

THE MEMORIAL TIMES

MEMORIAL'S EXPRESS PLATFORM FOR THE FRESHEST NEWS



Students competed in various categories of events such as dancing, spelling, and trivia.

Jeopardy Assembly

BY: PATRICK RYAN

The Jeopardy game was hosted on January 10, 2020. House of Wind and Fire won in both grade divisions, giving them 100 points for their houses. Usually it is a close race and this year was no exception. First, was the buzzer rounds such as general trivia, food trivia, and sports trivia. Then, they played a game with hula-hoops and the last person standing won for their team. To add, they then played a game where you had to organize numbers into the correct order. One of the most liked games from the assembly was the Simon says game. Other games included in the assembly were dancing and tug of war. The gym was filled with yelling and screaming students that were supporting their team. When the winner was going to be announced, a drum roll sounded. Then Wind and Fire started yelling in victory which could be heard throughout the school.

A Note from the Editors

Dear Readers,
We are thrilled to be the co-editors of this year's Memorial Times! As eighth graders, we have been in newspaper club for three years and have great experience with working with our peers to create a great newspaper. We are proud to work with this year's hardworking staff and our new supervisor Ms. Ament who has put in so much effort and passion into newspaper club. This year, we are working hard to put out a newspaper every month and are including new elements such as more school events and teacher interviews. The goal of the newspaper is to spark an interest in our community and we, the newspaper community, are confident we can achieve that with your support. Therefore, we are excited for you to see the January edition of the Memorial Times. We hope you enjoy reading it!

Kaitlyn and Yastika



Each of the Houses at Memorial are represented by one of the four elements and stand for a pillar of character.

The Houses

BY: AMY MOYA

This year, school officials made a shocking announcement. A tradition that takes place in several other schools will now begin in Memorial Middle School. They are creating houses. Like the Harry Potter series, there will be four houses. The first House is water, which represents caring. Its official color is blue. Another one is Wind, which represents respect and its official color is purple. Earth is the house of trustworthiness. Its official color is green. Lastly, the House of Fire represents responsibility and its official color is red. The goal of creating the houses was to help the students make new friends with people from their house. A student's age doesn't apply to what house you're in. For example, a 5th grader and 8th grader can be teamed up together.

The first school-wide event that included the houses was the Jeopardy assembly. They put the house of Fire and Wind on one side of the auditorium, and Water and Earth on the other side, which is very different from what they normally do. Fire and Wind won in both 5-6th and 7-8th grade, earning both houses numerous points.

Another event that can allow you to earn your house some points is the "Souperbowl". You can earn your house points based on the number of cans you bring in.

Also, students in the House of Water, Fire, Wind or Earth participate in the spelling bee, they can earn their house points. The same thing applies to winning student of the month. Official shirts with a logo of their house on it in their color will be given to each student. The first house meeting will be on January 31st. During house meetings, each house will be assigned a spot in the school where they can discuss what reward they'd like if they won the most house points that month. Each month, the amount of points each house has will start at zero and the points they already earned will be added to their overall points. Discipline issues with people in your house can lead to your house earning less, or no points. Hopefully, this house concept will go as school officials planned.

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INTERVIEW WITH NEW EIGHTH GRADE TEACHER, MS. AMENT!

BY: DANTE PIEDRA

Mrs. Ament is an eighth-grade science teacher. She now hosts newspaper club. She used to teach STEM, but now she teaches science. I asked her some questions about herself. Here is the interview:

Q. What do you eat for lunch every day?

A. "I eat a high protein lunch because it builds muscles, and carbs because they get broken down and gives me energy throughout the day."

Q. What made you want to teach?

A. "I like kids, watching them learn, and helping them to unlock their potential."

Q. Do you play video games? If so, what games?

A. "No, I do not like video games a lot. Ironically, I was the computer teacher."

Q. Do you go outside sometimes and just relax?

A. "I take my dog for walks and go to the gym in order to relax."



Ms. Ament likes using her bitmoji in the classroom to make kids smile.

Apprenticeships

BY: BETULE ZAHER

The future. Many people fantasize and plan it out ahead of time. However, often the farthest people go is college then after that, many draw a blank. Young adults spend thousands of dollars for a college education when in the end many times they are not prepared for real life jobs. After graduating, some students are hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt. These days, people are lacking something important - skills.

For example, interior designing, auto mechanics, wood work, programming, and other jobs all require special skills. While people strive to get a college education, they lack work skills. These skills can be everyday hobbies or job aspirations you wish to pursue. An incredible way to adopt a skill or aspiration is apprenticeships and internships. Working in a family store, restaurant, a hair salon or any other job that will help develop any skills is very beneficial. These skills don't have to be a part of the actual practice but can be normal life skills. These can include better communication skills, problem solving skills, creativity, ect. These skills can help you develop a better future free of debt and can open doors to new opportunities. This can be especially useful to middle school students during the summer.

This summer I apprenticed at a hair salon in Paterson called "Carmen Hair Salon." Over the summer I learned how to wash, blow dry, brush hair, and many other small things. Additionally, I learned more than just to do hair. Over the summer I increased my communication skills, improved my Arabic, gained a passion, and made a second family. In the end I strongly suggest you take a job or apprenticeship. It will help you in the present and future and ultimately it is good to acquire a skill or hobby.

An Interview with Language Arts Teacher, Ms. Masefield

BY: KAITLYN AMANULLAH

Recently, the 8th graders read the book *A Christmas Carol*, watched the movie and wrote a literary analysis essay about it. Basically, we interpreted different aspects of the book in essay form. Most of the 8th graders that I know enjoyed the book and thought it was very interesting. I asked 8th grade Language Arts teacher Ms. Masefield questions to understand the purpose behind this lesson. I also asked her a few questions about the deeper meaning of the book. Here's the interview:

Q. Why is being able to write a literary analysis essay an important skill?

A. "It allows for higher level thinking that helps students understand the text that they're reading. It also helps prepare the students for high school and higher education."

Q. Why is *A Christmas Carol* a good book to write a literary analysis about?

A. "It is a good novel to write a literary analysis about because there are so many themes that are addressed and so many literary elements that can be analyzed."

Q. Why is reading a book and watching the movie beneficial?

A. "I believe that it allows the audience to use their imagination when reading the book, to visualize, and see someone else's interpretation of the text. I also feel that it may offer a historical perspective that a modern day audience would not otherwise have."

Q. Scrooge is the main character in the book. In the book, he goes through a huge transformation. Do you think we as students could benefit from an experience similar to him?

A. "Absolutely. I feel that it is never too late to change and sometimes we need others to show us that we have goodness in us. Also, that we are all capable of amazing things Scrooge teaches us to pay attention to the world around us and the needs of others, which we can learn from."

Q. Although Scrooge is a very negative character at the beginning of the book, he has some positive traits. Are there any character traits that you and he share?

A. "Definitely hardworking. I try to put my all into every aspect of my life."

Q. *A Christmas Carol* has many themes. What is the most important theme(s), in your opinion, and why?

A. "I feel that being able to have compassion and taking care of one another is an important theme because we all at some point in our lives need compassion from others and to provide compassion for others. Even though this was written in modern times, this theme still holds true today."

Young Writers Club

BY: YASTIKA SINGH

“I always loved creative writing...when I was in school there wasn’t really a lot of opportunities for me to be with other people who liked to write creatively. Now that I’m older, I want to give kids a space to write creatively. I think middle school is a very challenging time and I think creative writing provides an escape and provides a place where you can express yourself and explore your imagination.”

These are the words of the Alfred Bauman Public Library’s Youth Services Associate, Miss Caitlin Cromley-Linn. She is the supervisor of the Young Writer’s Club, a new club at the library for grades six to twelve. The club had its debut in October of 2019 and since then has met every first Friday of the month at 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Every month has

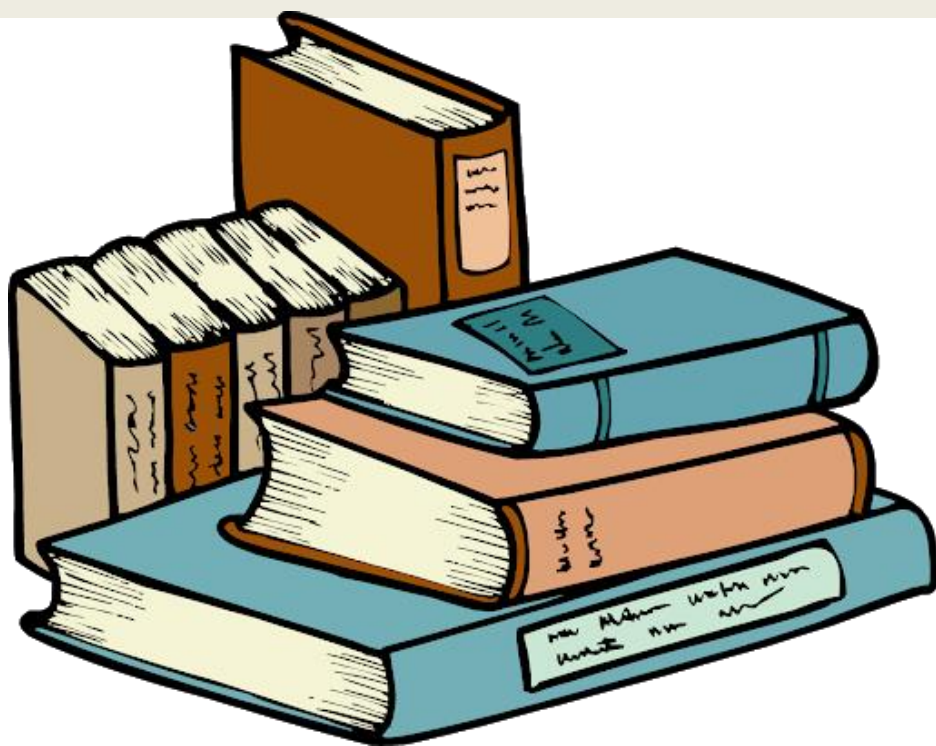
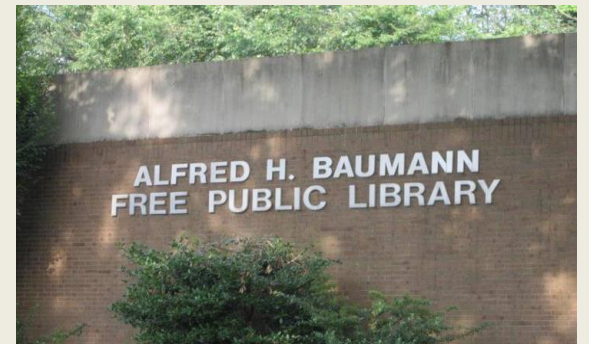
a new creative challenge to be met by the participants and they get time to brainstorm, write, and share with others. The tasks up till now have been to write a scary story using a title chosen by rolling a die in October, write a story based off a picture in November, write a story based off a popular song lyric in December, and write a story for the prompt “You’re at a New Year’s Eve party when at 12:00am, the clock starts going backward”.

I’ve been to every meeting so far and can say that the club is a great way to have a fun time with others and improve your writing. The ambience is very relaxed especially with some inspiring tunes sparking your imagination in the background.

The Young Writer’s Club has been especially popular among seventh graders here at Memorial Middle School. Daniella Mencia says “It’s really fun and helps me get my creative juices flowing.” According

to Franco Alvarez, “I like to hear other people’s stories...”. Another regular of the club, Joey DaSilva, says “It is very fun and super inspiring to write.”

Overall, the Young Writer’s Club is perfect for anyone looking for some fun, relaxed writing, and perfect for making new friends. The club has even attracted kids from out of town! So, make sure to sign up for the Young Writer’s Club at abwplibrary.org for some Friday fun!



Books are a great way to travel to faraway lands, learn new and interesting things, and to explore emotions.

6TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

BY: JASON SNYDER

Mrs. Ficarra is a language arts teacher. When she teaches language arts she likes to incorporate books in her lessons and also enjoys reading books. When she reads she feels emotion as due some of the students in her class. She enjoys working with the students in her class, and she does not give a lot of homework. Many students say that she is nice and funny. She also told me that sixth graders learn how to summarize main ideas and form it into sentences. She became a teacher because she loves kids and has gained a love for teaching because she can learn while she teaches as well as learn from her students. She loves all books and wants to instill a love of reading in her students.

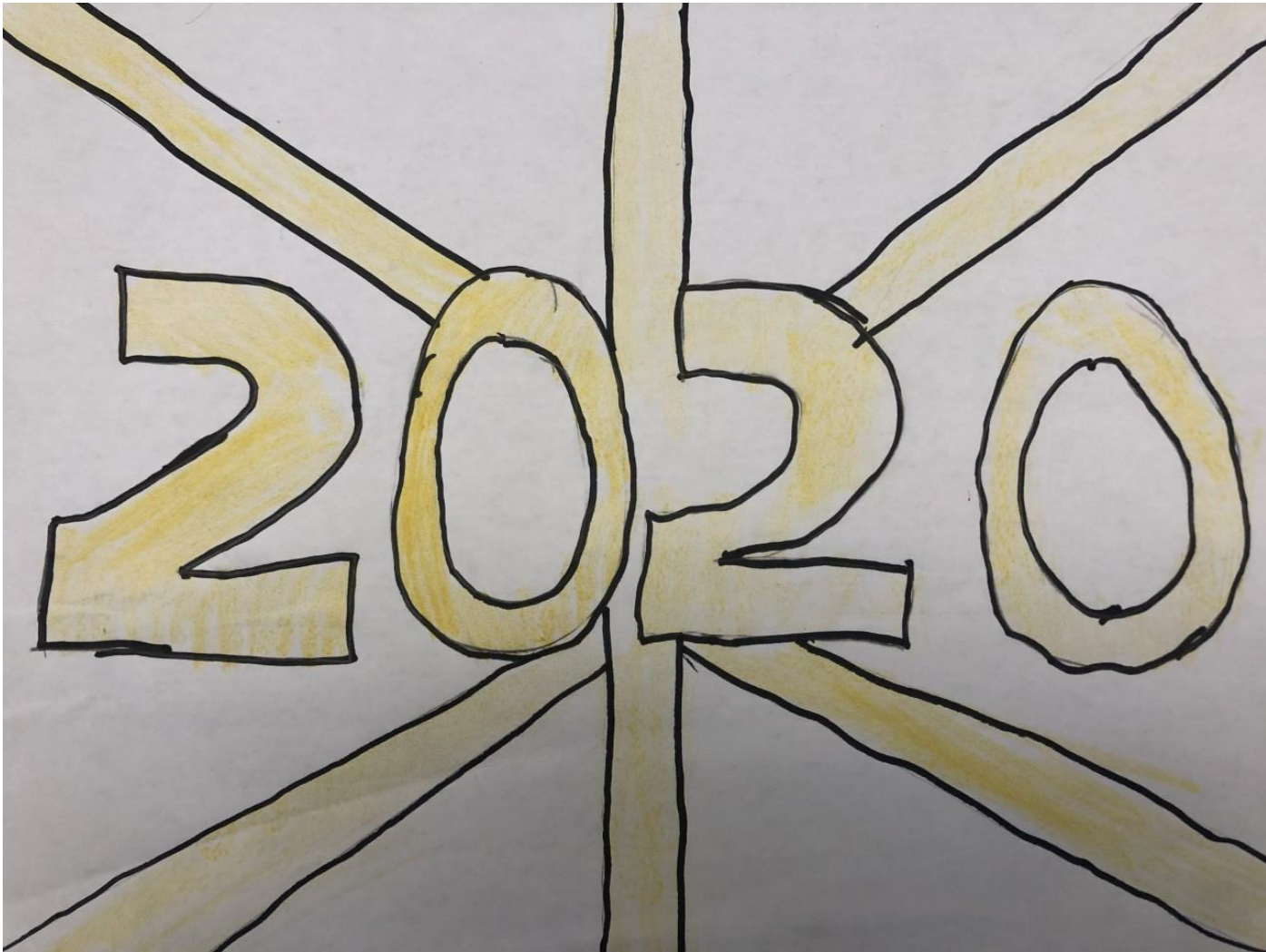
All about Mr. Sans

BY: AAYAN MALIK

We all know our beloved teacher Mr. Sans. But, think again, do you really know him? We know that he was in the military and is married. Some students want to know why he was in the military. It was the influence of Mr. Sans’ grandfathers. Since he was young, Mr. Sans enjoyed the sense of teamwork and being part of something special. Well, being in the Military is very, very special. Mr.

Sans’ uncle was a marine in Vietnam. His grandfathers both served in WWII. It has always been Mr. Sans dream to join the military. Since 2nd grade, Mr. Sans wanted to join the Military. When he was asked, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Mr. Sans always said he wanted to be a military soldier. It’s amazing how much he succeeded as a soldier. After the military, Mr. Sans became a teacher. He enjoys

interacting and meeting with fellow coworkers and awesome students. Mr. Sans loves speaking about history because it’s his favorite subject. Mr. Sans said, “I feel like I did something in the military and an educator is doing something meaningful in life by serving our country.”



**From our Newspaper Family to yours –
Let's Make 2020 a great year!**

Graphic Drawn By: Ava Beirne