

# THE FORDS FORUM



## Writings from the Middle School



(Image Courtesy of The Haverford School SmugMug)



***A Reflection from the MS  
Jewish Affinity Group***  
William Armstrong (pg. 17)



***Pandemic Halloween***  
Connor Simpkins (pg. 7)



***6th Grade Poems and Book  
Reviews***  
(pgs. 3-6)

# From The Student Council



## A Letter From The Middle School President

Will Suter (Form II)

Dear Middle School,

It's been one trimester already which means we're already  $\frac{1}{3}$  finished the year. It saddens me to hear that we have to go virtual but I know it's for the best. Luckily we have had the welcome addition of Ms. Monroy to help coordinate the virtual learning experience. I would love to see us come back to in person school as soon as possible, but as we all know the safety of our students and faculty is the number one concern. Even while we are virtual, staying safe is still a major concern so we can come back as soon as possible and stay healthy in general. I hope everyone takes their opportunities to get outside and get some fresh air while we are online. Speaking of opportunities, we have all had the wonderful

opportunity to learn and grow as a community through DEI time and the book *Stamped*.

**A**gain, I am very sad we are going virtual as are some of you I'm sure, but we have to make the best of it. I have no doubt that we will all have a great virtual experience with all the hard work all of our teachers are putting in this year. I hope that while we are/go virtual we can all still stay connected and keep the community environment we have now. Thank you for your time and I hope you all have a great holiday season.

Sincerely,  
Will Suter

## Fords Forum Word Scramble

Hello contestants, and welcome to to the Fall 2020 Fords Forum Word Scramble! The objective of this competition and newspaper tradition is to find the marked letters in this issue of the paper and unscramble them to find a hidden word or phrase. To compete, all you have to do is find the letters and unscramble the message. Once you have the message unscrambled, contact Ian, Brady, and Ms. Nelson through email and tell them you have the message. If you are the first in your grade to do this, or the first teacher to do so, you will win a prize!

The letters may appear anywhere throughout the paper, so be thorough! There are a total of **9** letters you must find. The 9 letters combine to form **3 words**. Each letter will appear bolded and underlined. It might look something like **T**his (The example is not a part of the Word Scramble).

# Classroom Work



## 6th Grade "Trash Poems"

"Trash"

by Lukas Messick

Circles

A tiny ant emerges from an egg

He eats, he cleans, he forages

Then he lies down and dies

But from his corpse arises new life

A baby bird cracks though to the light

She devours, she flies, she hunts

Then she becomes tired and does not have food  
and dies

After death new life appears

A miniscule frog reaches for the sun

It catches, it eats, it kills

Then it goes on a street and gets runs over by a  
car

But after death life comes again

Companies make things

We buy things, we use things, we abuse things

Then we throw things out

But no new life emerges

[sic]

"Trash"

by Thomas Springer

Stank of sweet hard candy on a stick. Lay there  
ready to stick on to a shoe. It's color reflecting the  
pain of the pollution. It is left there until picked up  
and put in the trash can next to it. But it is left  
there but not alone for there is more.

[sic]



"Trash"

by Finn French

A clear object that can blow in the wind when empty  
but stay still when full

It can be wrapped with blue labels or any other color  
Recyclable these object are but often get thrown in  
the trash

These objects are used a lot even when people think  
they should not be used.

[sic]



# 6th Grade "Trash Poems" (cont.)



"The Cycle"  
by Theo Reed

There can be many  
different cycles like a  
life cycle or a bi cycle  
and many more  
But one of the most  
important cycles  
that nobody thinks about  
is a trash cycle

Like when you just  
finished a six pack and  
then threw  
it in the trash and think  
its ok just for this one  
time

Well it's not. Then that  
six pack ends up in the  
ocean and kills a  
baby turtle, then you will  
realize what

One decision about  
throwing something away  
in the trash or recycling  
can really do to this  
earth.

[sic]



shutterstock.com • 1652867971

"Plastic Bag"  
by Brandyn Luong

"A discarded item left in the depths of a blank  
void.

An item of no purpose posing as a piece of  
history."

These words flew around my vacant mind.

The piece of trash lay inside a tiny bin.

Was it going to rot away? Perhaps not there  
but somewhere.

After being loaded onto a blue disposal vehicle,  
the item sat waiting.

Finally, it's departure arrived. A new home  
awaited a lonely object.

A landfill. Three days had just passed, more  
trash entering the landfill.

The days morphed into months, the months  
turning into years.

This cycle kept growing until many centuries  
passed by. Trash is a lonely being.

[sic]



# 6th Grade Book Reviews



During virtual school or upcoming breaks from school, you may find yourself with more time to read. But, sometimes it's hard to find a good book, especially when we aren't able to physically go to the library. Fortunately, we have MackinVIA as well as personal book deliveries from Mr. Newman. If you still aren't sure about *what* book you should try, consider some of these recommendations from the 6th grade reading class. —Mrs. Karen Suter, 6th Grade Reading Teacher

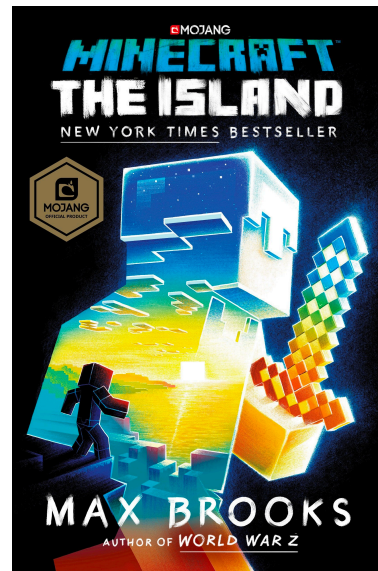
## *Minecraft: The Island* by Max Brooks

Almost everyone on planet Earth has heard of the video-game Minecraft, right? Well, have you wondered what it would be like to live in Minecraft? In this book, somebody wakes up almost drowning in an ocean. They don't know how they got there, but all they know is that they must survive. They swim to find land, and eventually they find THE ISLAND. When they first step foot on the island, they don't know anything about where they are. Along the way of learning to survive on this weird island, they make many friends. You should read this book because it combines the courage of trying new things with the suspense of not knowing much about the environment. One of the best scenes from the book is when the person on the island stands up on top of a hill and looks at what they've done. If you think this book is interesting, buy it now from your local Library, on a KindleTM, BooksTM, get it on Amazon, or anywhere else.

[sic]

## As reviewed by Adam Brown

Image courtesy of amazon.com



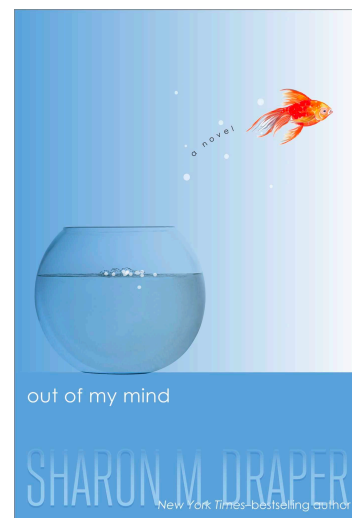
## *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper

Sharon Draper's *Out of My Mind* is a novel highlighting 11-year-old Melody and her disability. Melody is a victim of cerebral palsy, a condition where it limits her movement. In her case, she can't move well or talk. Despite these issues, she can still think and hear, having astonishing intelligence and memory. Seen only for her outward appearance, a layer of disgust and mixed feelings are shone on her, believing that the young girl is retarded. (slow at learning, mistaken for being dumb)

Purchase or check out this book at a library.  
[sic]

## As reviewed by Brandyn Luong

Image Courtesy of amazon.com



# 6th Grade Book Reviews (cont.)



## *Rangers Apprentice* by John Flanagan

If you lived during medieval times, would you want to be a warrior? In the book *Ranger's Apprentice*, you can feel as you are one. As you follow an Apprentice ranger named Will through the vast fantasy land of Araluen you witness Will fighting monsters and killing evil warlords. If you dare to enter the Lands of Arulen, you should get this series at your local library or bookstore.

[sic]

## As reviewed by Topher Jodz

Image  
Courtesy of  
amazon.com



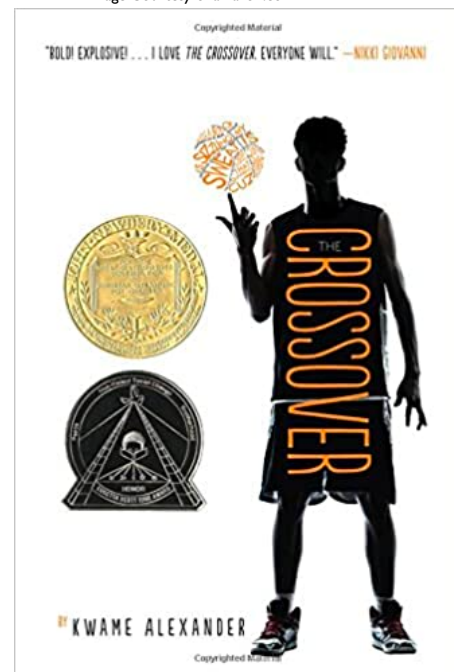
## *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be the **MVP** of your basketball team? *Crossover* is a fiction book, and it's a novel. The setting is about your basketball team. The characters in the book are Josh, Jb and his dad. The problem is Josh had to pick between his relationship or the sport he loves basketball. If you're into basketball or sports you should read this book because it's a nice book for athletes. You want a book that you're into and you can relate to. One quote from the book that was meaningful to me was In this game of life your family is the court and the ball is your heart. Get this book from your library now because I think you might like it.

[sic]

## As reviewed by Caleb Jones

Image Courtesy of amazon.com



## Pandemic Halloween

by Connor Simpkins (Form II)

2020 Halloween was not a usual Halloween. While trick-or-treating was not banned in our area, Montgomery County guidelines asked people to avoid any activity that would create crowds and possibly spread Covid-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention classified trick-or-treating as a high-risk activity. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this was not the year for Halloween parties or other Halloween-related fun.

For most of us, middle school means the end of trick-or-treating, but it does not mean the end of enjoying Halloween. I believe the best part of Halloween is candy, and [according to the National Confectioners Association](#), there is a silver lining this year: Halloween candy sales were up 17%. Halloween isn't about just one specific candy, it is the amalgamation of flavors and smells that occur when Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, Twizzlers, Chewy Sweet Tarts, Sour Patch Kids and Whoppers sit in a bag together. All the candy starts to taste the same, creating one unique flavor, it is the flavor of Halloween. Not even a pandemic can ruin that.

An informal survey of classmates shows that this year most of us stayed at home watching horror movies and eating candy. Zack Oswald (Form II) watched Nightmare on Elm Street and he concluded that 1980's horror movie graphics are not scary. Brady Cross (Form II) hid candy in plastic easter eggs and did a treasure hunt with his family. The general consensus is that we all survived Halloween 2020 with a lot of candy and hope that things will be back to normal and more fun next year. And my conclusion is that as long as we get the candy, nothing else really matters.

Image courtesy of  
Stanford Children's  
Health



# Jane Elliott's Blue v.s. Brown Eyes Diversity Experiment

by Harrison Cross (Form I)



On April 5, 1968, one day after Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, Jane Elliott conducted an experiment with her 3rd Grade students on discrimination. When the students walked in that day, Ms. Elliott asked the kids how they thought it felt to be a black girl or boy. She suggested that it would be hard to understand discrimination without experiencing it. The students all agreed. She then divided the class based on eye color, rather than skin color.

For the first day of the experiment, Jane Elliott told the kids that the kids with brown eyes were superior to the kids with blue eyes. She convinced them with examples such as one blue eyed kid's father kicked him, and no brown eyed kid's father has. She then told the kids that the brown eyed kids had 5 minutes more time at recess, that only they were allowed to use the recess toys, and that the blue eyed kids could not sit with the brown eyed kids. Finally, Jane Elliott made all of the blue eyed kids wear a brown collar.

Jane Elliott then quizzed the kids. The blue eyed kids, even if they did well in school before, had a lower average grade on the test compared to the brown eyed kids grade.

The next day Jane Elliott flipped her statement, and said that the blue eyed kids were better, and again she used examples to support this. At recess that day, a few kids got into a fight, because some blue eyed kids were picking on brown eyed kids. When they took the test, the blue eyed kids did better than the brown eyed kids. This showed that when you think you are inferior, you act like it too.

At the end of this experiment, Jane Elliott explained to the kids that what they just experienced was discrimination. Although there are some flaws to the experiment, it teaches a really good lesson to the people experiencing it. When Jane Elliott conducted this same experiment on adults, they acted very similar to the kids. With some changes, this lesson should be taught in all schools.

image  
courtesy  
of  
how  
stuff  
works  
.com



# Veterans Day

by Brandyn Luong (6th Grade)



4 Years of Fighting. 4 Years of warfare. It was World War I. World **W**ar I, also referred to as the "Great War," was one of the deadliest wars in history. Almost 20 million people died, amounting to about 40 million casualties. Luckily, the war had ceased fighting on November 11, 1918. The war, however, wasn't officially over. After 7 months, The Treaty of Versailles was signed on the 28th of June to officially end it. Now you may ask, "Why is Veterans Day on November 11, rather than June 28?" Because the war had technically ended in the eleventh month, Veterans Day is celebrated in November. The reason behind this annual celebration is to commemorate our veterans and their hard work. Some ways to give thanks to our veterans are to write letters to them or even to visit events in your area. Whether it be you show your gratitude to our amazing veterans, note that there's more to the seemingly ordinary holiday.

## -Fun Facts-

1. Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day but after June 1, 1954, the name changed to Veterans Day which commemorates veterans from all wars.
2. The Treaty of Versailles was signed in The Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France.
3. In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day (Veterans Day) with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."



image courtesy of wikipedia.com



# Eagles Injuries 101

by Keith DiMarino (6th Grade)

This year, the Eagles have been getting hit hard with injuries, sacks, and fumbles. Many fans are asking the common question: “How did we go from greatness to darkness so quickly?” There are a few common themes of the 2020 football season: Injuries, turnovers, and sacks.

When asked about the team's struggles, General Manager Howie Roseman said in January 2020, “One of the things that obviously has been an issue for us has been the injury situation. In 2017, we were able to overcome it. In the last two years, the injuries have really hurt our football team. Injuries are going to happen. But we have to figure out a way to get better here.”

If you look at the Eagle’s injury statistics, it is clear that the Eagles are having an increase of injuries each year. The chart below shows the total number of reported injuries from 51 in 2016 to 209 in 2019. To be fair, the NFL reported more injuries in 2019 than in previous years. Therefore, statistics may not be 100% correct, however, the increase is still shown.



Injuries increased an exceptional amount in 2018 and 2019: 69% and 137%, respectively. Some reasons for this increase may be age, skill or the COVID-19 pandemic. During COVID, players could not train or play during the pre-season as much as in other years. This could cause players to be out of shape, not stretched, or not ready to play when the season starts.

<u>Eagles Historical Injuries By Year/Type</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020 (10/21/20)</u>
Questionable	30	36	40	30	7
Doubtful	2	16	1	2	1
Out	19	0	47	46	26
Injured Reserve	0	0	0	124	80
Physically Unable to Perform	0	0	0	7	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>148</b>
<u>% increase/Decrease per Year</u>		2.0%	69.2%	137.5%	n/a

From [www.Pro-Football-Reference.com](http://www.Pro-Football-Reference.com)



## Eagles Injuries 101 (cont.)

by Keith DiMarino (6th Grade)

Total # of Players on Injured Reserve	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (10/21/20)
All Teams, Total Injured Players	-	522	513	536	527
NFL Average per Team (32 Teams)	-	16	16	17	16
Eagles, Total # Injured Players	-	14	15	18	22
% Increase/ Decrease Eagles vs Average		-14%	-6%	7%	34%
% Increase from 2017 (Eagles)		0	-55%	-153%	-337%

From [www.sportrac.com](http://www.sportrac.com)

The chart above shows the total number of players on injured reserve by year. In 2019 and 2020 the Eagle's injuries are above the league average by 7% and 34%. If you consider the Eagles in 2017, they were 14% below the league average. But now, they are 34% above the league average. The Eagles average in 2020 is almost 3.3 times higher than in 2017. The increase seems unreal. Every year there have been soft tissue injuries, torn muscles, ACLs, stress fractures, you name it and we've had it!

The team's coach, Doug Peterson, is a little worried about this season's injuries as well. Not many people were impressed when Doug Peterson answered a reporter's question with, "It takes time for people to heal so just wait." Overall it might take a long time for this team to heal up and find new players that are young enough and able to play. Until then, the fans should watch every game with low expectations and I be grateful for each win.



Enjoy your  
Holiday  
Season!

image courtesy of [eco18.com](http://eco18.com)

# Oculus Quest 2: Everything You Need to Know

by Jack Ford (Form I)



## Introduction

Just two months ago, on September 16th, 2020, Facebook/Oculus announced the Oculus Quest 2 at their yearly press conference, Facebook Connect. The Oculus Quest 2 is Facebook's hybrid VR headset and successor to the original Oculus Quest. It can run a fully tracked VR experience with no PC, external sensors, or phone required, making it a fully standalone VR headset. It also has the ability to play PCVR with Oculus Link and a compatible Gaming PC. Priced at just \$299, the Quest 2 is not just the cheapest VR headset out there, but also the best. So what makes it the best and how can Facebook make it so cheap?

## What Is it?

For those few who have no idea what Virtual Reality or the Oculus Quest is, I will give a quick explanation. A virtual reality headset is a device that gets strapped to your head and has lenses and a screen inside. This allows you to get fully immersed in a game instead of just seeing it on a flat-screen device. It also includes two controllers so your hands and body can be in VR as well. But, these devices usually require a high-powered gaming PC and sensors. With the release of the Oculus Quest, you no longer need sensors or a gaming PC, all you need is the headset. Why It's The Best

## Why It's The Best

As mentioned before, the Oculus Quest 2 is one of the best consumer VR headsets out there.

But why? First of all, the Oculus Quest 2 is a hybrid headset. This means that you can play VR without a Gaming PC, wires, or anything else needed, which is a luxury not many VR headsets have. What you get in the box is all you need for an immersive VR experience. But, if you own a Gaming PC and are looking to play PCVR, the Quest 2 can use Oculus Link to turn it into an amazing PCVR headset as well, allowing you to play thousands of games with great graphics.

Second of all, the specs. Now I could bore you by listing every spec, but here is all you really need. The Quest 2 features the brand new Qualcomm XR2 chip, making it at least 2x faster than the Quest 1. It also features a resolution of 1832 x 1920 per eye, which is a massive step up from almost any VR headset out there, even ones priced at \$1000. Basically, it's a massive step up in every way, and it's almost like comparing the iPhone 12 to the iPhone 8. Finally, it features a redesigned controller that feels better and is stronger in your hand. If you want a full video covering all of the specs and comparing them to the Quest 1, here is a link: <https://youtu.be/7ecz3AQIIC0>.



image courtesy of youtube.com

# Oculus Quest 2: Everything You Need to Know (cont.)

by Jack Ford (Form I)



Finally, it's **A**ndroid operating system allows users to do all kinds of things, ranging from sideloading 3rd party apps (VR or not), all the way to loading an entire Linux operating system onto it, which I have recently done. This type of stuff allows you to get the most out of your Quest 2 and ensure you are using it to its full extent.

## Issues With The Quest 2

As good as the Quest 2 is, there are some issues with it that need to be addressed. First of all, Oculus definitely had to cut back on materials to make it so cheap. The biggest example of this is the strap that goes around your head. The original Quest had a rubbery, springy strap while the Quest 2 has a flimsy fabric strap that is obviously cheaper to make. Luckily, Oculus has made a \$50 Elite Strap to compensate for this problem. Another issue is the lack of a manual IPD slider. For the majority of you that don't know, IPD is the space between your eyes, and an IPD slider moves the lenses to fit your eyes. But the Quest 2

only has 3 preset IPD settings to switch between, so if you don't fit those the screen can be blurry. Finally, you need a Facebook account in order to use the headset. If you don't have one of those, you have to make one or you can't use the headset. It is very disappointing and is the main reason some people aren't buying these headsets.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the Oculus Quest 2 is a massive step above the original Quest and most other headsets. Not only can it play both standalone and PCVR, but it also has next-gen specs making it a cut above the rest. Sadly, it is made of cheap materials and requires a Facebook login, but those are minor issues. At just a \$300 price point, anyone can get into VR and have an amazing experience exploring new realities and conquering distant worlds.



image courtesy of [cdn.wccftech.com](https://cdn.wccftech.com)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

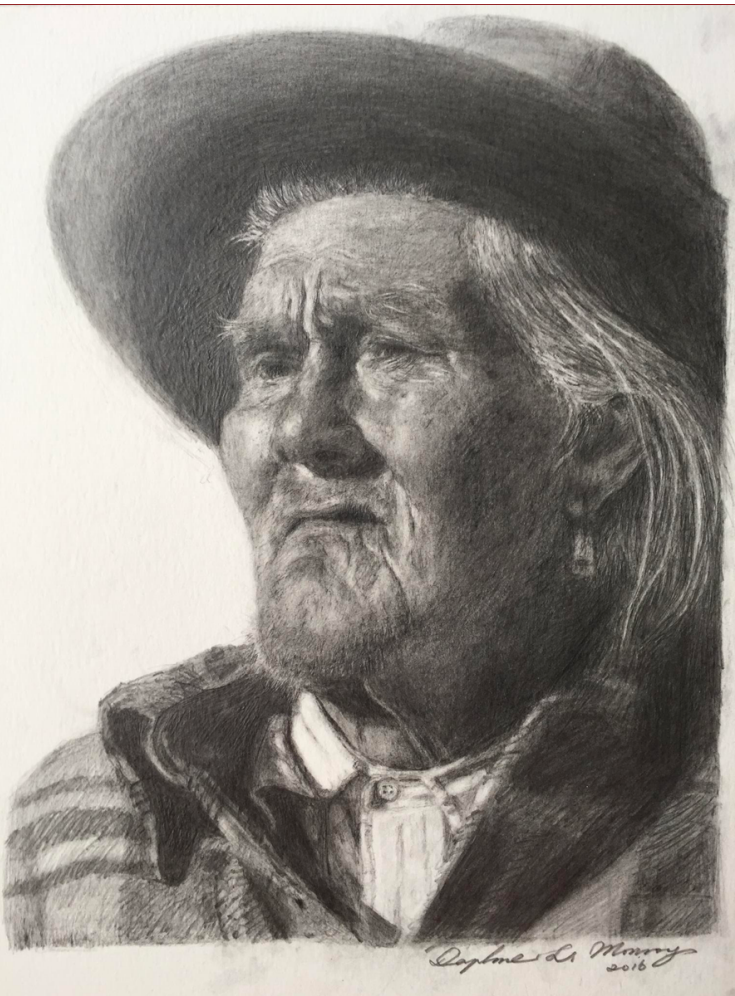


# The Tesla Cybertruck

by Seth Virmani (Form I)

Tesla is a popular electric car company. They have made four models of cars since 2008. Each model sells around 40k dollars. Recently, Elon Musk the owner of Tesla, revealed the newest installment in the company's lineup of cars. It's called the Tesla Cyber Truck. This truck can go from 0 to 60 miles per hour in 6 seconds. That is crazy fast! The car has not been released to the public yet. Musk says that the price will be \$39,000. Many people were surprised by this and thought that the price would be \$50,000. The length of the car will be 19.33 feet. The height will be 6.25 feet. The wheelbase will be 149.9 inches. The car does not yet have a set amount of

colors. The only color that is confirmed is gray. However, Elon Musk's CEO says that the truck will include brand new colors. Another interesting thing about this truck is that it had plans to keep a small size. However, Musk scrapped the idea and decided to keep the massive size. The car will have bullet proof windows like police cars. However, something embarrassing happened in November of 2019 with this idea. Elon Musk held a demo and wanted to test out the window. The glass was not thick enough and he ended up breaking it. There is so much that is unknown about this amazing car and maybe it will be the best car ever!



"How are you?"

by Ms. Daphne Monroy

# Guess That Faculty Member!



Have you ever wondered how well you know the Middle School faculty? Well, here's a chance for you to test your knowledge. Some members of the Fords Forum have gone to 4 faculty members and asked them a predetermined set of questions. Below, each of the teachers have been listed with the questions and their answers. If you are able to determine the unknown teachers correctly and share your answers with Ian, Brady, and Ms. Nelson and the editors, you have the opportunity to win a prize!

The first student in each grade as well as the first faculty member to submit all of the correct answers are eligible for the reward. Good luck!

## Faculty Member #1

**1. What college/university did you attend?**

Answer: West Chester University

**2. Who is your favorite author?**

Answer: Laurie Halse Anderson

**3. What is your favorite book?**

Answer: *Speak*

**4. Who is your favorite actor/actress?**

Answer: Viola Davis, Rob McClure

**5. What is your favorite place on campus?**

Answer: Wings of Centennial Hall Stage

**6. What is your favorite movie?**

Answer: *Dead Poets Society*, *Shawshank*

*Redemption*, *Hamilton*

## Faculty Member #2

**1. What college/university did you attend?**

Answer: University of Pennsylvania

**2. Who is your favorite author?**

Answer: Homer, Gabriel Garcia Márquez, J.D. Salinger, Thomas Mann

**3. What is your favorite book?**

Answer: *The Odyssey*, *Hundred Years of Solitude*, *Catcher in the Rye*

**4. Who is your favorite actor/actress?**

Answer: Amaiia Salamanca, Dustin Hoffman, Robin Williams, Bruno Ganz, Penelope Cruz, Sophia Loren, Marlene Dietrich

**5. What is your favorite place on campus?**

"Right in front of you guys sharing my awe for learning"

**6. What is your favorite movie?**

Answer: Lawrence of Arabia

# Guess That Faculty Member!



## Faculty Member #3

**1. What college/university did you attend?**

Answer: University of Pennsylvania

**2. Who is your favorite author?**

Answer: William Shakespeare

**3. What is your favorite book?**

Answer: *Mindset*

**4. Who is your favorite actor/actress?**

Answer: Tom Hanks

**5. What is your favorite place on campus?**

Answer: Middle School Faculty Lounge

**6. What is your favorite movie?**

Answer: Les Miserables

## Faculty Member #4

**1. What college/university did you attend?**

Answer: Georgetown University

**2. Who is your favorite author?**

Answer: E. E. Cummings

**3. What is your favorite book?**

Answer: *The Last Days of Summer*

**4. Who is your favorite actor/actress?**

Answer: Kevin Costner

**5. What is your favorite place on campus?**

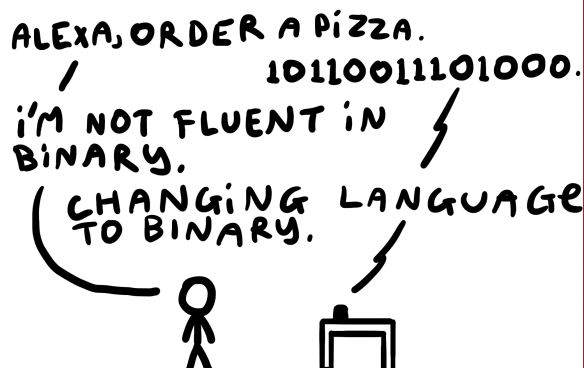
Answer: The Dining Hall

**6. What is your favorite movie?**

*Gladiator*

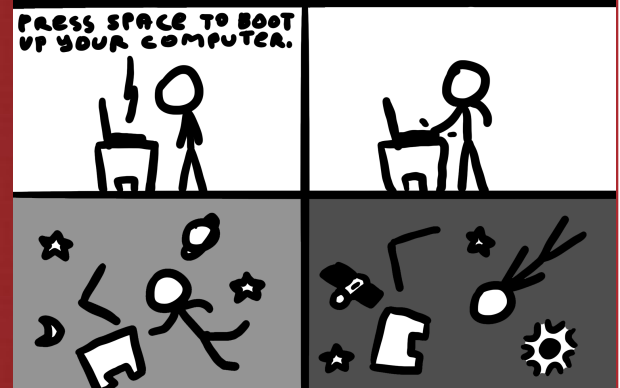
**“Alexa”**  
by Thomas Lentz

### ALEXA



**“Space”**  
by Thomas Lentz

### SPACE



# A Reflection from the MS Jewish Affinity Group



## There's No Place for Hate at Haverford

by William Armstrong (6th Grade)

As you surely have heard, a hate crime has been committed in the Upper School. Many students have been deeply affected and are continuing to feel a mirage of negative emotions ranging from fear to anger. It is especially troubling at current times where we all have been learning to respect diversity and our different backgrounds more than ever before.

This terrible action goes against everything that Haverford stands for. It goes against all of our virtues and most importantly it goes against the Haverford Code of Conduct. Our virtues are perseverance, courage, humility, confidence, selflessness, justice, honor, teamwork, loyalty, sharing, honesty, dedication, scholarship, integrity, compassion, respect, freindship, character, support, leadership, communication, dependability, initiative, and creativity. Most of those virtues were broken in that horrifying act.

High school teachers have conducted an investigation and have assured us that the culprit will be brought to justice. Although we are all glad they are focusing on that, it is also surely creating speculation and division at a time in our school year where we have just started to bond with our new classmates. It is frightening to think that it could be your best friend, that guy you pass in the hallway, it could even be the person you sit next to in math class.

So what do we do? What can we do to mend the wounds of our community? The one thing we should not do is nothing. We need to continue to spread awareness about diversity in our school. I also think we can help our students connect with each other more, especially this year where social distancing is making it harder to make new friends. We have to try to find ways for interaction with other classes and help everyone make new friends. Kids can learn about each other and bond over interests and hobbies. Finding ways for students to express their feelings through open talk discussions either in person or virtual. We can regain our trust and respect for others if we listen and learn.



## **"Court Packing" in the USA: Past, Present, and Future**

by Ian Rosenzweig (Form II)

Upon the death of Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on September 18, 2020, President Donald Trump nominated Amy Coney Barrett, who was a judge on the 7th Circuit Appellate Court, to fill the open seat on the Supreme Court. Just two months out from the 2020 Presidential Election, this nomination became a strong debate in the United States Senate. Barrett was confirmed with a 52-48 senate vote, one of the closest passing votes in history. Her confirmation gave conservatives a 6-3 edge on the court, with three of the six conservatives being Trump appointees. Upon fear of the democratic agenda, especially that of President Barack Obama and President-Elect Joe Biden being blocked, some democratic senators, including senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) began to discuss court reform. This was quickly labeled by President Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) as an attempt to pack the courts, an imminent threat and abuse of power. People in our community and around the country on both sides of the aisle began to argue without knowledge of the Supreme Court's function and purpose, its history, and what "court-packing" really is. Some argue that court-packing is adding justices to the court to create a majority of a greater number of justices. Others define it as a partisan shift in the court's power, keeping the

justices at any convenient number but confirming justices to secure a majority. To properly define the term, the court's history must be traced back to its conception.

America's Founding Fathers created a system of Checks and Balances to ensure that none of the three branches of government, the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch, and the Judicial Branch, became too powerful. The Judicial Branch is responsible for keeping the other branches "in check" by following the standard of the laws outlined by the Constitution. The branch is kept "in check" by the legislative and executive branches as they preside over appointments to positions in the judiciary.

The highest court in the Judicial Branch is the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court hears cases who's original decisions and appellate level decisions are appealed by the non-prevailing party, with the hope that the decision could be reversed. The court is made up of nine justices--eight associates and one chief justice. The number of justices on the court has ranged from five to ten since its creation in 1789, with the number having been set at nine since the Judiciary Act of 1869. Since then, only once has there been an attempt to change the composition of the court. The Judicial Procedures Reform Bill of 1937, commonly referred to as "The Court-Packing Plan," (hence

# **"Court Packing" in the USA: Past, Present, and Future**

## **(cont.)**



by Ian Rosenzweig (Form II)

Plan," (hence the label by Trump and McConnell) was an attempt by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to fill the court with up to six extra justices, for a total of 15, and to give the president the ability to appoint a new justice every time a sitting justice reached the age of 70 and failed to retire. The goal was to flip the court to a liberal majority and ensure that President Roosevelt's "New Deal" legislation, which the Supreme Court would have ruled unconstitutional, would pass. The judicial reform legislation was unveiled on February 5, 1937. Just weeks later, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Washington state minimum wage legislation, the case *West Coast Hotel Co. v. Parrish*. This ended a period of the court known as the "Lochner Era" during which the court leaned conservative and tended to rule against business-regulation and pro-worker initiatives. They ruled businesses to be protected by the 14th amendment's "freedom of contract." Although the ruling in *West Coast Hotel* consisted of both conservative and liberal judges in the majority and the minority, the 5-4 pro-worker decision cited the constitution's protection of liberty, ruling that Washington's minimum wage law was a constitutional regulation of the 14th amendment's freedom of contract. Roosevelt's New Deal was much in line with this decision, as it was his legislation was strongly pro-worker, decidedly so to cope with

the economic strain of the Great Depression. The decision kept Roosevelt from attempting to fill the court with pro-New Deal judges, as he no longer needed to do so to ensure victories for his administration.

Justice Owen Roberts's last-minute decision to vote in favor of mandatory minimum wage and switch the court's decision has been said to be "the switch in time that saved nine." Although Roberts never addressed the rumor and some scholars argue that he voted in accordance with his beliefs, not to save the court, his decision certainly prevented a major shift in the Supreme Court's balance for decades to come.

So where does this fit today? Much like FDR and the New Deal, modern democrats are worried that a conservative majority in the court, solidified by Amy Coney Barrett's confirmation along with conservatives Brett Kavanaugh, Neil Gorsuch, Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas and swing vote Chief Justice John Roberts will beat out the court's three liberal justices, Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, and will block democratic initiatives including those pertaining to the Affordable Care Act (also known as Obamacare) and decisions pertaining to women's reproductive rights, originally decided in 1973 case *Roe v. Wade*.

# **"Court Packing" in the USA: Past, Present, and Future**

## **(cont.)**



by Ian Rosenzweig (Form II)

It has been argued that President Trump “packed the court,” as he confirmed three justices for a 6-3 conservative majority (5-4 with Roberts’s occasional swing). But, if the term “court-packing” is used in its original form, as it was by republican leadership in the 1930s, it is more accurately defined as an addition of justices to the original nine to create a majority, not appointing justices as replacements when a sitting justice retires or dies to swing the majority.

The Supreme Court became a topic at both presidential debates and the vice presidential debate. Many people in the country and in our community were quick to take a position--ranging from those wishing to ensure a conservative majority calling court reform “dangerous” to those with more liberal agendas calling for justices to be added to our nation's higher court if Vice President Joe Biden were to be our next president \*\*.

Only you can decide where you stand. What is more important? The partisanship of the courts or the integrity of our government’s checks and balances system, created to prevent executive overstep? Is addition of justices abuse of power by the executive branch? Or is the true abuse appointing multiple conservative justices in a short time to change the views of the court for generations?

**\*\*As of Saturday, November 7th, 2020 the Associated Press called the race for Biden.**



**1937 US Supreme Court**

Image Courtesy of the Smithsonian Magazine



**2019 US Supreme Court**

Image courtesy of Los Angeles Times

# The 2020 Presidential Election

by Brady Cross (Form II)



The 2020 presidential election has been one of the most important and anticipated elections in recent history. With COVID-19 continuing to spread in our country and the country more divided than ever, the U.S. people voted for their leader for the next four years. The race pitted Republicans' billionaire businessman and incumbent president Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence against Democrats' former Vice President Joe Biden and California's Senator Kamala Harris. Tensions were high leading up to the election, and the two candidates' messages could not have been more different. President Trump was set on making sure his agenda continued to be followed. He was fixed on reopening the country as fast as possible, and bringing the economy back to form no matter what the cost. Biden, on the other hand, preached of togetherness and unity. He wanted to open the country slowly, and save as many lives as possible, even if it hurt the economy. The two also relentlessly went after each other. Trump bashed Biden's son Hunter on rumors of business deals with the Russians, and also went after Biden's past support of the now controversial 1994 Crime Bill. Biden made sure to attack Trump on alleged collusion with the Russian government, and Trump's 2020 impeachment. After what felt like an eternity, November 3rd came and people came out in record numbers to vote. Over 151,000,000,

around 68% of the voting population, came out to vote, with around 101,000,000 people voting early.

As polls closed and votes started to be tallied, President Trump jumped out to an early lead, with massive leads in the key battleground states of Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Georgia. The world watched as votes were counted and Donald Trump's lead continued to grow. Things were looking so good for the sitting President that he declared victory at 2:30 in the morning on November 4, the day after the election. However, by the morning, President Trump's leads had shrunk. This trend continued across the country, and by 5:00 pm on November 4, the media was able to project the key battleground states of Michigan and Wisconsin for Joe Biden, bringing Biden's number of votes to 253, with Trump at 214. The race was not over, though, as the races in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Georgia, Arizona, and Nevada were still too close to call. As the next two days passed, Biden continued to catch up in the states in which he was behind and grow his lead in the states in which he was ahead. Finally, at around 11:00 on November 7, the media was able to predict Joe Biden as the 46th president elect of the United States, with wins in Pennsylvania and Nevada. Over the next week, North Carolina and Alaska were called for President Trump, and Arizona and Georgia were called for Vice President Biden.

# The 2020 Presidential Election (cont.)

by Brady Cross (Form II)



This brought the final electoral vote to 306 for Biden and 232 for Trump, with Biden also winning the popular vote by over 5,000,000 and counting.

Though the media and most of the country agree that Joe Biden is the president-elect, Trump and his legion of supporters are sceptical. Even before the election, President Trump made it clear that he would not accept the results of the election, and that he would fight the counting of the mail-in-ballots. President Trump and his team filed lawsuits in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Wisconsin, Arizona, and Michigan, to try to stop the counting of cast mail-in-ballots by claiming illegality and fraud. When these lawsuits fell through, and Trump's lawyers admitted that there was no evidence of fraud, the Trump campaign pivoted, and filed new lawsuits claiming that Republican poll watchers were not allowed to watch the counting of mail-in-

ballots as closely as Democratic poll watchers.

There is no evidence of these claims, and there is video proof that disproves them. Still, Trump and his lead attorney former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani continue to discount the election and to undermine the legitimacy of the election.

As the lawsuits continue to be dismissed and states continue to certify their election results, Trump's legal path to winning the election is shrinking. Joe Biden is set to be inaugurated on January 20, and Donald Trump will have no choice but to vacate the White House. As one of the most anticipated and divided elections in history comes to a close, the peaceful transition of power that has been practiced in the U.S. for over 200 years will be put to the test as Joe Biden prepares to become the 46th president in the midst of a global pandemic and one of the most polarizing times in our country's history.

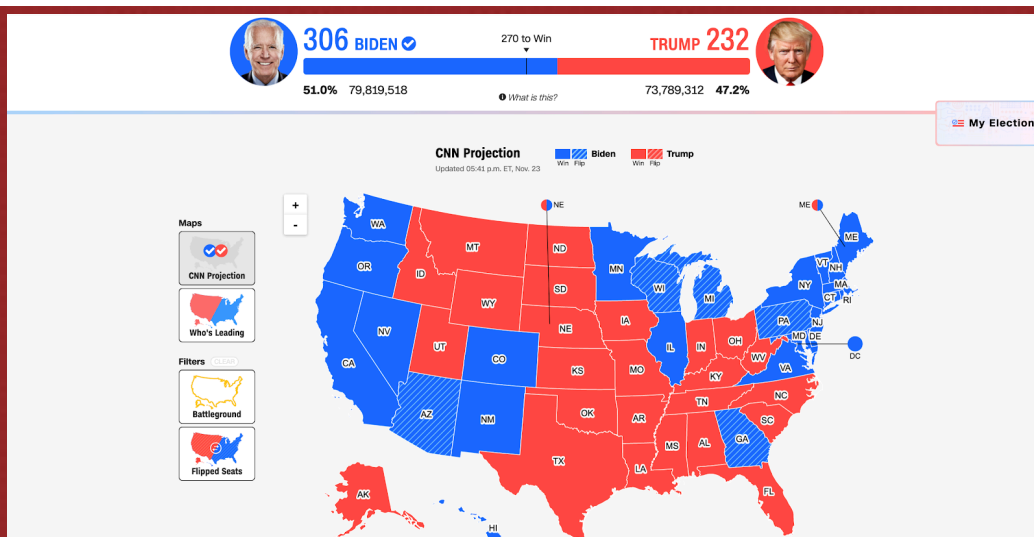


Image courtesy of CNN

# Personal Writings



## "Creating an Inviting Language Classroom through Empathy"

by Ms. Daphne Monroy

New to Haverford this year, Ms. Daphne Monroy is currently teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade and Form I Chinese. One of the professional goals she set up in the beginning of this year was to create an inviting classroom through Empathy. On the first day of the school, she asked for the definition of Empathy, and one student replied with a perfect answer: "Put yourself in other people's shoes." Ms. Monroy then explained what students could do with Empathy in the Chinese classroom. After she created a name tag for each student, Ms. Monroy started to go around the room and say their names. She pronounced the familiar names correctly, but after mispronouncing a few of the student names, Ms. Monroy stopped and shared how she felt. Ms. Monroy explained this is exactly what they were going to experience when learning Chinese—anxiety, nervousness, frustration, making mistakes over and over, etc..

On the second day, Ms. Monroy made the same mistakes again when she tried to pronounce a few of the students' names! And yes, this happens to second language learners as well—they might make the same mistakes again and again until they "notice" their mistakes and eventually are able to "self-correct" themselves. Starting on the second day, the students were getting comfortable in sharing their feelings, and some of them admitted that they did not pronounce their classmates' names correctly either. Ms. Monroy explained further that she was creating a safe and mutually trusting environment in which students feel comfortable to speak a second language and to share their feelings. She promised students that nobody's pronunciation would be laughed at because of the Empathy that everyone embraces.

Finally, on the third day, Ms. Monroy thought she was almost perfect, but she still made a mistake with one student's last name. That student shared that most teachers did not pronounce his last name correctly.



# "Creating an Inviting Language Classroom through Empathy" (cont.)



by Ms. Daphne Monroy

Ms. Monroy was determined to pronounce everybody's English name perfectly, even though she was going to give each student a Chinese name. With Empathy in mind, she does not want students to become perfectionists like her because some of the characteristics of a perfectionist are not beneficial when learning to speak a second language. For example, being afraid of making mistakes might increase delays of production in speaking a second language. Consequently, Ms. Monroy encouraged the students to follow a rule of thumb for learning a second language: "To make a lot of mistakes."

**R**egarding the phrase, "practice makes perfect," Ms. Monroy replaced "practice" with "mistakes" to help students understand it's OKAY to make mistakes and not to be afraid of mistakes.

Everyone knows how intimidating it can be to speak a second language, and it is definitely not easy to get out of one's comfort zone to speak a second language. Fortunately, with Empathy and the inviting classroom Ms. Monroy created, some students shared that Chinese has become their favorite class within just a short one and a half weeks. Ms. Monroy is also very proud of her students being willing to take risks in speaking. She could not be happier with her classes, it's a win-win!



# **"Perspectives Matter"**

by Grayson Morgan (Form I)



This is an exaggerated true story of my experience rescuing neglected dogs from an Amish farm with Bill Smith, owner and creator of I Love 4 Animals, a non-profit animal rescue located in Chester Springs (For more information, visit <https://www.Ilove4animals.org/>).

The first section is my experience and my perspective. The themes we see coming through are curiosity and nervousness. Bill and I arrived at around ten at night. The Amish farm was large, and no trace of electricity could be found. The man who came to greet us was clad in stereotypical farmer clothing: a tan straw hat, overalls, etc. We were there to pick up overage breeding dogs who could no longer be bred, and therefore the Amish could no longer profit from them. Many Amish euthanize their overage dogs, but these particular Amish had a pocket of sympathy in their hearts and turned the dogs over to us.

The second section is the perspective of the dog being rescued. Portrayed are feelings of confusion, desperation, and blind hope. The dog has spent all of his life cooped up in a rabbit hutch with a wire bottom, living in horrible conditions.

Last is the Amish farmer's perspective. The reader gets the sense that he feels guilty and uncomfortable. We often think of his practice (involving animals) as cruel, and inhumane, but in

his society, this is the usual. He does this to make money, and feed his family.

This is NOT meant to be a personal narrative, but instead a demonstration of how three living creatures can see the same thing in three different ways. The boy is shocked by how the dogs are treated and automatically does not like the farmer. The dog isn't quite sure what is going on, but can sense that good is about to come his way. And finally, the Amish farmer is just going about everyday business and providing for his family, doing what he sees necessary. I hope you enjoy it.}

## **My Perspective**

Our large SUV twisted and turned through the narrow gravel road, the only light coming from the car's headlights. Bill and I finally reached the living quarters of this particular Amish farm, at around 10:00 pm. We got out of the car, slipped our phones in our pockets (If we were going to be kidnapped by these farmers, I would at least need some Family Guy to binge-watch), and knocked on the first door we saw. Out emerged a tall man wearing tan clothes and a dark brown straw hat. He had dark brown hair tied back in a bun, a flickering lamp that he held loosely in his hand, and didn't look happy to see us. Bill explained to the man that we were here for two of the dogs that could no longer be bred, and we were going to take them back to Bill's animal

# "Perspectives Matter" (cont.)

by Grayson Morgan (Form I)



The man grunted, simply turned around, and slowly walked away. Bill and I looked at each other puzzled, and as he began to say something, we heard a howl come from behind the man's house. He began to walk a bit more briskly, this time to his backyard, where he picked two dogs up by their necks and brought them over to us. "Thank you, thank you," Bill said.

"Mmmhmmm," grunted the man.

"Here, just put them in the trunk, please," said Bill.

He opened up his trunk, revealing two dog cages. The man threw the first dog into the cage with little care, causing the already dirty and whimpering dog to squeal in pain. He then attempted to do the same with the other dog, but instead just ended up throwing the dog against the top of the car. The dog came tumbling down to the gravel, his side striking sharp rocks. A bead of blood showed through his fur.

"I think I got it," Bill hastily made clear. He lifted the dog gently, placed him in the cage, shut the trunk, and got into the car. I got into the passenger seat, feeling relieved. Bill had a smile spread across his face, and I asked him why he was so happy. He just kept smiling at me, and I could see his passion for animals.

"Thanks," We called back as we sped off into the starry night.

We had already spent enough time there, and it was quite a relief to escape.

## The Dog's Perspective

Man-Who-Feeds-Us arrived as I was adjusting my position in the dirty, cramped rabbit hutch, trying to avoid standing on the wires with my already bloody and puss-filled paws. Even with the flies biting every part of my exposed skin, I knew he was here a little while before he came into sight. His stale-water scent was unmistakable. Sun was already down, and I was not sure why he was here. He reached down to the bottom of the cage and unlatched the creaky, rusted door reaching in with both gloved hands, latching onto myself and a larger dog nearby. I looked into my dog companion's eyes, and I saw my anxious feelings mirrored there. I was trying not to whimper from the pain in my shredded paws. Man-Who-Feeds-Us showed no sympathy from our cries. As we turned the corner, I smelled a faint mixture of unknown dogs and saw another man standing next to a smaller human. There was a big black object, about the size of my rabbit hutch on wagon-like wheels. All of a sudden, this bulky object started to transform, the back lifting to reveal the inside.

What I saw was shocking. Two rabbit hutches that were extremely tiny and smelled like dog urine. I hope we aren't going to cram twelve dogs in there! Man-Who-Feeds-Us threw me into the smallest rabbit hutch, slamming the wire cage. This smaller hutch only hurt my feet a little, for

# "Perspectives Matter" (cont.)

by Grayson Morgan (Form I)



that were extremely tiny and smelled like dog urine. I hope we aren't going to cram twelve dogs in there! Man-Who-Feeds-Us threw me into the smallest rabbit hutch, slamming the wire cage. This smaller hutch only hurt my feet a little, for the bottom part didn't have wire, instead smooth metal covered by a fluffy and warm blanket. Standing anywhere would hurt them with the damage that had already been done. Imagine standing on urine and feces-covered wire for all of your life! Adrenaline was flowing through my body, and while I was nervous as to what was happening, I also had a great deal of hope. And it turned out I was the only one who would be in here at once! I hadn't noticed what had happened to the other dog, for I was preoccupied.

All of a sudden, the back hatch of the black object began closing slowly, and Man-Who-Feeds-Us disappeared. I was suddenly left in the dark, and was scared until I heard a whimper from beside me. The other dog was with me. The front part of this black object opened next and entered the two strangers. The smaller human looked back at me and then away. I heard a rumble and felt myself moving. I knew that not unlike this object I was in, I was moving into a new chapter of my life. I smelled freedom instead of stale-water now.

## The Farmer's Perspective

I awoke to the sound of knocking on my door. Grabbing a lamp, I opened my door to reveal a boy and a grown man around my age. Immediately, I knew they were foreigners from their clothes, but most importantly, their accents. They were here to pick up two female breeding dogs from our farm that could no longer breed. I am a social man, and I wanted to chat with them, but it just felt awkward, and I didn't know what to say. I feel as though they judged me and judged how the Amish treat animals. This bothered me greatly because breeding is how my family and I survive! While walking back to the rabbit hutches, I suddenly heard barking and then a squeal. My steps began to quicken, as I reached the barking dogs. I opened up the cages and grabbed the two breeding dogs. Walking quickly back to the strangers, I heard the man call out to me, asking to load the dogs into the car. I tossed one of them in the car. The adult stranger looked horrified for some reason and gently lifted the other dog into the car. He then briskly shut the trunk, got into the car with the boy, and zoomed off into the night. I was left feeling alone and unwanted. I didn't know why I couldn't have interacted with them more normally, and showed them that despite our differences they shouldn't judge me for my practice. I went back to my house, blew out my lamp, and sat on my bed. Maybe they'd be back?

# "Day of the Dead"

by Luke Brown (6th Grade)



## Day Of the Dead

### Prologue

Our story takes place in Minnesota of the Unnamed town, that's right unnamed, why, well because in 1943 this town was officially built there was a mayor and everything, but on the day of the opening and the naming. The mayor had this dream of the chaotic things that happen in the underworld below him, also that there was a slight crack between the two and all below in hell could come. He woke up, sweating, knowing that it was a dream he then closed his eyes, but he heard a creak, then it rapidly increased and got louder and louder, but before it came he fell asleep, or so he thought.

### R.I.P.

Mayor Stelward

1919-1943

### Chapter One

Spooktober 29, 2021

"So Dylan who'd you get for the night out?", asked Marcy, "Well I have Bobby, Timmy, Simon, Tom and Jose", said Dylan, "No girls, said Marcy with a annoyed look, "Yeah, well they all thought I was asking them out and all said no", Dylan said, "Well I have to get going to make the list and get prepared for tomorrow", said Marcy, "Well, see ya", said Dylan, but she was already out and away. As both of them got prepared for tomorrow

night, others were getting ready for the day of the dead, but why would humans get ready for this day, it had no meaning for them, well this day was not for humans but for the dead themselves ghosts, zombies, skeltons, you name it, but there was one who controlled all, The Devil Ghost of the Underworld. He had a sense that this year would be something else not of the party not of the parade but of the meal. He had this sense once before in 1943, the death of Mayor Stelward. Were you wondering how he died, his fresh soul was taken out of him for a meal of all below the known world. So he sent his devil dogs to go and scout the area and to the Devil Ghost, what they found, was unbelievable, fresh footsteps and a list of six others

### The List

Dylan = Snacks

Tom = Drinks

Timmy = Make list of what to say to parents when leaving house

Bobby = Party Ideas

Simon = Get soda can for kick the can

Jose = Board Games

Marcy = Small generator to power TV

Meet Abandon Mayor House Tomorrow 9:00 pm

# "Day of the Dead" (cont.)

by Luke Brown (6th Grade)



To the Devil Ghost this was extraordinary news for him, this was a date, place, and people. He had all the information needed to capture and take their souls and make a good meal out of them, and that he is in need for death.

## Chapter Two

Spooktober 30, 2021

"So Marcy, you have everything for tonight", asked Dylan, "Well I have the generator, which is all I need. What about you", Marcy replied, "Yep, and I asked everyone else, so it seems like we are all good", Dylan answered, Marcy sighed with relief. "So, I'll see you tonight", asked Dylan, "yeah", replied Marcy, "Well, see you later" answered Dylan, " See you", replied Marcy.

## 5 Hours Later

It was nine O'clock, time for the night out and murder of the unlucky seven. As the Devil Ghost was prepping, so was Marcy, but not for death, but for a night of fun. The seven arrived not knowing of what is to come, their demise; slowly creeping towards them.

"Alright guys, first things first we need to know what to say to our parents when we get, whatcha got Timmy" asked Marcy "Well I ha-, but before he could finish his sentence the soda can started to levitate and to their surprise the devil

ghost came up from hell holding the can. "Sooo, guys you're going to die, do you want to do it the gory or non gory way" asked the Devil Ghost. Village idiot Tom said "Gory!", Almost instantly, Tom, Timmy and JOSE got shredded to pieces by the devil dogs. Bob and Simon tried to run, but too got shredded by the dogs. "Ah, the brains of this silly project" said the ghost looking at Marcy, "And the brawns" dead eyeing Dylan, but before Dylan could look away his eyeballs popped out and so did his soul. "Any last words" asked the ghost in a shrively voice, "Yeah, tell everyone in hell that I said hello", Marcy quickly bangs a nearby stick at the ghost, but it does nothing at all. It just phases through him. "Nice try", he said, "but it's my turn now". Marcy is lifted into the air, the devil ghost's mouth expands a couple feet, and he eats her whole. The Devil Ghost goes back through the ground spitting out some bones.

The End

## Epilogue

The bones were found and no sight of the seven children, so parents sued the mayor. Down below, they were having the party of their life, the seven fresh souls screaming for help.

# "A Strange News Article"

by Alex Scharpf (6th Grade)



## CHEEZ-ITS BANNED FROM LOCAL SCHOOL

### VANDALIST STILL AT LARGE!

On November 14, 2020, an infamous criminal known as "The Dunce" broke into The Haverford School with ludicrous amounts of Cheez-its, a famous snack that was popular at Haverford. School custodian Peter Oreo reported the atrocious crime soon after discovering it. "I had just finished my shift and was about to head home when I saw crushed Cheez-its spread across one of the halls I had recently cleaned." The police and a janitorial service soon entered the school and searched for the criminal. The Dunce was not found. Be aware and stay vigilant! Report any sightings of The Dunce to your nearest police station. For the one who brings this menace to justice will be awarded 2,000 packaging peanuts. **K**ee your valuables safe! Keep your kids close! The Dunce is out there.



Picture of the Dunce in 2017

Previous crimes include

- Stealing packaging peanuts from local Walmart on Old Town Road
- Blocking off detour routes during a thunderstorm on Sesame Street
- Rigging carnival games at the Hobbitville anniversary celebration (See article 143, "The Bag End Bash")
- Attempting to revive the Soviet Union in a Home Depot located in King of Prussia (See article 291, "Commie Craze")
- Selling the Columbian Cartel doughnuts (See article 69, "The Doughnut Deliverer")
- Thinking that entering a store without a mask was a good idea

Contact:

[ianrose@haverford.org](mailto:ianrose@haverford.org)  
[bradcros@haverford.org](mailto:bradcros@haverford.org)  
[tnelson@haverford.org](mailto:tnelson@haverford.org)  
[kbrown@haverford.org](mailto:kbrown@haverford.org)  
to join our club today!

---

Special Thanks to:

Dr. Greytok,  
Ms. Nelson, &  
Mrs. Brown for their  
support and  
leadership

---

### **Meet Our Staff**

Ian Rosenzweig (Editor)  
Brady Cross (Editor)  
Ms. Tracy Nelson (Faculty)  
Mrs. Kori Brown (Faculty)

### **Contributors**

Bernard Bercik (I)  
Luke Brown (6)  
Harrison Cross (I)  
Keith DiMarino (6)  
Mookie Dombar (6)  
Jack Ford (I)  
Finn French (6)  
Deacon Golderer (6)  
Christian Joachim (6)  
Jack Luterman (6)  
Thomas Lentz (6)  
Brandyn Luong (6)  
Ms. Daphne Monroy  
Grayson Morgan (I)  
Marcus O'Rourke (6)  
Connor Simpkins (II)  
Will Suter (II)  
Seth Virmani (I)

## **Middle School Peer Mediators**

Alex Borghese  
Reed Campbell  
Zach Fuscaldo  
Robert Goens  
Reilly Hope  
Elliot Lee  
Xan Matuch

Zach Oswald  
Henry Pennington  
Ian Rosenzweig  
Lucas Sim  
Connor Simpkins  
Cameron Smith  
Kwamen Waters

### **Editors' Note**

Dear Reader,

With Covid, Virtual Learning, and a general wave of uncertainty hanging over us, The Fords Forum has worked hard to bring this virtual experience to you. In addition to this PDF, we have a fully functioning website with all of our writer's work as well as extra pieces including comics and artwork. For us, one of the biggest disappointments of the year were not being able to print a paper copy of our publication. As you can imagine, it is much more satisfying to hold your work in your hands than it is to read it on a screen. We've also had to ask for a lot more from our writers and from ourselves. Without the ability to hold our weekly lunch meetings, we had to ask our writers to work on their own time—a whole new level of commitment. We have also had to work through the various tech glitches (we know you've heard that one a lot) and put in many extra hours to bring the new website format to you.

Additionally, you may notice that we have a huge number of sixth graders writing for us this year. They make up a total of 50% of our contributors. We are very excited to have such a large group to continue our work in the coming years. We also have the wonderful addition of Ms. Monroy to our staff, as we extended our writing invitation to faculty this year.

Thank you all for your support in keeping The Fords Forum running.

Sincerely,

Ian Rosenzweig and Brady Cross (co-editors)