

# The Monarch Chronicle

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*This publication represents the research and creative writing of NCCS middle school students. It is not for profit in any way other than the satisfaction students feel when they see the results of their hard work. Because I monitored closely the internet sources used by all my students, I have waived the responsibility of in-text source citation for this issue. What is most important here is that the voices of the writers are their own, and they have used them to express their ideas and those of others.*

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# **Catholic Corner**

*"God is Light; in Him there is no darkness at all!"- 1 John 1:5*

The popular Hallmark TV series *Touched by an Angel* aired from 1994 to 2003. The episodes featured angels in human form who were sent by God to help people in times of great need. Every show ended with an inspirational message about perseverance, humbleness, compassion, and, of course, Faith.



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## **On Edge**

by Jenna Fryberger

In the *Touched by an Angel* episode "On Edge," a girl's father is a con artist who was born into a family of con artists. He is now training his daughter to be one too. The angel Monica tries to change her father's way but her plan does not work. Her father steals money and ice ring skates and he gets pulled over. So she

takes the blame and goes to jail. Then her father brings her snowglobe and she smashes it. Then they both go to court and she gets convicted. Her father has a change of heart seeing his daughter in jail and confesses to the crime.

The need for a change of heart and forgiveness are strong Christian messages. She at last forgives him and it changes everybody's heart because they all go through it. She will have a better future and the Christian faith is very strong.

## **Fighting the Good Fight Review**

By: AJ Patterson

The *Touched by an Angel* episode titled "Fighting the Good Fight" is about a 11 year old boy, Tim, who lives with his uncle because his mom is in jail. His older brother and his friends bully him. Tim decides to start boxing to defend himself. His uncle who he's staying with has a dog who is very mean and no one knows why. One day Tim gave the dog some food. The dog ate it then later that day the dog died in a dogfight. The uncle said it was all Tim's fault because he made him less violent by giving him food.

Tim has a lot of internal conflict. He didn't have a lot of power, and he was weak. His mom went to jail, his brother bullied him and his friends.

With help from the angels, Tim gets into a boxing program and learns to defend himself. Although he is now able to beat up older kids now, he is still very troubled in mind. With the help of the

angels and the great boxer Mohammed Ali, learns more about fighting.

Tim had multiple fights, not just the fistfights. He was fighting for something much more important, his mother. He was fighting for his uncle to be a better guardian. He was fighting for his brother to support him and be the good big brother, and stick up for him. He was fighting to have a normal family.

In the end, I didn't think the uncle was going to change, but the angels changed his mind and made him think straight and get a job and treat the kids like they're his own.

## **Science and Discovery**

### **Chimera Chimera**

By: Eli Greenough

A Chimera is a mythical creature from Greek mythology. It was made out of a lion's head, a goat's body, and a serpent's tail. It could breathe fire and it had a goat's head in the middle of it. Another definition of chimera is something that is impossible to accomplish. Today, there is a new version of the chimera that was conceived in a laboratory. It is a combination of two species: human and monkey.

Today's chimeras are just like science fiction. A group of international researchers have injected human stem cells into a monkey embryo in an effort to further understand early development in different species. They also wanted to grow organs to harvest for human transplants. This has been attempted in



sheep and pig cells but it has never worked.

Every nine minutes another person is added to the transplant waiting list, and every day seventeen people die from not having one. But because of ethical concerns, restrictions were placed on the scientists who were conducting the process. The embryos of the monkeys were only allowed to grow for twenty days with the human cells, and they couldn't be placed in a uterus.

It didn't work with the pigs and sheep because pigs are so distant from the human species except that they share similar skin and bones. Monkeys are more closely related to humans because they share an ancestor and have similar organs.

Supposedly, the chimeras will never grow beyond the lab stage. But if they are grown into living creatures then it will raise even more moral and ethical concerns. I believe that if someone were to make a living and breathing chimera, they would need to treat it like a human. If someone made one just for organ transplants that would be awful. They would create a living thing and then kill it just to use its organs. If they did anything to harm the animal that would be like hurting a human or any animal. No one should have the right to kill anything.

Many things that have been created by scientists have been abused. Scientists feel the need to explore and sometimes they explore too far. The chimeras are living things. Do we have the right to create these things? And if so, is it our moral duty to protect them?

## UFO's, for Real?

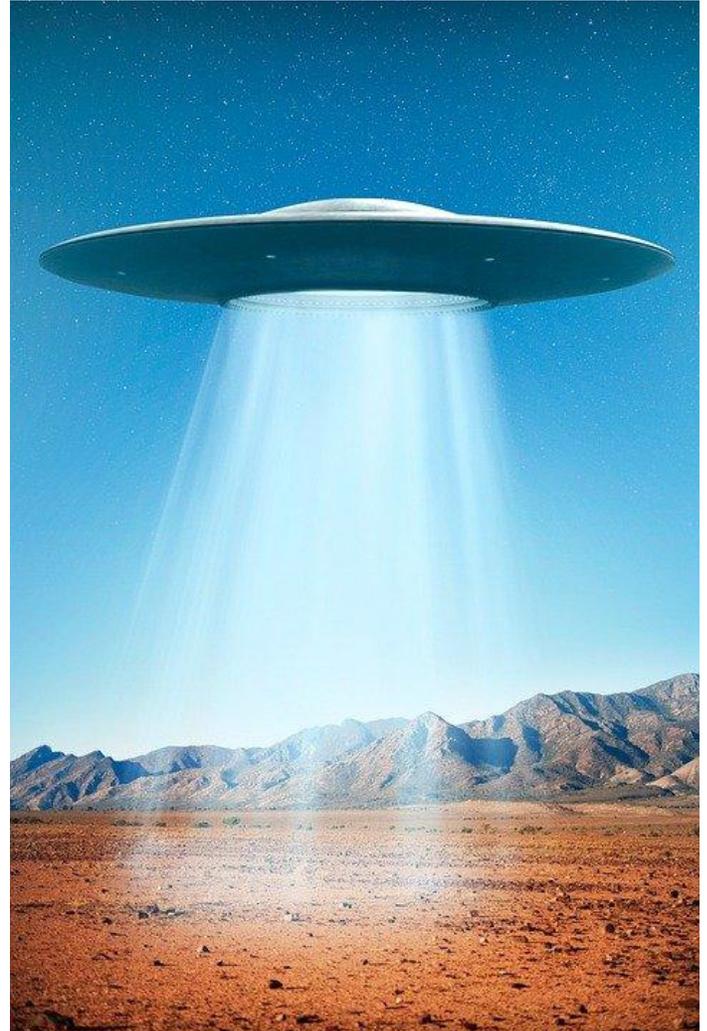
By Jaysen Kirk

For decades, flying saucers were a myth considered by most to be a joke, but these recently leaked videos that have gained national attention have some people thinking this is not a joke. The videos that have been gaining national attention are navy sightings of UFOs, that have recently been leaked to the media.

Navy pilot Lue Elizondo says he saw UFOs nearly everyday in an interview with 60 Minutes. Lue also made some comments on what he thinks these objects are. "Imagine a technology that can do 6-to-700 g-forces, that can fly at 13,000 miles an hour, that can evade radar and that can fly through air and water and possibly space. And oh, by the way, it has no obvious signs of propulsion, no wings, no control surfaces and yet still can defy the natural effects of Earth's gravity. That's precisely what we're seeing". Many Americans are questioning these bold claims, and are not convinced that flying aircrafts are going 13,000 miles per hour in the sky.

But these recent videos are hard to believe as fake. It even has the US Senate getting involved. "Everyone told me this would cause me nothing but trouble," said Reid, a Democrat who represented Nevada, home of the military's top-secret Area 51 test site, a central attraction of sorts for UFO hunters. "But I wasn't afraid of it. And I guess time has proven me right." These leaked videos even have some people inside the government thinking this is a security breach, these videos were recently even confirmed to be real by the US Department of Defense.

With all this speculation and confirmed videos do you think these unidentified objects are real? Or do you think the Defense Department is lying about the videos? Personally I think they're real, and that the Government has been hiding information about UFO Sightings and Videos. What do you think?



## Giants Steps in Space

By: Andrew Ellman

Space is one of the most undiscovered areas of all time.



In May of 2002, SpaceX was founded by Elon Musk and over 19 years they have made over 116 full missions. The SpaceX team has created and manufactured all of it and is now working to get to Mars.

In November 2020, four astronauts went into orbit and docked at the International Space Station(ISS). After a long

adventure they came back to Earth and landed on May 2nd 2021. While at the ISS they conducted hundreds of experiments with zero gravity and what we don't know about it yet.

## Tornadoes

By Shelby Ball

Tornadoes have destroyed many buildings such as schools, houses, barns, and etc. There are many movies about tornadoes like *Twister* where they chase tornadoes and do really cool things. Tornadoes can be different sizes and different types. They are a rotating, funnel shaped cloud and go very fast at 300 miles per hour.

Tornadoes are formed when warm air meets cold, dry air and then form an updraft. Then the updraft will rotate if winds vary sharply. There are different types of tornadoes such as Rope tornadoes, cone tornadoes, and wedge tornadoes. Tornadoes often occur in Mexico, Kansas and Florida. They often occur in warm places because when thunderstorms have warm air it releases latent heat it forms clouds, hail, and rain. Latent heat is energy absorbed or released by a substance during a change in its physical state. Latent heat also can not be detected by the

Back on Earth, lots of other experiments are also underway in order to get to Mars. To get there they have to figure out a brand new rocket that is even faster because no one has ever sent something this big so far before. Although we have only sent robots to Mars by 2024, Elon Musk and his team wants to have the first manned rocket to Mars.

Another recent event is that SpaceX is launching Starlink Satellites. Starlink Satellites is a global network system that is trying to get you the internet anywhere and everywhere. They say by 2025 that this will be in effect. Lots of people are protesting this idea due to the fact that this makes more people susceptible to cyber attacks. This is possible because hackers can take control of these satellites and could easily jam the network and shut it down, making it easy to access the phone or device.

SpaceX is one of the biggest and newest things yet. With so much more to discover, this is only the beginning



thermometer.

Tornadoes can also occur when cold meets warm fronts which form thunderstorms.

Tornadoes can last from a couple seconds to more than an hour, but most tornadoes

last about 10 minutes. Tornadoes are extremely dangerous and can destroy property and kill people. If there is the threat of a tornado in your area, you should find a safe place such as a basement, closet, center hallway, or in a room with no windows.

## Lyric Breakdown—Styles and Lovato

By: Kayleigh Helda

Some of the popular artists today such as Ariana Grande, Harry Styles, Selena Gomez, Demi Lovato, Justin Beiber, and more, have been amazing the new generation with their melodies and



their lyrics. But, do these songs have deeper meanings than everyone has them perceived?

One of the music/songwriters' Harry Styles, has the popular song "Sign of the Times", and not everyone knows the meaning of this deep song. It came from "This isn't the first time we've been in a hard time, but it's not going to be the last time." The song is from a mother's point of view who is about to give birth. She is told, "The baby is going to be fine, but you're not going to

make it." She only has five minutes to tell the baby "Go forth and conquer." Styles writes, "We've never learned we've been here before, why are we always stuck and running from the bullets?" He is referring to the bullets being the struggles in life. Then he continues, "You can't bribe your door on the way to the sky...We can meet again somewhere, somewhere far away from here." The mother is hoping to be reunited with her child in some other place, perhaps heaven.

You wouldn't expect this song to be as deep as it is until you actually interpret the lyrics yourself. And as the stereotype takes over a popular artist, you'd typically think that it's just another song from a popular writer that has no deep meaning other than being somewhat "relatable" to the new generation. More songs these days are starting to become more deep and meaningful as more artists are coming out and sharing their stories about their surprisingly crazy lives.

Another great example is Demi Lovato, whom we all remember as being a teenager and singing in musicals and popular disney movies and even being on the popular kids show "Barnie ". But recently as her life has changed drastically, she decided to put all of that into her new music. In a recent documentary about her song "Dancing With the Devil", she describes in detail the night she almost died from a drug overdose: "I was dancing with the devil out of control, almost made it to heaven, it was closer than you know." This experience changed her life. It's on record that she was dead

for 7 minutes before paramedics brought her back to life. Now, as she decided to change her life around, her entire album revolves around the terrible things that happened to her.

Those are two good examples of how artists today are writing songs with surprisingly deep and meaningful lyrics. As listeners, we should pay more attention to fully appreciate their artistic talent.



## A Competition That Went to the Dogs

By: Myah S. Benjamin

"Pooch Perfect" is a dog grooming television reality show on ABC. It is about teams of 2 people who had to work together in different challenges to design, cut, color, decorate, and accessorize dogs of different sizes and shapes. There are ten teams that had to compete week after week for "Best in Show" and the "Pooch Perfect" Champion would win \$100,000.00.

This was the very first show of this kind on TV. The winning team was from Buffalo, New York who own a dog grooming shop in Kenmore called the "Laundromutt". The two winners were Macie Pisa and Corina Stammworthy.

Macie Pisa grew up in Forestville, New York and graduated in 2010 from Forestville Central School. Macie's mom, Jenny Anson, owns "Dressed to Impress" Doggie Spa in Dunkirk.



Macie had grown up seeing and helping out her mom being a dog groomer.

After Macie graduated from high school, she moved to Buffalo and needed a job. She knew how to take care of dogs, so she started giving dogs baths. She did that for a little bit and then she and Corina decided to open up their own shop. The two ladies thought they could enter dog grooming competitions too. They traveled all over the place in the United States and Canada to compete.

"Pooch Perfect" held auditions at one of those competitions. Macie and Corinaes tried out and made it on the show. Congratulations to Macie and Jenny!

## My Favorite Movies in ELA

By Tommy Askar

Over 2 years of being in Mr. Howards ELA Class, we have read many books and studied grammar, but my favorite part of the

class has been when we get to watch movies. In this article, I will list my 2 favorite movies that we have



watched in these 2 years.

***The Truman Show*** is about an insurance salesman who lives his life in a movie set without him knowing that he is broadcast 24/7 in a reality TV show. The theme of this movie is using and controlling humans, and this is tragic because it takes away Truman's right to privacy. The main reason why this is my third favorite movie is because of the suspense that builds up throughout the movie. It is also very original and it was able to keep me interested.

***Signs*** is about a man who lost his faith in God when his wife died in a car accident, and his perception of reality is changed when he finds mysterious symbols and creatures in his yard. This movie is my favorite because I like the director's style of building up suspense by adding little hints throughout the movie. It also takes on the deep ideas of how traumatic experiences challenge people's faith. ***Signs*** kept me interested from beginning to end.

# Perspectives

## Tattooing as a Fine Art

By: Shayelynn Cook



I feel that tattooing should be taught in highschool or college curriculums. Schools should offer classes because it can help develop teens' creative art skills. Also, when teens are at age to get a tattoo, they will know if it's getting done properly and they will know how to fix tattoos if need be.

It takes 3-6 years to learn everything about tattoo genres and the process. A Tattoo artist might make anywhere from \$28k-\$260k per year. If you were a tattoo artist and you complete a tattoo for \$100, the shop keeper's

commission is usually between \$60-\$70, leaving you with \$30-\$40 in your pocket. The factors that influence the average income of a tattoo artist include the amount tips received, years of experience, and number of clients. If you love art and design and have a passion for tattoos, becoming a tattoo artist can be a rewarding career.

Tattoo artists use their artistic skills to advise clients on size, color, design and placement of their body art. A tattoo artist's daily duties would include cleaning and sterilising tattoo equipment and work areas, devising new designs according to trends, and using needles and pigments as they apply permanent design directly to a client's body by injecting ink under a layer of skin.

To run your own tattoo business someday, you should consider taking courses in accounting, entrepreneurship, and introduction to business. There is a lot of risk in taking it up as a career, but if you are really good at it, you can go far. You never know, you could end up tattooing celebrities!

## Technology: an Escape from Reality

By: Gabe Chase

Imagine a warm sunny day in a field of sunflowers. There is a cool breeze and the smell of grass. It is a peaceful time, when flowers are blooming and you're getting tan. Your wife is making salad and you're making burgers, while your son, who just turned two, is playing with his toy trucks. Your newborn daughter is cooing while sitting in her highchair playing with her stuffed elephant. Then you wake up, take your virtual headset off, and the world is a barren, hellacious wasteland. Buildings and cities are crumbling; the air is thick with smog, trees are being killed by rapidly spreading



forest fires. There's war, people are dying, there's famine and no hope for a future.

## Should Kids or Teens get the Covid Vaccine?

By Max Sturniolo

The past year and a half has been a crazy one with a lot of social unrest in America. But by far the biggest problem so far has been the Covid-19 pandemic. About three and a half million people have died from the virus, and it's still not stopping. But thankfully the cases have been dramatically slowing down. Pharmaceutical companies and scientists have worked hard in the past year, enough to even have made three different coronavirus vaccines.

Many citizens worry that the rushed process may have bad consequences, but so far the vaccines have worked well and cases have fallen across the country.

The FDA and CDC have recently given approval for the Pfizer vaccine to be administered to kids in the age range from 12-15. They

have supposedly proven that the vaccine is safe and effective for the kids from the trials they have conducted. However, they are proceeding to test kids ages 2 and up for the vaccine, which I think is outrageous. We don't know how it might affect our body or the kids' body in the future. I believe that the main reason people would get their kids vaccinated is that everyone is scared because of all the media attention. There are other reasons for kids to not get



the vaccine. Coronavirus definitely is less severe in kids than adults which I don't understand why parents would have their kids get the vaccine. The virus barely affects kids, so it would just be senseless for kids to be injected with who knows what for no good reason. Some parents believe that the vaccine is not natural enough and contains a lot of chemicals that could possibly be harmful.

In the end, parents should do what they believe is right for their child. Don't vaccinate them just because the doctor says so. Have them get it because you feel that it is safe and will help them

against the virus and

help the people around them.

Although the government Center for Disease Control (CDC) may recommend vaccination for kids, in my opinion I believe that kids

should not get it. I need more information and proof that the covid vaccine is safe and effective for all people including children.

## De-escalating Police Incidents: Will it work?

By Robert Hall

Recently, the topic of Police de-escalation has been discussed a lot. You can hear people saying "the officer should have de-escalated the situation" in response to almost every single police incident nowadays. But what is de-escalation and how is it carried out?



The dictionary definition de-escalate is to decrease the scope or intensity, but in the case of law enforcement things become

more complicated. De-escalation in law enforcement means using peaceful and nonviolent methods to calm down a suspect, therefore avoiding harm to an officer or civilian.

Police can de-escalate situations by persuading or coercing the suspect into doing as the officer says. An example of an officer de-escalating a situation could be "slowing down" an encounter by backing off somewhat from the suspect. They can

also try being more compassionate, yet firm. The police should also allow time for the suspect to make decisions and think about what they are going to do. Police could also wait to arrest somebody until they have calmed down and are less of a threat (when you have time available).

Personally, I think that the idea of de-escalation sounds good, but it could lead to a limitation of an officer's ability to defend themselves. Officers may start to feel like they can't defend themselves or else they will face a wave of backlash from media and protesters. If we continue to slander all police for the actions of a

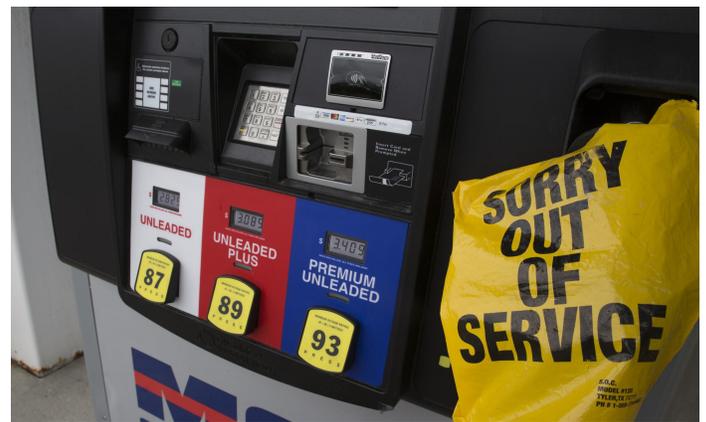
a very small percentage of them, officers will be scared to do their job, leading to less and less people becoming police officers.

## Colonial Pipeline Attack

By Robert Harrington

The Colonial Pipeline attack happened on Friday, May 7. The group that did the attack is called Darkside. Darkside used 'Ransomware' to attack Colonial Pipeline, hacking their business infrastructure so the company could not run.

People started hoarding gas because they thought that the gas shortage would last a long time. That caused a shortage for the gas stations and for military bases. The colonial pipeline is vital to airports along the eastern seaboard, military bases throughout the southeast. Consequently, gas prices have risen to



the highest they have been in six years.

The way all of this was resolved was because Darkside demanded \$5 million dollars in ransom money to release Colonial Pipeline's systems, and the company paid that. Will this kind of extortion invite more hackers that could lead to more serious outcomes?

## Animal Abuse

By Michaela Mead

Animal abuse through testing of makeup products has just gotten out of hand. Over 30 large makeup industries such as Chanel, Marykay, Sephora, Dior, and many others still continue to test their products on animals, harming them in many ways. In the US, thousands of poor animals are being used as experiments for these big brands.

Many of them die (they are often euthanized), or have to live with infections. This is not ok. Since many of these brands are big, many new products are always being made, resulting in lots of animal testing. And according to researchers, only 3% of animals that undergo testing make it out alive.

There are many bunny owners out there who could never think about their pet(s) being used as a test subject. Although there are many other animals that are tested on, bunnies are one of the big ones. Studies have shown that in 2016, 12% of animal testing have used dogs as experiments too.

Some argue that animal testing is a good thing, providing



data and safety of products for humans, but nobody seems to notice or care about the harm that this testing does to these animals.

There is also a federal Law called the Animal Welfare Act, which regulates the treatment of animals in research and exhibition. But other animals are still not protected by this Act. Some may also say that animal testing is useless. Out of all products tested on them, only 8% of them pass human clinical trials. The rest are unsafe for human usage.

Nowadays, there are many new makeup companies who have been using different ways to test their products, without harming animals. They include using cell cultures made in

laboratories, computer models, medical breakthroughs using humans, plant organisms, and more.

If you want to help, there are many petitions out there you can sign. You could also switch over (If you haven't already) and start to use more makeup cruelty free brands that are just as good. Some of these brands include E.L.F, Covergirl, Glossier, Urban Decay, and many others that you could search on the internet.

## Stop Racism

By Tatiana Contreras

Racism is something that you should not tolerate. It is something that you should stand up to. We as people should have the right to walk without fear or go to the grocery store without having to feel scared, and we should not be discriminated against just because of our skin color. We as people should not have to be in a world full of violence and people that kill because of your race. We as

people should stand up for anyone that is different color or from a



different country because that is what we should do as one humanity. God did not put us on earth to be vicious people; he made us to be kind and make our country a better place. We as people should fight for the rights of the country and for the people.

## My to-do Lists for this Summer

By Gianna Novelli

### This is my realistic to-do list for this summer

1. pool party
2. drive a jet ski
3. learn to cook
4. get a summer job
5. meet at least 3 new friends
6. read a whole book series
7. go to a water park
8. spend the night in a tent outside my house
9. finish greys anatomy
10. get a lot better at drawing

### This is my Ridiculous to-do list for this summer

1. buy a submarine
2. fight a grizzly bear in the ring (and win)
3. swim to the bottom of the ocean and build a house
4. learn fish language
5. visit saturn to so i can meet 3 new friends
6. get a summer job on saturn
7. drive my new jet ski to saturn
8. after i build my house at the bottom of the ocean i will drive my friends down there in my new submarine for the pool party i always wanted
9. read a whole book series in my new underwater house
10. learn to cook my 3 new saturn friends favorite food



## 5 Activities to Keep You Busy in the Summer of 2021

By Michaela Mead

During summer, you may get a little bored. Without school, you're stuck at home, with nothing to do some days. Here are some suggestions to help make your summer even better.

- Host a movie night

It could be with your friends, family, or even just yourself. Grab a bundle of blankets, and make sure to buy some popcorn and other sweet treats. If you own a projector, you could even have your movie night outdoors! It's a great way to spend warm summer evenings.

- Sleep in a tent.

If you or your family happen to own a tent, this might be the thing for you. Especially if you have other siblings who would love to spend time with you! Ask your parents to help assemble the tent, grab some snacks, borrow some lanterns for indoor light, and make sure to bring out sleeping bags and games to play!

- Have a lemonade stand

If you want to make some money the fun way, try to have a lemonade stand. Use a table and some chairs, make your lemonade, and you're ready to sell! It's a perfect way to be outside. Always make sure to sell in a busy neighborhood too!

- Learn fun summer recipes

When family comes over in the summer, treat them to a good meal! If you happen to own a grill, ask one of your parents how to use it, and look through cookbooks and online recipes. You could also learn to make fun drinks, and yummy desserts in the oven too!

- Read a good book

Make sure to check out your nearby library for fun new books. Look online for ideas of good book titles, and interesting genres. You never know what you can find if you look good enough!

## Dine Out in Dunkirk!

By Breydon Kuzdale

There are many good restaurants near Dunkirk, New York. But these are the three best restaurants around our area. We have Jenna's 4th street cafe, Windjammers is located at the Clarion Hotel , and Central Station is located on Central avenue.

Jenna's 4th Street cafe. Their customer service is great and they treat their customers and employees like how they should be treated. Their recipes are really good and their best thing to eat there in my opinion is the wing dings, which are basically chicken wings but smaller and easier to eat. They are a really clean restaurant and clean everything after the people leave. Quality control is very good. They get good food and make sure it is not over cooked but not undercooked and tastes good. I highly recommend this restaurant for breakfast and lunch. They also serve fish fry during lent.

Windjammers. They treat their customers and employees well. Their recipes are good. My favorite thing to get there is chicken wings. They taste so spicy but not so much to the point where it burns your mouth. They are a really clean restaurant and clean



everything when people are done eating or drinking at the bar. Their quality control is amazing. They really care about their customers and food. They get name brand food. I highly recommend this restaurant and bar to have a nice family dinner at your local windjammers.

Central Station. They treat their customers and employees fairly, which creates an atmosphere of happiness. Their recipes are really good and they have really good food. They are a really clean restaurant and like both other restaurants they clean everything after people are done. Their Quality control is good constantly. They cook their food with their creativity and get name

brand food. I highly recommend this restaurant for a nice afternoon lunch.

I think all these restaurants are good. In my opinion they are all rated equally and have different foods. I have to admit I'm a little prejudiced about Jenna's because it's my aunt's restaurant. Hope you have the best time at your local restaurants.

# Sports

## Why Can't Girls Play Football?



By Carilene Sliwa

This topic has been going back and forth in sports discussions.

People are for or against it.

In my opinion

I feel that girls could be just as good as boys at football.

I have loved football for a long time either from playing in my backyard or to watching it. I always wanted to play football

## NFL Quarterbacks

By Austin McGowan

Quarterback position is the most important because it involves leadership, and your teammates and fans are counting on you. Here are my picks for top five quarterbacks in the league right now.

The reason I think Tom Brady is the best is mostly because of his super bowl victories, and his accuracy with the football. Tom Brady teams were also really good in the years he won his super bowls. He can read defenses really fast. Through his 20 years in the NFL, he has completed 64.0% for 79,204 Yards. His TD v. int. rate is 581/19.

Aaron Rodgers is number 2 on this list because he's smart and can get out of the pocket and make plays. He and Devante Adams have a really strong chemistry. In 16 years in the NFL, his completion rating 65.1%, 51,245 Yards, 419/ 89

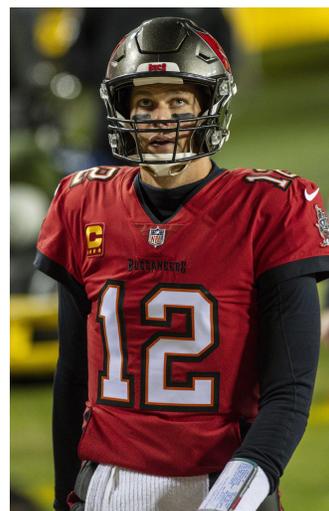
Patrick Mahomes is 3rd because of his footwork and his accuracy throwing the ball. He scrambles out of the pocket

but something has been stopping me. People always say "you're" too slow or "you're" too short or even "you're" too skinny. It's not fair that I don't the chance to prove myself

Many girls get mistreated and pushed around by guys when they say they want to play football. The guys say that girls have smaller bodies so when we play we could most likely get hurt easier. But most of us would like to take that chance to play what we love.

I think girls today should be allowed to play organized football and then they will be able to make a foundation so that future generations of girls can contribute to the sport.

and throws a cross arm or opposite hand. During his 4 years in the NFL his completion rating is 66.0%, with 14,152 Yards, 114/ 24. Josh Allen is 4th because he is tall and has great footwork. He and Stefon Diggs are a great duo, and in 3 years in the NFL his completion percentage is 61.8% with 9,707 yards, 67 touchdowns and 31 interceptions



I am a little bit biased about putting Ben Roethlisberger in 5th, but he did really well in the first 11 matches this year with a lot of young people to work with. In his 17 years in the league his completion rating is 64.4 with 60,348 yards, 396 touchdowns and 201 interceptions.

## Elite Athletes

By Aj Patterson

NFL wide receivers are arguably some of the best athletes in the world. To play at that level, they must be super fast, strong, and able to jump. Devante Adams of Green Bay Packers, Deandre Hopkins from the Cardinals, the Bills' Stefon Diggs, the Chief's Tyreek Hill, and Mike Evans of the Bucs are five of the best in the game. Last season, all of these receivers had over 1,000 yards and 6 touchdowns!

Devante Adams I think would be the best wide receiver last year at least. He has decent blocking, he has a lot of speed. His catching and run after catch is the best perk that he has. His route running is insane and he didn't have a bad quarterback. His stats were 1,374 yards with an average of 11.7 yards per catch. He had 18 receiving touchdowns. He had 115 catches this season.

The 2nd best would probably be Deandre Hopkins with great catching ability, great speed, and fantastic route running. He



had 1,407 receiving yards. He averaged 12.2 yards a catch. His downfall was his touchdowns compared to Devante with only 6. He also had 115 catches this year.

The 3rd best would be Stefon Diggs. He has a little bit of everything. He had 1,535 yards. 12.1 average yards per catch. He had 8 touchdowns, 2 more than Hopkins.

At number 4 I have Mike Evans. He has speed and catching ability. His stats were 1,006 yards in all this season. 14.4 average yards per catch!! He also had 13 touchdowns. He won the superbowl as well.

At number 5 I have Tyreek Hill. He is the fastest player in the whole league. He had 1,276 yards. With 14.7 yards a catch. He also had 15 touchdowns. He also has one superbowl. He made the superbowl but sadly lost to the Buccaneers defense. I think these are some of the best wide receivers to exist and definitely some of the best alive right now.

## Baseball

By Jonovan Kristan

Some people don't know how to play baseball. Here's a simple explanation.

**Batting.** When you bat you step into the batter's box, and when the pitch is coming in keep your eye on the ball. If it is a bad pitch then you move away from the ball. And if it is a good pitch you try to make contact with the ball. If you get 3 strikes you are out. 4 balls means you get a walk (you get on base and could score a run).

**Fielding.** When you are on the field and the ball gets to you, you put your glove down and track the ball where it is going. Positions are catcher, pitcher, 1st basemen, 2nd baseman, shortstop, 3rd, left fielder, right fielder and center.



# Critter Corner

## Elephants by: Elena Mulkin

Elephants are beautiful and intelligent animals. They are featured in movies, books, Novels, and even TV shows. For example: *Aladdin*, *Jumbo*, and *The Magician's Elephant*.

But Instead of fictional elephants, let's talk about elephants that live in the regions of Africa and Asia. To be more specific Savannas, Grasslands, and Forests. They eat a lot of food for their big bodies. Elephants eat 16-18 hours per day. The reason why is because they have a big body, and are the largest living mammal in the world. They eat plants/bushes, fruit, roots, Grass, and twigs, but their favorite food source is tree bark.

All elephants have been scientifically proven to have an incredible memory. Another unique fact is the most useful part of their body is the trunk. Elephants use them everyday by feeding, drinking, and washing themselves. They use their trunks to help keep their baby alive too. Elephants have big ears and their wrinkly skin to keep them cooled down. Tusks have ivory to protect themselves from predators. They weigh 1,800-6,300 kg. Females are smaller 2,700-3,600kg. Their height is 9.8-13.1 ft tall. Most common elephant types are Indian, Asian, African Brush, Borneo, African Forest Elephants. African Elephants are the largest species.

## How are bears being affected by climate change

By: Maggie Mikula

Climate change has been going on since the early 19th century, but we did not really pay much attention to it until the ice caps started melting and polar bears started becoming endangered. People will be devastated if polars bears go extinct because they are such majestic creatures. Their lovely white coats are so important to them so they can be camouflaged into

Elephants have predators/enemies too, even though they're big. Lions and other big cats hunt the babies. Their biggest enemy is humans. They kill them for their ivory tusks, which they use to make expensive products. Some of these products are jewelry, billiard balls, Flatware handles, furniture inlays, and piano keys. We should protect animals from human abuse.



their habitat. But because of their white coats poachers like to hunt them.

Polar bears live in the Arctic Circle and Arctic Ocean. They also are the largest bear species of bears. Polar bears like to eat ringed seals, but they like to eat bearded seals too. Polar bears hunt seals by waiting for them to come to the surface to breathe. When the seal gets near the surface, the polar bear will grab the seal by its teeth and put it on the ice cap to feed.

If Greenhouse gas emissions (Carbon Dioxide, Methane, Overview, and Nitrous Oxide) keep getting higher, melting ice caps will cause the endangered polar bear species in the Arctic to collapse this century according to the Nature Climate Change. Ice caps are melting twice as fast as the global average,

causing polar bears' habitat to melt. Ice caps melting also threatens their main prey (seals) that need the ice to raise their young pups.



## Dolphins

By: Isabella Buckley

Dolphins are highly intelligent sea creatures. They are very playful mammals. They are known to even be as smart as apes! There are 40 species of dolphins, with the bottlenose and the short-beaked species being the most common. Most species of dolphins live in tropical and temperate waters, but five of the species actually live in river mouths. They stay away from cold waters so you wouldn't find them in the polar zone of an ocean, which is the lowest and coldest part of an ocean.

Dolphins demonstrate lots of intelligence considering their quick learning ability, their problem solving, self awareness, empathy, innovation, teaching skills, grief, joy, and playfulness. Studies even show that they are not only able to learn on their own, but pass on their new knowledge to other dolphins in the pod.

Each dolphin community, known as a pod, has about 1,000 members in it. They are very social, living in groups who hunt and play together. They are carnivores whose prey is mostly fish, squid, and crustaceans. Dolphins that weigh up to 260 lbs eat about 33 lbs

Many people believe that climate change is just a big hoax and that the government just wants their money. Some think that climate change is just part of a natural cycle. But according to professor Mike Rogerson, "The changes in the last 40 year are too big, and too fast." He also says that the most powerful cycles we know about are slowly pushing us towards a colder climate. The government does not want your money. They are aware that greenhouse gas emissions are skyrocketing, causing climate change that threatens to harm not only polar bears, but also many other species including humans . If you want to help, you can power your home with renewable energy, don't waste food, and speak up!

of fish. Dolphins don't have many enemies or predators, so their main threat is humans. Some species have uncertain futures because of pollution, fishing, and hunting.

Dolphins are ocean mammals, but they still have their senses. Dolphins have acute eyesight, in and out of the water. They can also hear frequencies 10 times the upper limit of an adult human. These animals also have a well developed sense of touch.



They have good senses like touch, eyesight, and hearing, but they have no sense of smell at all. Dolphins aren't land mammals, so they have a separate hole for each task. They eat through their mouths and breathe through their blowhole. This prevents sucking water into their lungs.

Because of their intelligence and trainability, dolphins are a very popular part of ocean life stories in books and movies. Some movies are Flipper, Bernie the Dolphin, Dolphin Island, Dolphin Tale,

Dolphin Tale 2 (which are true stories), and many more. There are books about these animals too, such as Island of the Blue Dolphins, The Music of Dolphins, A Ring of Endless Light, and many more. In many of these stories, dolphins are heroes who help humans.

## Softshell Turtles

By Shelby Ball

Softshell turtles are beautiful, and they are the largest freshwater turtles in North America. These turtles have long necks so they could reach out and bite a person. Usually when the softshell turtles feel threatened, they bury themselves in sand and leave only their heads visible.



Their shells are very soft, flat, and rubbery. A female can be up to 7 to 19 inches which is 18 to 48 centimeters in length. The males are much smaller; they are 5 to 10 inches and 13 to 25 centimeters in length. Their noses are long and piglike and their feet are fully webbed.

These turtles spend most of their life in water. They spread through most of the United States and as far south as Mexico. Softshell turtles eat crayfish, aquatic insects, and occasional fish. These turtles can breathe underwater due to their pharyngeal lining, cloacal lining, and skin.

Softshell turtles sleep by burying themselves in mud or sand at the bottom of a river or lake and go to sleep. They are very unique animals but not a lot of people know about them. These turtles can be aggressive and need large spaces. They can be cute but they have lots of needs.

## Border Collies

By Robert Harrington

Border Collies are very energetic dogs. They were first bred in 1915 on the Anglo-Scottish border to work as herding dogs. They herd sheep and other livestock by instinct, yet the farmer just has to train them to listen to commands.

Their life span is 10-17 years old. They are a medium size dog at about 18-22 inches tall. Their coats are black and white. A border collie can learn to respond to as many as 1,022 words. They are very smart and useful dogs.

My dog is a Border Collie Blue Heeler mix and her name is Lucy Loo. She is 2 years old and can go a little crazy at times, but she loves people once you get to know her.



## Jellyfish

By Alexis Mead

Jellyfish live in the ocean. They have thousands of stingers on the bottom of them. Not all Jellyfish are the same size and neither are their stingers. The most dangerous Jellyfish is a box



Jellyfish.

Their habitat is all the oceans—Atlantic, Pacific, and Arctic. They like to live in cold and warm waters. They are usually seen at the bottom or the top. And they like to follow the currents of the ocean.

There are four different kinds of predators that like to eat Jellyfish: sharks, swordfish, sea turtles, and penguins. They use their stings to try to scare away their predators.

Supposedly, jellyfish can also help people think better. The drug Prevacid uses proteins from certain Jellyfish that might improve brain function.

## Striped Horses?

By Sophia Burrows

A lot of people wonder what horses are called if they have stripes. They are called Zebras. Zebras are not the same species as horses, although they are in the same family group the "Equidae". A hoof is the tip of a toe of an ungulate mammal. Zebras usually live in treeless grasslands and the Namibian Savanna Woodlands. Most zebras are located in Eastern and Southern Africa.

They eat grass, and sometimes leaves, shrubs, twigs and bark, too. Their teeth are well adapted for grazing, with sharp incisors at the front of their mouth to bite the grass.

A typical zebra is 620 pounds and 7.7 feet long. A zebra can live up to 25 years old. The oldest zebra was 37 years old before it died. The Grevy's zebra was known to be the first species of zebras. Zebras are slowly losing population with only 2,000 adult zebras remaining in the wild.

A zebra's main predators are lions, leopards, hyenas and cheetahs. Due to human encroachment (Encroachment is, in this case, intrusion on the Zebras land.) increasing habitat loss in Africa has affected the population of zebras.



# The World Out There !

## Swahili—Language of Africa

By Lila Drab

In different parts of Africa the people speak different languages. I'm going to tell you a little bit about the language Swahili.

The common language of most people on the East Coast of Africa is Swahili which dates from the 18th century. The name Swahili means "coastal dwellers." Swahili is the official language in Tanzania, which is in East Africa. Many people learn a different language first and then Swahili. Not many people learn Swahili as

Swahili text written vertically in Arabic script. The text is a mix of Swahili words and phrases, including "Swahili", "Africa", "language", "people", "learn", "difficult", "migrated", "inland", "coast", "multiple", "city-states", "traded", "Indian Ocean", "leaders", "Sultans", "popular", "items", "Pottery", "silks", "glassware", "Central America", "southern Africa", "100 million", "modern nations", "I would like to try and learn this language some day!".

their first language because it can be difficult to learn.

The Swahili people migrated east from the inland areas. During that time, the coast was made up of multiple city-states. The people traded across the Indian Ocean. The leaders of the city-states were called Sultans. Some popular items that were traded were Pottery, silks and glassware.

Today, the language is spoken in Central America and southern Africa. Now over 100 million people speak Swahili. Many of the city-states still exist today in modern nations. I would like to try and learn this language some day!

## Floating City

By Abi Strang



In the Indian Ocean they are trying to create a floating city. Maldives is a country in South Asia. Maldives Unveils plans for the world's first floating city is designed by Netherlands-based Dutch Docklands and will feature thousands of waterfront residences and services floating along a flexible foundation.

They are going to begin constructing this floating city in 2022 and it is planned to be finished in the next five years. The new city will be constructed on about three-quarters of a square mile, or a 200-hectare, lagoon located just 10 minutes by boat from the Maldivian capital, Male. Maldives floating city is made up of honeycomb-like hexagonal maze rows and island barriers around the lagoon will act as breakers below the city.

The floating city is made for both residents and tourists. The developers plan to add hotels, restaurants, shops, and even a school and a hospital in the near future. The floating structures will be anchored to the surrounding islands, which will form a base and provide protection from high tides. Maldivian officials aim to make the floating city as carbon neutral and self-sufficient as possible. Freshwater storage will provide drinking water for residents, while floating solar blankets and agriculture fields will take care of their energy and food needs.

I would love to go there for a family vacation because it's in the ocean and it is really unique and it would be a great experience.

## An Overview of Polish Culture

By Avery Green

We live in an area where many people of Polish descent live. Many Polish people moved to WNY during the Industrial Revolution to work in the factories. Dunkirk has very strong Polish traditions.

Polish history spans over thousands of years. Poland had over 300 battles but the most important one was "The Battle of GrunWald." It started July 15 1410 and ended the same year. Poland won 344 battles. Poland has been invaded since 966 and it has been too many times to count for invasion. Before Poland was named Poland it was named Lehistan. In WW2 5.8 Poles died in war.

Some Polish foods are Zurek, Bigos, and Perogies. Zurek is a sour rye soup. They named it Zurek because it's a nickname for people who like sour soup. Bigos translated to English is hunters stew with meat and vegetables. It got its name from Germany. Perogies are dumpling-like foods that can have mushrooms, potatoes, and cheese. It got its name from Origin Legends.

For new years eve Poland hosts parties, goes to private events, or goes to the town square to light fireworks and have parties. January first is often a day for concerts in auditoriums and carols. Drowning of Marzanna is a pagan farewell to winter tradition that occurs the death Sunday before easter. Dyngus day also spelled Dingus day is a polish holiday that's always celebrated on a monday after easter. It's about the end of lent.



## A Taste of Israel

By Ian Smith

Many people know about Italian, French and Polish cuisine and some just plain weird foods like poached egg or corned beef croquettes (which are actually really good). But not a lot of people know about Jewish cuisine, which is exactly what I will be



talking about today.

is a traditional kosher jewish food that is commonly eaten around the holidays of Hanukkah and Passover but in Israel it is eaten year round. It is a fun soup to make with your family that all can enjoy even picky kids. It is made in broth and is light and fluffy sort of like an egg except it can stay in its ball form. It is pretty simple and not hard to make.

Another great Jewish food is Haroset. This is a tasty combination of fruits, nuts, cinnamon, honey and sugar. It is part of the super important passover seder plate. It is like pie except without the crust it would probably qualify as a desert. It is sweet with a slight crunch which is what makes it so tasty.

Finally, we have latkes. A lot of people know about hash browns but not a lot of people know a lot about latkes. This potatoey treat is amazing for a part of Hanukkah breakfast. It is just basically a kosher hash brown, but still they are good, very good.

## Hinduism

By Sienna Alston

Hinduism is an amazing Indian religion that thrives in Asia. Nepal has the largest population of Hinduism. Hinduism is starting to grow in Russia.

Hinduism began somewhere between 2300 B.C and 1500 B.C. Gadadhar Chatterji was the founder of this religion.

Hindus believe that the first person was Sage. Diwali is the festival of lights. Fun facts about diwali was that hindus were not the only ones that celebrate the Sikh it is celebrated on November 4. It is celebrated for as long as five days

Another hindu holiday, Makar Sankranti, is the first hindu holiday in the Western calendar. It is celebrated on January 14.



# Up Close and Personal

## Mrs. Nalepa, a Teacher and Crafty Lady

By Ezra Estus



Mrs. Nalepa grew up in Dunkirk and went to school at Jamestown Community College. She then went to Fredonia State College to get her associate degree in individual studies and her elementary and math education degree. She then

worked for her Masters at Fredonia.

Before NCCS, Mrs Nalepa was a math teacher at Jamestown Community College for one year and then at Pine valley for two years then worked at Campus Children's Community Center for several years. After that she worked as a substitute teacher at Brocton than at BOCES.

Mrs Nalepa chose NCCS to work at because she had done her teaching experience as a student teacher and really loved the place. She feels like this place is family.

As most of us know, Mrs. Nalepa has a web-store called Nalepa's Novelties where she sells masks, shirts, handmade quilts, scrunchies, and other personalised gifts. Mrs Nalepa got into sewing from her grandma and has been doing it ever since.

## Don Williams

By: Robert Harrington

Don Williams is hoping to be on the democratic ticket to be elected for his 3rd term as the 1st Ward Councilman in Dunkirk, NY. He grew up on 4th street, Dunkirk, New York in a Polish Catholic home. He attended church and made his Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation at St. Hyacinth's Church with Monsenior Zac. He was always interested in politics. His mom worked in the clerk's office in city hall in Dunkirk. When he was 8 years old he remembers helping his mom during voting time. He attended school at School #4, Dunkirk Middle School, and graduated from Dunkirk High School.

Besides working as a Dunkirk councilman, Don Williams' also works as a motorized equipment operator for Chautauqua County and a Councilman. A motorized equipment operator is the Motor Vehicle and Equipment Operator who drives a variety of motor vehicles on and off the organization property to transport people, material and equipment and to plow.

As a moderate Democrat, Don Williams believes that healthcare should be a basic right, the rich should be taxed more, and the minimum wage should be raised to a 'living wage.' He believes in

climate change and supports many Green Energy initiatives (he is skeptical regarding some Lake Erie proposals). He considers himself a progressive Democrat but not radical left. In his words he says " I believe that everyone was created equal and should be treated equal."

Don Williams values the Catholic faith. He volunteers at Blessed Mary Angela Church and watches a mass service from Boston, Massachusetts everyday online with his wife. His wife taught at St. Hyacinth's School as a pre-k teacher until it closed.



Don Williams has worked hard for our community. He wants our community to work together for growth and a stronger economy. So with all this information, Don

Williams cares about people and the environment. These are the qualities that a good Councilman has

## Dunkirk Mayor Wilfred Rosas

by Carilene Sliwa

Recently I interviewed Dunkirk Mayor Wilfred Rosas. This chance was a one in a lifetime opportunity. I am so glad I got to do this interview. I learned so much about the mayor as a person and professional.

His career before he became the Mayor was a New York State police officer. His talents outside of being the mayor include being a professional musician. He has recorded and played percussion instruments in Latin orchestras across the state. His favorite foods are either pasta or Spanish rice.



His favorite color is blue.

The Mayor was born and raised in the city of Dunkirk. When he was growing up he had a lot of dogs, Timmy and Tarzan being two he remembers best. Now he has a dog named Shadow who is a mini poodle. Also when he was growing up he participated in wrestling programs and went to college on a wrestling scholarship.

His wife's name is Rosita. He has two sons. Jordan, 20, lives in LA and aspires to be an actor. His other son, Jonah is going

to College to be an Entrepreneur who hopes to start his own business.

One thing Mayor Rosas wants everyone to know about him as mayor of Dunkirk is that he is doing the best he can and always trying to do better. He has been actively spectating other mayors in New York to learn from them and to get ideas to help the city of Dunkirk.

What motivated him to get into city government was the belief that Dunkirk could do better. He had been on committees and wanted to make a change. The most difficult thing he is facing in 2021 is the City Council, which makes it very hard for him to make progress on many important plans.

The thing that stresses him out the most is the amount of time he must commit to fulfill his responsibilities as Mayor. He is a full time city worker and he is on call. So if he is spending time with family and gets a call, he needs to take it no matter what the situation. He says that the best part of being Mayor is helping people and the city grow. His least favorite part is when he can't help.

What he loves most about living in Dunkirk is the WaterFront. He always wants to raise money for the Waterfront parks, and Marine Areas by sponsoring events. The one thing he would want to change about Dunkirk would be to make it a requirement that other city officials get the proper professional training for the important jobs they do. He is proud of being a Dunkirk native and wants others to appreciate the diversity of culture here, including black, white, and Hispanic.

This was an amazing opportunity and this was so much fun. I would love to do this again! I want to give thanks to Mayor Rosas and Mr. Howard for giving me this chance.

## Father Peter

By Kayleigh Helda & Emma Dulak

If you don't know Father Peter Santandreu, he is a Spanish-speaking priest who comes into Northern Chautauqua Catholic School every Monday to help the kids with Spanish. He also conducts the Spanish mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton every Sunday at 2:00 pm. Recently we interviewed him to find out more about Father Peter.

Father Peter Santandreu is a 33 year old priest. He grew up in Hamburg, New York. He has a long history of education in Catholic institutions. He attended St.Peter and Paul Catholic Grammar School, St.Francis High School, St.John Fisher College, University of St.Michael's College, Christ King docs Cemetery, and now Catholic University of New York. For his childhood he would go to Massachusetts a lot because that's where his father's side of the family lived, and he had a lot of fun during his adolescent years.

He said he became a priest because "there comes a point in your life when you ask yourself 'what's it going to be?' " And that point came to him when he was in graduate school, and he really thought about it

and asked the lord what he should do. He felt the strong urge to just give it a try. He decided he wanted to get ordained and become a priest. So, he got ordained in the cathedral in Downtown

Buffalo.  
Here are  
two



surprising things about Father Peter—what you might not expect from a religious leader. First, he rides a motorcycle. Second, in February 2020 he competed in the Buffalo Golden Gloves Box tournament. He said that he lost, but it was a great experience and he'd do it again. He's very excited to move to Washington D.C. in the next stage of his education in the priesthood.

We are all so grateful to have met him and we will miss him so much here. We wish him well in his Catholic journey.

# Free Writers

## Let Me Tell You

Chelsey Tramuto

Now... I know this sounds a little crazy, but I need to tell you what happened to me last week. On Sunday I went to church and this is where it all started. So I arrived at church in my boat but I was a little late because of all the green lights I had to stop at. When I got back home I had to go park my airplane in my basement cause the dog was wet. Then on Monday it was even crazier. So when I went outside to mow the lawn in the snowstorm and then I remembered I lived in Arizona. It was getting around midnight so I had to get ready to go to school in like an hour. Then, on Tuesday, I had to take my water bottle to the McDonalds to see if the house was still cold. Wednesday was more of a relaxing day since I had to go to so many places. Then on Thursday everything was very interesting considering how much the horse was barking. Then came Friday and let me tell you, Friday was a great day. It all started when the cow was unfolding the laundry. Then, I came to find out the lake was frozen cause it was so hot. Then, on Saturday morning, everything was back to normal. This all happened because the sun didn't come to earth like it was supposed to.

## The Secret Life of Miss Patch

By: Sophia Burrows and Shelby Ball

Miss Patch is a regular teacher, or at least that's what we think. She actually is a secret ninja. She works late in the evening where, nobody really knows. Miss Patch's undercover name is Perry Echo Quartarnos. She sometimes teaches ninja classes in a secret

for ninjas. She has been a ninja ever since she started working at this school. When she is Miss. Patch drives a Chevrolet, but when she's Perry she drives a Golden Lamborghini that costs 7.5 million dollars.

Every day she goes home and gets clothed in black and goes out of her house through a secret passageway. Perry wears makeup with a black mask so no one can recognise her. Out of her passageway she goes to an old abandoned school to teach ninja.

Perry has a secret mansion in the mountains where no one can see it. She is actually very rich, but tells NO ONE!! Not even her family knows about it. Perry is a very secretive person; she hates pasta salad and doesn't like mac and cheese. Perry has 4 dogs, 2 parrots, and 1 rabbit to keep her company.

Perry has another job on the weekends as a waitress at Mcdonalds. Most of the time after Mcdonald's closes she goes to her mansion and plays with all her pets and cleans them. Normally after her maids clean all 12 floors of the mansion she eats dinner with her dogs. Usually her maids do everything for her since she is very rich but sometimes she gets overwhelmed with how much the maids take care of her.

In this school, Miss Patch has a secret bunker in the very back of the basement. There she practises her ninja skills during 2nd lunch. After that she goes and helps other teachers teach. She tutors different teachers ninja skills hoping they would become ninjas too, because they are running low on people who want to be ninjas. Miss Patch is the head boss of the ninja company she tutors people to help teach and to help other kids to learn.

She gets \$250,000 a month because of how many kids go to ninja class. Miss. Patch can retire at the age of 56, but she says she wants to work till she dies. Miss. Patch is working hard to train other ninjas, especially kids. She gets \$250,000 a month because of how many kids go to ninja class. She takes random kids from schools to her secret bunker to teach ninja. YOU COULD BE NEXT!!

## Locked inside

Ezra Estus

The sun is shining

The birds are out and singing

Yet i'm stuck in school

## Flower

Flowers are blooming

With all their different colors

They are beautiful

## Underwater

Everything is blurry

Trapped underneath the surface

Yet it's so peaceful

## Colors

By Cassidy Cataldo

Red, green, purple, blue

These colors glow in the night

With trees tall and short

Fenced cows black and white

Trees and mountains beyond fence

Acres of grass inside

Lightning and darkness

Red canyon along brown grass

White flash in the storm

## Pluralses

By Paul Tabone

The plural of box is boxes

and the plural of ox is oxen

when it should be oxes

A fowl is 1 goose

and the plural of goose is geese

therefor moose should be meese

1 rodent is a mouse

But the plural of mouse is mice

so the house should be hice

## Gryla the Christmas Witch

By Joseph Sekuterski

Gryla is a witch who looks enormous and repulsive. She is described as a parasitic beggar who asks parents for their disobedient children. Her plans can be thwarted though by giving her food or her prey (the children) running away. She lives in a small cottage but has run out of town and lives in a cave where she has the ability to detect misbehaving children.

She comes from the mountains and goes to nearby towns in search of her next prey. She hunts kids and takes them home in

her giant sack. She devours them as her favorite snack. Her favorite

dish is a stew of naughty kids. She has an insatiable appetite. The cave she lives in is in the Dimmuborgir lava fields, Iceland.

Leppaludi is her third husband. He lives with her. She also lives with the big black yule cat and their son's leppaludi is lazy and mostly stays in her cave. She has dozens of children from her previous husbands.

So if you see her during Christmas, run!

## The Missing Mayor

By: Emerysn Strefeler

As Melvin was getting ready for his flight something caught his eye. It was a suitcase and it was sitting by the escalator. He walked over and looked for a name tag on the suitcase but didn't find one. So he went and talked to some people waiting asking if it was theirs or if they saw anyone carrying it but they were all clueless. Melvin had to go talk to an airline employee but they didn't know either.

Melvin ended up finding his parents and telling them where he found it. "Did you ask anybody if it was theirs?" his mom said.

"Yes I did! I even went and asked an employee!" said Melvin. Then he had the idea to ask the janitor. He told Melvin he saw someone walking through the airport with a similar suitcase. Melvin thanked him and walked away.

Melvin was starting to get curious and decided to open the suitcase. He found percussion instruments, a note that read "I'm so happy I'm finally able to travel and see my family again!" Melvin then saw a wallet and he picked it up and there was a licence inside. Once he saw who it was he was surprised. "The mayor?!" Melvin said.

Melvin found his mom and showed her the license. "You opened the suitcase?!" asked his mom.

"Yes I did and it's the mayor I think he's missing!" "What else was in the suitcase?" his mom asked. "Well there was clothes, percussion instruments and a note saying how happy he is to be able to travel and see his family again." Melvin's mom got his dad and she called the police. His parents were too worried to remember about their flight. They got in the car and drove to the police station. They told us they would investigate and that they should go back to the airport and worry about their flight.

They went back to the airport and parked the car. When they got out Melvin noticed that the mayor was standing outside on the phone with somebody and he looked upset. Melvin went

up to him and asked him what was wrong. "I lost my suitcase and my flight leaves in 30 minutes! This is the only chance I will get to see my family!" said the mayor.

"I have your suitcase, you left it by the escalator! Let me go get it!" said Melvin. He gave him the suitcase and he thanked Melvin and his parents. His mom called the police to tell them that we had found the mayor. Melvin's family had just enough time to catch their flight. It was a very eventful day for them.

## We Win!

By Paul Tabone

Down by two,  
One man on base,  
Me at the Plate.  
2 strikes, bases loaded.  
it's a fastball, belt-high, write down the pipe  
i load my swing, then CRACK  
my heart fills with joy--  
A line drive into left field  
I run to 1st then 2nd, then 3rd  
HOME!!!  
We win!  
I won 20 bucks from my Dad!  
(that night I had a dream about making it to the Bigs  
Me, 12, rookie of the year!)

## My Insane Day Tomorrow

By: Bella Buckley

I really gotta tell you about how insane my day was tomorrow. So it all started when I woke up to my unplugged alarm. After that, I had to get my winter clothes on because it was summer, 109 degrees outside, and way too cold. Then I had to go eat some dinner because it was 8AM and I just woke up. Then I went for a walk with my dog and got really cold because I was wearing too warm of clothes. Once I got back from my walk, I had to eat my breakfast because it was lunchtime. I was *super* tired after that so I went and ran a marathon. Then, in the middle of running, I face planted because I was walking too slow. I was so happy because I ended up coming in last place and winning! I then had to ride my boat to that one store in Lake Superior to get a ton of food because I already had too many groceries at my house. I finally rode my boat back home and I still had to eat my lunch because it was almost my bedtime. Then I went to sleep *under* my bed so that I would stop bumping my head when I sat up in the mornings.

## The Secret Life of Mr. O

By Lailynne Tarnowski and Jenna Fryberger

Everyone thought Mr. O was a normal teacher but he was really a Spanish Super Hero. Mr. O the Spanish super hero flew around the world watching for bad guys. His Super Hero name is Olive. His first Villain he ever fought was the Duolingo bird, whom he defeated with help from Duolingo's own son, Baby Duolingo.

Mr. O has many jobs but his fav is Super Hero. He loves to fly, jump really high, and teleport everywhere. He also wears a

## The Briefcase

By Braydon Fabiano

Once upon a time there was a man named Thomas. Thomas worked at a business office for a paper company. One day he was walking to work and he heard a weird noise. It sounded like a screech coming from an alleyway, so he went to investigate and he found a note saying "you should not have come here because you will DIE. Oh, by the way, look behind you ;)"

Thomas was scared. He looked behind himself and saw a creepy crawling thing. It jumped at him and ate him alive!!! and it killed him and his briefcase fell to the ground. Thomas was reported missing. A search team went out to look for him. A crew member of the search team named Jack found his briefcase so he opened it and there were a lot of folders, money and paper that belonged to Thomas. Oh, and there was also the key to his house.

uniform that is yellow and blue and has olives all over his outfit. He loves wearing his outfit because he feels more like a superhero in his outfit.

It was the last night of May and Olive had a big fight to go against the Freckle pig. The Freckle pig was one of the worst villains ever but Olive and his sidekick Baby Duolingo are really strong. It was a tough contest, but in the end they defeated Freckle Pig by doing all the reading and math questions correctly.

*To Be Continued.....*

## Deranged (story continued from previous issue of the *Monarch Chronicle*)

By Maximus Sturniolo

The last time we were talking about Jackson, he had just returned from the mental institution. We saw that he went home acting completely normal, just how his parents Thomas and Angela had hoped. They thought that everything was all back to normal.

When Jackson came home he nimbly went to his dog, Bandit, which his parents had gotten Jackson for a birthday gift 9 years ago. Bandit was Jackson's companion, his only friend felt like he could trust and talk to. He went over to Bandit and started petting him and Bandit kept licking Jackson's face. His parents could see the joy on Jackson's face but then that joy vanished. The petting started to turn into poking and after a little while the poking turned into smacking. About a few minutes later Jackson started to hit Bandit repeatedly. He then pulled out a knife from his pocket and began to scrape the ritualistic symbols etched in his arms onto the dog. The father then stealthily snuck up behind Jackson and knocked him out with a baseball bat. He tied him up to a chair and called 911.

When the police arrived, Jackson calmed down and started to beg to be let free. His father could see the darkness and immorality in his eyes like he had no life left inside of him. When he calmed down he looked just like he had before he started to hit the dog. When the cops started questioning Jackson on what had happened he couldn't recall. He was disoriented and lost and said to the cops that he had no idea what they were talking about. They then turned to the father and began interrogating him. He told them that he had to tie up Jackson because he was hitting their dog, Bandit, and then started to lacerate strange symbols into the dogs skin. He told them to stay put while he went to go get the dog. When he went over to the living room he could not find the wounded dog. He was dazed and confused because he knew for a fact that he left Bandit in the room. When he returned to the cops

and said that the dog must have run away, they arrested him on the spot. They handcuffed him and shoved him out the door. Just as they were about to walk out of the house the father looked back and was shocked. His son, Jackson had been smiling, and right next to him was the strange man with the dark and lifeless look staring at him as he was walking out the door.

The mother, Angela, returned from the store along with David, Jackson's older brother and walked into the house where they saw Jackson reading a book. Jackson always was a fiend of reading books especially ones about murder. Thomas and Angela have always found this quite odd but never said anything about it. Angela asked where Thomas was but he didn't say anything. The mother walked up to him and grabbed the book from his hands. Just like the switch when Jackson was petting Bandit happened again but this time with his mom. He instantly stood up and instead of harming her he put his hand on her shoulder and vanished. Angela remembers what that means from the time all that time ago at the party. She felt hopeless and alone. All of a sudden the lights went out. David was being controlled by the peculiar spirit upon them. Standing in the darkness was Angela. To the right of her was her son, David. To the left her husband and dog. She even saw the dead nurse standing across from them with Jackson by her side. To the left of Jackson stood the tall strange man. She knew this was the end.

## An excerpt from *Riding the Robo Dog*

By Alex Hoth

"Now does anybody know the answer to this problem?" asked Mrs. Link.

"I think I do," I said. "It's 2.6761854."

"What? No, we are not in decimals Daniel. The correct answer is 44"

"WHAT?!?!" I yelled loudly. "NO ITS NOT! ITS 2.6761854! WHEN YOU TAKE THE 10 AND YOU..."

My name is Daniel Podgelynn, or Just Danny Podge. I'm in 5th grade and 10 years old. I've always wanted to be a scientist like Professor John A. Hinth. I've always looked up to him. One of his sayings is "Never Stop Trying." To me it's probably his coolest saying.

That is exactly why I look up to him.

When I got home after the 7th day of school my mom dropped the bomb: "We're moving again?"

I asked, "Mom, why are we moving to that place? It looks disgusting. This is like the 4th time we have moved, literally."

"Well the landlord is kicking us out because you and dad kept on making so much ruckus and punched a hole in the wall. So that's why."

"How long do we have mom?" I asked.

"About 48 hours, start packing Danny" "Why does this always have to happen?"

## The Exam

By: Aria Green

One day inside school a girl named Ava was learning ELA in class and in her brain something made her stressed. She realized "The exam is today?! She ran to her teacher, Ms. Greene and asked, "Are we going to study before the exam?"

"I'm sorry but no, I gave you all this time to study on break. Sorry, but you are out of luck."

Ava was devastated and went to her best friend, Alice. Ava said in horror, "Do you have a study guide I could borrow from you?!"

That night I did my last homework from my new school. When I started it I heard a squealing sound in my ear. I looked outside, nothing And then it kept on happening for like two minutes. "Ack my head! Aah." The pain stopped after a while and my mom took my temperature when I told her how it felt. I went back to my room to finish my homework, and then for some reason I knew the answer to all the questions. Wait a minute I thought. I've been struggling in school, how did this happen?

The next day I showed my teacher my Homework and she was pretty happy until she found out there was no work, and just answers "Where is all the work?" She asked. "I just knew them," I told her. "Alright then why don't you solve this problem in front of the whole class honey?" "Okay" "With no work" "Easy peasey" I said

She put the question on the board and I answered 26. The whole class was shocked when she looked it up and said it was correct.

Later at school She asked "Does anybody know the answer to this problem?"

I think I do." I said. "It's 2.6761854."

"What no, we are not doing decimals Daniel, the answer is 44."

"WHAT?!?! NO ITS NOT! ITS 2.6761854! WHEN YOU TAKE THE TEN AND DIVIDE IT-"

"To the PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE NOW". NOW!

(To be continue

"No," replied Alice. "I thought you would have one that I could have borrowed!!"

When it was the 6th period it was time for the exam. Ava and Alice were upset and worried, what if they fail?! What if they have no time to write!?

When Ms. Greene was passing out the exam papers, Ava and Alice looked at eachother, realizing suddenly that the test was just like their ELA notes! The girls were amazed because it was that easy. They finished and turned it in. I guess they didn't need to worry about the exam after all.

## Waves

By Maggie Mikula

The floppy hats  
The scrawny seagulls  
The quiet wind  
The screaming children  
The scared fish  
The barking dogs  
The sand in your hair  
The melting ice cream  
These all come along with waves

## Watching You

By: Olivia Cole

He's standing outside, staring into your eyes  
Watching your every move like your full of lies  
He wears a mask, hiding his deathly look  
Scary it's like he's straight from a book  
He follows you around, everywhere you go  
If you feel someone watching you, you'll always know  
He's got eyes on you all night and all day  
So watch your back, and watch what you say  
He is killer and a big freak  
He will outsmart you and he will creep  
Be careful around him, and don't fight back  
For he is indestructible, even if you attack.

## Haikus

By: Robert Hall

The sun shining through  
The great green leaves above me  
Only sounds are birds.

Upon mountaintop,  
Cold wind whistles all around,  
See the clouds below.

Down a dark highway,  
The moon and stars watch me as  
I drive through the night.

## Covid-19

By: Abigale Strang

Covid-19  
Caused a big scene  
Stay-at-home-cation  
I hate the evacuation  
All this separation  
No real education  
Socially distant  
We have to be persistent

The vaccination  
Made for the nation

This big evacuation  
Fleeing the nation.

## Breydon's Poem

By Breydon Kuzdale

**B**atting average is high  
**R**eally good  
**E**njoys playing baseball  
**Y**elling at my teammates to do good  
**D**oubles almost always  
**O**ut field is a good position  
**N**ever is mean to my teammates

## Nature

By: Bella Buckley

Waves splash on the beach  
Shells wash up onto the sand  
Hear the boats rush by.

The sun goes to sleep  
Waits for the moon to arrive  
To shed light for us.

Now it is Autumn  
Leaves float down from all the trees  
As color changes

## The Alpha.

By Ian Smith

The mighty Alpha.  
Strong, Brave and True the Alpha.  
The King of the Pack.

## Peep You

By Pablo Juardino

Jeepers creepers,  
Why you call us peepers?  
Is it these blinking orbs  
our little green heads?  
Or our songs  
While you dream in your beds?

Holy smokin'  
Listen to Big Cuz croakin'  
Making all that commotion  
Puffin balloons down in the bog.  
He aint got no horns  
So why you call him "Bull" Frog?

Tadpole, poliwog, peeper,  
Salamander, newt, leaper  
We all just frogs  
Sittin' on a hollow log  
Singing for a date  
And maybe even a mate!

## Changing Times

By: Olivia Cole

I step outside and feel the breeze  
I start to see the wind swaying the trees.  
New buds popping up, new life is dawning  
The Sun covers the Earth with rays like an awning.  
The scent of the air is so fresh and so clean  
The dew on the grass gives it such a nice gleam.

The time has come to change the ways  
Of darkness, depressing, and cold winter days.  
The seasons are changing if you couldn't tell  
As you hear the birds singing as they sit and dwell.  
Oh! This time of year is the best time of all  
For the changing of seasons is like an awakening call.

It's a call to open your eyes,  
and a call to look at the skies.  
It's a call to notice the times changing  
And it's a call to watch the rains raging.  
It's a call to see new animal rings,  
And a call to let out your butterfly wings.

The seasons are changing it's a beautiful time,  
I almost wish that it was all mine.

## Coop Madness

By Liliana Seibert

It all started last Saturday on June 22, 2151. My parents drove me to my Aunt Sally's house for her annual chicken BBQ. As I was wandering around I saw a dusty, splintered bookshelf sitting in the corner of my aunt's living room. I took out a book called "The history of our Ancestors." From the other room my mom yelled for me to unpack my bags. I put the book down and carried on with my day.

After the BBQ my mom told me to feed the scraps to the chickens. I did as she said but instead I accidentally fed some chicken meat to the chickens. It seemed okay at first but little did I know what would happen next.

Later that night I was locking the chickens in their coop when I noticed a strange glowing in one of the hen's eyes. I just ignored it and decided to tell my parents about it in the morning. The next morning I woke up to the terrible sound of screeching. It almost reminded me of nails on a chalkboard but much worse. I ran downstairs right away to check it out and stop it before my parents woke up, but it was too late. They were already awake and outside trying to figure it out. I decided to help my parents check it out to stop that terrible noise. We all spread out along the yard to see where the noise was coming from. After a few minutes I was able to recognize where the sound was coming from and it led me straight to the chickens coop. I carefully walked inside with a broom in my hand assuming there was a predator. But then at that moment I realized that I was completely wrong. The chickens were the predators, and they weren't just fighting each other. They were eating each other.

I slammed the door as fast as I could in the moment of fear. Then it hit me. My parents don't even know about this yet. I have to tell them before it's too late! I rushed over to the "Emergency Alert" phone outside to get in contact with my parents and aunt Sally. Then everything finally made sense! Maybe this terrible thing happened for a reason, and the answer was on my aunt's book shelf. I quickly ran inside to grab the "History of our

Ancestors" book from a couple days ago and started flipping through the pages. Ahha! I finally found what I needed. I skimmed through the book hoping to find the solution to our problem.

The book said that about 53 years ago the same thing happened to my Uncle William. It also said that he used something called Gerithlyin, which can be found in the shallow part of a pond. I rushed outside to tell the news to my parents and we all grabbed buckets and ran down to the pond. When we got up to the driveway, I set my bucket down and ran inside to get the book. It said to hook it up to the hose or a sprinkler and let it spray the chickens. We did as it said and after a couple of minutes the chickens started to calm down and turn back to normal again. Just a few days later, we sold the chickens.



Drawing by Greg Lay

## Have a Great Summer Everyone!

