

Sports

Tennis by Rajeev Sen



Tennis is a world wide sport and can be played as a one versus, a two versus two and a 3 versus three. Tennis is played on a 78 feet long and 36 feet across for a 2 versus 2 and it is 78 feet long and 27 feet long across for singles.

Tennis is played with rackets that are usually made with carbon fiber or fiberglass and the strings are made of synthetic strings or a intestine in a cow called Serosa. A tennis ball is hit back and forth on both sides. If the player fails to hit the ball into the other side, the other player gets a point. Tennis strengthens your core and arm muscles.

Cole Middle School has a enrichment program on Mondays and Wednesdays and it is taught by coach Larry and coach Melissa. Coach Larry teaches technique and beginners and Coach Melissa plays fences, a game that a tennis ball is hit back and forth, and if someone messes up and they hit it they go back in line but if the player fails to hit the ball they lose a life. Melissa teaches more advanced players than Larry.

Overall, the tennis program is easy to get into (you only have to sign up) and Aaron, a student from the tennis program, says it is fun.

Current Events



Upcoming Meteor Showers

By Emmett Bassen-Alexander

There are meteor showers happening all times of the year, but for whatever reason, no one ever tells you about the non-summer ones, Geminids excluded. Here is a list of all the meteor showers happening for the next few months.

The Orionids are taking place from September 23rd to November 27th and are kind of medium. As of right now we don't really know what causes them to be nice to look at, or a more bland experience. They will be easier to see from October 21st-22nd

The next meteor shower after that is the Southern Taurids. However, they are kind of blah, with not too many meteors per hour. But if you really want to see that kind of thing, they are happening between September 23rd and November 19th. Their peak night is October 28th-29th.

Next is the Northern Taurids, and they are pretty much the same thing just they take place from October 19th to December 10th. The best night to see them is November 10th-11th. The third-to-last shower is the Leonids, and the Leonids are kind of crazy, but only sometimes. These are super sporadic as the timing has to do with comet

placement, and you know how that stuff works out. (Spoiler alert: super weirdly) This year, the Leonids won't be as good, but they will take place from November 5th-30th. Their best time will be November 17th-18th.

This next one is the big show, the one we've been waiting for, the Geminids! They are going from December 4th-16th, so smaller window, but they are considered the best meteors of the year! Additionally, you can see them from everywhere. Their best night is December 13th-14th, and I for one will try to see them that day.

After the Geminids, we have one more shower, and that is the Ursids. They are generally weaker and less frequent. Plus, they are only visible from the northern hemisphere, so the Geminids are usually considered better. They are active from December 17th-23rd, and their apex night is December 21st-22nd. If you got nothing going on that Friday, I guess it could be fun. That is all the remaining meteor showers of 2018. I hope you get to see at least one!

A.M.S. "Meteor Shower Calendar." American Meteor Society, 2018, www.amsmeteors.org/meteor-showers/meteor-shower-calendar/.

New Apple Products

By: Emmett Bassen-Alexander

Recently, the Apple Event 2018 happened and told us all about future products. As someone who likes this kind of thing, it is kind of irritating when no one knows what you are talking about.

This article is to give people a snapshot of what went down. First, the CEO Tim Cook unveiled the new Apple watch series 4. This new watch has a lot more health capabilities and is generally just a better smartwatch experience than the previous series 3.

In terms of new features, the series 4 has bigger screens, better speakers, better CPU, and heart rate tracking. Other additions include a refined accelerometer and gyroscope, plus tracking when you fall and notifying people if it is bad.

The watch will start at \$399. Overall, I would say to wait until it's cheaper because the series 3 just dropped to \$279 which is obviously a lot cheaper, and it kind of makes up, I think, for the lack of aforementioned features.

Second, we got to see the new phones: the iPhone XS, XR and XS max. The iPhone XS and XS Max have a dual camera where the Xr does not, but portrait mode is available on all three phones . The XS Max is the most expensive phone yet, at \$1,100 whereas the XS and XR are \$1,000 and \$749, respectively. In terms of battery, the XR actually has a better battery than the XS, as the different type screen eats battery. The XS Max's battery is better than both other ones, due to it being a huge phone with a huge battery. The XS and XS Max are very similar in camera, resolution, and CPU. The XS Max's better screen and battery for only an extra \$100 is a better deal though I think. The edge to edge screen on all of these are very nice to hold, and they all look very sleek and futuristic.

When these are more widespread , it will be interesting to see if these new electronics live up to the hype.

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Photo used under Creative Commons from [davidmurr](#)

Creative Writing

Amber

By: Alexa Garrian

“You’re back,” I said.

The two of us were alone on the roof of the skyscraper. I had been coming here every day since I moved to the city. It was a place of calm, an escape from the rest of the world. But there had never been anyone else here with me, until you.

You were in a crouch on the edge, surveying the city lights below, but sprang to your feet at my voice. Your amber eyes took me in with a tinge of regret. “What are you doing here?”

“I live here,” I said.

“On the roof?”

I rolled my eyes. “Yes, idiot, I moved to Anvinth so I could be broke and homeless.”

You cocked an eyebrow. “I see you haven’t changed.”

“I can’t say the same for you.”

Your hand flew up to your face and hovered there a moment. “Noticeable, huh?”

“Last I checked, your eyes were blue,” I said. “And here I thought you hated those... what did you call them? ‘Flame-eyed psychopaths, too ambitious for sanity?’”

“They’re sociopaths,” you mumbled, “and I used to hate them... I guess they got me.” You tucked a lock of long hair behind your ear and looked back at me, flinching at my expression. “I’m sorry- no, actually, I’m not, but I do feel bad, I suppose...”

“For what?” I said. “Why are you even here? Are you planning--”

“Whatever you’re thinking, it’s worse. We’ve finally enslaved one of them- Thiori, the god of extinction.”

“No...”

You smiled sadly. “It’s okay. You don’t have to be afraid.”

“Of the death of the human race?”

“Not all humans.” You extended your right hand. I didn’t take it.

I shook my head. It was impossible that you of all people could fall this far. This isn’t real. But as much as I told myself that, I couldn’t believe it. I met your eyes again, that unfamiliar amber. It wasn’t just the color, there was a hardness in your gaze that wasn’t there before.

I sucked in a ragged breath. “How long?”

“One hour,” you said. “Please, just- stay with me. I can’t do all this alone.”

I made a squeaking noise, you winced. It seemed every time you admitted to what they’d done, it hurt you, too. It should. You’re a monster. I don’t know you anymore.

“All this?” I managed, after a pause.

“What?” You still hadn’t put your hand down; waiting for a handshake that would never happen.

“You said, ‘I can’t do all this alone...’”

You grinned. It was still your old smile, the one that meant you had ambitions and you were going to fulfill them at any cost. “I’m going to rule the world,” you said, and I was scared because I knew you meant it. “I’ve grown quite close to Thiori, and one of our agreements states that he chooses who will rule our new world in his absence. He’ll

choose me- and I plan to make him very absent, indeed.” Your smile faded. “But I can’t be all alone. I need you.”

“You’re mad,” I snarled.

You put your hand down. “If not by choice, then by force.”

“What-”

You jumped at me, and I tried to move away, but you were faster than you’d ever been and pinned me to the ground. I scratched at your face, but the predatory smirk on your face made me think twice. “Now,” you said, pulling something from your belt. “Open your eyes.”

You shook me awake. “C’mon, it’s time. You don’t want to miss this.” You sounded like your old self, trying to coerce me into watching your stunts when we were in college. I groaned and sat up, and then I saw your eyes and remembered this was nothing like school.

You latched on to my wrist, dragging me towards the edge of the roof. “Get up.”

My head throbbed as I stood up. “What did you do?”

“Fixed you. The headache will leave in a few weeks.”

“I- you-” I spat at your feet. “I hate you. Psychopath. I should have pushed you off this roof the second I saw you.”

“Sociopath.” You smiled to yourself. “For now, just sit here with me. Watch humanity fall. It’ll be beautiful.”

I took a deep breath, considering. My humanity was gone. I had nothing left to lose. Reluctantly I accepted your handshake, though nothing about it mattered now.

“There,” you said softly, “now that wasn’t so hard, was it?”

“I hate you,” I whimpered.

“I know.” You guided me to sit, I did. We watched the horizon in silence. I wanted to die.

The lights of the city below went dark, all at once, like a candlelight being snuffed out, and the world plunged into blackness. It started. The building trembled beneath us. You stroked my hand reassuringly as you held it. I wouldn’t look at you. The noise rose up around us, buildings falling and crumbling to dust. Our roof pitched, and we were sent flying towards the ground. I couldn’t manage to scream as we hurtled through the darkness.

The only thing I could feel was rushing wind, your vice grip on my hand, and fear for you. Nothing about you was the same, but you were still like family to me. I knew you were down there somewhere. And even faced with the apocalypse, with everyone but the ambers dying, I had to get you back.

If I didn’t have you, I had nothing. And you had made sure of that.

I could hear you laughing as we plummeted to the ground.

The Fire Cat's Heart

By: Emma Rodgers

Chapter One

The firecat is an ancient cat born from a fire. Since it was born from a fire, it can’t love anyone- at least, that is what people thought. It was a warm, cloudy day, and the

firecat was frolicking through the woods, careful to not set so much as a twig on fire for it would burn the woods in an instant. Despite that, it was happy.

The firecat walked up ready to inspect this part of the world. It saw a girl of about 14 playing in her yard with her friend who was about 15. When they saw the firecat, they just gaped at the sight. It was almost as if a sphinx had appeared in front of them. The firecat was all fire: it had blue, firey eyes and flames that stretched almost to the girls' finger tips.

Suddenly, a scream came from the house. "May! Get away. Someone Call the police or firefighters! Do SOMETHING!" May's mother fell to the ground on her knees. May and her friend were shocked. Quickly, the firecat ran away back into the woods leaving a shimmering trail of fiery crystals.

Then May ran to her with her friend Lala, telling her mother, "Don't worry, Mom. It's all right. It's gone."

"Okay, thank you May," said May's mother.

Later, after their shock left them, May and Lala spent the afternoon creating some art.. May drew a cat, and Lala drew a vampire. But all fun must end; Lala had to leave for her grandpa's funeral, and May had to clean up the art supplies and get to her homework.

Chapter Two

On a sunny Monday morning, Lala and May sat together on the bus, talking. Then May abruptly stopped and stared out of the idle bus. What she saw gave her great surprise. In the distance May saw the firecat with fire all around, but not burning anything.

Its blue firey stare continued until the bus started moving, and she heard Lala saying, "Hey! Hello! Are you even listening to me? I said that I really like Julian."

May responded with the words, "Firecats are wonderful."

Lala, on the other hand, said, "They aren't even real. It's just a lame excuse that we use for everything."

Then they went their separate ways. After the school day, which seemed like it would last forever, May decided that she had a different idea. Instead of going right home, she would follow the firecat. There! May caught sight of the firecat dashing in and out of the trees. She followed the firecat all the way to a little den in which six little glowing eyes stared back at her. Then, finally one little kitten stumbled out and made its way to May, falling with each step it took.

Suddenly from behind her, the firecat spoke with a clear sound of annoyance. "What are you doing way out here in the woods? Especially near my den, but most importantly NEAR MY KITTENS?" May gasped out of fright, scaring the kitten and making it whimper.

To Be Continued...

A History of Comic Sans

by: Emmett Bassen-Alexander

Have you ever wondered what the story of Comic Sans is? Nothing that bad could come from nowhere, right? You are right.

In case you don't know, Microsoft Bob was a desktop enhancement for early windows computers. It featured a room with various items one could click on for different applications. It was released March of 1995 and was discontinued early 1996. Most people hated it, and people still criticize it now. The main font was, you guessed it, Comic Sans.

Comic Sans was designed to look like comic book lettering, hence the name, and was mostly supposed to be for informal documents and children's material. Many people hated it early on, as in 1999 the movement to "Ban Comic Sans" was introduced. The people in charge of this movement were mad because they thought that it was inappropriate to put Comic Sans places it didn't match the tone of, such as Do Not Enter signs.

Even today, the constant hatred of Comic Sans continues, but a noticeable use of it was in the 2015 game "Undertale" where a character had it as the font their voice appeared in. Even english teachers dislike it, and that is coming straight from the mouth of one. If you start thinking, maybe you're being too harsh, just read this article again but look at the font more. You'll come to agree. The future of Comic Sans will likely have it forever remain in the Pantheon of terrible fonts.

NOAA US Department of Commerce, and NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "Why Do We Name Tropical Storms and Hurricanes?" NOAA's National Ocean Service, 28 June 2013, oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/storm-names.html.

Noice: An Investigation

by: Emmett Bassen-Alexander

You might be thinking, this seems like kind of a pointless article. What you fail to realize is that I will shower you with so much knowledge you will, by the end of this, think that this is important.

Noice first appeared as a spoken word, as the word nice with a Norfolk or Cockney accent. It is also used to denote an Australian accent. Later, Charles Dickens used this word, but not in the now popular way. He used it to denote an accent as stated above.

Jump to 1999 when the band known as Beastie Boys release a song called "3 MC's and 1 DJ" with the following lyrics: "Y'all gather round to hear my golden voice Cause

when it's time to rhyme you know I get noice (voice). This may be the first instance of noice on recording.

The first definition of noice was on Wiktionary where in early 2001 was defined as an English dialectical version of nice. It was defined in early 2003 on Urban Dictionary as "To be beyond the regular limits of nice. To be nice, and then exceed the status." However, the mainly used noice of today means "Beyond the boundaries and exceeding the limits of nice. Spoken with emphasis when describing something particularly awesome."

In 2013, comedy duo Key and Peele made a video about a hype man (hype man- a backup rapper to the the main rapper that interjects and revs up the crowd) who is mad at another hype man for using his catchphrase, nooice. While not the same spelling, we can assume that it is being used the same way.

In 2015, noice's popularity skyrocketed when a video of Michael Rosen saying the word accompanied by a mouth click went viral. The video in question now has millions of views. Cut to 2016 when the show "Brooklyn 99" was aired and in said show, Andy Samberg's character, detective Jake Peralta frequently uses the word in regular conversation. It is a major staple of his personality. It is also a great show by the way. That is an accurate etymology of noice, a mysterious word with a pretty sketchy past.

Book and Movie Reviews

Review on *The Hate U Give*

By Lily Shaughnessy

The book the Hate U Give is a young adult novel written by Angie Thomas. This book was rated a 4.6/5 on Goodreads and 5/5 on Book Trust.

Staar Carter lives a fine line between her poor black neighborhood and the preppy white private school she attends. When she witnesses her best friend's murder at the hands of a cop, this fine line is erased from existence. Staar has to decide whether to

find her voice or stay quiet. She becomes even more conflicted when her two lives converge into one.

The Hate U Give is an absolutely great novel for teens. Angie Thomas really shapes Starr into a living character. You follow Starr in a riveting story of a new perspective of life. Every word seems to fit into the exactly right place.

Although this book is utterly amazing, it does have some “unsavory” language. Be forewarned that if you are uncomfortable with swear words, this book may not be for you.

Once Upon A Time

By: Ume Iida-Sledzianowski

We’ve all heard a story that starts this way. But most of what we’ve been taught is a LIE. Over time, people have altered these tales, making them more suitable for younger children. What really happened in these beloved stories?

The Little Mermaid

This fairy tale irritates me more than anything. Why? The Little Mermaid dies. Or turns into sea foam, it depends on the book. So you can see why it annoys me that in the Disney variation she gets a happy ending with her prince. What really happens is that the prince falls for another girl, and no, not the sea witch in disguise. Also, in order to steal her voice, the sea witch cuts out her tongue! She doesn’t suck out her voice with a magic seashell or whatever it is.

Cinderella

Okay, let's start simple: Cinderella wasn't her real name. Her real name was Ella, but her stepmother and stepsisters called her Cinderella because she slept in the fireplace and got all dirty. I've never understood why there are so many wicked stepmothers. Why can't there be a wicked stepfather for once? The only other main problem was that the stepsisters cut off their toes so that their feet would fit the slipper. I don't understand that. It would be, like, impossible to walk.

Snow White

For this paragraph, maybe I'll start with the fact that after the evil stepmother/queen (again, seriously?) orders her huntsman to kill Snow White and cut out her heart. The huntsman gives her a wild animal's heart, the evil queen eats the heart! That cannot be nutritious. Also, contrary to popular belief, there were three attempts on Snow White's life. And she wasn't stupid on the third attempt of her life, she asked that the evil queen, in disguise as an old maid, taste the apple before she bought it. Unfortunately for Snow, only half of the apple was poisoned. And the evil queen died when the king forced the queen to dance in shoes made of burning hot coals until she died. Isn't that a lovely ending?

Hansel and Gretel

In this section it's not so much uninterpreted as unrealistic. How can the gingerbread house even exist? I mean, I build gingerbread houses every winter. They always fall down. And they aren't life sized! Where would you get that much gingerbread anyway?

It's easy to assume that she did it with magic, since she's a witch. This raises some interesting questions, such as, if she was so powerful, then why didn't she magic herself out of the oven the kids pushed her into? Also, so what if you don't have enough food? Don't abandon your kids in the woods!

I hope you learned something from this. Until next time, this is

The End.

Crazy Rich Asians Movie Review

by: Sudishma Acharya

This movie was one of the best movies I've watched this year. It's kind of like a fresh topic because it talks about the Asian life and Asian people as opposed to American movies, taking about Americans. This movie is about a girl named Rachel Chu, and she falls in love with a man named Nick Young, who was a famous, rich, Asian socialite. Rachel has no idea that he was famous and rich until he told her to be his date for his best friend's wedding in Singapore.

The conflict in the movie revolves around Nick's mom and Rachel. Nick's mom doesn't approve of Rachel, but that doesn't mean she won't do everything in her power to save her relationship with Nick. The rest, well you have to watch it to find out.

Some reviews from famous critics:

"Crazy Rich Asians, a busy, fizzy movie winnowed from Kevin Kwan's sprawling, dishy novel, sets up a series of clashes that are resolved with more laughter than tears." - The NYTimes, A.O. Scott

"Crazy Rich Asians is a spectacular, heartwarming instant classic of a romantic comedy that brings some much-needed representation to the genre." -Screen Rant, Molly Freeman

“ Crazy Rich Asians possesses a sprightly, optimistic tone that pushes every pleasure button of an inveterate rom com fans including a fabulous soundtrack of Chinese language pop covers.” - Washington Post

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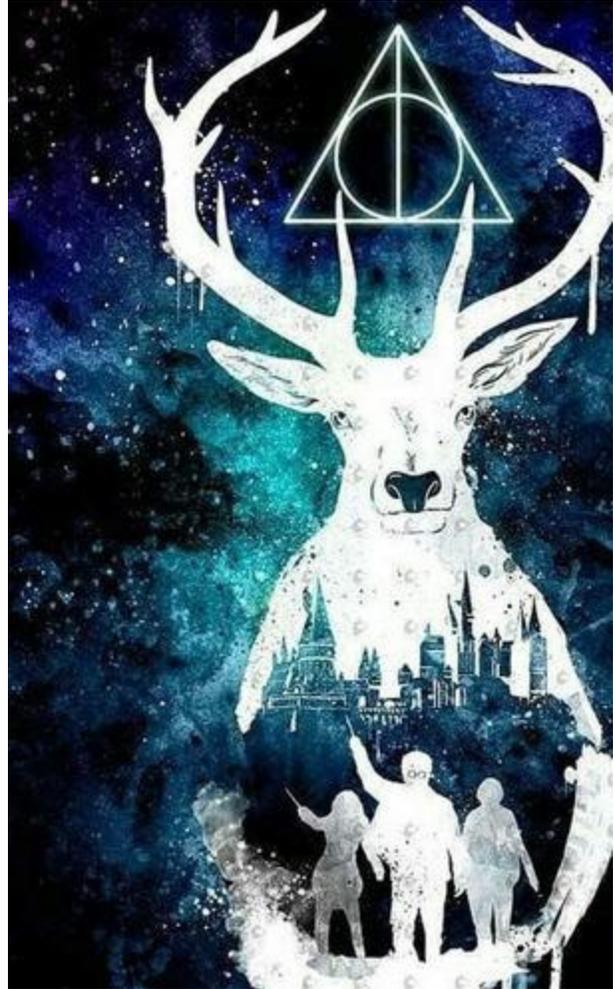
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Geekin' Out: Harry Potter

By: Winslow Klika





You know what the best book series and franchise ever is? HARRY POTTER! It's just so intriguing. Books, movies, theme parks, and much more!

Harry Potter is the tenth highest grossing media franchise of all time, and with 7 books, 8 movies, Fantastic Beasts, and a dedicated fan base, I would highly recommend it. It has 30 billion dollars made in total, and is definitely on the rise. It made \$8.538 Billion, at the box office, and the book sales amount to about \$7.743 Billion, with total amount of money as of this writing is \$30 billion. Written by J.K. Rowling and Warner Bros. for the films.

Go on to Pottermore and join it right now! You and your friends will love it, since it is built by J.K. Rowling herself. It is updated daily!

Also, for those of you that would like to join the new Quidditch Club, I am doing it in the spring and I would like as many people to join and contact me at once! It will be a blast! My faculty adviser and I will be creating a modified version of it. It actually is a real sport! Look it up! I will be posting up posters at the end of the winter. For those of you that do not know, Quidditch (our modified one + the real life one) consists of 2 beaters, 3 chasers, 1 keeper, and of course the seeker. I will maybe do the teams by house if I get enough people!!!!!! RSVP me at wklika549@student.egsd.net . Contact me for any other details too. See you soon and goodbye Potterheads!!!

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Expecto Patronum.

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Expecto Patronum!

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A Character Study: Thanos by: Eva Haan

A well-renowned and rather infamous character in the Marvel universe, Thanos is probably best known for his destruction of half the population of the known universe, or perhaps, his likeness in relation to a certain pickup truck. Nevertheless, there is a good chance that you have heard of the purple-colored fellow from one source or another.

While from the outside, he may seem like nothing but a massacre-inclined monster, there is much more to Thanos than meets the eye. Here, I explain his character

development throughout the movies, examining each of his flaws and his triumphs. To begin, I'm going to examine his past. If you have not fully acquainted yourself with the Marvel cinematic universe, or the MCU, you may know nothing about the powerful titan this article revolves around. If that happens to be the case, you should be most attentive to this section of the article to understand its following parts.

Thanos, who isn't known to have a more formal name, is a MCU antagonist who has been shown most prevalently in the 2015 and 2018 Marvel movies, with main appearances in *Guardians of the Galaxy* and *Avengers: Age of Ultron*. Despite this, there is a good chance you only know of his rather infamous appearance in the recent hit, *Infinity War*. He is the main villain throughout the story, but unlike most paper-thin antagonists often portrayed in superhero movies, with sob stories and unclear motives, Thanos displays as a kind of likeable bad guy. Once his intentions are understood by the viewer, we start to see him as less of a monster and more of a naive individual, looking for perfection.

Thanos' main plan in the *Infinity War* movie is to retrieve the six Infinity Stones to place on his gauntlet. The Infinity Stones are a series of powerful precious stones that represent differing dimensions or aspects of life. For example, there is a time stone that can control, well, time. It can cause almost a pause on the environment when the holder wills it to. Some of the stones had been hidden away in desolate locations thought impossible to reach, while others, like the mind stone that was previously embedded into the forehead of Vision, were able to be reached simply by eliminating the holder and gaining possession. With possession of all six, arranged on the gauntlet, the holder could essentially control everything in existence, which was Thanos' plan.

Starting at the beginning of the movie: Thanos has not made his way to earth yet. He is shown to only be a shadowy, possible antagonist as he eliminates a fan favorite, Loki, on a distant planet. He isn't shown to have possession of the stones yet, but that changes quickly. We are then thrown into New York City, where some iconic superheroes (Spiderman, Iron Man, and The Incredible Hulk, to be specific) are residing. Thanos sends a couple of his minions down from his fast-approaching spaceship to attack and get rid of the heroes, a plan which miserably fails. Advancing forward in the plot, Peter and Tony find themselves on the ship, which is where the second stage of Thanos' character is shown to us.

Unfortunately for our heroes, they never get to understand the true motives of the Titan. After some brief exposition involving Thor, another landmark hero, and a new

gang of smaller characters in a distant galaxy, we're reminded of the father-daughter relationship between an alien member of this smaller group (The Guardians) who's name is Gamora, to Thanos. She is the adopted daughter of the Titan. Keep this in mind, as it is more than a major plot point later on. The reason that our heroes - save for Gamora, who is too fragile to talk about her father - don't know the true motives of Thanos is that they are mostly explained in backstories so far in the past that most of the current-day Avengers wouldn't have been alive to experience them. Here are just a few.

In the scene where Thanos is attempting to retrieve the soul stone, it is revealed that he can only access the stone by giving something up that he loves. Before more of the events unfold, we are shown a flashback of the titan making his way to a distant planet, where he gathers citizens into two lines, one line to be executed and the other to survive. A little girl approaches him, and he takes her under his arm to show her something while her mother is put to death behind her. This isn't revealed to the girl at the time, but Thanos adopts her and takes her back to his ship. The girl, now, is the guardian Gamora. Conveniently, Gamora is prisoner on Thanos' ship. She's ordered out, and the titan regrettably sacrifices her, gaining one more stone towards his goal. While his hesitancy to do this is clear to the audience, it isn't clear to Gamora's fellow heroes, who now see him as nothing but a heartless monster, and they act upon this notion by attempting to kill him.

Knowing all of this, I hope you now have a better understanding of the character development of Thanos, and maybe your opinion on the Titan has been altered slightly. Even though the Avengers only know him as the cold-blooded person that his character shows in the present, the flashbacks that the audience and him get to know about say many other things about his personality and motives.

Teacher Interview- Officer Bert, Mrs. Meyer, Mrs. Marcott

By: Adeleine Slingsby, Annie Marshall and Alexa Garrian





Mrs. Marcott

Q-What plans do you have to make this school a better and safe environment for children?

A- "I might say that you're pretty safe right now. So I would have to look at safety plans if you mean in terms of safety, but I'd like to make it better, I'd like to see what's happening for us. There's a lot of great things happening, a lot of good kids here. So I'd like to see what you do first, talk with students, get input, see what students would like to do, what interests you, what activities you'd like to participate in, and find out about your safety concerns. If you're concerned about safety, if there's something you're not sure of or anything you have questions on, that would be my first thing, to come in and

see what's happening first. Ask questions, get feedback from the students and teachers."

Q- What made you choose Cole Middle School?

A- "I chose CMS because I felt that it's similar to Ponagansett in terms of dynamics and students and the activities that you have going on here. And I thought that I could bring some of my skills here and help push the students forward because of some of the stuff I've done in the past. I chose Cole because it's a good school, good place, and I'd like to be able to keep it going that way."

Q- What are you excited about this school year?

A- "I'm excited about meeting all of you [the students]. The best thing about Cole is its students. One of my intentions is to make Cole Middle School a better and safer environment for children. By doing that I will start maybe by asking them their opinions and concerns."

Officer Bert

Q- Where did you grow up?

A- "I grew up in Providence, RI. I came here from Cuba."

Q- What made you choose this job?

A- "Being a police officer, I wanted to do different things every day, and I like working with kids."

Q- What was your dream job in your childhood?

A- "I don't think I had one, I didn't really think about it but at the early age of 16 I knew I wanted to be a police officer."

Q- What dreams do you have now?

A- "To see kids and grandkids to become respectful and kind adults."

Q- What do you like about this job?

A- "I get to be around kids all day and they make me laugh and smile everyday. I like to make kids feel safe in school."

Q- What do you dislike about this job?

A- "There's nothing I don't like about this job.."

Mrs. Meyer

Q- Where did you grow up?

A- "East Greenwich, RI and I went to the old Cole."

Q- What made you choose this job?

A- "Passion for children and helping them grow and develop."

Q- What was your dream job in your childhood?

A- "Helping disadvantaged and at risk teens or young people."

Q- What dreams do you have now?

A- "I am going to be director of teaching and learning of EG. Mrs. Patricia Marcott, the former principal of Ponagansett school will be the new Cole Middle principal. Now I get to support all the teachers in the district with learning so I will actually making my dreams come true."

Q- What do you like about this job?

A- "I liked most working with students. It is wonderful to work with children."

Q- What do you dislike?

A- "There's always too much to be done and I get frustrated about not being able to help kids when they need to."

Thank you to Mrs. Ratigan, Principal Meyer, Principal Marcott, Officer Bert, Vice Principal Sutherland and the Office ladies who contributed to this article! We appreciate it a lot!

Image of Mrs. Marcott: Taken by Alexa.

Image of Officer Bert: Houghtaling, Bob. "Officer 'Bert'." Mulling It Over with Bob Houghtaling, 2014, rhoughtaling.libsyn.com/officer-bert.

Image of Mrs. Meyer: @Ameyer1026. "Alexis Meyer with Students." *Alexis Meyer Twitter*, Twitter, twitter.com/ameyer1026.

2018 - Ms. DiPalma Interview

New to Cole Middle School this year, Ms. DiPalma accompanied quite a few 8th graders on their Washington D.C. trip. This created a buzz and had students asking about what she taught. So we figured we would get you all the answers to our favorite newspaper questions.

Q1 - What subject do you teach? Why o you love what you teach?

A1 - I teach academic skills to grades 6-8. I also help students stay on track with their work and stay organized. I love to teach because I love to inspire students not only academically but personally and I love having the ability to help students achieve their best.

Q2 - If you directed a movie of your life who would you hire to play you?

A2 -Hilary Swank. She played an amazing teacher in Freedom Writers and I hope to make a difference like she did.

Q3 - If you had to be trapped in one store overnight which store would you choose?

A3 - A bookstore because I would read all night and when I get hungry or thirsty I could go to the Starbucks in the bookstore.

Q4 - You are new addition to a crayon box, what color are you? Why?

A4 - I would be a rainbow color because it reminds me of things being put together.

Q5 - You are given an elephant you can't get rid of, what do you do with it?

A5 - I would put the elephant in my backyard, because I have a big backyard and my nephews would love to take care of the elephant.

Q6 - If you won \$1,000,000 and you can only buy things that start with your first initial, what would you buy?

A6 - I would buy materials to make a Cabana, camera, candy (but no chocolate), another CAT.

Q7 - If you woke up to 2,000 unread emails and you can only read 100, which emails would you read?

A7 - I would read the ones from my family first then pick in choose which ones were important based on the subject line.

Q8 - If you were at a gas station and could only pick 5 things to eat and drink for the rest of your life, what would you pick?

A8 - Watermelon slices, beef jerky, water, chips, gum.

Q9 - If you could switch lives with any movie/tv show character, who would you pick? Why?

A9 - I would become Serena Williams, because she stands up for what she believes in and I admire that about her.

Q10 - How long does food have to be on the floor before you won't eat it?

A10 - Once it touches the floor I cannot eat the food. I would need to know when the floor was cleaned.

Q11 - You are making a bucket list and can only leave R.I to go 5 places, where would you go?

A11 - Australia, London, Paris, Norway, Iceland.

Mr. Levesque Interview

By: Gigi Giuliano

April 2018

Mr. Levesque is the band teacher here at Cole. For those of you that are considering taking band or trying out for jazz band, Mr. Levesque has some very interesting answers to the questions we asked.

Q1 - What subject do you teach? Why o you love what you teach?

A1 - Concert band and jazz band. I have always enjoyed listening to, creating and performing music. Now I have an opportunity to share my love for music with my students, and I even get to play along with them from time to time.

Q2 - If you directed a movie of your life who would you hire to play you?

A2 - Jack Black. He's hilarious and a musician.

Q3 - If you had to be trapped in one store overnight which store would you choose?

A3 - Not a store, instead it would be a movie theatre. I could enjoy all the movie popcorn I can eat (I tend to buy movie theatre popcorn then bring it home when we watch a movie at home), watch all the newest movies and blast music in the theatre.

Q4 - You are new addition to a crayon box, what color are you? Why?

A4 - Tie-dye. I can make up my mind.

Q5 - You are given an elephant you can't get rid of, what do you do with it?

A5 - Move closer to work so I can use it for transportation and let it roam around the school fields during the day.

Q6 - If you won \$1,000,000 and you can only buy things that start with your first initial, what would you buy?

A6 - Extra Bari-Saxes, Bass Clarinets, and Baritones for my students. BMW's for the family. A large new custom built Bungalow house with a Baby grand piano in one of the rooms.

Q7 - If you woke up to 2,000 unread emails and you can only read 100, which emails would you read?

A7 - I would first eliminate all of the spams, then begin with my immediate families' emails.

Q8 - If you were at a gas station and could only pick 5 things to eat and drink for the rest of your life, what would you pick?

A8 - Water, Gatorade, Pizza, Salt and Vinegar chips and milk duds for my sweet tooth.

Q9 - If you could switch lives with any movie/tv show character, who would you pick? Why?

A9 - Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. It would be nice to know what it would be like to be big, tall and strong for a change.

Q10 - How long does food have to be on the floor before you won't eat it?

A10 - As long as there is no hair and dust on it the food should be fine. But that also largely depends on if the floor is cleaned regularly.

Q11 - You are making a bucket list and can only leave R.I to go 5 places, where would you go?

A11 - Germany to visit my friend, the Grand Canyon, Fiji, France, and Africa.

Miss Tierney Interview

By: Gigi Giuliano 2017

What do peanut butter, Justin Timberlake and Target all have in common? The amazing 6th grade English teacher on Lightning, Miss. Tierney loves them all. Speaking from experience, I can say that she loves teaching, and makes English, a class many kids despise, really fun. For example, Mondays, by far the worst day of the week, when no one has any energy and just want to sleep, Miss. Tierney is ready for everything! We had "music Mondays" where we listened to a song and then wrote a paragraph on the theme or how it related to a book we were reading. For many students in the class, "Music Mondays" made having to get up early and come back to school much more bearable. Also, when the class was tired or just wasn't into the activity, Miss Tierney knew how to perk us up with a funny story that got us back on track, and made everyone laugh. In ten questions, even if you have never met her, you will feel like you know Miss. Tierney.

1.) If you directed a movie of your life who would you hire to play you? **Jessica Biel. She's incredibly fit (goals!) AND oddly enough married to Justin Timberlake. I'd**

make sure her deal would specifically state that she **MUST** bring her husband to work every day.

2.) If you had to be trapped in one store over night which store would you choose?
Target...and I would never call that trapped!

3.)You are new addition to a crayon box, what color are you? Why? **A bright aqua/teal color... this color always reminds me of sitting on a faraway beach with crystal clear water all around me. Actually, this was the first paint color I chose to use in my house and it's pretty much appeared in every room since!**

4.)You are given an elephant you can't get rid of, what do you do with it? **I've actually had a nightmare about this before...an elephant was loose and I had to try to bring it back to the zoo. It didn't end well. I probably should go on to the next question.**

5.)If you won \$1,000,000 and you can only buy things that start with your first initial, what would you buy? **Multiple gift cards. (Hey, Ms are tough!!) Multiple gift cards would let me buy the things I need for my house and the things I want for my closet!**

6.)If you woke up to 2,000 unread emails and you can only read 100, which emails would you read? **None. ;)**

7.)If you were at a gas station and could only pick 5 things to eat and drink for the rest of your life,what would you pick? **peanut butter, Peanut Butter M&Ms, peanut butter crackers, peanut butter granola bars, and water. I am all about balance!**

8.)If you could switch lives with any movie/tv show character, who would you pick? Why? **Ellen DeGeneres. She's funny, can laugh at herself, is extremely kind and well respected. These are all qualities I hope to someday attain. Plus, she is VERY good friends with Justin Timberlake. I would totally make him my co host. #persistencyiskey**

9.)How long does food have to be on the floor before you won't eat it? **I am prefacing this with the fact that I have been called a germaphobe many times before...but I wouldn't eat anything off any floor. I keep Lysol on my desk and multiple containers of antibacterial gel within reach....at all times!**

10.)You are making a bucket list and can only leave R.I to go 5 places, where would you go? **As long as I had my good friends or family by my side, I'd go anywhere. Preferably, somewhere with a beach, some shopping, and yummy food.**

Miss Cohen Interview

By: Delaney Sullivan

2017

What comes to mind when you think of baby elephants, Ikea, and a Chunky Bar? Well, if you knew our favorite teacher a little better, you would know that someone who can tell you all about these things and that would be . . Mrs. Cohen! She has an adoring love of baby elephants and when asked questions, is someone that has very unique answers.

Q1. If you directed a movie of your life, who would you hire to play you?

A1. Hmm. I'd say Kristen Bell (Princess Anna from Frozen), though she'd have to become a redhead and everyone would have to ignore that she is about 5 inches shorter than me and looks absolutely nothing like me.

Q2. If you had to be trapped in one store overnight, which store would you choose?

A2. IKEA. It has all those soft cushy spots to potentially sleep on and I'd love to roll around the place in a roly chair. Also, they have food because I have #priorities.

Q3. You are a new addition to a crayon box, what color are you? Why?

A3. This is super tough. It'd have to be a shade of blue since it's my favorite color.

Q4. You are given an elephant you can't get rid of, what do you do with it?

A4. IS IT A BABY ELEPHANT?! WHO HAS GIVEN ME THIS AMAZING GIFT?! Okay - there is no such thing as an unwanted elephant in my world and I frequently research how to cuddle baby elephants. I would hug Lucy, my amazingly adorable elephant, and keep them with me all day, every day. If this elephant also came with a capybara and a

sloth, I would be insanely happy. Don't judge and go watch the baby elephant playing with birds video on YouTube. Honestly, YouTube really keeps my elephant love strong.

Q5. If you won \$1,000,000 and you can buy things that start with your first initial, what would you buy?

Q5. My options are so limited with the letter K. I don't want a koala or a kangaroo. I don't want a kazoo. Elephants don't start with Ks. I guess I'm going to end up sad with \$1,000,000 unless I start spelling words beginning with C with a K.

Q6. If you woke up to 2,000 unread emails and you can only read 100, which emails would you read?

A6. I don't even think I'd be able to read 100 emails since I would be horrified and in shock at having over 2,000 unread emails. What kind of monster have I become?!

Q7. If you were at a gas station and could only pick 5 things to eat and drink for the rest of your life, what would you pick?

A7. Assuming I'm not going to die from malnutrition or scurvy, I'd say Diet Coke, Chunky bar (my favorite candy bar), plain potato chips, water, and some of the super sketchy fruit.

Q8. If you could switch lives with any movie/TV show character, who would you pick? Why?

A8. I always wanted to be Indiana Jones, but I'd also take Timmy from Jurassic Park. Sure, he almost got eaten by a Raptor and a T-Rex, but he touched a Brachiosaur. Also, he didn't *SPOILER* die so a total plus.

Q9. How long does food have to be on the floor before you won't eat it?

A9. At school? 0 seconds. At home? 0 seconds. I refuse to eat food that fell on the floor. If it fell on my person, then maybe. If I do that at home then my vacuum cleaner (aka my dog) would get upset. She's also part of the reason why I won't eat food that fell on the floor. Her fur is everywhere.

Q10. You are making a bucket list and can only leave RI to go to 5 places, where would you go?

A10. Hmm. Fiji so I could see crystal clear water. Northern Sweden to see the Northern Lights. Scotland because I want to go there and have never been. New Zealand since Lord of the Rings was filmed there and Australia would probably kill me. Hawaii because I've never been.

Q11. If you were to win a plane ticket to anywhere you wanted, where would you go?

A11. This is so hard. I don't really have the opportunity to travel often, so this is super difficult to choose. Is this separate from my bucket list locations? If it's separate, I'd say Japan. If it isn't separate, I'd say New Zealand.

Travel

Travel Tips for Oslo

By Rishi Gokhale

This summer I had an amazing time in two places. There's Norway with its beautiful fjords and history, and then there's Svalbard, fewer than 800 miles from the north pole. Today I'll go over my tips, tricks, favorite food and places to visit in Oslo!

Oslo, is the largest city and capital of Norway. It is a very historic town, and it also has a lot of culture, and modern museums, all of which are very unique and interesting. Perhaps the best time to visit Oslo would be in the summer due to the fact that the "Midnight Sun" allows you to explore the beautiful city for much longer. The Midnight Sun occurs in and around the Arctic and Antarctic regions of the world. During the summer the arctic faces towards the sun, but at a very slight angle causing the sun to still stay up. During the winter, the sun stays down for a long period of time in the "Long Polar Night". If you're in Oslo for a long period of time (two days or more), I would recommend buying the Oslo Pass which allows you to go to many museums and restaurants for free or with large discounts.

There are many museums and sites to see in Oslo, but I would first recommend you to visit West Oslo where there are three museums all in a walking distance area. The Viking Ship Museum also known as the Vikingskipshuset in Norwegian, the Fram Ship Museum, and the Norwegian Maritime Museum.

The Viking Ship Museum is a two floor museum where you can spend as little as 30 minutes or a couple of hours. The main attraction of the museum, though, are the two real Viking ships as used by the famous warriors. They are both surprisingly large wooden vessels, and there are many angles to take the famous ships' pictures.

Walk to the Fram Museum, only a few blocks from the Viking Ship Museum, with three floors all packed with interesting and fun knowledge for your brain to obtain! The main star of the show though is the one, the only, the real ship, Fram. The Fram was amazingly the first ship to travel to the North Pole, Antarctica and the Northwest Passage. Explore the ship and cargo inside and feel like you yourself were travelling through the Arctic.

I myself could not go to the Norwegian Maritime Museum or the Kon-Tiki Museum because they were closed, but they are very close by to the Fram Museum, and they are worth a visit.

Take a quick boat ride across the harbor from West Oslo to East Oslo where you can see the Akershus Fortress from a few hundred yards away which you can also visit if you have the time.

Go to the Karl Johans Gate road and go up to the Norwegian Royal Palace. If you stick around for a few extra minutes, you could see the changing of the guard, and the Royal guard will usually allow you to take a picture of him or her or even take a picture with the guard. Also, you can take a tour inside the very palace of the Norwegian Royal Family. Finish your time in the palace with a nice stroll in Oslo's first park, the Queen's Garden.

Take a stroll to the Oslo Opera House which is a great way to see the Oslo Fjords from the roof of the Opera House for no price at all. Travel to the Vigeland and Frogner Sculpture Park with many unique and detailed statues all made out of only one stone. The amount of time needed to visit the park is about an hour and you may still have time to have a small snack. Go to the Nobel Peace Center where the famous prize has been awarded for over a century.

Finally, visit the Norwegian Armed Forces Museum which in my mind is one of the best things to do in the entire city of Oslo. The museum is made up of multiple buildings and many floors with the entire history of the Norwegian Armed Forces with the vikings, WW2, and modern warfare. Best of all this museum is completely free!

Food can make up a huge part of a country, it can tell both its history and culture! Norway is famous for its excellent fish, my favorite personally being smoked salmon. "Louise" is an excellent restaurant to visit by the coast of Oslo. There, I would definitely recommend you to buy the "Nordic Food Platter" with many traditional Norwegian dishes.

Oslo is a very historical and cultural capital city. From its nearby fjords, many parks and museums, as well as tasty dishes, Oslo is an amazing place to visit, and I hope that you decide to visit there very soon. Please let me know what else you would like to know in my next travel tips article about the beautiful city of Bergen!

Is Hello Kitty No More? By: Devon Butziger

Hello Kitty, the second highest grossing media franchise ever, created with 85 billion dollars (second to Pokemon at 87 billion dollars), is on the decline in the country she was made in, Japan.

On my trip to Japan in the summer of 2018, I went to many arcades, malls and media stores and saw absolutely nothing Hello Kitty based. Instead, I saw entire stores dedicated to Gudetama the lazy egg.

The backstory of Gudetama is: One day a chef wanted to make an omelette. When he cracked the first egg on to the smoldering hot pan, it started screaming, the chef realized he had made a grave mistake, as the egg had a face and was lazy. He was called Gudetama.

The direct translation of Gudetama is, "Egg with no energy anymore". The reason Gudetama is an egg is because, for one or two years, food on clothing was a huge trend, and since eggs are a big part of Japan's food industry the mix of the two sparked the idea of Gudetama and he has been popular amongst many millennials since.

Gudetama was made by the same company as Hello Kitty and it seems as they are favoring Gudetama, but Gudetama has an accomplice helping him and its name is, Yeast Ken, the bread dog.

There is no backstory of Yeast Ken on the internet, but he and Gudetama are slowly taking over the Japanese media, and soon they will transfer over to America, and Hello Kitty might be no more.

Debates

Phone Debate

by: Amanda Duke, Ani Gomez, and Emily Kendall

“Should cellphones be allowed in school?” This is a question that has been circulating school systems in the US for a while now. Many different people have varied opinions about this debate. Some people believe phones are a major distraction, while others think they are beneficial.

Many individuals are against this disturbance in classrooms. Studies have shown that students who are allowed to obtain their phones in class spend about 20% of their time on their phones instead of focusing on their academics. This leads to lower average scores. ("10 Questions I Have For Students On Their Phones In Class.") Cellular devices in school also provide easy access to cyber-bullying. As you may know, cyber-bullying is a teacher's worst nightmare, since it is harder to recognize and most victims infrequently speak up, making it more difficult to track down the bully. A majority of our school community agree that phones would be an interruption to the learning environment. A fellow student at Cole stated, "Some kids are not mature enough to have possession of one and could use it as a distraction." There are many scenarios where phones could be used irresponsibly at school.

However, there are still many positives to have cellphones in school. If something goes wrong, students can contact their parents and get help. This was the case on April 20, 1999 when two teenagers were headed to Columbine High armed with submachine guns and explosives, ready to do some colossal damage. After a gruesome attack on many students, one student used their mobile cell phone to contact 911 and minutes later, the police showed up and took the intruders off to jail. If it wasn't for a kid and his cell phone, the intruders could have done a lot more damage. ("Should Students Be Allowed to Use Cellphones in School?")

Not only are cell phones useful to save lives, some sites say they are helpful for education too! Cellular devices can also be used for taking notes and researching different topics in class. Our very own art teacher, Mrs. Reiner, says that she allows her students to take pictures of the artwork on the board, since it is easier than drawing. A fellow student of ours, Olivia Prior states that phones are important for school since, "you would be able to communicate with your parents easily, and it would be more accessible to enter google docs for your classes" and that she feels that the appropriate time to use phones during school is LLT. There are many ways phones could be useful in school.

All in all, phones in school have advantages and disadvantages. They can distract and lower scores when students use them. However, they can also help with notes and

life situations. What do you think, should phones be allowed in school or should they

not? **Interesting Tidbits**

Bird Review: Eskimo Curlew

As we all know, there are a lot of birds. 10,000 species of them, to be exact. So I'm am going to take some time just to rate them, out of 4 categories.

Category #1: Color. If it is a nice color I'll give it some extra points, but it is all about color appropriateness of the area it lives in.

Category #2: Ability. If it is pathetic and or horrific but lived for a very long time in its area and generally is a survivor, I'll let it slide. This is all about what it can do in terms of cool bird stuff.

Category #3: Style Points. You get the idea. Does the bird look cool? Does it act like a total boss? It is a bird though so those things are relative.

Category #4: Annoyance in the Real World. If it is cool on paper, but I have actual experience and hate it, this bird will score badly in this area.

The whole rating is out of 40, with each category receiving 10 points. Ten is the best, so if I hate it or it's color etc. It will get a a one, the worst score. Every 8 points is another letter grade, so 40-32 is and A, etc. Enough with the intro!

This bird is called the Eskimo Curlew. It was last seen during the 1960s and was a shore bird that lived in Northern Canada. It was very small and had a curved beak. The picture shows some color, but I'll give you some more info on that. It had bluish legs and a mottled golden-brown body. Its underbody area was a paler mottled color. They used to migrate in the millions and early settlers used to shoot them down and get as many as 20 with a single round. Their meat was apparently very delicious. I've never had it, you know, because I was born in the early-mid 2000s, 40-50 years after they were pretty much killed off. Fun Fact, when migrating they got so fat that they were known as "Doughbirds"! That's some background info.

Onto the rating! Color: 4/10. I'm giving it a 4 because as good as it is, it lived many different places during many times of year and all they are is golden brownish. That's pretty lame. They are also the same color as many other shorebirds and are only able to be distinguished from Whimbrels, another shorebird, by a small neck color difference.

Ability: 6/10. It was originally going to be a 4, you know, basic bird, flying, but the fact that its nickname had "dough" in it kicks it up a peg or 2.

Style Points: 5/10. They are pretty neat, but getting super fat can only take you so far. I mean, look at it! It doesn't actually scream, "Cool bird friend ready for petting and fun." It kind of screams "I'm a bird who is super rare but also in general a huge downer and probably does walk-a-thons or something." Like a cool neighbor that you've never met. That's kind of the vibe I think it's putting off.

"Eskimo Curlew." Marine Birds - Eskimo Curlew,
www.arctic.uoguelph.ca/cpl/organisms/birds/marine/sandpiper/Eskimocurlew.htm.

Why we Name Hurricanes

By: Emmett Bassen-Alexander

I have always wondered this myself. Since we get some of the major Atlantic hurricanes. Why do they name them, and why cute stuff like "Florence" or "Debby"? Turns out there is a six year rotating schedule with all the names that will be used, and if it is super catastrophic, like Katrina or Irma, they just take it out of the list. The initial naming is just to keep track, but I'm pretty sure the weather places had some fun coming up with names. The names of 2018 that have yet to be used are, in order, Kirk, Leslie, Nadine, Oscar, Patty, Rafael, Sarah, Tony, Valerie, William, and Death Metal Wind Tunnel Fire Vampire Kraken Megatron 9000. Just kidding on that last one. I would

be more scared if that were one though. How do we come up with these names, you ask?

They just have to all not be similar because the initial reason was for keeping track. I guess just any name works though.

So that's the whole thing. It's actually not that complicated. But, hopefully, that cleared some confusion up!

NOAA US Department of Commerce, and NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "Why Do We Name Tropical Storms and Hurricanes?" *NOAA's National Ocean Service*, 28 June 2013, oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/storm-names.html.

Flat Stanley: The Unknowable Mystery

Emmett Bassen-Alexander

We all know Flat Stanley, that one book character who got crushed by a bulletin board and is now super thin. I was wondering the other day though, how does he work? I will be scientifically looking at Flat Stanley and see what he really would be like.

I'm pretty sure no one thinks that he could actually be alive, but how alive can a squashed human be? Answer? Not that squished, your body optimizes space very well, so much so that Flat Stanley would have been killed if he were $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick. Dead instantly from internal injuries. . To make matters worse, if he were $\frac{1}{2}$ half inch thick, he would be very spread out. Not a pretty sight.

If he were the same size, and his body were all there, how dense would he be? Assuming he were compressed down to the same silhouette, of course. I might have to do a little math for that. The average density of the human body is 985 kg/m cubed. Flat Stanley is young though, so we will have to guess a little. He looks to be about 7 or 8, but that could be wrong. We will go with 8 to be safe. The average height of an 8 year old is 4' 2", and he is about 6 inches wide. His weight is about 28.6 kg. If his density at 6 in. across is 985 kg/m cubed, and he gets flattened by a factor of 12 (6 divided by $\frac{1}{2}$ equals 12 in.), that means if you multiply 985 kg/m cubed, you get 11,920 kg/m cubed. That's insane. Holding him would be like holding a 60 lb piece of thick paper. It really makes you realize how unrealistic the books are!

Overall, Flat Stanley is an impossibility. I guess since he's a fictional character in a 1954 children's book, though, I'll cut him some slack.

"Flat Stanley." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 26 June 2018, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flat_Stanley.

Bird Review: Magnolia Warbler

By: Emmett Bassen-Alexander

The Magnolia Warbler is a small songbird that lives around Canada and the northern U.S. It is very small and has a nice call. This bird will get a rating out of 10 in 4 categories: Color, Ability, Style Points, and Annoyance in the Real World. The Magnolia Warbler is around 5 inches long, small enough to hold in 2 hands. Its feathers are yellow and brown, the males have a striped belly and a black and gray head as seen in the picture below. The females have a similar color scheme except they are duller to protect their eggs and other girl bird stuff. Their call is a generic bird sound, you'd probably hear it and go, "Nice a bird" and then never say anything about it again. They breed in the south like other birds do. Their lifespan is about 7 years, so it would

be sad to have it as a pet because you'd be all, "you we with me during all the hard times aaaaaand your gone" To the actual fun part of the article!

Color: 8/10. Their color is pretty cool, if I were a bird I would want some of those colors. Black and yellow are a good combo. Wiz Khalifa made a song about them that's how good they are.

Ability: 6/10. They are fine. Nothing insane. They are not endangered though, so I'll give them some points for tolerating all the bad stuff we throw at animals (Figuratively-not actual throwing stuff. I guess sometimes we actually do throw stuff though.)

Style Points: 5/10. Like I said before, not great but not bad. I would think this bird would be like a manager at a Kohls or something, perhaps they like antiques. That sort of thing.

Annoyance in the Real World: 7/10. It is a songbird so it doesn't really stand out and so it's not that annoying. I have no personal experience with them so I don't know if people hate them or not.

Overall Bird Score: 26/40. That's a B and the exact same score as last time. I'm sensing a theme and that theme is that most birds are just okay. Until the inevitable next one!

"Magnolia Warbler." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 3 Oct. 2018, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnolia_warbler.

Bird Review: Northern Shoveler

The Northern Shoveler is a duck-like bird that lives in many areas in the Northern Hemisphere. It is very common in Europe, Asia, and many parts of North America.

As usual, I will be grading this bird out of 10 in 4 categories: Style Points, Color, Ability, and Annoyance in the Real World.

I'm not going to give too much background knowledge, but the Northern Shoveler is called that because of its beak, which is curved up on the edges. They use this to get water invertebrates by "dabbling." Yes, that is the actual word for it. It is the term for straining out water from their crazy beak. The females of this species are drab and a mottled brown color. Their under-wing is gray and whitish. The male, however, has an iridescent green head, brown body and a blue colored under-wing. They are the prettier ones, but that is to be expected of them, as they are ducks. They live in muddy marshes with plenty of their food in them. They nest in grass like most ducks do. On to the rating!

Color: 7/10. The males are very pretty but not crazy like some ducks are.

Ability: 8/10. Being able to strain out your food with your mouth is pretty cool. I mean if I could strain pasta with my lips you'd see me doing it 24/7.

Style Points: 5/10 They are flashy, but their call isn't too cool, and just flapping around isn't that desirable a quality in a duck. You'd probably see these ducks drinking tea, probably in a scarf of some kind. Someone you know's chess teacher, maybe.

Annoyance in the Real World: 6/10. We all know ducks. They are cute, but they are just geese who are much nicer. Still probably out to get you. Plus you see one, and you are all, "Wow a duck." But then you see 10,000 more, and you are just thinking, "Oh."

Overall Bird Score: 26/40. That's a B. I guess their main problem is that basically they are just a duck. This has been "Ducks are Cool" with your host, No one!

"Northern Shoveler." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 21 Feb. 2018, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_shoveler.

Avalanche vs. Lightning

By: Trey Worthy



If lightning and an avalanche COMBINED, in an epic feat of environmental strength, who...would...win?! The stats are based on Speed and Mass.

A lightning bolt can travel at 220,000 miles per hour or 320,000 feet per second. That's faster than the rotation of the moon! However, an avalanche can only travel 80 miles per hour. Not its greatest strength...

Now, an avalanche's mass is a completely different story. An avalanche's mass is 907,184,740 kilograms. That's a lot! A lightning bolt's mass is about 11.12 micrograms...

So, ultimately if I had to be honest, they are pretty tied. Technically an Avalanche would win. But based off the 2 stats I talked about today, they were pretty close.

Silly Stuff

Jokes Brought to you by: Devon Butziger and Rajeev Sen

References:

AJ= Anti joke

AJQ= Anti Joke Question

AJA= Anti joke Answer

Q= Question

A= Answer

J= Joke

Q: When you look for something, why is it always the last place you look?

A: You stop looking after you find it.

Q: Why was the baby strawberry crying?

A: Because its parents were in a jam

Q: What did one plate say to the other plate?

A: Dinner is on me!

AJQ: A bull breaks free from his pen and starts rampaging in a Farmers house, because of this the farmer loses his tractor. What does the farmer say?

AJA: "Where's my tractor?"

AJQ: How do you make a lemon that is in your hand fall?

AJA: You drop it.

J: So a guy was going to the prom and needed a suit and flowers, so he went to the suit store and there was a really long line so he waited and then got the suit after a while, then he went to the flower store and there was a really long line so he waited and after a while got the flowers so when he picked up his date and finally got to the prom there was a long line to get in, so they waited and eventually made it in, when they were in they were both thirsty so the guy went to the food and drink table, **but there was no punchline.**

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