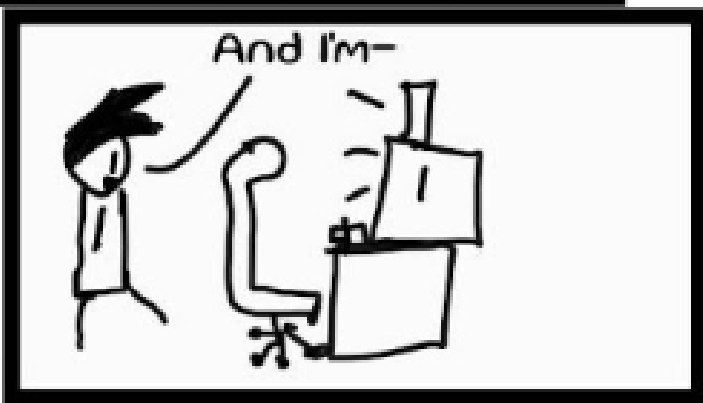
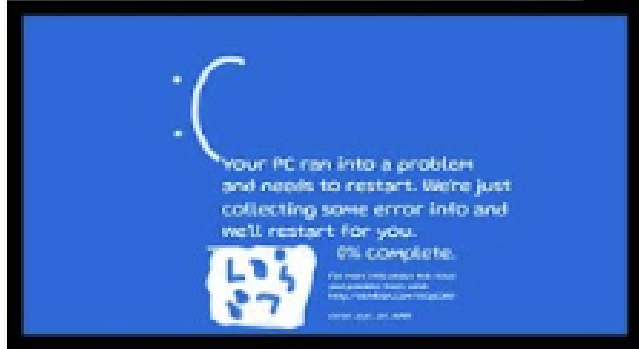


Meanwhile...





In the computer
AGAIN



The End
at least...
More comics coming soon!

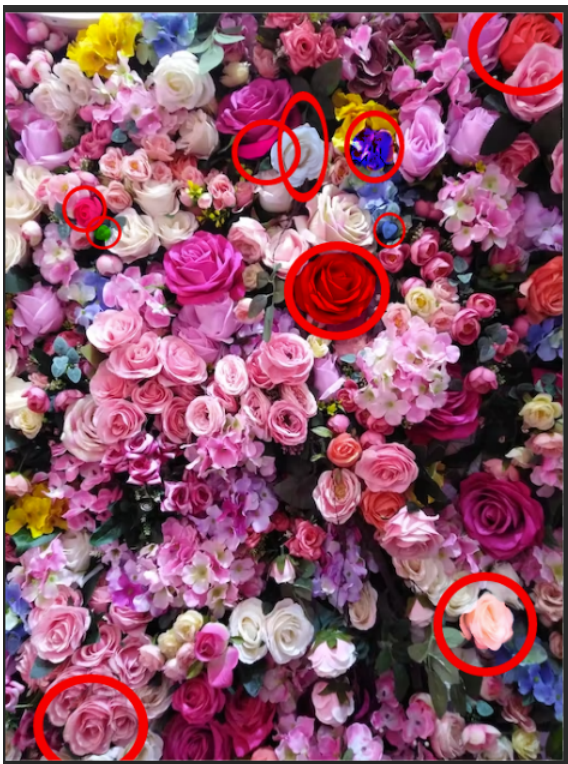
The Misadventures
of Kyle
by Leo Jiang - Part 2

MONITOR MADNESS

Starring Mr. Eisenhower By Alondra V



ANSWER KEY



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