

The Monarch Chronicle

Northern

Chautauqua

Catholic

School

December 2020 Issue 2



The Northern Chautauqua Catholic School wants to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year as we enter 2021 ! After putting much work into the second issue of *The Monarch Chronicle* we hope you enjoy our mystical, magical, and truly Christmas themed creations !

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Catholic Corner

Gospel : LK 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will and the Lord God will give him he will rule over the house of there will be no end." But Mary be, since I have no relations with in reply, "The Holy Spirit will the Most High will overshadow



a son, and you shall name him be called Son of the Most High, the throne of David his father, and Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom said to the angel, "How can this a man?" And the angel said to her come upon you, and the power of you.

Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Science and Discovery

Climate Change and Agriculture

by Andrew Ellman

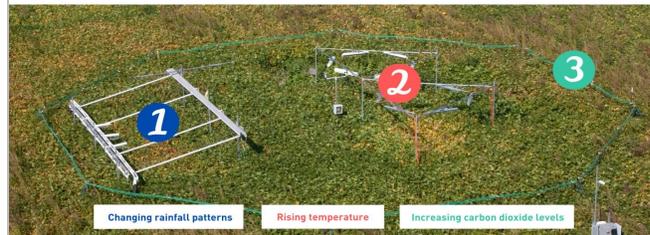
Climate change has been one of the biggest topics of the past decades. How animals and crops will be affected is especially important. The University of Illinois and Carl Woese Institute for Genomic Biology conducted an experiment over the past 30 years on the rising CO₂ levels and how they can affect Crops.

Over the past 30 years, a network of fourteen term research groups from five different continents has stimulated the future levels of carbon Dioxide(CO₂). Most crops are C₃ including soybean and rice, which are less efficient at turning CO₂ and light into energy though the process of photosynthesis. C₄

plants such as corn and sugarcane use photosynthesis by taking some of the light

TO PREDICT HOW CROPS COPE WITH CHANGING CLIMATE:

30 years of experiments simulate future



energy they receive to concentrate CO₂ within their leaves. While CO₂ increases, many crops show lower mineral nutrient and protein contents, which concerns scientists.

In the future, as this study continues, scientists will explore a wide variety of crops, as well as different management practices, such as seeding, density, and tillage (preparation). Their goal is to make an accurate prediction of how the plants we depend on for food will change so that we can be prepared.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch

By Elena Mulkin

You are probably wondering what the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is. It is a pile of garbage in the Pacific Ocean. The pile of garbage is 1.6 million square kilometers, which is much bigger than Lake Erie. The garbage is a huge collection of cans, glass bottles, all kinds of plastic straws and containers, and various junk.

The Great Pacific discovered in 1997 by efforts began to try to 67 ships a year to clean up garbage. It also may never people waste more too and don't recycle.



Garbage Patch was Charles Moore. Soon after, clean it up. But it also takes less than 1 percent of the go away because every day much plastic especially

The polluted garbage is also killing the animals in the ocean like fish, turtles and other sea creatures in the ocean. The only way people can prevent this is by recycling and composting.

To stop the patch from growing bigger, we all need to step up and take better care of the planet.

OSIRIS REX

Izzie Czেকanski

The acronym OSIRIS Spectral Interpretation, Security Regolith. Osiris by a company called explores asteroids.



REX stands for Origins, Resource Identification, and rex is a space drone made Lockheed Martin that

OSIRIS REX made was launched from Cape a unit in the space coast) on October 20, 2020 at 1:50. Its target was the asteroid called Bennu which is the size of the Eiffel tower!

history and this is how: It Canaveral (Cape Canaveral is

When looking out at the asteroid they discovered that bennu had a rockier surface than they had thought. The landing spot was called nightingale; they decided to land here because it was the least rockiest part of Bennu. They knew this because they orbited Bennu for a long time to find the perfect spot.

When Osiris rex landed on Bennu they grabbed a sample, which was the point of this mission. However, the flap collecting a sample of bennu got jammed up from a large rock unfortunately and they lost quite a bit of the sample.

The mission cost over 800 million dollars. If they can raise the money for another mission, Osiris rex is estimated to return in 2023.

Pop Culture Reviews

Call of Duty Black Ops 1 (Campaign)

By Luca Gullo

Black Ops 1 will go down as one of the greatest first person shooters ever made. The campaign is amazing as well as its multiplayer and zombies. This campaign is very interesting because before every level we have Alex Mason's point of view as he is being interrogated by the CIA and the levels are his memories, which is very cool. We don't learn why he is being interrogated until the end.

In this game's campaign we are introduced to Alex Mason,

a CIA operative, and his best friend Master Sergeant Frank

and his brain is opened up and experimented on by Frederick



Woods. These two are very close and had been in countless battles together. In the first level Mason is captured by the Soviets and sent to a Russian labor camp, Vorkuta. We do not know this until the second to last level but Mason is strapped to a table

Steiner, the Soviets head scientist, Nikita Dragovich, Major General of the Soviets, and his second in command Lev Krevenchco. They implant a virus to Mason's brain so that they can control him whenever they want. Their plan was for him to kill the

President and betray his country. Dragovich also implanted the launch codes of his secret plan, Nova six, which we learn later in the story. This plan seems perfect until Viktor Resnov comes into play. Resnov was outraged with Dragovich after he betrayed him during the cold war. He killed Resnovs friends in front of him and Resnov wanted revenge. Renov got into Mason's head and changed the plan. He programmed Mason to imagine Resnov is always alongside him fighting



and encouraged him the whole time that Dragovich, Krevchenko, and Steiner all must die. Resnov then creates a plan to escape Vorkuta and Mason agrees. They both make it out but Resnov is captured and Mason escapes. Mason is found by the U.S. and sent to the capital to be debriefed. Mason then goes with

his squad to track down Dragovich. There are multiple levels of fighting until a very important one about Reznov. We learn that Resnov was sent to extract a weapon called Nova Six and bring it to Dragovich. They find it in a shipwreck and Dragovich snatches it and tests it on the Resnovs crew. Resnov

escapes after watching his friends die but gets captured and sent to Vorkuta. The U.S. then learns that Dragovich plans to use Nova Six and go to extract the Russian head Scientist, Steiner, to find out the launch codes.. After learning that Steiner is located in a secret facility in Rebirth Island, Mason heads

there under the influence of Reznov.. Mason tracks down Steiner and kills him although he imagined seeing Resnov kill him. Mason is interrogated by the C.I.A. to find out the launch codes of the Nova Six bomb and eventually after what seems like torture of his mind he finally remembers the launch codes implanted by Dragovich and they track down Dragovich, kill him and stop the bombing.

The *Black Ops 1* campaign is an outstanding game.

The storyline is great and is more interesting than any other campaign. Despite being the first installment of the series, it is definitely still up there with the newer ones.

Fall Guys

By Dylan Ott

Fall Guys "Ultimate" knockout is a video



game on PC and PS4. *Fall Guys* is a massively multiplayer party game with up to 60 players online in a free-for-all struggle through round after round of chaos until one player remains and takes home the victory.

In *Fall Guys* there are different character customizations. You can change the color of your character and put on skins like a pineapple dinosaur. There are many different stages of this game. You start off with so many players, and at every round after a player gets eliminated. When you win a game in *Fall Guys* you get shown off on a podium. When you get back to the game lobby you are rewarded with a crown that you can buy skins with.

I recommend this game to anyone who enjoys customizing characters and competing with other players. *Fall guys* recently just made a new season which is season 2. This *Fall Guys* game came out February 2020

Among Us Alert

by Ian Smith

Among us is a popular upcoming game in the USA that is similar to mafia. Here are some tips for the fun game.

1. NEVER accuse people at the start or you will become "sus".
2. Don't fake visual tasks as an impostor.
3. Don't kill on cameras.
4. Use cams in security.
5. Never stand still.
6. Don't do tasks with other people.
7. Try to avoid electrical.
8. If somebody vents in your face RUN and call an emergency meeting.



Updated PS5 Preview

By Tommy Askar

Because the PS5 comes out in three days, there is a lot of information to talk about before its release. If you are planning on purchasing one, this preview will be helpful to you.

The first main fact about the PS5 is that there will be two versions. One of them will have a disc drive, a part in the console that allows you to insert physical CD's. The other version will not have this, and you will only be able to play digital games that you can buy online. The disc version costs \$499.99, and the digital version costs \$399.99. Since I already have a lot of discs, I will buy the disc version, and I recommend you get that one as well.

The PS5 looks ways to display the it up vertically as shown can lay it on its side, as

The Playstation this one, could only run of 60 FPS (Frames Per managed to double this will run at a maximum that the PS5 will as the PS5.



very cool. There are two console. You can stand in the pictures, or you the PS4 was intended.

4, the console before games at a maximum second). Sony has and the Playstation 5 of 120 FPS. This means function double as well

There are usually other things that you will have to buy along with the PS5. I recommend a pair of headphones to buy, because you will be able to hear things a lot better. Also, you should get a 120hz monitor so you can run the PS5 at the best quality. A comfortable chair would also be a good investment.

Another thing that improved greatly in the PS5 are the specs. Specs are the parts of the console. The memory of the PS4 was 8GB. The PS5 will have 16GB of memory. The CPU and GPU are the part that controls the loading time. The PS5 will have a very powerful CPU and GPU, so it will load games in less than 5 seconds!

Overall, The Playstation 5 will be a very good console. It will be double as good as the PS4. Not only does it look cooler, but it also functions double as better. Buying this will put a great start to your gaming experience.

Among Us

Robert Hall

In recent months, you may have heard of a game called "Among Us." "Among Us" was released over two years ago on June 15, 2018. Back in 2018, Among Us barely had any players, but now, the game is receiving huge traffic, mostly due to a surge in content creation of this game.

The rules of the game are simple. Each game, a group of ten people are put into various locations. One of these people is randomly chosen to be the "Impostor" and the other nine are "crewmates." The crewmates' job is to figure out who the Impostor is and to do their tasks at the same time. Crewmates can call meetings if they think they have some information that they want to share with the other crewmates. Crewmates can also report dead bodies to call a meeting. During the meetings, people will have intense arguments, all fighting with each other over who they think the Impostor is. At the end of the meeting, the crewmates will vote one person out, hoping that they are the Impostor. If they vote out the Impostor, they win the game. The Impostor's job is to kill all of the crewmates without being seen or detected. Since the Impostor cannot do tasks, he or she must

pretend to do them so that they do not seem suspicious. If the Impostor can kill all of the crewmates without being voted out, they win.

The game is set up to make it feel ominous.



When you are a crewmate, there is nothing overtly scary or horrifying, but it is the feeling of being vulnerable and knowing that you could be killed at any moment. The scary part of the game occurs within your head: the developers expertly made a formula where the game does not scare you, but rather you overthink and scare yourself. It makes you feel paranoid, not wanting to trust anybody. As the Impostor, the experience is thrilling by being secretive. It is scary not knowing if a crewmate has seen you kill somebody. The Impostor has to be very careful and cautious about how they do things.

I highly recommend this game to anyone who enjoys thrilling entertainment.

Perspectives

A Dress Code Challenge

By Michaela Mead

There are quite a few days during the school year that students are allowed to dress out of uniform. Usually these exceptions-to-the-rule are held on special days during the year, such as Halloween, Pajama Day, and picture day. According to the new, updated dress code rules, you are now also allowed to dress out of uniform for your birthday. Although these rules seem reasonably fair, there is one more day I believe that students should be allowed to dress more colorfully and not in uniform..

This day would be on Tuesdays when we have mass. Now, on regular weekends, most people would wear

church.
dressy



does
mass
wear

nice dress clothes of their own to
So, why not let students wear nice,
outfits from home for mass?

students who would prefer to wear nicer clothing, this would be an opportunity to change their appearance.

If the problem is that a student
not have anything nice to wear on
day, then they would be allowed to
their uniform as usual. But for the

It would only happen once every other Tuesday, twice a month. Boys would be allowed to wear different colored shirts or suits and ties, and girls would be allowed to wear a nice outfit like a dress or pantsuit. There would still be a strict code about what is proper for NCCS. For example, inappropriate clothing selections from home (such as short cut shirts) would not be allowed.

Wearing nice dress clothes would also be very respectful, especially for church. It would be a good way for students to present themselves towards God. It would also make those Tuesdays something fun to look forward to, and especially the little kids would love dressing up for church. It would make all students more excited about church days, and allow them to show that they are respectful.

How Christmas is Going to be Different this Year

By Andrew Ellman

2020 has been one of the craziest years of our lives, and as we approach the holidays, families are realizing that this is not going to be a normal Christmas due to COVID-19. However, too many families are still getting together despite the warnings by medical experts that the pandemic could produce a second wave of suffering across America. Other families are making the smart decision to celebrate Christmas with only the people in their household.

When people decide to get together in big groups indoors they might be sorry, because they are risking their lives and the lives of their families. As I like to say, don't get together this year so you can do it next year.



Celebrating Christmas in the middle of the pandemic will be hard, especially trying to get gifts for everyone. Honestly, I feel we should all take a step back this year and focus on the true meaning of Christmas: Jesus was born on this day and suffered and died for us so that we may have better lives. This year is not normal, but together we are going to get through it. Just think of all the fun memories we can make in the future if we make the sacrifice of not getting together now.

Critter Corner

Tigers: Real and Mystical

By Shelby Ball

Tigers are very unique. They are very fast and beautiful animals. Also, tigers are carnivores and they live to about 25 years. Adult tigers can run to about 30-40 miles per hour. Tigers are the largest cat species, up to 3.3 meters long and 670

tigers often represent willpower, Some people like to think of

There are not many only 3,500 remaining tigers and endangered species. People like money from other people who



pounds. In books, the stripes on courage, and personal strength.

tigers as their "spirit" animal too.

tigers left in the world; there are they are one of the most to hunt tigers. They make want to make rugs out of their

skin or to use parts of their dead bodies for "magic" medicine. They are hunted for their pelts because they can be sold on the black (illegal) market.

Tigers are amazing animals and should be protected and preserved.

Cheetahs – Fast but Fragile Felines

By Chelsey Tramuto

Cheetahs are the fastest land animals in the world. They can reach speeds from 50 to 80 miles an hour in just 3 seconds! While they are

running, their tails help them balance and their



semi-retracting claws dig into the ground to propel their lightweight body forward. But that

speed does have a disadvantage; they can only maintain their top speed for about 20 seconds or they can risk overheating and suffer exhaustion.

Cheetahs are native to Africa and are Africa's most endangered big cat. Adult cheetahs only weigh up to about 160lbs, much lighter than lions and tigers. Cheetahs, like many other cats, can swim, but they usually avoid water. They are also very bad tree climbers. A cheetah's night vision is no better than ours; however this is not a big problem though since they mainly hunt in the day.

Cheetahs lose around 10 to 15 percent of their kills to other predators, such as hyenas, lions, and leopards, who also prey on cheetah cubs. In the wild, on average, cheetahs only live up to 5 or 6 years old. Also, cheetah cubs have a high mortality rate.

There is much concern over cheetahs being endangered and even extinct because of

human activity. December 4th is International Cheetah day to show concern for the preservation of an extremely fast and beautiful animal.

Up Close and Personal

Our Student Teacher: Ms. Hallberg

By Sophia Burrows

a



As a kid, Ms. Hallberg wanted to be teacher.

During high school, she became interested in physical therapy.

When she went to college she

lost interest in that area and changed back to taking courses in teacher education.

She grew up in Bemus Point, NY and still lives there now. She is currently studying at Fredonia State College. After earning an Associates Degree from Jamestown Community College, she chose to go to Fredonia State because it was close to home and has a good teaching program.

Her major at Fredonia State College is Childhood Inclusive Education. When she becomes a certified teacher she might want to teach second, third, and fourth grade. She also is considering teaching math or science, where she is now working with Mr. Vona.

She enjoys student teaching at NCCS and said "It's very welcoming and friendly and overall fun." In my opinion I think Ms. Hallberg is great at teaching and will have a successful teaching career.

NCCS Principal: Mr Andrew Ludwig

By Jenna Fryberger

Mr. Ludwig came here to NCCS after a brief retirement from Fredonia School District. He was encouraged by father Dan to become our principal.

Mr. Ludwig grew up in Fredonia where his father was a professor at the college, which is super cool. He grew up in a big family with six brothers and sisters. His best friend was Brain Paul, his boyhood friend since 2nd grade.

Today he lives with his wife Kara, who is an ELA teacher at Fredonia and a Village of Fredonia Board member, along with his daughter Diana and son Owen.

Mr. Ludwig's first job was being a farmhand at a dairy farm where he shoveled manure. After

graduating from college he got a job at Fredonia



Middle School where he taught math for many years before becoming principal there. Then he worked part time at JCC, and now he is here at NCCS as principal.

Did you know that Mr. Ludwig's favorite food is lasagna? YUM! Mr. Ludwig loves to workout and lift weights. If he ever gets bored, what he likes to do is read.

Sports

How The MLB went with Covid

By Dylan Ott

The World series is the Major League Baseball championship series. Sixteen teams went into playoff brackets. If you won in a bracket, you moved on to the next. The finals is a best-of-seven series. In the world series this year, the Dodgers faced the Rays.

This season was weird because of Covid. During the season and the world series there were

no fans allowed in the stadium. There were only 60 games instead of 162. If your team made it to the playoffs they would be able to play more games.

If players were not on the field, they had to sit on the bench and wear a mask. Every team had to drop some players, including one or two players from their bullpen to make it harder to spread the disease. Some teams in the MLB had a lot of players that caught Covid, causing schedule in



terruptions, with the St Louis Cardinals having the most problems.

The weirdest thing about this year's World Series was that there were no fans. But the games were exciting to watch on TV as the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Tampa Bay Rays in six games for their first title in 32 years. Shortstop Corey Seager was MVP.

Should James Franklin Get Fired?

Tommy Askar

James Geoffrey Franklin is the head coach of the Penn State College football team. This year, he has led Penn State to be 1-5. There are many rumors on several social media sites stating that he might get fired. And even though I am a fan of Penn State, I agree with all these people.

Some reasons he is a bad coach are because he makes very poor decisions during games. Their defense is terrible, and their offensive

play calling panics way too often. His players are not disciplined, meaning they do not do their job very well. And it is his job to discipline his players, and obviously he has not been good at it. His clock management is also terrible. At the end of games, he wastes timeouts and sometimes doesn't even call timeouts when they need to be called.

We have to remember that he is in a six year contract with Penn State that guarantees him over \$30,000,000 . This makes it very difficult to fire him, and it is basically impossible. And if they did manage to fire him now, Penn State would be in huge debt, because they would have to pay him all 38 million dollars at once.

All in all, James Franklin should be fired either during or after this season. There are so many reasons why, and he is just not very smart.

Here are some quotes from several critics:

"He has a guaranteed \$38,000,000. He's not going anywhere"

"Penn State is 0-4 to start the shortened Big Ten season, and that's a record pretty much no one expected."

"Penn State Red Zone play calling ... again trash.

"This has to be the worst tackling Nittany Lion team in James Franklin's tenure."



Two Kinds of Wrestling

Jonovan Kristan

Professional and amateur competitive wrestling are very different, but have some things in common. Both of them have a one-on-one competition. They both compete on surfaces that require special shoes to use for grip. They both can get injured, and there are refs in both sports.

Pro wrestling is where you fight, but it is all acting. Sometimes in brawl matches you get locked up in a cage or some other crazy thing happens. Pro's wear their own clothes and get to pick whatever clothes they think look most awesome. They do a lot of bragging and posing. The wrestling ring has ropes around it. The refs in pro wrestling don't do very much.

In competitive wrestling there are mats. You must wear headgear and there are out-of-bounds but no ropes. There are two circles. The biggest one is out of bounds. And you use foam so you don't get ringworm. Refs are very important because competitive wrestling is not fake, and both fighters really want to win in a fair fight. Watching pro wrestling can be fun, but I like to really wrestle and try to win.



Culture Corner

Buddhism by Sienna Alston

Buddha was the founder of Buddhism, a type of religion where you meditate and basically try to find inner peace. Buddha was born in the sixth century in 563 B.C. South from the Himalayan Mountains where his father was a ruler. Buddha's father believed that he was going to become a great ruler if he stayed in the palace, but the young Buddha left wandering teacher. At sixteen, he

got married and had a child. After that he joined a group and they fasted for six years trying to find peace in their souls by denying basic needs and pleasures. After he had grown too weak, he left the group. He went on to travel and teach for over 50 years. The Buddha died at the age of 80 and it is believed that he died from eating spoiled meat.



he joined a group and they fasted for six years trying to find peace in their souls by denying basic needs and pleasures. After he had grown too weak, he left the group. He went on to travel and teach for over 50 years. The Buddha died at the age of 80 and it is believed that he died from eating spoiled meat.

Yet his teachings about the four noble truths and the "middle way" to a peaceful and accepting way of life live on

Ask Miss Carol

Ms. Carol is a professional social worker. Her *Monarch Chronicle* column is dedicated to helping kids with problems that hold them back from being, well, kids.



Dear Ms. Carol,

I am very quiet and sometimes too nice that I think people sometimes take advantage of me. What should I do ?

-Linda

There is nothing wrong with being quiet or nice. However, since you said “too nice” that makes me think that you might have some difficulty speaking up for yourself or saying no. It is important to be able to effectively express your needs and wants with both adults and peers. When you say that you “think people sometimes take advantage,” I wonder what you mean? Do people take your things without asking because they assume you’re nice and it will be okay? In a case such as this, there is nothing wrong with politely saying something like, “Please ask me next time.” It’s also okay to say, “No, thank you.”

Dear Ms. Carol,

My Aunty died last month. What is the best way to remember her ?

-Jade

Jade -- I’m very sorry to hear of your aunt’s passing. The best way to remember her is the way that you knew her. What is something you liked doing with your Aunty? Maybe you and her liked working in her garden. You could plant a garden in her memory. Did she give you a special gift? Maybe it’s something you’ll save over the years. Maybe you have a picture of her. You could keep it in a special place to look at. You could also create a journal where you write down your favorite and missing your memories. When you are sad and missing your things and be reminded that she will always live on in your heart.



Dear Ms. Carol,

I am suffering from anxiety because my parents got divorced a few months ago. My birthday is coming up and I don't know who to celebrate with. Can you help ?

- Josh B.

Let's start with your birthday. Some parents, though divorced, come together on their child's birthday. Other divorced parents, celebrate their child's birthday separately. You can let your parents know what you'd prefer, however it may be out of your hands; you may just need to make the best of it. Remember your parents' divorce was not your fault and you have no control over how they treat each other or what they do. Unfortunately, what they do will affect you, for better or for worse. If you are experiencing anxiety, I would suggest talking to your parents about how you're feeling. If that is not possible, or you're not comfortable doing that, then talk to the school counselor who can help.

Dear Ms. Carol,

I am always down on myself and have lots of negative thoughts. How can I feel better about myself ?

-Johanna S.



Sometimes we don't see all the positive things about ourselves because we focus and dwell on the negative. One of the ways to feel better is to make a list of all your accomplishments and all the positive attributes you have. If you can't think of things to put on the list you can ask people who you know and trust like parents, teachers or friends. Read the list every morning when you get up, every night before you go to bed and whenever you have negative thoughts. Being down on yourself and having lots of negative thoughts is a serious problem and if this doesn't work you need to talk to your parents about counseling.

Dear Ms. Carol,

All my friends are in the grade above me. I only have 1 friend in my current class. I always feel left out. What should I do ?

-Reanu Keeves

You can handle this a few different ways; choose whichever feels the best for you.

Option 1, you said you have friends, including one who is in your class, so having friends isn't a problem for you. You could choose to let those feelings go, knowing that you do have friends. When you're in class and those feelings start creeping up, remind yourself that you have friends and that class is only a portion of your life each day. Option 2, you could make a concerted effort to make more friends from your class. Is there someone in particular who shares similar interests? When you're placed in groups to complete school work, try to learn more about your classmates. Start there. One last note, at this age, social circles can be hard to navigate.

Let's say you do try to make additional friends and it doesn't work out. That doesn't mean there is anything wrong with you. Stay positive and move on.



Dear Ms. Carol,

I am so good at school, I feel like I should not go. What is the point if I already know how to add $2+2$ or to put the comma before the conjunction.

I swear I no it all, so why should I have to go any more?

- Alec Smart

Well, to be frank, you made some errors in your submission to me, so you don't know it all. But don't worry, there is no one on the planet who knows everything, so you're in good company. Some practical advice for a know-it-all such as yourself is to be open to constructive criticism from teachers, and if you're not feeling challenged in school, to ask your teacher for more challenging work. You'll need to know more than $2+2$ and how to use commas to be successful in life.

Dear Ms. Carol,

Our dog got hit and killed by a car this summer. My mom refuses to get another dog because she says it hurt her too bad and she can't go through that again. I don't think that's fair, and I really miss having a dog at home. I think she's being selfish.

-Puppy Dreamer

I'm very sorry to hear about the loss of your dog; What happened is awful. Everyone grieves differently and it sounds like the death of your dog hit your mom really hard. While you feel like it's not "fair" and that "she's being selfish" for not wanting another dog, what's truly not "fair" is that your dog died, and from the opposite perspective, you're being selfish for wanting to get another dog when she's not ready. However, forget what's fair and who is being selfish for a moment. You and your mom have conflicting needs right now: you need the companionship of another dog and she needs time to grieve. Can you think of a way to meet both your needs? Try approaching your mom to discuss how you're both feeling, and try focusing on listening to how your mom is feeling. There are a few different animal rescue organizations in the area who could really use the help of volunteers to clean cages and walk dogs. Maybe your mom would let you volunteer your time. PS If she says yes, do NOT ask for a dog every time you volunteer. Pushing too hard, might mean you never get another dog.

Dear Miss Carol,

My mother and step father forced me to go to a party with them at the lake when I wanted to go somewhere else with a friend. I tried water skiing, and fell several times. The next day I had black and blue marks on my arms and legs. I was still mad, and told my friends at school that my step father hit me. Now they all hate him, and I don't feel good about it. I don't know what to do. Please help.

-Confused Girl

This was a vengeful act with very real consequences. You were upset about not getting to do what you wanted and took it out on your step-father by telling your friends he hit you and left marks on your arms and legs. This is a very serious accusation that could have resulted in your step-father being arrested. Frankly, I am shocked and dismayed that anyone who thought someone had hurt you, didn't reach out for help. Perhaps they didn't know what to do, or maybe they knew you were lying. Since it wasn't true, it's fortunate for your family that it didn't go that far. While it is going to be very difficult to do, you must tell the truth to anyone you told. Additionally, you need to tell your mother and step-father what you did. Again, it will not be easy, and perhaps you'll want your school counselor to help mediate. It is good that you know that what you did is wrong, and now it's time to do the right thing and fix it.

Free Writers

Trapped

By Elijah Greenough

I am a room with one door but no windows. I have nowhere to go. I bang on the door screaming to get out but there is no answer.

I awake from this dream in a cold sweat. I go to the kitchen to get some breakfast, then out the door to my job as an architectural critic where I review various architectural designs in the city.

When I arrive at my office, I find an assignment to observe an orphanage home built 1876. As I arrive there I see a tall wooden building that has metal doors for high security. It is quiet; nobody is around.

The door is extremely heavy as I pull it open. Just as I enter, the door slams shut from its weight. I look around the home amazed at the old



architecture. As I proceed up the stairs, I see this huge mural of Gerolamo Emiliani, the patron saint of orphans. I search through all the other rooms to discover that the home is empty of everything. There is nothing here, and I suddenly feel a desperate need to leave this place.

I run down the stairs. I try to pull the door open but it is too heavy. Exhausted, I fell to the floor.

Three days have passed and nothing has happened. I am starving and almost decided to eat a rat. I wake up one morning chewing something very salty. My only water source is my own fluids in an old bowl I find in the kitchen. I can barely stand. I reach down and grab my bowl of fluids but then I see my hand, or rather no hand. My hand is just a stub, bleeding all over the place. I become nauseous from the blood and everything goes black.

I wake up and the door is open. I'm crawling out of the house. My lunch is still there and I eat it like a wolf. I gain some energy then look up to see a person appalled at what they just saw. I am so very hungry and extremely mad. I passed out again. I wake up and there is a body on the floor bleeding. I am chewing happily as I regain strength.

Deranged

Maximus Sturniolo

You could say the Evergreen's were a normal family, but if you really got to know them you would think differently. The Evergreen's were a very wealthy family. They lived in the suburban area of North Carolina in a very luxurious house. The father, a well groomed man, was a dentist, had two kids. Angela was the wife's name and she was a high school teacher where one of her kids went to school. Then you have Jackson Evergreen. He's a very troubled kid who struggles with depression. Jackson is only 11 years old but acts like an adult and thinks like an adult but not in a normal way. Jackson also has some mental problems and has had multiple incidents that were very unusual.

The first incident occurred when Jackson was just 7 years old. Now in mind keep that



Jackson's parents were not aware yet of his problems. It was his 7th birthday. It seemed like a normal celebration until a strange man showed up to the party, a very mysterious person. He was freakishly tall and was wearing all black clothing with a mask to cover his face. The only visible parts of him were his hands, which were covered with black ink markings of strange symbols. The whole mood of the party changed when he arrived. Any normal person could tell that this man was up to no good. He stuck around the party for a few minutes until Jackson found his way over to him. Jackson asked the man "What's your name?" in an enthusiastic tone. Jackson could see the darkness in the mysterious man. The man didn't say anything, but raised his hand and put it on Jackson's shoulder. After that, the man vanished. This is how it all started.

9/01/20

Today Jackson is going back to school for his 6th grade year. Jackson has gotten in trouble almost every single day at school, but his teachers understand he has problems and want to help him. Jackson, who has bad days, never had one this abnormal. His dad dropped him off at school, late as always. Jackson walked into the school and hid in the mop

closet (hiding in school was one of the weird habits he had acquired). When the staff finally found Jackson, he was passed out on the closet floor. He was quickly taken to the nurse's office. Something very strange that they found were tattooed symbols completely covering both arms and legs. These symbols made from black ink looked ritualistic. When Jackson finally woke up and opened his eyes, the nurse froze and dropped. She died. Some say she just died from old age because she was 64 years old, but others say the young boy was possessed.

6/28/27 -

After this incident happened, Jackson's parents finally decided to send him to a mental institute. There he acted completely normal. He acted normal and talked normally. Just after a week of the incident too! The parents still insisted that the boy be kept there until he turned 18. When Jackson finally got out and met his parent's, they noticed something about him. He looked exactly like the Mysterious man all the way back when they saw him at Jackson's 7 year old birthday party. When they saw Jackson, he was freakishly tall just like the strange man. Jackson also had the same mysterious look as him well. One thing that Jackson's mother saw when she saw the man

all that time ago were the ritualistic symbols on his hands – the same ones that Jackson has on his arms and legs.



The Story of Flora

By Lila Drab

There once was a goddess named Flora and she always took care of the world.

She was born into a family of 4. Her sister's name was Doris who protected the sea. Both siblings had no idea who their parents were because they ran away when Flora and Doris were young. Flora always wished she was the god of the sea like her sister Doris. Doris had no interest in giving Flora a chance to see what it was like to protect the sea, not even for a day. The two sisters did not get along well.

One day when Flora was out watering all of her plants, Doris came up to her in a mean way. Flora was nervous because Doris was complaining that Flora had taken her magic staff. Flora had no idea where the staff was so she proceeded to ignore

Doris. This made Doris very angry so she made a quick decision.



Doris said if you find my staff I will give you the whole sea to protect but you have to protect it forever and not turn back to being the goddess of flowers. Flora got really excited because she always wanted to be the goddess of the sea. For the rest of the day Flora went looking for the magical staff. Flora looked everywhere and finally found it by a tree. Flora ran up to Doris and showed her the magical staff. Doris then led Flora back to the sea.

Days went by and Flora gradually started to not like the job of protecting the sea. Flora liked

exciting things like watering flowers and watching them bloom. All Flora did was sit in a chair and watched the staff all day. The chair was brown and she hoped it was a more exciting color. Flora thought the job would be to go out and see the water everyday.

All she had to do was sit and make sure the water did not overflow to the land where her sister Doris was there watering the plants. Flora begged Doris to go back to watching the plants but Doris didn't agree and went on with watering the plants. Flora was so upset and started to cry.

Time went by and the land started to rot. Doris wasn't taking care of the land. All the flowers were dying. The land was all dry. Doris had her friend help her and everything came back to life. Doris was happy and Flora was stuck down by the sea. Flora reminded herself that next time she should be careful what she wishes for.

The Lovely Frog and Handsome Turtle

By Aria Green

One day a girl turned into a lovely frog. *Poof!* She plopped onto her bed and then bounced out the window. She was hopping around and came upon a raccoon and he said "Oh, you are not supposed to be here?" He also questioned, "Shouldn't you be in a



swamp and not the forest?" The lovely frog could not speak raccoon-ese, and

so she hopped away.

The next day the Lovely Frog hopped on lily pads and ate breakfast. But this one lily pad felt odd and hard. Lovely Frog looked down and the lily pad was moving! She saw a head turn and looked up at her, and suddenly she had made friendship with a turtle,

They
play



Frog

better at than the turtle) and their friendship grew strong.

Now Handsome Turtle had a secret. He really liked a frog who is so lovely and quick. (you might ask, is it Lovely Frog? And Handsome Turtle would nod, yes!)

Eventually, Handsome Turtle confessed his feelings to a swamp friend, but that was a mistake, because the so-called friend spread nasty rumors about Handsome Turtle liking another species. A fox said "Eew, why would a frog be with a turtle?" Another fox said "They should be with their own kind!"

But Handsome Turtle ignored them and kept walking with Lovely Frog to the "Blossom Tree." Handsome Turtle said to Lovely Frog "I like you. Will you be in my shell?" Lovely Frog replied, "Yes of

course!" And then they danced the tango under the hazy moon.

The Campfire

By Avery Green

There was a little boy named Andy. He loved to eat ice cream and he would go to the store, school, and his bedroom with it. After a few days his family decided to go camping. Andy took a tin of ice cream, sneaking it out knowing his mom wouldn't allow it. When he and his family arrived at the site, they set up tents getting ready for the night.

His brother saw what happened and threw



water on
Andy
water to
put him
out. Now
Andy
looked

like a burnt chicken.

A few days later they planned a funeral for him and they buried him but then his brother tripped into the site and fell on top of the coffin and felt cold inside his soul.

A few years later the family went to the same camping site to celebrate the brother's birthday, and as he blew out the candles he wished that he could see Andy again. At that moment he smelled something burning behind him.

Charlie's New best Friend

By Lailynne Tarnowski

Once upon a time there was a dog named Charlie who lived in the city with his owners Bill and Jessica. One day when Charlie was at home sitting on the couch, Bill came home from work. Bill had a bag in his hand and Charlie got really excited thinking that Bill had a treat!

Bill went up to Charlie and said "I have a surprise for you!" Charlie wagged his tail excitedly. But when Bill pulled the thing out from the bag it was a pickle dog toy. Charlie didn't like the dog toy; in fact, he hated it.



Then one night at home in their apartment everyone was asleep and Charlie was bored laying on his dog bed. You see, all his other dog toys were in Bill and Jessica's room and he's not allowed in there during the night. The only dog toy was the pickle one that was right next to him. He was so bored he actually started playing with the pickle and he loved it! So he named it Bill Jr. to

remember who gave him his new best friend!

The End!

Welcoming New Bears from the Forest!

Julia Askar

Chase the Bear loves his habitat. It has warm weather, lots of food and great shelter. But one specific day, Chase feels bored, like something is missing in his life. He decides to explore the wilder forest outside his habitat.



When he is deep into the forest, he finds two bears growling and talking. Their names are Alex and Max. They glare at him and ask him what he is doing way out here. Chase tells them that he is trying to find new friends.

Alex and Max decide that Chase is OK, and so they go on a journey with him back to his habitat. He gives them a tour around the habitat and introduces them to all the other animals.

Alex and Max now must decide to stay or go back to their wilder woods. Anyway, Chase learns that welcoming new friends can be a good thing to do. The End!

Goddess of Fairies

By Carilene Sliwa

There was once a goddess whose name was Coretta. Her Great Grandfather was Poseidon.

It all started when she was walking in by a stream in Bridgemouth Woods and she saw the water rising strangely in spirals. She knew no one can do this besides her great-grandfather, who was sadly dead. How could this happen?

The next day when she woke up she went to the Woods again to see if the water was the same. It wasn't, so she carried on with her walk. A few minutes later she saw the air above a stone spinning in spirals.



Dear Santa

By Liliana Seibert

Dear Santa Claus,
This year I would like the prettiest, most EXPENSIVE pony EVER, along with a real diamond necklace for my Barbie and her dog Isabella. Also, get my puppy Elizabeth the best shock collar on the market. My servant elf Susie ate my deluxe ice cream

The next day she went to the Woods again and saw a bonfire burning in spirals. The next day she saw leaves spiraling in the air. Was



she seeing things?

A week later she went out again and she saw these little tiny people that could

fly and she named them fairies. Now she is known as the goddess of fairies.

sundae again! I HATE her and would like you to send her back to the North Pole for me because she is a PAIN. IN. MY. BUTT

Just so you know, my favorite color is pink, and last year you got me a stupid blue car! I'm 7 years old, that means I get what i want! This is all I am asking for along with a few rare priceless Peruvian Spider Monkeys.

Thanks Santa!
Princess Polly

P.S. Make it snappy!

The Poem
By: Pedro Huardo

Am I a poem
to be busted open
and ransacked
like an Attic where
cops are getting rough
digging for weird or illegal stuff?

Am I a drawer
to be rifled through
in search of a dumb sock
to match a dumb sock
what's it to you
when any sock will do?

Am I a dusty old trunk
full of cryptic junk?
Or a patient on a Gurney
Going for some kind of surgery
by a man in scrubs
looking for bugs?

Teachers, they think too much
So very out of touch
Always try to ruin meez
with their analyseez
And you, kid! Forget about me
I'm not for you, can't you see?

Life is hard
By Myah S Benjamin

***Life is hard like a
rock you see but***

***try to be calm like
I try to be kind and***

***sweet for you and
for me I know its***

***hard I'm trying to
don't do it for me,
do it for you.***

Phaëthon, Son of Apollo

By Olivia Cole

Apollo had a son, and Phaëthon was his name.

Phaëthon liked
his father's fame.
When one day
Zeus,
thought Phaëthon
excuse.

So, Phaëthon went
mortal mom,
and she sent him



telling everyone about

Epaphos, the son of

was using it as an

for proof from his

right into his father's

bomb.

When Phaëthon got to the palace of Apollo,
he asked for his father's chariot, how'd that go?

The horse on the chariot took off like flames,
and Phaëthon fell out with his father to blame.

If they were both human, they would have been prudent, and Phaëthon wouldn't
have done it just for amusement

The Day Santa Found His Special Reindeer

By Emersyn Strefeler

Once upon a time there were eight baby reindeer walking in the snow with no food to eat. They had lost their parents and were looking for them, but without any luck. They all huddled up in the snowy woods and went to sleep — all except one little deer with a red nose who went exploring.

Meanwhile, Santa had been building a sleigh to deliver presents. Santa was thinking about an animal that would be good to pull the sleigh when all of a sudden he felt a baby reindeer biting at the bottom of his pants. The little deer led Santa to his sisters and brothers who were still sleeping in the snow. Then Santa had an idea.

Santa went back to his shop where elves were working busily. Then he told them what to do. "Make the deer be able to fly. I will need them for my sleigh by this Christmas Eve." he said. " Yes Santa!" they all said in unison.



The elves got to working their magic on the young deer so they would be ready to fly with Santa on Christmas Eve. As soon as they were done, Santa gave them all names: "Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen, Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen." Santa stopped and looked at the first little deer who had nibbled at his pants. "Why, I see you have a red nose that glows! You will be named Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer." That night when Santa headed out to

deliver his gifts he put Rudolph in the front to guide his sleigh. The End

Prep School Photos



Grade 5



Grade 6

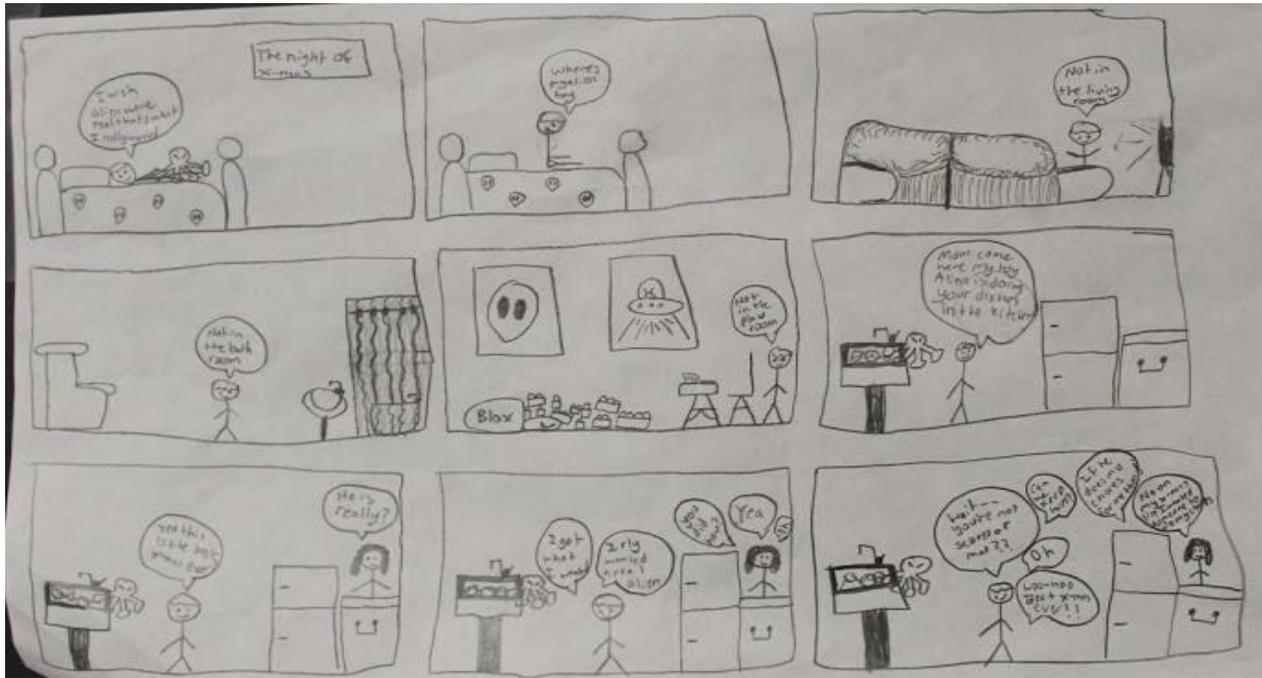


Grade 7



Grade 8

Comics by Michaela Mead and Ezra Estus



Drawings by Gigi and Michaela





Photography/Art by Robert Strang III (pp35-36)





“And Behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest where the children. “

- Matthew 2:9
