

Spartan Sentinel

Harrington Park School Newspaper



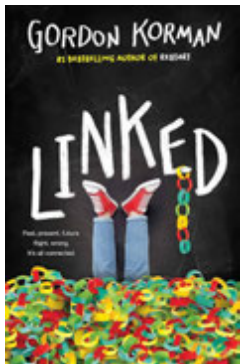
Winter Edition 2023/2024

SCHOOL-WIDE

One School, One Story

By Chaerin Isabella Oh

Dr. Seuss once said, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." In order to learn more about the grave consequences that result from antisemitism, racism, and other forms of hate, the Harrington Park School District decided to read bestselling author Gordon Korman's novel *Linked*. The entirety of the staff has put their greatest effort into turning the experience of reading this book into an educational yet memorable experience that would teach the future generations of Harrington Park the importance of acceptance and tolerance. The students, as well, have been constantly reading the book at home and school with peers and parents. Many students are listening to their favorite teachers narrate *Linked* through a video by the Harrington Park staff members themselves. Many teachers also find themselves suddenly hooked by the suspenseful book. With such a brilliant new program, there are many things to reflect on.



The students and staff gave a classic Harrington Park welcome to the bestselling author, Gordon Korman when he visited the school on January 9th. Mr. Korman discussed his experiences as an author, the inspirations of his pieces, and a lot about his new 103rd book (*Slugfest*), and *Linked* itself. He explained that his biggest inspiration for the book was the "Paper Clips Project," which was created in the small southeastern Tennessee town of Whitwell. The simple yet unrealistic middle school project's goal was to gather a total of six million paper clips for the memorial of the six million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust through the years of 1939 and 1945. Similarly, Link, one of the protagonists of *Linked*, aids his school in creating six million paper chains after discovering his previously unknown Jewish roots and hateful swastikas at his school, Chokecherry Middle School.



After the special author visit, students and teachers in 5th through 8th grade began and now continue to vigorously read the book. They are extremely invested in Link and his classmates, including Dana, the only Jewish girl at Chokecherry, Michael, a prime suspect of the cruel vandalism, and a strange blogger named ReelTok who seems to be aggravating Mr. Brademas, the principal. This fascinating novel builds up suspense, detailed character development, and one's emotions while reading. It's hard not to sit on the edge of your seat while reading this book! It is apparent that the *One School, One Story* program has had quite a positive impact on the Harrington Park School community.

See following pages for link to HP's "Hate has no home here" video!

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Dear Spartacus,

I was so happy to start this year of school!! I could not wait to meet my new teachers and fellow students. I love my teachers but it is much more complicated than last year. What comes with struggles is a lot of work. I am having a very hard time with my homework and after-school activities. I am really having a difficult time and I just want to give up. I don't want to be upset at school work when I love going every day. After school when I do my homework my friends are hanging out without me because I don't finish fast enough. My mom keeps trying to help me but sadly she is NOT helping me either! Also, my parents expect so much of me which is a TON of pressure since my siblings have good grades. I have tried everything that I should do!

Please help ASAP,
Frustrated Felicia

Dear Frustrated Felicia,

Don't be stressed. If you are having trouble, ask your teacher for help. She/he will be more than happy to help you succeed. The work might seem heavy, but creating a schedule may help all of this pressure. Also, don't give up! You have to keep pushing through and not stop. Even in your darkest times take a deep breath and relax. You might want to speed through just to get it done, but DON'T. It will result in bad grades and your teacher might have you do it again since they know you can do better. Another idea would be to go see your guidance counselor. They are there to support you with anything you need. He/she will give you more strategies to cope with stress or work. One strategy might be to try separating your work into sections, this strategy will make it easier and not have you stressed about doing it all at once. Finally, don't compare yourself to other people. We all learn at different paces and it might take extra time for some. Just think, when all your work is done you can spend time with friends, family, and pets, or do after-school activities.

Sincerely,
Spartacus

One School, One Story - Hate has no place here!

To mirror the action taken by the students of Chokecherry, students at Harrington Park School collaborated on a video with the message “Hate has no place here” in the many languages found throughout the town. Our hope is to get 6 million views to signify the 6 million Jewish lives lost in the Holocaust. Help our school community reach our goal by watching the video on Harrington Park School’s YouTube channel!

Direct link to No Hate video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBhmZH6UOQg>

YouTube Channel Link: <https://www.youtube.com/c/HarringtonParkSchoolDistrict>



NORTHERN VALLEY MAGAZINE

FEATURE ARTICLES

Kindness

By Sophia Park

“The quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate,” as Google defines it. But what is kindness? How can we use kindness throughout our everyday lives and impact others? Harnessing the power of kindness starts with being kind to yourself. It all starts with yourself, like starting a new goal or setting boundaries. How we treat ourselves plays an important role in how we treat others.

Doing small acts of kindness can go unnoticed by some, but can play a big role in how someone's day turns out. Complimenting a stranger, holding the door, saying thank you, and even helping someone with their groceries are small but impactful ways to spread kindness throughout your day. While you may not think these could impact someone greatly, studies show that kindness increases self-esteem, improves mental health and relationships, and even slows aging. Kindness can make us feel connected, appreciated, and happy about our day, or the people around us. The interest of helping others can last long after the act itself. “For those who offer kindness, are those who benefit.”

Throughout the world, there are so many substantial issues, and people in need. Everyone has a different story, and a different way of life, but that does not mean we should not be kind. In fact, we need kindness now more than ever. Don't let something hold you back from a simple, “Thank you,” or a “Have a great day.” Because once again, kindness will always find a way back to you, once you give it out.

Kindness can impact the people around us in such a positive way. Have you ever received a smile, or compliment and felt a little spark of happiness go off inside you? Well, this could be caused by our “happiness chemicals.” Dopamine, oxycontin, endorphins, and serotonin all help promote happiness and pleasure while reducing depression and anxiety.

So, the next time you see a person looking down, a door needing to be held, or someone just in need of a hug, don't forget the golden rule. “For those who offer kindness, are those who benefit.”



Women's History Month: Celebrating Women's Leadership in HP

By Chaeran Alyssa Oh

From skirts to trousers, from advocating for suffrage to female presidential candidates, from being housewives to 57% of women being in the workforce, women in the United States have paved their path into modern-day society. Because of this significant movement, March is a month dedicated to women to celebrate and recognize the impact women have made in our community. In Harrington Park, women truly lead the way and help form what the HP Family is today.

In the academic year of 2023, Ms. Melissa McHale, library-media specialist, won Harrington Park School District's Teacher of the Year Award. Ms. McHale is most significantly known for her enthusiastic personality and the memories she shares with students old and new. Like her students, one of the things Ms. McHale loves most about her job is, "...Seeing former students and hearing how special I made them feel or that I believed in them. This is truly the essence of what I love about teaching." Additionally, Ms. McHale describes the library as, "...a safe environment for students to challenge themselves. The library is like the living room of the school. It's a place where everyone belongs and fits in." Looking at another perspective of the Harrington Park School environment, students can clearly guess that female teachers are the majority of HPS staff. On the contrary, it may shock many that when education was first established, 100% of



teachers were male. Ms. McHale believes this change is positive and shows how hard women worked to make a difference in history: "The evolution of the education field towards greater gender inclusivity is wonderful to see. Balancing gender representation would be ideal so students have countless role models and people they can connect with. I would love to see all professions with equal representation of genders because it is important to break stereotypes." Regardless of staff or student, HP Spartans are lucky to have Ms. McHale for her charming personality and wise insight on women's movements and gender equity.

When it comes to Harrington Park's social, fund-raising, or neighborly events, locals know immediately that the Juniors Woman's Club of HP is behind it. A few of the functions held recently by the JWC include the Murder Mystery Night, Winter Wonderland Holiday Breakfast, and most famously at HP School, the annual spelling bee. These events are not only to bring the community together, but it is to raise awareness and donate to causes such as Never Alone Again (Domestic Violence Organization & Resource Center), Closter Food Pantry, HP Ambulance Corps, and myriads more. Through establishing togetherness inside and outside of HP, members of the JWC find the club as an opportunity to meet new people and make friends. Secretary of the JWC (2022), Ms. Michelle Barron, explains the social club as positive and a place to meet new women of similar interests: "I've had the opportunity to step out of my comfort zone socially, and I feel fortunate to have met many women who share similar values and passion for fundraising for local causes and giving back to the community." On the other hand, one of the JWC's social and social media manager (2022), Ms. Tracy Lizotte, describes her experience to be similar to a friend reunion: "I have reconnected with friends



from growing up.” Co-President of the JWC, Ms. Monia Kim, shares her first impressions of the JWC as “... a room full of strong individuals put together. Each woman in the JWC leads an incredibly busy life but makes time to contribute to our town and many other causes. I wanted to be a part of that and am so happy I joined.” In the new year, Ms. Kim and Ms. Kelley Gardiner (Co-President) have a bright vision in mind to further bring the JWC together. With the three key words of friendship, community, and support, the Co-Presidents know and affirm how to boost the JWC in 2024: “We want to provide more opportunities for bonding among our members as well as strengthen community and neighborly love.” Just like the JWC members, the HP community should be not only amped, but grateful for the contributions the HP Junior Woman’s Club makes to the town.

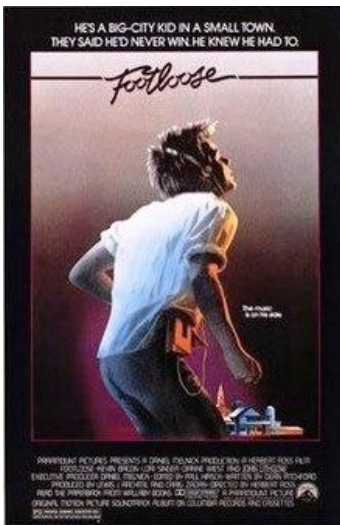
During the time of March, Women’s History Month, it is important to appreciate and acknowledge the work of women and how far they’ve come in comparison to the beginning of history. Women’s history is still being made today, and Harrington Park is the perfect place to learn about the building blocks being stacked to make much more impactful movements.

SHOW TIME!

8th Grade Play -Footloose

By Zach Chaung

In late November, Ms. Allen announced the eighth grade play. This year, the Class of 2024 will be performing the hit musical *Footloose*!



Originally released in 1984, *Footloose* is about a boy named Ren McCormack, a teen from Chicago, who moves to a small town in the south called Bomont, where he finds out that a local church minister banned dancing and rock music. Ren decides to fight back against the ban to bring dancing back to Bomont. The film was directed by Herbert Ross and included both original songs, such as the well-known “Footloose”; and pop songs, such as “Holding Out for a Hero”. The film starred actor Kevin Bacon as Ren.

In Bomont, Ren and his mom live with his aunt and uncle. At church, he meets Reverend Shaw Moore and his family, including his daughter Ariel, who doesn’t like her father’s strict religious beliefs. He becomes friends with a boy named Willard Hewitt, who informs him about the church’s ban. He also begins to fall in love with Ariel, and her father prohibits their interactions because of Ren’s behavior. *Footloose* is loosely based on a dancing ban in Elmore City, Oklahoma. Similar to the movie, the junior class of Elmore City’s high school fought against the ban.

A musical adaptation of *Footloose* premiered in 1998, and ran on Broadway until 2000, putting on 709 performances in total. A remake of the film was released in 2011.

The Class of 2024’s cast and crew of *Footloose* was released late January of this year. **Please note that these lists are subject to change, and not all decisions are final. Changes could be made to the cast, crew, and ensemble assignments before the performance.**

The cast includes:

- * Enzo PreceL-Ren
- * Ashley Weng-Lindsay
- * Mia Russo-Marty
- * Talia Burke-Ethel (Ren's mom)
- * Leah Enrique-Ariel Moore
- * Matthew Fischer-Willard Hewitt
- * Chloe Song-Lulu
- * Charlotte Kwon-Rusty
- * Yehvin Park-Fern
- * Lee Ramos-Wendy Jo
- * William Falkenstern-Coach Dunbar
- * Daniel Kim-Travis
- * Sophia Park-Cowgirl Bonnie
- * Emma Nally-Cowgirl Jude
- * Avery Lynch-Cowgirl Laura Jo
- * Aidan Brackenbury-Bickle
- * Kyle Kim-Garvin
- * Isabella Oh-Council President
- * Ethan Tyska-Joey
- * Sara Breitenstein-Dani
- * Zach Chaung-Stevie
- * Josie Kim-Betty Blast
- * Jyotish Narwani-Reverend Shaw Moore
- * Ximena Garcia-Vi Moore (Shaw's wife and Ariel's mom)
- * Marshall Plescia-Chuck Cranston
- * Luke Nadler-Wes
- * Cyla Cafuoco-Crystal
- * Ella Deramo-Urleen
- * Harris Buddha-Cop
- * Philip Georgiev-Lyle
- * Jillian Carten-Eleanor Dunbar
- * Lyle Nadler-Cowboy Bob
- * Emmett Stokes-Cowboy Chet
- * Ben Moon-Cowboy Mitch
- * Colin Karpati-Jeter
- * Natalie Gulino-Church Choir Leader
- * Adrian Kleczkowski-Boy 1

The ensemble consists of:

- * BBQ Ensemble: Mckenna Perez, Noelle Grassi, Alexis Coulter, Ryan Preolo, Vincent Rossi, Alice Baly, Maya Fernandez, Featured Dancers
- * Chicago Ensemble : Gabriel Kotowski, Sophia Varni, Camilla Jenkins, & Featured Dancers
- * Band : Michael Rezendes, James Costa, Jaedon Deserio, Ethan Dank, Tasos Vitsentzatos
- * Choir Ensemble : Abigail Na, Chaeran Oh, Giuliana Panzarella, Caylin Pyo, YeoJin Jung, Anna Keene, Chloe Arad
- * Council Members: Benjamin Chiang, Alexandria Zheng, Chris Goodman, Donna Kim
- * Student Ensemble : Sabrina Kwon, Shannon Oh, Josh Park, Claire Pyo, Caleb Seo, YeoJune Jung
- * Featured Dancers: Evelyn Park, Sara Breitenstein, Avery Lynch, Josie Kim, Iudita Daragiu, Julia Katechis

The crew includes Logan Poleshuk, Theresa Landers, Jennifer Cao, Angela Motylenski, Evelyn Yee, Jerry Chen, and Campbell Torrie. The assistant director is Joon Lee, who will be working with Ms. Allen to put together a wonderful show.

The eighth graders are very excited to perform *Footloose* later this year! This story will capture the audience and will result in a memorable performance. Whether you've seen the movie or not, the Class of '24's production of *Footloose* is guaranteed to be enjoyable.

SPECIALS SPOTLIGHT

Library

By Cyla Cafuoco

This winter K-5 is each working on different and exciting projects with Mrs. McHale which includes both hands-on work and analyzing characters throughout a book. She is especially excited about working with *Linked* by Gordon Korman with her older students and going deep into the plot. She states, "This year

my focus is exposing students to all of the great books our library has to offer. I am reading many books by diverse authors or authors who include diverse characters. We also read about acceptance and tolerance through multiple books and characters.” In addition, she has shared with us what she is doing specifically and is hoping to excite the students about reading.



Pre-K

The Pre-K students are becoming familiar with the library. Students are working on retelling stories and cooperation. They use puppets, Play-Doh, art supplies, and Legos often to share their ideas and are excited to start learning more about the library and reading new books.



K-2

Grades K-2 are learning about the Caldecott Medal. The Caldecott Medal is for the most popular picture book of the year. They are discussing criteria for winners and trying to predict what books will be the 2024 winner and runner-up.



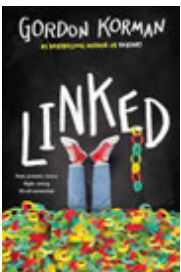
3rd grade

Third graders are listening to Mrs. McHale read a Harrington Park School all-time favorite book. Bob by Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead. This is read many times and is loved every time.



4th grade

Classroom climate is important for students to feel safe sharing answers. In the fourth grade, they analyze characters from multiple backgrounds and cultures by discussing their similarities and honoring their differences.



5th grade

Mrs. McHale is very involved with the One School One Story initiative featuring the book Linked by Gordon Korman. They expand on the themes throughout the book by initiating class discussions. Gordon Korman visited HP this year to introduce us to Linked and everyone got their own copy to read on their own.

She states, " I am noticing that if I am an enthusiastic reader, students may become more excited about reading. I want the library to be a fun, safe space for all students regardless of their learning abilities. The library is for everyone in our school and everyone is welcome!!" Thus, Mrs. McHale has some exciting things planned for this winter and with the help of the library learn some new things!

HOLIDAY CONCERTS

String Ensemble

By Irene Kang and Valeriane Ronan

The String Ensemble had an astounding performance at the winter concert. They performed with incredible talent and put a lot of effort into their arrangement.

This year, the songs were primarily classical: Sleeper's Wake, Sleigh Ride, Hanukkah Habanera, and We Wish You a Merry Christmas. The winter cheer could be heard in their sounds!

These students should be given a standing ovation for their phenomenal efforts. Abigail Na, the concert mistress, is an eighth-grade student in our school. The second violin's section leader was Sarah Chang who is also notable for her perseverance. Last but not least, the String Ensemble welcomed their first bass player in over four years, James Lehmann.

The students worked tirelessly as they met each week for about three months on Tuesday and Friday. They worked endlessly on rhythm and spent a very long time mastering their music.

Before they played their wonderful music on the school stage; they played at the retirement home nearby. The seniors loved it as did the younger audience at the school.

By the time they were on the stage, they had mastered their music and were ready to perform. Their conductor, Mrs. Lisa Woods, taught the students how to master the notes, and when they were done the music pushed past the limits of beauty. The string ensemble proved there was no boundary to music, and they turned notes into art. It was a show no one will ever forget.



6th-8th Grade

By Elisha Kim

On December 6th, the Harrington Park School held their annual winter concert in the gymnasium, featuring the String Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Upper Chorus, and Wind Ensemble. All of these groups played and sang beautifully, making the performance enjoyable to watch.



First up, was the String Ensemble. This group of string instruments which include the violin, cello, and the double bass, plus percussion which is not a string instrument, but was still a part of the ensemble, played four songs for the concert. These four songs are: "Sleigh Ride," "Sleepers, Wake," "Hanukkah Habanera," and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

After the String Ensemble's last piece, the Symphonic Band went up on the stage and played the two following songs: "A Minor Holiday Celebration" and "Celebrating Chanukah." When the band walked off the stage, there was a short intermission.

The Jazz Band went on the stage and played two pieces after the intermission. These two pieces are quite recognizable. The first song was "Christmas Time Is Here" from Charlie Brown. The second song was "You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch" from the famous movie *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. A great job to Daniel Kim, a tenor saxophone, and Jerry Chen, who plays trumpet, with their solos.

When the Jazz Band played their last notes, the Upper Chorus took control of the spotlight and sang "Be A Light," "Golden Hour," "Over My Head," and "The Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth." Well done to

soloists Yehvin Park, Maria DelGrande, Sam Parsi, Joy Kim, and Charlotte Kwon. A thank you as well to Abigail Na, the piano accompanist.

Last but not least, the Wind Ensemble performed after the Upper Chorus. The Wind Ensemble proceeded to play “Hanukkah Holiday,” “Greensleeves,” “A Christmas Tale: Beware the Krampus,” and “A Christmas Festival.” A thank you to Mr. Herbert for volunteering as the narrator in the piece “A Christmas Tale: Beware the Krampus.”

Overall, this school year’s 6-8 grade winter concert was a great success. The parents were all delighted to see their kids performing and showing their amazing talents. All the bands, ensembles, and the chorus presented their full effort and created beautiful music for the audience to listen to. A giant thank you to Mrs. Woods, Mr. Daleus, and Mrs. Park! Without them, there wouldn’t be any concerts at our school.



4th-5th Grade

By Gabeen Kim

This Winter, the fourth and fifth graders performed a spectacular concert. The concert took place on December 13, 2023. The fourth graders started with their band led by Mrs. Woods. They played Hot Cross Buns, Au Claire de la Lune, Merrily We Roll Along (Merry had a little lamb), Dreydl Dreydl, Jingle Bells, and Good King Wenceslas. After their first time together on stage they joined the other fourth graders with Mrs. Park. They sang five beautiful songs. They sang Seven Feet of Snow, It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas, Be a Light, Walk on the Wire, and ending with Big Time from Better Nate Than Ever.



After the fourth grade performance the fifth graders rocked their concert as well. The band started off with This Old Man, It’s A Small World, Old Macdonald, and Holiday Rock. After the marvelous band performance the fifth graders sang Glorious (solos by: Lucy Janson, Arinana Perez, Emily Arad, and Ethan Lee) 93 million miles, Good In Me, and No School Tomorrow (If It Snows) This year the fourth and fifth graders performed wonderfully!

EVENTS

Have a Heart

By Chloe Song

One of HP’s most popular traditions is the annual Have a Heart volleyball game that all 8th graders look forward to. The 8th grade students attempt to defeat the staff in a game of volleyball while rotating teams. Normally, this exciting event occurs a couple of days before Valentine’s Day, in the gymnasium, but due to unfortunate weather, the event took place on February 15th.





All around the school, students decorate the walls with hearts and posters, showing school spirit until the festive day. Additionally, the Student Council hosts an art competition to see who can create the best artwork for the staff to wear. Younger grades can also color their own paper hearts and send them in with \$1 to be hung on the gymnasium walls during the game.

After three tough matches, the class of 2024 was victorious! The first round ended in a close score of 25-24, a win for the teachers. However, the 8th graders brought home the victory by scoring 25-16 in the second round and 15-12 the final round. Halfway through Have a Heart, a hula-hoop competition is held amongst all grades. All participants received a homework pass, but the winners of each grade participated in a final match



to win the grand prize of a free ice-pop. Congratulations to the winners! This year's Have A Heart was yet another win for the 8th grade students and a successful celebration for all!

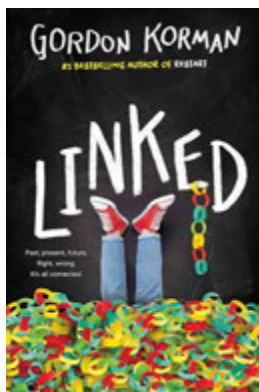
Great job to all staff and students and a big thank you to all everyone who contributed to making this fun tradition possible!



Author Visit - Gordon Korman

By Claire Jeon and Natalie Cappadona

On January 9, our school was visited by the bestselling author Gordon Korman. He came to talk about his books in general and one book in specific: *Linked*. Our school decided to do something that we've never done before. We decided to read one book as the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades, which was *Linked*. The school's plan was for the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth graders to start reading *Linked* the day of this author visit as part of our *One School, One Story* program. The school decided to use *Linked* for this program because of a recent incident that happened in HP. The book reflects this incident and shows readers the full effects of these types of occurrences. *Linked* was inspired by a middle school in Whitwell, Tennessee, that collected over six million paper clips in honor of the Jewish people that died in the Holocaust.



Canadian author Gordon Korman has written over one hundred books so far, starting at the young of twelve. His first book was a school project. His actual teacher was on a leave of absence, and the only person available to teach Korman's class for the remainder of the year was the track coach. Since he had no experience teaching anything but track and physical education, the coach had told everybody that they had to do whatever project they wanted for the rest of the school year, and so Gordon Korman started writing a creative writing piece. He called it *This Can't Be Happening at Macdonald Hall!* The book was published by Scholastic when he was thirteen, in 1978. Since then, he has become more and more popular as an author for books loved by many.

How does Gorman Kordon get such creative ideas and write great books? Well, during the author visit, Gordon Korman told us exactly how he works his magic. Whenever he's stuck, Gordon Korman asks himself, "What if...?" The method always helps him write creative books, such as *The Superteacher Project*. This specific book came to life by Gordon Korman asking himself, "What if AI became so powerful

that the government created a perfect AI-generated teacher to experimentally teach a middle school class?"

By asking himself this single question, Gordon Korman was able to write and publish an entire book!



In addition, he read his newest book, *Slugfest*, to the school, a book that was released that very same day! The students in our school were the first people to listen to the first chapter of *Slugfest!* Gordon Korman explained that *Slugfest* is a book about an eighth grade boy, Arnie Yashenko, a sports kid that plays sports at the high school because he is incredibly good at sports. But because he missed a lot of eighth grade PE, he isn't qualified to pass eighth grade. To those who fail, they have to go to summer school to make up for those grades. He doesn't want to, but he has no choice. How will summer school turn out? Gordon Korman has created another book with a great hook.

Gordon Korman is clearly an author who is dedicated to writing his books for his fans all over the world. Every time, he manages to surprise us with amazing, humorous books that are well enjoyed and loved. HP is grateful to spend this time with Gordon Korman, and we were honored to have this author visit with us!

HSA Enrichment Program

By Chaerin Isabella Oh

As usual, the Harrington Park School Home & School Association kicked off its Winter 2023 After-School Enrichment programs. From 3:15 PM to 4:15 PM, various students of Harrington Park ranging in grades from kindergarten to eighth grade participated in the enrichment program's varying and enjoyable eight-week classes.

On Mondays, students could participate in one of four classes: Lego Legends, Arts & Crafts, The MAD Side of Science, and the World of Design. In the class of Lego Legends, students were encouraged to use their love for Legos and creation to innovate new structures. With aspects of both art and engineering, students were able to learn a vast field of concepts from this course. Through the class of Arts & Crafts, students were able to explore various materials such as fabrics and glitter and look at art from a new perspective. In addition, the class of The MAD Side of Science aided students to gain real-world experiences with chemistry and projects to take home. Lastly, the World of Design helped students dive deeper into different scenarios and careers requiring the practice of design, such as graphic, universal, urban, and product design.

There were various activities on Tuesday as well, which consisted of Spartan Readers Theater, 3D Drawing, Robotics, and ARTchitecture. Students got the opportunity to act out scenes, create props and see the various aspects of theater through the Spartan Readers Theater. They even had the opportunity to look behind the scenes of the traditional 8th-grade play. In 3D Drawing, students utilized their mathematical knowledge and artistic ability to create complex masterpieces. Students dived deeply into the engineering design process while building robots in the Robotics course. Last but not least, students in the ARTchitecture program explored the modern-day problems of maintaining a healthy environment while creating structures with STEAM principles. With the employment of daily objects, students expanded their knowledge of architecture.

The activities didn't stop there! On Wednesdays, students had another four activities that they were able to participate in. These included Learn to Crochet, Acrylic Arts, Circuits & Robotics, and Brixology. Students were able to create useful and cozy articles of clothing through the Learn to Crochet enrichment program. Acrylic Arts specialized in educating students about the use of acrylic paint for paintings completed in 1-2 class periods. With the aid of wires, batteries, and lights, students were able to construct fascinating circuitry projects in the Circuits & Robotics program. Lastly, Brixology taught advanced concepts ranging from aerospace to team-building lessons using Lego bricks and most significantly, creativity.

On Thursdays, there weren't four choices of activities, but five to choose from! These exciting activities included Stop Motion Video, STEM Talent, Beginner Chess, Advanced Chess, and Creative Handsewing. Taking advantage of legos and clay, students were able to learn more about the art of Stop

Motion through the Stop Motion app. In STEM Talent, students worked with slime and made kaleidoscopes; these were only two of the innumerable fascinating activities in this program. In Beginner Chess, students learned the nitty-gritty of chess that would help give a foundation for future skill-building. In Advanced Chess, students instead explored the higher-level tactics of chess.

The enrichment program finished strong on Fridays with the options of TGA Tennis, Speed Soccer, and STEM-Grossology. The TGA Tennis program benefited students on numerous levels of tennis in terms of sportsmanship and refinement of skills. Filled with fun games, skill development, and more, the Speed Soccer program is perfect for new and beginner players. Loaded with interesting yet icky experiments, STEM-Grossology may be an unorthodox yet efficient way of learning how the world works around a student. In order to support both the Harrington Park Home & School Association and your child's future or enjoyment, participation in these programs is essential! Make sure to sign up in the spring!

FIELD TRIPS

Lincoln Center

By Chloe Kim

This year, the fourth graders went on a field trip to Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, David Geffen Hall on January 18, 2024. The fourth graders were really excited to go on this field trip with Ms. Park, the music teacher. They watched the New York Philharmonic doing Young People's Concert. Before the show started, they looked around the Lincoln Center and took some pictures. I interviewed a fourth grader, Emma



Anderson, who went on the field trip this year. She liked that during the concert they taught them about what color the music was. Emma also said she would never forget when the tuba players were very funny. Emma



said it was very entertaining that if she could go to Lincoln Center again, she would. Even though Ms. Park takes the fourth graders to Lincoln Center every year, she says that this year's concert was more engaging for students. She thinks that each piece of music was related to stories. She wished that students would go to Lincoln Center with their family. The fourth graders had an unforgettable trip with Ms. Park.



SAIL Field Trips

By Quinn Hutchinson

Mrs. Petrie and the SAIL/PLUS students continue the year with field trips and competitions. The SAIL program, which consists of fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth graders, had a schedule for trips this winter.



On January 12th, the fifth and sixth grade SAIL/PLUS students went to the World Game competition. This trip is arranged by Dr. Brown in connection to Dwight-Englwood School. World Game is a problem solving competition that includes multiple schools, and the students are organized into groups, (not depending on your school) The learners will represent a region or an organization. The region's goal is to keep their region alive and thriving. They do this by trading resources such as food and electricity. Throughout the competition organizations like UNESCO and U.S Nations give groups problems to solve about their

region. At the 2024 World Game Competition, all groups ended the day successful and had built many skills such as collaboration, active listening, and defining problems.



Shortly after World Game, the seventh and eighth grade SAIL/PLUS students go to their monthly Brain Busters competition.



The fifth and sixth grade SAIL/PLUS will compete again on January 30th to test their bridges. For the past three months fifth and sixth grade have been working on their Invengeneering challenge where they build bridges out of balsa wood. Out of the fifth and sixth grade they made three bridges that will be tested and therefore they will be competing

against other schools to find the bridge that has the best efficiency. Groups will also have to make a board that includes their group logbook and photos of their bridge, and will have to make a quick speech about their bridge and experience for the past few months.



On February 6th, SAIL students in fifth and sixth grade will take part in a CSI workshop where they will become forensic scientists for the day where they will examine evidence and debate over potential suspects. This will take place at the Meadowlands in Lyndhurst where many other great field trips of the past and future will take place.



On the 13th of February the seventh grade SAIL students will go to the VIA trip and the eighth grade will also go to this trip after on the 14th.

And finally, on the 28th of February, Harrington Park will be hosting their very own Brain Busters competition for eighth grade SAIL students.

In short, students have so many great experiences thanks to the SAIL program, and of course, Mrs. Petrie. SAIL students have many great field trips this winter and they have a lot to look forward to for the rest of the year!



100TH DAY OF SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS

Kindergarten & First Grade

By Janice Kim

Kindergarten

For the 100th day of school, the Kindergarteners wore t-shirts with 100 things on them. They were very excited for this event. They have been practicing counting to 100. The purpose of this for the Kindergarten is to celebrate them learning how to count to 100, by tens and ones. They prepared for this event by making t-shirts and thinking of things to put on them. The Kindergarteners had a blast!



First Grade

The first graders had a ton of fun on the 100th day! They created crowns using dot paint by counting and creating dots in groups of 10. They hunted for 100 objects in the classroom and recorded their findings. Students also worked with 100 stickers and charted them in columns or rows. Finally, the first graders used 100 cups to create a structure!



Second Grade

By Claire Jeon and Natalie Cappadona

On February 8, HP celebrated day 100 of 183! The second grade especially stood out though as they were all dressed up for school as if they were 100 years old! What's more fun than that?



From hair curlers to canes, the second graders were fully dressed up. Even the teachers joined in on the fun! It was interesting to see all the seven and eight year old kids dressed as grandmas and grandpas, because they were all standing out in their own unique way, and so were their teachers! Some kids even showed up to school with gray hair! This way of celebrating the one hundredth day of school is the biggest way to celebrate for the 2nd graders, and they are a sight to see!

Ms. Saccoccio's class did many activities using the number "100." For example, her students had fun completing a writing prompt, which was "When I'm 100 years old..." In addition to that, the 2nd graders did STEM activities where the kids would build things out of materials such as LEGOs, geo tiles, or even pipe cleaners. They also completed math games using two-digit addition, did exercise activities relating to one hundred, and spent time matching one hundred piece puzzles.



The other second grade classes had fun too! They dressed up as if they were 100 years old, used the number "100" academically, and enjoyed day 100 of the school year, just like Ms. Saccoccio's class! Overall, the entire second grade enjoyed an amazing, fun-filled 100th day!



Third Grade

By Jessie and Sammy Finer

The third grade teachers had lots of fun activities planned on the 100th day of school for the third graders! The 100th day of school took place on February 8th, 2024. This year, the third graders played a game called "Unlock the 100th Day of School", which includes various activities for the students to enjoy.

"Unlock the 100th Day of School" is where the students will be participating in different games a hundred times, in a hundred seconds, would you rather, etc. Examples of some of the activities are how many high fives can you give in a hundred seconds, what would you do with \$100?, things you can do in a hundred seconds, and more! The 100th day of school is surely one of the most exciting days for the third graders and they certainly had fun participating in all of the engaging and different activities!



STUDENT COUNCIL

Exciting Events

By Yehvin Park

During the winter months, the student council had many fun events! Here are some of the events that the Student Council held and the ones you should be looking forward to:

Staff Holiday Cards:

During the holidays, the students in Student Council grades 5th-8th, made cards for all the staff in the school. The students had decorated the cards with festive colors and messages wishing the teachers a happy holiday. Each student was able to select a teacher and made cards for them. This “tradition” of making cards has been going on for quite a while now.

Spartan Spotlight:

The executive board in the Student Council had thought of bringing back the Spartan Spotlight. They had picked 6 nominees from the 8th grade and had voted for one person to be chosen. When a person wins, teachers and members of the executive board write positive messages about the person next to their picture. The winner for the month of February was Sara Breitenstein!



100th Day Food Drive:

The members of the Student Council are helping out with the food drive by collecting items and with the Food Drive Weekly Raffle. When a person in the school brings food items, they receive a raffle ticket for items they bring in.

Heart Grams:

For Valentine's Day the Student Council hand out messages on heart shaped pieces of paper. Each student can choose a person to give the message to for just one dollar. This money was donated to the American Heart Association.

SPARTAN SPORTS

Girls Basketball

By Quinn Hutchinson

This year's girl's basketball team had an extremely successful season! The experience for all of the girls was amazing. They get to make amazing memories with friends, and all while playing a loved sport.

First and foremost, the coach, Ms. Paternostro is an incredible, encouraging coach that led the team this season. The team had a good season finishing with a record of 12-3! The girls fought to the championship, but unfortunately lost to Old Tapan in the championship who was the only team the girls had lost to.

The team consisted of our only eighth grader, Maya Fernandez, along with seventh graders, Maddie Plescia, Grace Lynch, Alyssa Criaris, Charlotte Forma, Sammy Finer, and Chloe Han. The sixth graders on the team were Kami Bird, Quinn Hutchinson, Eden Canarick, Sophie Donnelly, Paige Radoian, and Paige Palmer. Everyone on the team contributed to their wins, and they were proud of how much they accomplished.

The girls had a busy schedule this winter. They would regularly have practices or games. The team would choose themed practices and Ms. Paternostro incorporated fun drills, and learned plays that helped their overall game.



The girls played many towns this season. They played Old Tappan, Northvale, Norwood, Demarest, Closter, and Haworth. Whether the girls were on the court playing hard or supporting on the bench, they were loud and had loads of spirit for their team.

In short, the Spartans had an amazing season, and can't wait to meet new additions to the team which will make the next season even better.

Boys Basketball

By Sophia Park

This winter, the HP boys basketball team had a successful and hardworking season. The team

consisted of 15 boys, Sean Blanchard, Andrea Robinson, Ethan Strate, Michael Fernandez, David Joo, Michael Rezendez, Gabe Katowski, Colin Karpati, Marshall Plesea, Vicent Rossi, Ben Moon, Ryan Preolo, Ethan Tyska, Chris Goodman, and Daniel Kim.

While winning most of their games, the team made it to the finals against Old Tappan! Although suffering a close loss, the boys genuinely loved playing basketball and were eager to learn about the game and be coached, as their coach Mr. Leichte says. The team's practices would consist of regular drills like layups, taps drill, and the 3 on 2 on 1 drill the boys enjoy.

Additionally, they have a season-long shooting contest with the members of the team, where the winner gets their ice cream of choice. The boys played so well this season, and most of all had fun throughout it. Go HP!!



Ask a Teacher...

By Maddie Kim

Harrington Park is an amazing community with wonderful teachers. But have you ever wondered about their opinions on current issues? I asked three questions to Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Weber, and Mr Daleus based on controversial topics and what they love about HP.

Q1: What is your favorite thing about HP?

“My favorite thing about HP has to be the kids! I feel so lucky to be able to spend my day with such amazing students who are excited and enjoy learning!” - Mrs. Allen

“My favorite thing about HP is that it is a K-8 school. I love seeing the students grow up!” - Mrs. Weber

“My favorite thing about HP is how kind people are in this town. Being still relatively new to the district, I am always amazed by how involved everyone is and how kind people are. It's never a battle for the most support in any one particular area — everyone supports each other. I love working here! I'd also be remiss if I didn't mention my own music students — very proud of them, the work they've put into the musical craft, and how far they've come.” - Mr. Daleus

Q2: What is your position on AI, and do you think it is helping or hurting us?

“I feel that we aren't ready for the challenges of AI yet. I believe we will get to a place as educators to use it as it should be used so that it can benefit us all.” - Mrs. Allen

“I think AI is hurting us right now because no one is stopping to discuss the possible negative impact. Everyone is using it to reduce the amount their brain has to think. Instead, we should be looking at how it can help us improve our thinking and think more deeply about topics.” - Mrs. Weber

“I think AI is an incredibly powerful tool. Like any tool, it is important that it is used correctly. When the internet came out people lost their minds, but then we adjusted. I think the same will be true of AI. It is definitely scary how powerful it is and it does open up a whole can of worms, especially in education, but like we always do, we will grow and adjust. I believe that if we use it correctly, we can enhance our experiences in education. There's no reason to be fearful of it now, especially with programs like ChatGPT. A lot of the information that is on there is not perfect and still needs to be checked by human eyes. At the end of the day, humans are still at the heart of this technology and I have found it to be useful at times.” - Mr. Daleus

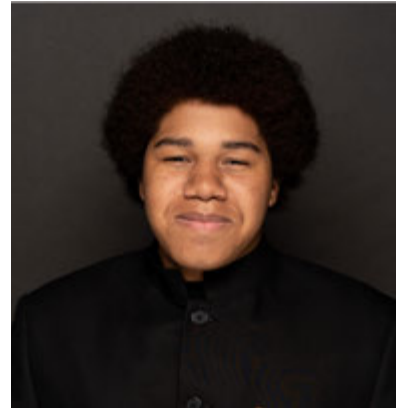
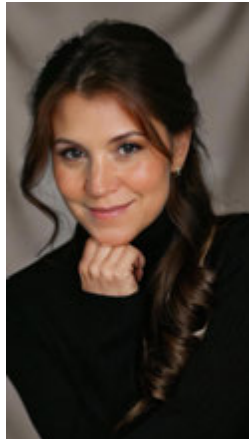
Q3: What do you think we should do to help slow down global warming?

“I feel one of the most achievable efforts against global warming is to continue with recycling. (reuse, repair, reduce) In addition, continued research to take action to support climate solutions is a necessary component.” - Mrs. Allen

“To stop global warming, we need to move away from buying so much. We need to purchase sustainable products that we can use for a long time and won't end up in the garbage in the near future.” - Mrs. Weber

“To slow the rapid global warming, we must be conscious of our emissions and carbon footprint. If the funds are available, people should move to hybrid/electric vehicles and depend less on fossil fuels. "Going Green" is our best chance to save our planet and we must do everything we can to facilitate that process. That means taking public transportation more, cutting back on consumption and waste, and reducing our energy usage.” - Mr. Daleus

These were some of the teachers' perspectives on questions based on controversial topics and our school. Now that you have heard some of our teachers' interesting opinions, think of your own opinions and share them with your friends and family.



SPORTS CORNER

Basketball

By Sebouh Toomin

All-Time NBA Scoring Leaders

1 - LeBron James - Los Angeles Lakers - Seasons 21 39,771 points

Fun Fact: Starred in the the movie Space Jam a New Legacy

2 - Kareem Abdul Jabbar - Los Angeles Lakers 20 seasons-38,387

Fun Fact: 6 time NBA champion

3 - Karl Malone - Utah Jazz 19 seasons 36,928 points

Fun Fact: NBA hall of famer

4 - Kobe Bryant - Los Angeles Lakers 20 seasons 33,643 points

Fun Fact: First guard to be drafted to the NBA straight from high school

5 - Michael Jordan - Chicago Bulls 15 seasons 32,292 points

Fun Fact: Scored a slam dunk by jumping from the free throw line





Lebron James



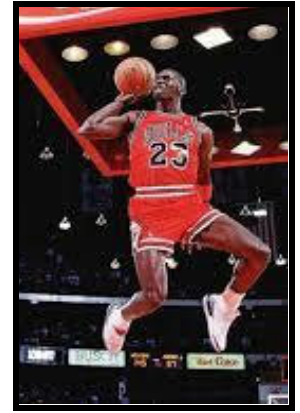
Kareem Abdul Jabbar



Karl Malone



Kobe Bryant



Michael Jordan

Football

By Zevi Toomin

Top 5 NFL Players Ranked by NFL

1 - Patrick Mahomes - Kansas City Chiefs - MVP - 28,424 Passing yards

Fun Fact: He invented the Griddy.

2 - Justin Jefferson- Minnesota Vikings - 5,899 receiving yards

3 - Jalen Hurts - Philadelphia Eagles - 11,764 passing yards

Fun Fact: He can bench press 275 lbs.

4 - Nick Bosa - San Francisco 49ers - league leader in sacks with 18.5 and 48 QB hits

5 - Travis Kelce - Kansas City Chiefs - 11,328 receiving yards

Fun Fact: He played against his brother in last year's Super Bowl.



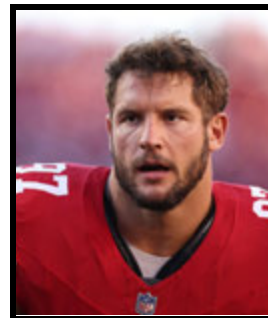
Patrick Mahomes



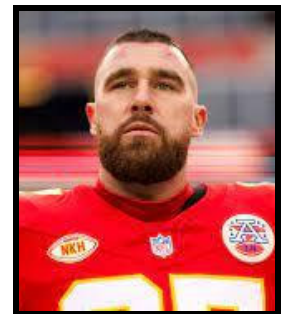
Justin Jefferson



Jalen Hurts



Nick Bosa



Travis Kelce

REVIEWS

Movie Reviews

By Ryan Weng

Wonka

Rated PG

Wonka, starring Timothée Chalamet, was a great movie for people of all ages. Timothée plays Willy, a poor chocolate maker who dreams to become the best chocolatier and own one of the biggest chocolate factories in the world. This is almost a guarantee because his chocolate is made amazingly and is filled with magic. He moves to the city to fulfill his dream, but soon meets enemies on the way that makes it hard for him to do so. Does he fulfill his dream? The movie is action packed, has great songs and emotional moments that make it a movie that you can't miss. I would rate this movie a 4.5/5.



The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes

Rated PG-13



Did you love the Hungers Games Series? Well then this movie is for you. The Hunger Games: Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes starring Rachel Zegler and Tom Blyth, is the prequel to the Hunger Games. It follows the life of Coriolanus Snow before he became President Snow. A young Snow is hiding the fact that he is poor and needs to win the Plinth Prize. In order to do so, his tribute, Lucy Grey must win the games. They fall in love along the way. Does he win the prize? How does he become the future President Snow that we know? Watch the movie to find out! I would rate this movie a 4.25/5.

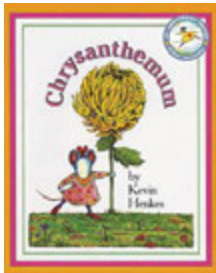


Book Reviews: Grades K-2

By Noah Ahn

Chrysanthemum

By: Kevin Henkes



Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes follows a story of a mouse named Chrysanthemum who loves her unique name. Unfortunately she is made fun of for being named after a flower and having a really long name. Her teacher one day confronts her bullies and her bullies Rita, Jo, and Victoria apologize. Chrysanthemum now feels better again and continues to love her unique name. Her teacher who was pregnant then had a girl named Chrysanthemum!

The Bad Seed

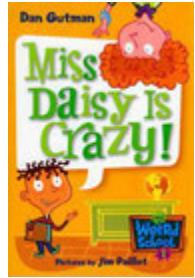
By: Jory John

The Bad Seed by Jory John is about a seed who is very very bad. He cuts in line and is always late. This all started when he was plucked from his sunflower and almost eaten. He realizes that he can be mad and sad. He realizes that he doesn't have to be bad. The Bad Seed then decides to be happy. Is it too late to turn his life around?



My Weird School

By: Dan Gutman



Have you ever wondered what it would be like if all your teachers were crazy and silly? Well this is exactly the life of AJ who goes to a school where all the teachers are crazy. My weird school follows the character AJ and his friends. This book series explores his weird school. Books such as Miss Daisy is Crazy and Mr Cooper is Super just shows how weird his school is. At this school all the teachers are crazy. AJ has one enemy though Andrea Young. This book is fun and silly and is a really great book to read!!!

Book Reviews: Grades 3-5

By Gabeen Joy Kim

Superfudge

By: Judy Blume

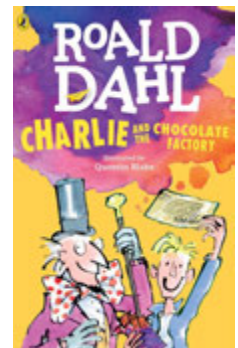


Peter Hatcher's life was going well. He had gotten used to his brother, Fudge. One normal day when his brother was being annoying once again his parents explained that another baby was on her way. Peter is scared to go through the same pain over again. Does Peter think this pain is worth it? What will he do? Would he survive this pain?

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

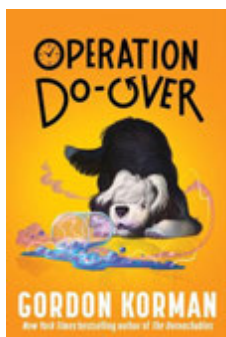
By: Roald Dahl

In the classic story Charlie and The Chocolate Factory, Charlie Bucket is a boy living with a big family. His family is poor. One day the Buckets and everyone else in town hear about the famous chocolate factory reopening. The factory will be accepting five kids to take a peek in the factory. These five kids must find a golden ticket in one of the chocolate bars. Charlie finds one of the tickets. Who else will find the ticket and what would be inside the factory?



Operation Do-Over

By: Gordon Korman



In this book written by a New York Times Bestseller, Mason and Ty have been best friends since they were in kindergarten. They both had interests in the same things. One day in seventh grade a girl named Ava steps into their lives. The two boys both like Ava. They decide to make a treaty that they would never do something personal to Ava. One of the boys broke the treaty. The boys' friendship is ruined for their lives. Until, one morning one of the boys wakes up in the past and tries to flip their lives back the way it

is supposed to be. Will the boys become best friends again? Will one of the boys make it worse for their future?

Book Reviews: Grades 6-8

By Rayna Nadgauda

Attention 6th - 8th graders! Are you bored of the SAME books? There are so many good books to read, and below are three suggestions.

Three Keys

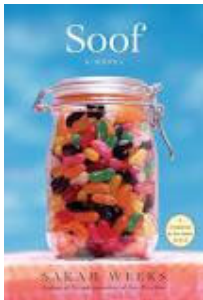
By: Kelly Yang

A new immigration law is looming and if it passes, it will threaten everything — and everyone — in Mia's life. It's a roller coaster of challenges, and Mia needs all of her determination to hang on tight. But if anyone can find the key to getting through turbulent times, it's Mia Tang!



Soof

By: Sarah Weeks

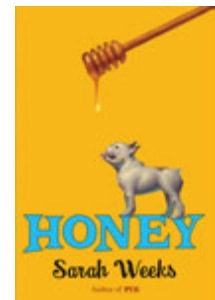


In this stand-alone follow-up to Sarah Weeks's beloved So B. It, a girl who the world might see as weird finds her footing and stands her ground. All her life, Aurora has heard stories about Heidi and all the good luck she brought Aurora's family. Aurora, though, doesn't feel very lucky.

Honey

By: Sarah Weeks

Melody has lived in Royal, Indiana, for as long as she can remember. It's always been just her and her father, and she's okay with that. But then she overhears him calling someone Honey — and suddenly it feels like everyone in Royal has a secret.



These books are so fun and really entertaining. I hope you read these books!



Winter Pages

Top Holiday Gifts

By Rees Cafuoco

We just had an amazing holiday season. This article is an opinion of the most popular gifts based on what girls and boys enjoy.

Girls

One of the most popular gifts for girls this year is a Stanley water bottle. The company came out in 1913 and it just became trendy! They come in different colors, sizes, and price points. You can also buy different accessories to go with your water bottle like toppers, fanny packs, snack trays, bottom covers, and nameplates. Stanley water bottles are great quality. They keep your water cold almost all day. In school, a lot of girls are carrying ones. You can get them at Target, Dicks sporting goods, on the Stanley website, and so many other places.



Another favorite gift for girls is skincare. One of the most popular skincare brands for young girls is Bubble. Bubble has many products such as moisturizers, makeup remover, exfoliating masks, toner, face mists, and more. Bubble is popular because it is very clean and good for young skin. You can buy it on the Bubble Website, Ulta, or Amazon.

Boys

For boys, the most popular gift this year is a PS5. It is a gaming console, and it has many great qualities like very fast storage and lightning fast loading. 22.5 million people have bought a PS5! You can play 627 games on it, there's so much variety. You can get them at Best Buy or GameStop.



Another popular gift for boys are sports jerseys. You can buy your favorite

player's jersey and wear it to show your support

for the team. They make almost every player in every sport. You can get them at Dicks sporting goods, Champs Sports, Sports Time, Vali, Adidas, and so many more stores.



Winter Activities

By Heather Fabiano

Winter is a fun time of year to spend time with family & friends. From building a snowman to snowball fights, watching a movie, or completing a late night puzzle there are so many ways to have fun in the winter time.



One fun activity to do in the winter is ice skating at Van Saun Park until February 25, 2024. You may not be a seasoned skater, but that's okay! You can rent a guide that can help and teach you while you enjoy it.

Another fun activity is sledding. You can find a hill in town or go to the Fort Lee, NJ sledding park! Third, you can go skiing. You can go to Mountain Creek in Vernon Township, NJ. Snowshoeing is another fun activity to do. Snowshoeing is a good form of exercise. If you're interested you can go to Fahnestock Winter Park in Carmel, NY.



If you just want to stay home, you can enjoy the outdoors without going too far away! You could build a snowman. All you need are three big snowballs and two sticks and of course a carrot nose. If you want your snowman to have some personality, use some pebbles for eyes and mouth. If snowmen don't excite you, you can try to make a snow angel. All you need to do is lay on your back and move your arms and legs.



Lastly, for some indoor activities, you could do a family movie night. Stuck on what to watch? Some classics include: Home Alone 1 & 2, Polar Express or Frozen 1 and 2.

Another option for an indoor activity is board games. Some exciting games include: Candyland, Jenga, Connect Four, Clue, Monopoly, Uno, Pop the Pig, Twister and many more. These are all available on Amazon. Finally, you could try "freeze dance" or the Floor is Lava game!

No matter if you're inside or outside there is always something fun to do!

Winter Crafts

By Mela Precel

Are you bored at home, and want to do something fun? Well, here's something to do to get you into the winter spirit. You can make some really cool crafts, and maybe decorate your house with them!

Snow Globe

Materials that you need are:

- A Lego or a small plastic figurine
- Water
- Glitter
- Glycerin
- A hot glue gun or superglue
- Sequins



- A spoon
- A glass jar

Directions:

1. Use your glue gun to glue any figurines of your choice inside of your jar lid.
*If you are a little kid, have an adult do it for you, or have adult supervision.
2. After the glue dries, use a spoon to pour water into your jar
3. Use your spoon again to pour glitter and sequins into the water
4. Pour some glycerin into your jar, also using the spoon
5. Finally, tightly close up the jar with the lid, and decorate your house!

Bubble Wrap Christmas Tree

Materials that you need are:

- White card stock
- Shades of green paint
- Scissors
- A sheet of bubble wrap
- A wood star
- A paintbrush
- Gold and silver glitter
- Gold paint
- Glue



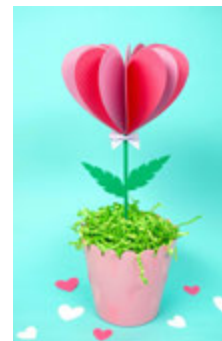
Directions:

1. Paint the bubble wrap
2. Place the painted bubble wrap on the white card stock (bubble side down)
3. When the paint dries, use a tree template to cut out the tree(s) and tree trunk(s)
4. Put glue on the tree trunk(s) and glue to tree(s)
5. Paint the the star(s), and put it on the top of the tree(s)
6. Tie a ribbon(s) on the tree(s)
7. Finally, go decorate your Christmas tree!

Heart flower

Materials that you need are:

- Different colors of construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- A hot glue gun
- Skewers (Bamboo)
- Different shades of green paint
- A few paintbrushes



Directions:

1. Cut the construction paper into ten little hearts, and fold each one in half
2. Take a bamboo skewer, and paint it green
3. Use a glue stick to stick each folded side of the heart together
4. Use the hot glue gun to glue the skewer to the big heart that you glued together
5. Put them around your house, and have a Happy Valentine's Day!

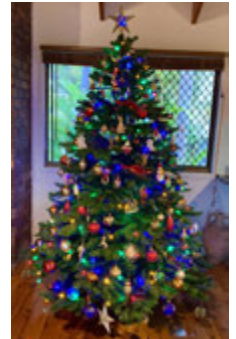
Winter Holidays

By Sophia Cardone and Michaela Cappadona

There are many amazing holidays in the winter season. These are some of them!

Christmas

Christmas is one of these amazing holidays that many people celebrate. During the holidays many people decorate their houses with festive decorations. Another Christmas tradition is putting out cookies for Santa Claus on Christmas Eve. This tradition is especially fun for kids! Also, during this holiday season Santa's elves visit each house and hide in different places each day. Gingerbread house making is another tradition that some families have. These houses are used as decorations or you can eat them while they are still fresh. Another fun tradition that is similar to the last is to make gingerbread cookies and other festive treats, and decorate them with friends and family. As you can see, Christmas is a very busy and exciting holiday.



Hanukkah



Hanukkah is another holiday that lots of families celebrate. Lighting the candles on a Menorah each day for eight days is something that lots of families do to celebrate this holiday. Another wonderful tradition that you do on Hanukkah is eat chocolate coins and latkes. The dreidel is a fun game that many families play. Singing is another tradition that is so much fun to do. The yummy foods that people eat on Hanukkah are challah, latkes, Hanukkah cookies, doughnuts, matzah ball, brisket, applesauce, kugel, and rugelach. There are other games such as toss a ring on the Menorah and find the gelt. Hanukkah is a fun and wonderful holiday.



New Year's



The New Year is a great time to celebrate with family and friends, to make resolutions, and to eat fun foods! Many people make resolutions to start the new year off with goals to achieve. A resolution is a goal you set for yourself to achieve before the year is over. Some people like to set harder goals than others because they want to do hard things. You should always make goals for yourself. Another fun way to celebrate the new year is staying up later than you normally would. If you stay up until midnight you can watch the ball drop in New York City on TV. If you feel up to it you can even go watch the ball drop in person with your family. Many people stay home for this holiday and gather with close relatives to eat, play games, and celebrate new year with their own



unique traditions. As you can see the beginning of the year is the most exciting time of the year!

Kwanzaa

If you are unfamiliar with Kwanzaa, you may think Kwanzaa is exactly like Hanukkah, but it is actually way different and really fun in its own way. To start, Kwanzaa is celebrated for seven days unlike Hanukkah which is celebrated for eight days. One thing people do for fun to celebrate Kwanzaa is put up lots of decorations! The traditional colors of Kwanzaa are red, green, and black. Something that is similar to Hanukkah is that Kwanzaa is celebrated with candles held by a Kinara instead of a Menorah.



During Kwanzaa an important tradition is honoring your ancestors.

You do this by pouring libations into the unity cup. Every day water, juice, or wine is poured into the cup. After everyone drinks from the cup, they all discuss their ancestors and other great African Americans as a family. Kwanzaa is truly an amazing holiday to celebrate!



These are the amazing holidays people celebrate in the wonderful winter season. It is the most magical time of the year. So next time you put out your Christmas cookies or you light a candle think about the tradition and what it truly means to you and your family!

Top February Vacation Spots

By Arsh Nadgauda

Orlando, Florida

One February vacation spot is Orlando, Florida. Orlando is a warm place in February. Forecasts vary around mid-75 degrees Fahrenheit. Orlando is full of activities. One activity is to go to Universal Studios. Universal Studios has lots of adventure, and entertainment. It includes awesome rides. Through all the amazing rides, the Velocicoaster takes the cake. It is the best Jurassic Park ride. It is a thrilling ride that is ready to frighten you. Another thing to enjoy at Universal Studios is a water park. You can never go wrong with a little bit of fun in a water slide. The best slide is the Krakatau Aqua Coaster. It runs through Volcano Bay. It's an exciting ride that moves up and down showing the interior of the volcano. Also, food is awesome. For vegetarians, one really good restaurant will be Leguminati. It has delicious foods. A seafood place would be Ocean Prime. It is a perfect place to eat for seafood lovers. These are some of the fun and awesome places in Orlando, Florida.



Honolulu, Hawaii

Another February vacation spot is Honolulu. It is a place with perfect weather, and diverse activities. First, you can visit the Honolulu Zoo. It is very popular. Once you step into the African Savannahs, the Reptile Garden, and the Bird Sanctuary, you wouldn't even feel like you are in Hawaii. Next, the best place to eat in Honolulu is Hoku's Kahala. It is located in an elegant Kahala Hotel which is a treat to visit itself. There are many delicious options that you could eat. Also, one of the best things to eat is the Hawaiian

Shaved Ice. You can also capture the beautiful waterfall and explore the tropical jungle. Lastly, if you want to keep your wallet busy, you could visit the Oahu Outlet Mall. As you can see, there is so much to do, but so little time.



Lunar New Year

By Irene Kang

The conspicuous red decor adorning the houses, sweet smells of traditional Chinese treats wafting in the air, and a table with the whole family gathered around- it's Lunar New Year!



There are many extraordinary holidays that people from around the world celebrate, whether it be because of religion, culture, or other reasons. One of the many celebrated occasions is the Lunar New Year. It marks the bringing of spring and the new year going by the lunar(or lunisolar) calendar. China, Korea, Vietnam, and many other countries with an overseas Chinese population most commonly celebrate it. It lasts about 15 days, and every year is associated with one of the 12 zodiac animals. The Lunar New Year will be celebrated on February 10, the year of the Dragon.

Although the Lunar Year was traditionally a time to honor ancient deities and ancestors, today it has also become a time to bring the entire family together. They hang up red decorations, set off fireworks, receive/give red envelopes of money, and even follow a couple of superstitions. Families typically hang up all kinds of red decorations around the house because red supposedly wards off spirits and bad luck. Families set off fireworks to celebrate the days too. In many places that celebrate it, friends and family give each other red envelopes, with money representing good spirit and fortune for the receiver. In Korea, children bow down to their guardians, who give them money. Right before New Year's, people will set off fireworks. They're used to brighten the sky, but their symbolism is to drive away evil with them. No porridge, no black or white clothes, or odd amounts of money.

The Lunar New Year is a time when many families gather together, and many other events brighten up the days of festivities. To everyone who is a fellow celebrator of the Lunar New Year, enjoy the days and spend time with your family.



Recipes

Winter Recipes: Hot Chocolate & Brownies

By Rayna Nadgauda

Winter is here! Do you want to have warm, cozy recipes? Well, you are reading the right article. In this article, I will show you how to bake cookies and some of the BEST hot chocolate.

Hot Chocolate

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup of granulated sugar
- ¼ cup of unsweetened cocoa powder
- 4 cups whole milk
- ½ cup semi sweet chocolate (chunks or chips)
- ½ tsp of vanilla extract

Directions:

- In a medium saucepan, mix together the cocoa powder and sugar. Add the milk vanilla and chocolate chips (or chunks) and whisk together.
- Place over medium heat, and bring to a boil while stirring constantly. Be sure the chocolate is incorporated and fully melted.
- Lastly, pour into glasses and serve with whipped cream, and marshmallows (optional)

Credits: Natasha's Kitchen



Christmas Cookies

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of unsalted butter
- 1 cup of caster sugar
- 1 ½ tsp of vanilla extract
- 1 large egg
- 3 cups of flour
- ¾ tsp of baking powder
- ¾ tsp salt



Directions:

- Preheat Oven to 180°C / 350°F (160°C fan). Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.
- Beat butter and sugar in a large bowl until creamy (1 minute on speed 5) Add egg and vanilla, beat until completely combined. Add flour, baking powder, and salt.

- Start mixing slowly, then beat until the flour is incorporated – it will be clumpy. Dust the work surface with flour, scrape dough out of the bowl.
- Pat together then cut in half, then shape into 2 discs. Roll out to 0.3cm / 1/8" (for thinner, crispier cookies) or 0.6cm / 1/4" (for thicker, softer cookies), sprinkling with flour under and over the dough so it doesn't stick. Use cookie cutters to press out shapes and use a knife or spatula to transfer shapes to prepared baking sheets. (Keep dough that doesn't fit in the oven in the fridge).
- Bake for 10 minutes, swapping trays halfway (Note 2), until the surface is pale golden and the edges are just beginning to turn light golden. Allow cookies to cool completely on trays (they will finish cooking on the trays).

Credits: [recipetineats](#)

CONTESTS

Winter Poetry & Snowman Drawing Contest Winners

Contests by: Kelly Bae



Claire Ra, 5th grade



Janice Kim, 5th grade



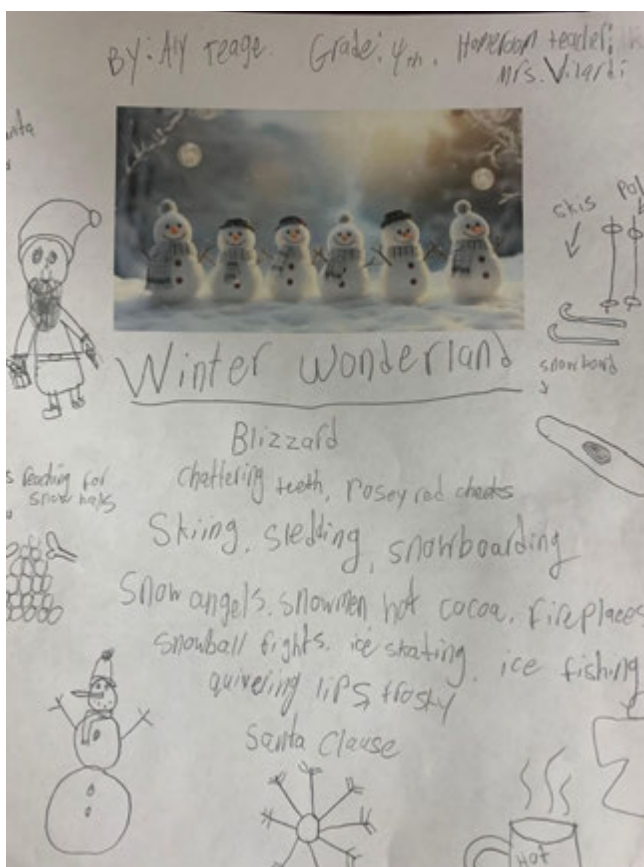
David Kim, Kindergarten



Olivia Jeon, 2nd grade



Sophia Teague, Grade 5



Aly Teague, Grade 4

FUN PAGES

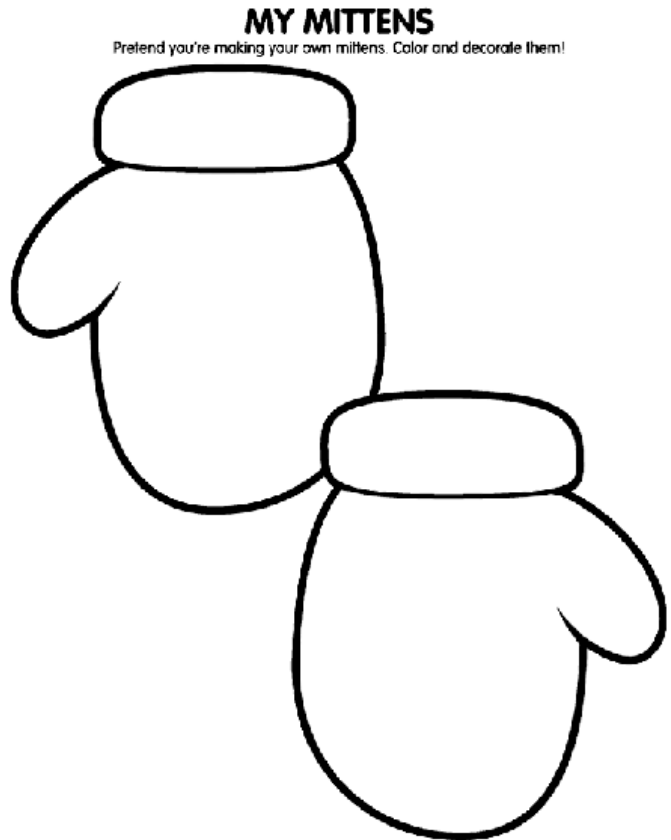
LET THE EXCITEMENT OF WINTER BREAK BEGIN!

WINTER RIDDLES

1. What is it called when a snowman throws a tantrum?
2. What is a snowman's favorite aunt?
3. What do snowmen call their offspring?
4. What do mountains wear to keep them warm?
5. How did the snowman get to work?

Answers:

1. A Meltdown 2. Aunt Arctica 3. Chill-dren 4. Snowcaps 5. By icicle



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