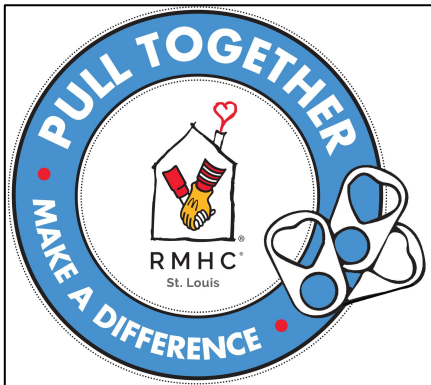


Black Cat News

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Black Cat News is written and designed by 7th grade Panther Time students. Ideas for future issues? Let a 7th grader know!

Supporting the Ronald McDonald House Charity

By Julia H.

West Salem Middle School is collecting pop can tabs. Why? Because each year recycling pop tabs raises over **\$10,000** for the Ronald McDonald House in Madison, WI.

The Ronald McDonald House is a charity around the world that helps children and their families. The Ronald McDonald House provides many helpful assets to these families. This “home away from home” costs little to nothing for families in need of help as they care for their sick children. While staying at a RMH, families are provided with nice homemade meals, playgrounds for children, and private bedrooms for each child.

This organization has helped someone most of us know and love, Mr. Merrill. Mr. Merrill is one of West Salem Elementary School's P.E. teachers. During Mrs. Merrill's pregnancy they found out their baby had Truncus Arteriosus, a congenital heart defect.

On October 8, 2020, Hazel James Merrill was born and began her stay at the American Family Children's Hospital in Madison. Hazel needed a major surgery due to her heartbreaking complications.

During this very stressful time for the Merrill family, they stayed at the Ronald McDonald House in Madison so they could visit Hazel daily at the hospital.

Sadly, due to more complications, Hazel passed away only nine days after her birth. The Merrill family are forever grateful for all the help received from the RMH organization. Now, on October 8, Hazel's birthday (and West Salem's Homecoming), West Salem will donate a month's worth of collected pop tabs to Madison's RMH in honor of Hazel's birthday. It will be exciting to find out how much money West Salem schools raised for this charity.



Fall Sports at WSMS

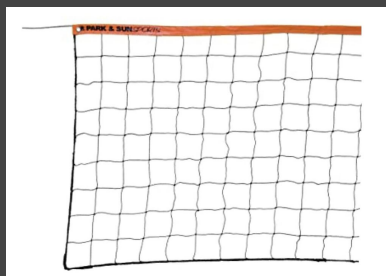
Volleyball

by Lily T.

A typical practice includes:

- Running laps around the gym
- Stretching
- Scrimmaging
- Other volleyball games like queens
- Water breaks
- A breakdown at the end of practice

Coaches: Pederson, Arntz,
Serres, and Coe



September

Home vs. Longfellow on Monday, September 13th
 Away vs. Winona on Thursday, September 16th
 Home vs. Sparta on Monday, September 20th
 Away vs. Holmen 2 on Thursday, September 23rd
 Away vs. Lincoln on Monday, September 27th

October

Away vs. Onalaska on Monday, October 4th
 Home vs. Aquinas on Thursday, October 7th
 Away vs. Tomah Middle on Monday, October 11th
 Away vs. Logan on Tuesday, October 12th
 Away vs. Holmen on Thursday, October 21st
 Home vs. G-E-T on Monday, October 25th

7th grade team: Paytyn B., Lily H., Lauren B., Airreyanna C., Kylie E., Kennedy E., Elise F., Averie G., Julia H., Paige H., Kirsten H., Lily K., Breah L., Briauna M., Mara M., Madelyn M., Jayda M., Breeley O., Addy O., Aidah P., Bri P., Aubree P., Bella Q., Macy R., Lily S., Brooklyn T., Lily T.

8th grade team: Sophia B., Grace B., Josie B., Madison E., Maya E., Baylee F., Addyson F., Cora H., Maya H., Madeline H., Jaidyn H., Addison J., Lydia J., Madison K., Isabel K., Danielle L., Mckenna M., Aryanna N., Lexus N., Abigail P., Natalee R., Dillan R., Hayden R., Nadya S., Elise S., London V. Natalie W.

"Be so good they can't ignore you." -Steve Martin

Fall Sports at WSMS

Football

By Jack T and Jaxon Q.

7th Grade Coaches

Charlie McConkey
Josh Laack

8th Grade Coach

Josh Reader (Jerry)

7th grade team:

Will C, Elliott C, Evan C, Isaac D, Justice E, Lucas F, Luke G, Owen H, Liam H, Eion K, Isaiah L, Gunner L, John M, Drew M, Andrew M, Liam O, Jarett P, Jaxen Q, Jaxon R, Jameson S, Nate S, Ryan S, Tristan S, Jack T, Michael T, Noah W, Cade W, Parker W, Jaxson W.

8th grade team:

Mekebo A, Terryn B, Sawyer B, Mason C, Aaron G, Micah H, Jaxen H, Ethan H, Bennett J, Spencer K, Coen K, Aiden K, Landon M, Teghan M, Hunter R, Will S, Elijah S, Kaiden S, Levi S, Dominic W

A Typical Practice

A typical practice for football is right after school, you go to the elementary school fields and go to the shed which has all of your stuff. Then, you go to your coach and do stretches for about five minutes until you get to do the fun stuff. You then start to practice your positions and maybe do a scrimmage. After practice, you take your stuff to the shed and then you can leave.

schedule



Tuesday, Sep 14, 2021	Scrimmage	4:30PM	Tomah Middle	West Salem High School	
Tuesday, Sep 21, 2021	Game	4:00PM	Away vs. Logan Middle School	Logan Middle School	
Tuesday, Sep 28, 2021	Game	4:00PM	Holmen Middle	West Salem High School	
Tuesday, Oct 5, 2021	Game	4:00PM	Away vs. Aquinas	Aquinas Middle School	(Date Changed to 10-07-21)
Thursday, Oct 7, 2021	Game	5:15PM	Away vs. Aquinas	Aquinas Middle School	()
Tuesday, Oct 12, 2021	Game	3:45PM	Onalaska Middle	West Salem High School	
Monday, Oct 18, 2021	Game	4:30PM	Away vs. Winona Middle	Winona Senior High School	

"You're never a loser til you quit trying."-Mike Ditka

Teacher Feature: Mrs. Kjos

by Tristan S.

Mrs. Kjos is a fifth grade teacher, and if you want to know more about her, make sure to stop and read about a few of her favorite things!

Her first name is actually Kamry, and her favorite food is tacos. Her favorite color is a bit unexpected, but I think it's actually pretty cool. It's actually gray! Her favorite animal is a dog.

Speaking of dogs, she has a dog named Cali who greets her every morning! She also has a daughter, Everly, who is four years old.

Her favorite subject in school was, you guessed it, Reading! Her favorite movie is The Lord of the Rings (the second movie in the series), and her favorite book is Harry Potter (the fifth book in the series).

After teaching, her favorite thing to do is go camping. Her favorite season is fall, and her lucky number is twenty-three. She loves Christmas. Her favorite sport is softball, and her favorite time of the day is mid-morning.

She wishes that she didn't have so much to do a lot of the time, so that she can spend more time hanging out with her family. But she did say that she wouldn't be able to survive without her board games and card games. And that's all I have for you about Mrs. Kjos!



"Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery.
Today is a gift. That's why we call it 'The Present.'"

-Eleanor Roosevelt

Teacher Feature: Mrs. Jehn

What is your first name? "Heather."

By: Alicia Z.

When is your birthday? "November 28, 1980."

How many years have you been teaching? "This is my 18th year."

How many kids do you have? "3."

How many siblings do you have? "2."

What is your favorite color? "Pink."

What is your favorite sports team? "Badgers."

What is your favorite book genre? "Historical Fiction."

What is your favorite music type? "Christian."

What is your favorite restaurant? "Buffalo Wild Wings."

Who did you look up to when you were younger? "My dad."

Have you always wanted to be a teacher? "Yes."

What was the best vacation you've been on? "Disney World with my kids".

What is your biggest pet peeve? "When people are unkind".

Who was your childhood best friend? "Renee."

Why did you choose to teach math? "I think math is a lot of fun and everyone is good at math. They just need to realize it."

Why did you want to teach 6th grade? "They're still kind of like little kids, but they're becoming teenagers over the course of the year."

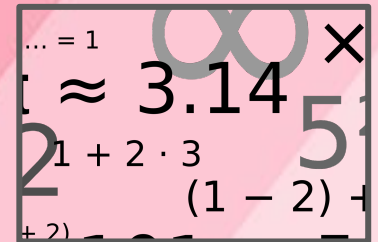
Do you sing in the shower, if so, what do you sing? "Yes! Worship songs, if I sing."

What was your favorite subject in middle school? "Tie between P.E. and Math."

Where did you go to college? "UWL."



Mrs. Jehn



She teaches math

"It's hard to beat a person who never gives up." -Babe Ruth

Staff Feature: Mrs. Becker

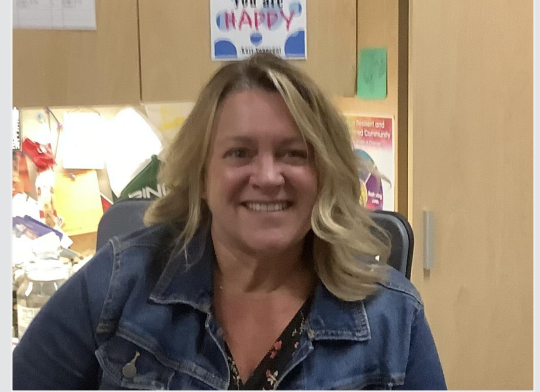
By Anna B.

1. Why did you choose to be a school counselor?

My mom was a school counselor and I also worked at a high school, once I realized how fun it was to work with students, I knew that was what I wanted to do!

2. What's your favorite part about teaching?

My favorite part about teaching is working with kids and helping them learn to be kind and caring individuals, helping brainstorm solutions to problems and watching my students grow up before my eyes. Also, I love teaching and sharing a good picture book – no matter your age, you can always learn something from a picture book.



3. If you weren't a school counselor what job would you have? I always wanted to be a lawyer when I was growing up, I still have strong feelings about the injustices of the world.

4. Any advice for middle schoolers? Get more sleep than you think you should, eat at least a little bit of something healthy every day and never forget about music, one good song can turn a day around.

5. If you were to change something about public schools what would it be? I'd love to see public schools serve only fresh food, not frozen. I also love the idea of school uniforms. I wish school was year round with breaks quarterly, and lastly, for educators to be paid as much as other professionals.

6. Why did you chose middle school? I used to work at a middle school near Madison, and the middle school is the right fit for me.

7. Favorite candy? Reese's PB cups! Peanuts and chocolate can't be beat!

8. Favorite Student? All of the students are my favorites in lots of different ways.

9. Favorite Hobbies? When I was a kid, I loved roller skating and gymnastics. I can still do the splits and a backhandspring. As an adult, I spend my free time traveling, reading, raising chickens and digging in flower beds.

10. What do you do in your free time? I spend waay too much time watching tv –especially since Covid. I am trying to break that habit. I also have the most amazing dog, (Margot) and she keeps me busy.

11. Do you have any kids? One (Isabel) age 21

12. Favorite color? The color yellow makes me happy but my favorite color to wear is black (or blue and orange Go Bears!)

13. When is your birthday? October 9th, don't forget!!

14. Favorite Movie? I have two, *A Few Good Men* and *An American President*.

Teacher Feature: Mrs. Dederich

By Zachary N.



How did you become interested in being a teacher?

As a kid, I had a few very influential teachers. As an adult, I wanted to do something meaningful.

Why did you choose to be the technology teacher /librarian?

I started as a history teacher and a STEM teacher. Eventually, I wanted to get my master's degree. The university I was attending had a program to become Technology/LMC teachers, so I took the course. As a kid, I loved going to the LMC because it was a place of creativity. I also loved books.

How do you show your school spirit?

My kids go to the elementary School. As a mom, I try to teach them what it means to be a Panther. So, I show my school spirit by raising my kids as Panthers.

What inspires/inspired you?

I started as a history teacher. History is interesting because of the people that changed it. Even today it inspires me that people are standing up and fixing problems.

In your opinion, what's the hardest part about being a teacher?

In my opinion, the hardest part about teaching is the fact that there is so much you want to teach in a limited amount of time. So it's up to me to decide what to teach in the time given.

How does technology make teaching harder or easier?

Sometimes technology does not cooperate. But, technology allows people to create new stuff and allows students to make an inspiring final project.

What are your goals?

As a mom, I want to raise my two kids to be very kind. As a teacher, I want to grow the library and its content.

Any strengths/weaknesses?

I like to try new things. I find that I learn a lot. My weakness is following up on emails in a timely order.

How do you stay organized?

I'm not the person to ask, but tell me if you figure it out.

What was the hardest/easiest lesson you have taught?

I find that homeroom lessons are tied to real life. However, that also makes them the easiest because there is so much to talk about.

What is one of your hidden talents?

I can deadlift 250 pounds.

What are some pets you have or would like to own?

I have three cats and a dog. We also have a stray cat that likes to visit our porch. So he's like our new cat.

What is your favorite color?

I like green. I also like purple, but I prefer green.

What is your dream vacation?

I actually took it this summer. Around early July, a few friends and I went to Colorado. We hung out in the mountains for a few days.

If you could take your students on a field trip anywhere in the world, where would you take them? **I would take them to a place where they could see a different way of life, like different countries and cultures. They would be able to see the similarities and differences.**

How long would you survive the zombie apocalypse?

Not very long

What song do you know all the words to? **"Happy" by Brandi Carlisle.**

What does your perfect party look like?

Family, lots of food, a nice day, and a big yard to play frisbee.

"Logic will take you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere." -Albert Einstein

Teacher Feature: Mr. Reader

by Luke G.

1. When is your birthday/ September 21st
2. What's your favorite food? steaks
3. Do you hunt or fish? Yes, both of these.
4. How old are you? 24
5. How long have you been teaching? 3 weeks
6. What grades do you teach? 5th-12th
7. Which grade is your favorite to teach so far? 6th
8. What's your favorite color? blue
9. Where did you go to college? Winona State
10. What's your favorite pizza topping? sausage
11. What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten? octopus
12. What do you do in your free time? I go on the river or spend time with friends and family.
13. What's your favorite movie or TV show? Marvel movies
14. What was your first job? dishwasher at Features
15. Do you have any pets? nope

"You always pass failure on the way to success." -Mickey Rooney

Most Read Books in The Library

By Anna K. and Tula M.

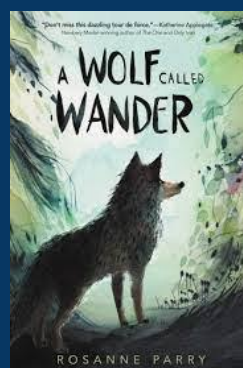
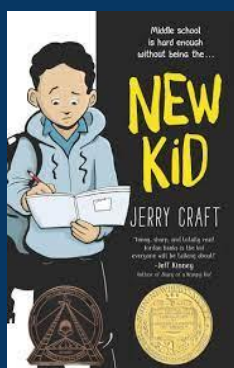
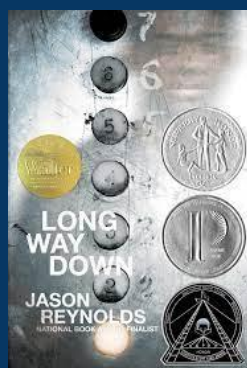
#1 : Long Way Down By Jason Reynolds
Sixty seconds. Seven floors. Three rules. One gun.

#2 : New Kid By Jerry Craft
Jordan Banks has always wanted to go to an art school but his parents enroll him in a private school where he is one of the few kids of his color.

#3 : Ghost By Jason Reynolds
All Castle Cranshaw has ever known is running. But he doesn't like to run track. He likes to play ball. But when Ghost (Castle) challenges an elite sprinter and wins, an olympic medalist track coach sees Ghost run and sees he has some crazy talent. The thing is, Ghost has a lot of anger and stuff in his past that he tries to outrun. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed and win for his team or will his past finally catch up to him?

#4 : A Wolf Called Wander By Rosanne Parry
Young wolf swift lives happily with his family in the mountains until another pack kills his father and scatters them all to an unknown fate. Unable to go home, he becomes a wolf called Wander as he struggles to survive and travels hundreds of miles from his birthplace, hoping to find others of his kind and a new home.

#5 : House Arrest By K. A. Holt
Twelve-year-old Timothy is spending a year under house arrest after stealing a wallet to pay for medicine for his sick baby brother, Levi. To avoid juvie, he must reflect on what he did in a court-ordered journal, in addition to weekly visits with a probation officer and psychologist.



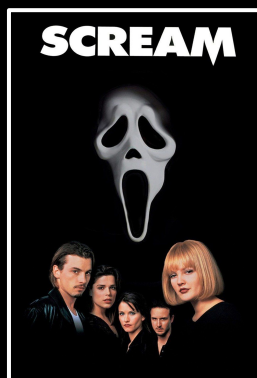
ICONIC HORROR MOVIE REVIEWS

BY BROOKE S, MAKENA F, & JULIA H



PROM NIGHT(2008) -PG 13 REVIEWER: BROOKE S.

was this even a horror movie? It was more of a crime thriller. It could be a good movie if they tried. There was barley blood. It was too predictable. You knew right away what people were going to die. It wasn't even scary. Overall, I give it 3 out of 10 stars.



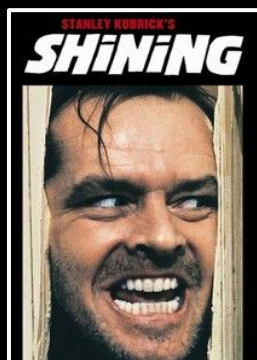
SCREAM-R REVIEWERS: MAKENA F.

Shaggy went rogue! This Johnny Depp look alike and Shaggy really made the title of the movie true. The acting was pretty good and so were the scary parts. The scary meter is a solid 7/10. I mean, the ending was predictable but the amount of blood made up for it. You really can't go wrong with this movie, especially if the killers are hot. Overall 7.5/10. Scooby Dooby Doo, where are u?



THE NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET-R REVIEWER: MAKENA & JULIA & BROOKE

This was a really good movie, but kinda confusing at the end. Nancy (the main character) lost all of her loved ones, so that kinda sucks. The plot of this movie was very interesting. It was very scary and had so much blood. Overall we rate this movie 8 out of 10.



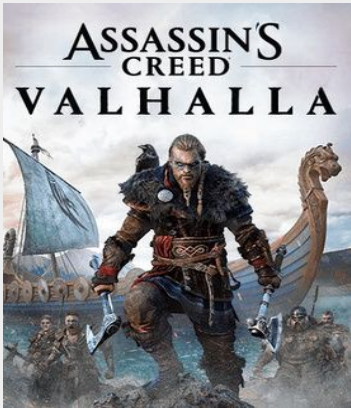
THE SHINING-R REVIEWERS: JULIA H.

This is obviously an iconic movie. I mean it's been around forever and it has really good acting. It's perfectly scary and weird at the same time. Lots of odd ghosts and more in that hotel makes the movie just so amazingly interesting. I give this movie a 10/10. It's traumatizing and i loved it.

Student Survey: The Best Games of 2020-2021

By Joey G.

As an avid gamer, I wanted to find out what people think about some popular, current video games, so I surveyed the 7th graders and received 122 reponses. Here are the results:



Call of Duty: Cold War	Votes: 33
NBA: 2K21	Votes: 12
MLB: The Show	Votes: 15
Marvels: Avengers	Votes: 3
Assassins Creed: Valhalla	Votes: 9
Number of 7th graders who said they don't game	Votes: 50

Call of Duty: Cold War wins the student vote!



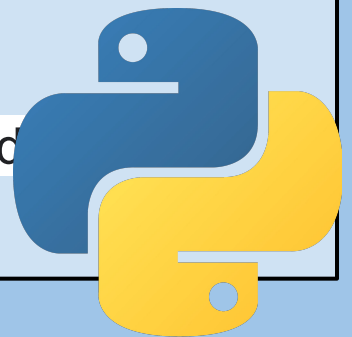
Best Programming Language

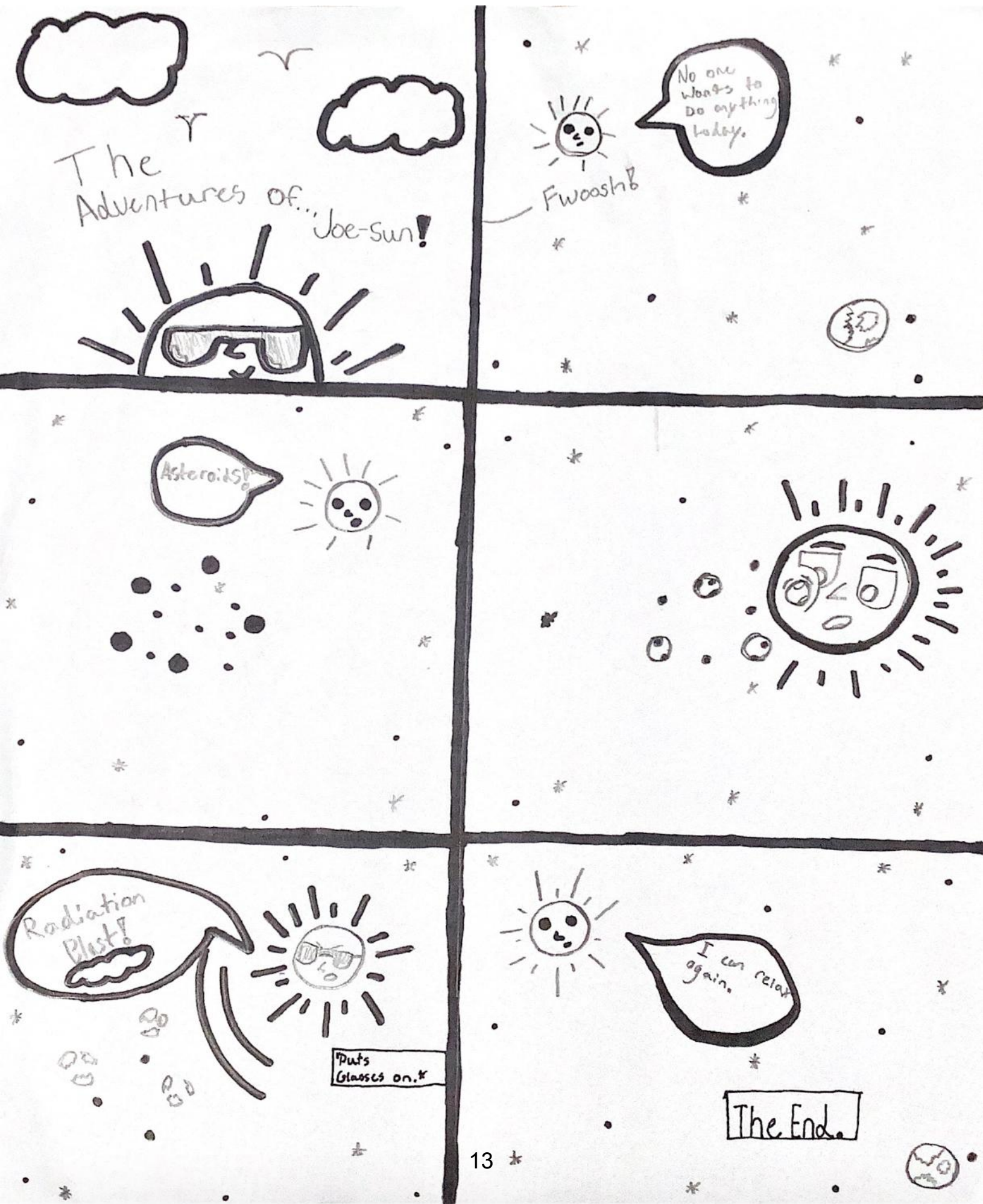
An editorial by Cash L.

If someone REALLY wanted to learn to program, I would recommend starting off in JavaScript. JavaScript is pretty easy to learn and is pretty powerful. Most aspiring programmers started off in JavaScript. If you have some experience programming, I would recommend trying Python or even C#. Python is a very easy language to learn, given that you need a bit of background knowledge in programming in general. C#, on the other hand, is moderately easy, but it is very complex. Now, some may be asking, if BASIC would be good to start off with. No, BASIC is no longer supported, nor is it powerful enough to fulfil the needs of many programmers alike. Visual BASIC is a bit better, even though the name contains visual. Sublanguages such as Visual C are fine, but I have no experience with it. Assembly language is NOT a beginner focused language at all.

All in all, if you need a decent programming language to get off the ground, go with Python.

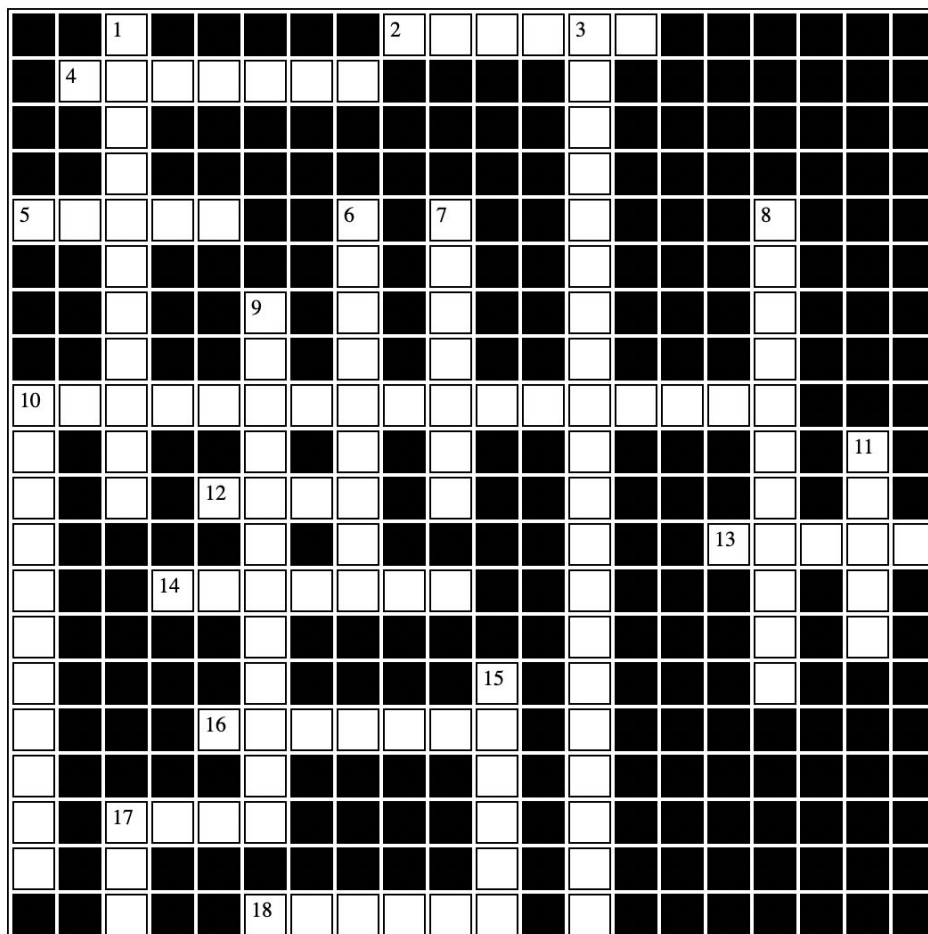
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Wisconsin

Anna K & Lauren B

**Across**

2. state animal
 4. state baseball team
 5. state bird
 10. state wildlife animal
 12. state beverage
 13. comes from a cow
 14. state football team
 16. most visited city
 17. it's on a stalk
 18. state fish

Down

1. state fruit
 3. year we were made a state
 6. capital
 7. water fountain
 8. state tree
 9. state song
 10. state flower
 11. food is grown
 15. made from dairy
 17. moo

"Nothing is particularly hard if you break it into small jobs." -Henry Ford

Fall Treats

by Anna B.

One-pot creamy chicken and mushroom carbonara

Ingredients:

1 tsp extra virgin olive oil
2 small chicken breast fillets
1 yellow onion, finely chopped
2 slices of bacon chopped
1.5 cups mushrooms, thickly sliced
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1 cup reduced salt chicken stock
3 cups fettuccine pasta
1/3 cup cream
1 egg
1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
2 tbsp finely grated parmesan



Step 1 :

Heat oil in a large, deep frying pan over medium-high heat. Cook chicken for 4 minutes each side or until cooked through. Transfer to a plate. Cover to keep warm.

Step 2

Add onion and bacon to the pan. Cook, stirring, for 5 minutes or until golden. Add mushrooms. Cook for 3 minutes or until tender. Add garlic. Cook for 30 seconds or until fragrant. Add stock and 2 1/2 cups of water. Cover. Bring to the boil. Add fettuccine. Reduce heat to medium. Simmer, uncovered and stirring occasionally, for 12 to 15 minutes or until pasta is tender and sauce has thickened. Remove from heat.

Step 3

Slice chicken. Whisk cream and egg together in a bowl. Add cream mixture and 3/4 of parsley to the pan. Season with salt and pepper. Cook, tossing, over low heat for 1 minute or until well combined. Top with chicken. Sprinkle with parmesan and remaining parsley. Serve.

[Link to recipe on taste.com](https://www.taste.com.au/recipes/one-pot-creamy-chicken-and-mushroom-carbonara)

“Always be a first-rate version of yourself instead of a second-rate version of somebody else.”

-Judy Garland

Fall Treats

Sparkling Cranberry Cheesecake

Ingredients for the cheesecake

Cooking spray, for pan
3 8-oz. bars cream cheese, softened
1 c. sugar
3 large eggs
1/4 c. sour cream
Zest of 1 large orange
2 tbsp. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
1/2 tsp. kosher salt

Ingredients for the cranberries

1/2 c. water
2 tbsp. orange juice
1 1/2 c. sugar, divided
1 c. fresh cranberries

Ingredients for the crust

1 sleeve graham crackers,
finely crushed
5 tbsp. melted butter
1/4 c. brown sugar
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
pinch of kosher salt



Step 1

Preheat the oven to 325° and grease an 8" or 9" pan with cooking spray. Make cheesecake filling: In a large bowl using a hand mixer, beat cream cheese and sugar. Add eggs, one at a time, then sour cream, orange zest, flour, vanilla, and salt.

Step 2

Make crust: In a large bowl, mix together graham cracker crumbs, melted butter, brown sugar, cinnamon and salt. Press mixture into prepared pan.

Pour filling over the crust. Wrap the bottom of the pan in aluminum foil and place on a baking sheet. Bake until the center of the cheesecake only slightly jiggles (about 1 hour 30 minutes). Turn off heat, prop open the oven door, and let cheesecake cool in the oven, 1 hour, then remove aluminum foil and refrigerate cheesecake in a pan until firm, at least 5 hours and up to overnight.

Step 3

Make the sugared cranberries: In a medium saucepan over medium heat, combine water, orange juice, and 1/2 cup sugar. Stir until sugar is dissolved, 3-4 minutes. Add in cranberries and toss until fully coated. Transfer onto parchment paper and let cool, about 15 minutes. When cool, toss in remaining sugar and top cheesecake. Serve.

[Link to recipe on delish.com](https://www.delish.com/recipes/sparkling-cranberry-cheesecake/)

"We must all face the choice between what is right and what is easy." -Albus
Dumbledore, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

SEPTEMBER 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 -American Chess Day -World Letter Writing Day	2 -National Blueberry Popsicle Day -World Coconut Day	3 -National Lazy Mom day -National Skyscraper Day	4 -Beyoncé's Birthday -National Wildlife Day
5 -National Cheese Pizza Day -National Pet Rock Day	6 -National Read a Book Day -Fight Procrastination Day	7 -International Clean Air Day -National Acorn Squash Day -National Salami Day	8 -World physical Therapy Day -International Literacy Day -Pardon Day	9 -International Sudoku Day -Teddy Bear Day	10 -World Suicide Prevention Day -Stand up to cancer Day	11 Patriot Day
12 -Grandparents Day -National video game day	13 -International Chocolate Day -National Peanut day -Program Day	14 -National coloring day -Hug Your Dog Day	15 -National Online Learning Day -Make a hat Day -Greenpeace Day	16 -Collect Rocks Day -Mayflower Day -National PlayDoh Day	17 -National Pet Bird Day -International Country Music Day	18 -Batman Day -National Dance Day -National Gymnastics Day
19 -Talk Like a Pirate Day -National Meow Like a Pirate Day	20 -National Punch Day -National Pepperoni Pizza Day	21 -International Day of Peace -Harvest Moon Festival -Mini Golf Day	22 -National Singles Day Autumn Begins -White chocolate Day	23 -Redhead Appreciation Day	24 -Heritage Day -National Punctuation Day	25 -National Hunting and Fishing Day -National Cooking Day
26 -National Family Day -National Pancake Day	27 -National Chocolate Milk Day -World Tourism Day	28 -Ask a Stupid Question Day -National Neighbor Day	29 -National Coffee Day -World Heart Day	30 -National Love People Day -International Podcast Day		

To find more national days to celebrate go to nationaltoday.com

Quotes in this edition of Black Cat News were selected by Malana K.