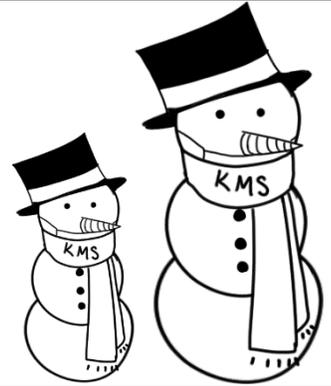


KMS PURPLE PAGES

*Kenai Middle School
Kenai, Alaska
February 29, 2021*



Not-So-Perfect 20/20 Vision



You have probably heard the saying “Hindsight is 20/20,” but perhaps a better saying for our current times, now that 2021 has arrived, is “2020 is Hindsight.” Most of us would agree that saying farewell to last year is a good thing; we are happy it’s in the rear view mirror, and we are looking forward to things improving in 2021.

As we wait for all those positive changes to occur, please continue reading this special edition of the Purple Pages for a mash-up “Blast from the Past” and “Back to the Future” not-really-leap-day journey over much of the past year. In this issue, reporters from two semesters of journalism classes, along with many extra contributors, will offer you some news articles and entertainment features that we hope bring plenty of smiles and laughs to our readers, along with a more perfect vision of our awesome KMS family and community!

“12 Days of Kossack Christmas”



On our first Kossack Christmas, my teacher sent to me
A Principal and his VP

Check out pages 2-12 for the rest of the song!

Welcome to the second-ever,
online-only, full-color edition
of the *KMS Purple Pages*!

This issue is available by
g-mail, on KMS Facebook,
and on the KMS website.

This issue includes several
“Blast from the Past” articles
from April 2020, as well as
many extra features written
by KMS students & staff.

Page 1

Bored During Quarantine? Aren't We All, Dude.

By Rylee Novak

Ever since we were sent home from school and had to do online learning, everyone has found small ways to keep themselves busy during quarantine. Whether it's small things like cooking or going on walks, or actual activities like doing projects or hanging out with family or friends, everyone has been finding small ways to stay sane during all this time home.

I asked a few of my 8th grade friends, to see what they like to do, and here's what I've collected from the people I asked.

Simone Watts said she likes to play Roblox, specifically obbys, which are basically just long obstacle courses you can run. Other people online can play with you too; however, you don't really interact with them very much. I've seen her play a few times, and she seems to be pretty decent at them. And to quote her, she's "a god at Treacherous Tower," which is another obby.

Lola McEwen, who is being homeschooled this year (and is now probably an expert at keeping busy at home), said she enjoys playing the piano and volleyball, as well as bullying her dog. I'm not sure exactly how mean she is to him, but I assume it's not too bad if her parents haven't stopped her yet. She also likes to watch movies and TV shows with her family at night, as well as reading. Recently, she has picked up *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* again, which is a stellar series. I recommend it to anyone who hasn't read it, or just reread it if you have.

Thomas Smith said he goes on walks a lot, and misses his friends, despite the fact that I go on walks with him multiple times a week. But I suppose he has a lot of friends. He also likes to play video games, such as Minecraft (which I've also been subjected to hours of too). Recently, he has started fixing up his boat, since it's now wintertime, giving him plenty of free time to work on projects like that, since boats can't really be used, on account of ice and the cold. I'll probably be roped into that too.

(continued below on page 3)

"12 Days of Kossack Christmas"

On our second Kossack Christmas,
My teacher sent to me
Two latex gloves
And a Principal and his VP



Time

Anonymous

Time can go by so fast and you won't even realize the amount of time you had wasted all the things you could of done that you didn't like how we sleep for hours and it doesn't feel like we did because it all is just blank we have so much time in a day but you get rid of the bit from you sleeping so that would bleed into like seven hours saying you fell asleep right at midnight woke up at seven you go take a shower for like thirty minutes because it is a nice warm shower you get dressed and then you enjoy your massive bowl of cereal which was like 15 minutes cause you tried to enjoy every bite as if they were going to be your last so now it is like 7:48 you work out let's say for like an hour now it is 8:48 you decide to do your homework for a few classes time flies by and it is 9:50 so you wait to log into the zooms you have those make two hours fly by it is noon you go and watch some TV for thirty minutes because you have a choir zoom till one you then take care of all the dishes it is 1:15 you then go back to watch your doctor drama whatever show for a few hours so now it is like 5:00 you get up you go make yourself some delicious tacos because it is a Tuesday and Tuesday is always taco night so that takes like fifteen minutes you turn back on your show while eating the delicious tacos for like two hours and then you have some friends come over and you play smash bros ultimate on the Nintendo switch for a bit till like 9:00 and then you get ready for bed and you are reading because that is what you do and then it is like 11:30 and you realize maybe I should go to sleep you could have replaced some of the hours watching the show with learning how to play the harmonica or something or going outside, you never truly realize just how much time you are wasting, how much more time you should be spending doing stuff, especially with the people you care about. I am sorry about not using proper grammar, and maybe one day I will go back through and fix it, but that day isn't today, sorry.

Bored During Quarantine?

(continued from page 2)

Beverly Roney says she likes to watch YouTube, mostly animation channels, such as Jaiden Animations, Something-ElseYT, Illymation, or TheOddOnesOut. She finds their videos entertaining, and she also finds them very talented at art as well. When asked what she does, she said “cry and watch YouTube,” but I figure that that’s not really what you want in an article that hopefully will give you ideas on what to do during quarantine. She said that recently she took a mental health week, and now she has a bunch of assignments to do, so hopefully she’ll be able to say “study and watch YouTube” and not cry. Hopefully.

Alyssa Walker, another homeschool student this year, said she has just found smaller things to indulge in. Activities like reading, drawing, and finding new music to listen to have been keeping her going. So far she’s mostly done the latter two, but she has read a few books like *Red White and Royal Blue* by Casey McQuinston, and reread *Keeper of The Lost Cities* by Shannon Messenger, and *Maximum Ride* by James Patterson. She said she wasn’t really a fan of *Maximum Ride*, saying it wasn’t very interesting and had a lot of strange events that were oddly unrealistic, so she dropped out after the second book. I have only read half of the first book, but I can agree. It seemed like it was trying too hard to be something it really wasn’t.

So what have you been doing during quarantine? Anything as simple and light as these people? Anything exciting? Hopefully you have mostly been staying home, since the cases are rising; it’s probably for the best to stay safely at home, and indulge in simpler things that don’t require leaving the house. Oh, and don’t forget to wear your mask.

“12 Days of Kossack Christmas”

On our third Kossack Christmas,
My teacher sent to me
Three Grinch Men
Two latex gloves
And a Principal and his VP



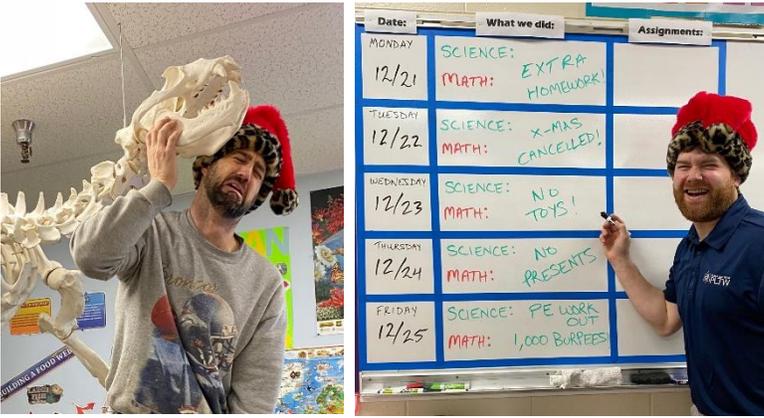
6-Word Stories

“Blast from the Past” – April 2020

Students in Mr. Gustkey’s 7th grade language arts classes received an assignment to post six-word stories in a shared Google Doc. Their goal was to capture how they were feeling during this COVID-19 experience, with everyone under quarantine at home, social distancing, and school taking place online. Mrs. Bressler liked the idea so much that she had her 6th graders do the same assignment. Here’s a sampling of entries from their classes:

I am cautious, but not scared.
Time to ponder, who am I?
Oh, the places we can’t go.
I will conquer... after my nap.
I’m curious, when will this end?
Lost in a pool of thought.
Stay home, stay healthy, stay safe.
We’ll need to fail to succeed.
Missing the homies during the quarantine.
A dark abyss in self isolation.
Very bored, very bored, very bored.
Home school sucks, I miss school.
Overthinking is easier than just thinking.
I’m turning into a crazy caveman.
Never thought I would miss school.
Cooped up chicken, drenched in thoughts.
Always in pajamas, ready to sleep.
Never had too much time before.
Ran out of things to do.
Trapped in the comfort of home.
Far apart but still strongly together.
Smiling on the outside long gone.
Never going to be the same.
We are all in this together.
I cry almost every single day.
Cooped up bird, musicals my life.
I only see friends through screens.
I’m as dead as I’m alive.
Waiting for the clouds to pass.
Missing my best friends right now.
Lonely sand, lonely rocks, lonely beach.
I can’t stand my family anymore.
So close but yet so far.
Quarantine is boring, wanna be snoring.
I want to escape this house.

(continued below on page 4)



6-Word Stories

(continued from page 3)

Friends connected by wires and cords.
 Running low, need toilet paper now!
 Zoom is now our new normal.
 Stuck at home bored and annoyed.
 Home has become the new school.
 Stuck indoors doing lots more chores.
 Swallowing tears of stress and desire.
 People should just stay inside please.
 Everything is closed down right now.
 Days frustrating, missing school very much.
 Learning on computers is so stressful.
 Stores sold out of toilet paper.
 Watching Heathers on repeat on weekends.
 Enjoying sleeping in, missing school friends.
 It's so sad people are dying.
 I'm stuck with my annoying sibling.
 Absolutely no hockey, I mean none.
 No friends which means I'm bored.
 I have to be very creative.
 Miss my friends I'm really bored.
 I am always and constantly tired.
 Bored- but I still have friends.
 No public interaction, I feel bored.
 When can I go outside NOW.
 Little brother getting on my nerves.
 Staying at home, nothing to do.
 Getting sick and tired of covid-19.
 When will all this be over?
 I am always tired and sleeping.
 Eat, sleep, eat, sleep, eat, sleep.
 I miss my friends so much.
 Doing school from home is frustrating.
 Inside is amazing but still sucks.
 Stuck inside was nice, not now.
 Brothers, so annoying, can't stand it.
 I like not going to school.
 I hate online school so much.
 Wish I could talk to friends.
 I just walked to the river.
 I am ready to see friends.
 Phineas and Ferb is the best.
 No routine, not good for me.
 Nothing's changed I feel the same.
 I like staying home with family.
 I miss my friends at school.

12 Days of Christmas Movies

By Olivia Koppes

Here is a list of my favorite Christmas movies of all time!

- 1- A Christmas Story (1983)
- 2- The Grinch (2018)
- 3- The Polar Express (2004)
- 4- Home Alone (1990)
- 5- Elf (2003)
- 6- The Year Without a Santa Claus (1974)
- 7- National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989)
- 8- A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965)
- 9- The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992)
- 10- Miracle on 34th Street (1947)
- 11- Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer (1964)
- 12- The Christmas Chronicles (2018)

"12 Days of Kossack Christmas"

On our fourth Kossack Christmas,

My teacher sent to me

Four bawling kids

Three Grinch Men

Two latex gloves

And a Principal and his VP



12 Days of Christmas Music

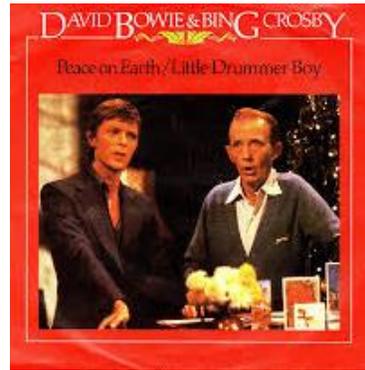
By Hector "Mr. T" Teran
KMS staff & guest writer

Happy Holidays, Kossacks! 'Tis the season, and the season can last a long time, but who knew there were soooo many holiday songs? I came up with 25, but we have limits, so I trimmed it (I *am* on a diet) to 12 for the Days of Christmas (apologies to other religious holidays). You may be familiar with some, while others you may never have heard of, but hopefully you will enjoy all of them in the future! I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Kwanzaa, as well as a Happy New Year!

- 1) David Bowie & Bing Crosby, "Little Drummer Boy (Peace on Earth)"
- 2) Band Aid 1984, "Don't They Know It's Christmas"
- 3) Jose Feliciano, "Feliz Navidad"
- 4) Miley Cyrus, Mark Ronson, Sean Ono Lennon, "Merry Xmas (War is Over)"
- 5) Mariah Carey, "All I Want for Christmas is You"
- 6) Run DMC, "Christmas in Hollis"
- 7) Alvin & the Chipmunks, "The Chipmunks Christmas Song (Christmas Please Don't be Late)"
- 8) The Carpenters, "Home for the Holidays"
- 9) Clint Black, "Milk and Cookies"
- 10) Annie Lennox & Al Green, "Put a Little Love in Your Heart"
- 11) Eagles, "Please Come Home for Christmas"
- 12) Jewel, "Winter Wonderland"

"12 Days of Kossack Christmas"

On our fifth Kossack Christmas,
My teacher sent to me
Five Felchle Names
Four bawling kids
Three Grinch Men
Two latex gloves
And a principal
and his VP



1) Of course, Bing Crosby and David Bowie singing "Little Drummer Boy (Peace on Earth)." An odd pairing at the time, as Mr. Crosby was in his golden years and David Bowie was reinventing himself again, they got

together for this classic. I remember as a child watching the video on this thing called MTV, which stood for Music Television, I wonder what happened to it? It helped that new platform and helped itself climb to #3 on the UK & German charts in 1982, but it will live on for years.

2) "Do They Know It's Christmas," Band Aid 1984. An original written and organized by Boomtown Rat Bob Geldof (who also created Band Aid), and performed by a Who's Who of 1980's British artists with members of The Police (Sting), U2 (Bono), Duran Duran (Simon LeBon), Genesis (Phil Collins), & Bananarama, among others, with proceeds (\$14 million) going to African countries' famine relief, as well as inspiring "We Are the World" in the United States.



3) "Feliz Navidad," Jose Feliciano. The Puerto Rican singer released this song 50 years ago, and it only has 19 words in the whole song (6 in Spanish, 13 in English).

4) "Happy Xmas (War is Over)," Sean Ono Lennon, Miley Cyrus, and Mark Ronson. Sean Ono Lennon plays the guitar in this remake of his late father's song. John Lennon created the original song during his solo career after the Beatles split up.



The History of Thanksgiving

By Elijah Cooper

Thanksgiving is one of the most important holidays in our culture, though the true story of Thanksgiving has less to do with how we celebrate it today. In November of 1620, the Pilgrims first made it to America. Due to the harsh weather and disease, they were forced to start building at one of the first available areas, a destroyed village. This village used to belong to a native tribe, but due to disease they were completely wiped out. The village was full of skeletons from the previous residents, but with more and more Pilgrims constantly dying, they had to stay there.

In February, their first settlement was complete, but the cold, lack of food, and disease caused all but 47 of the 102 original Pilgrims to die. The Pilgrims were able to start planting corn and other crops they found in the abandoned village, but they would have been wiped out if they didn't get help soon.

One day a native man named Samoset walked into their town, and he greeted them in English. He was part of the Wampanoag tribe, and Samoset said that he would come back with more of his tribe. A few days later, he returned with dozens of armed warriors and a man named Squanto. Squanto had lived in the village that the Pilgrims were staying in before the people had died; he had been captured as a child and was sold into slavery in Spain. Eventually he escaped back to America.

(continued below on page 7)

"12 Days of Kossack Christmas"

On our sixth Kossack Christmas,
My teacher sent to me
Six screens for Zooming
Five Felchle Names
Four bawling kids
Three Grinch Men
Two latex gloves
And a principal
and his VP

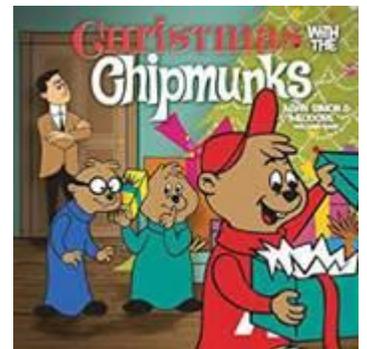


5) "All I Want for Christmas is You," Mariah Carey. In the pages of the *Guinness World Records 2020 Edition*, Carey was recently

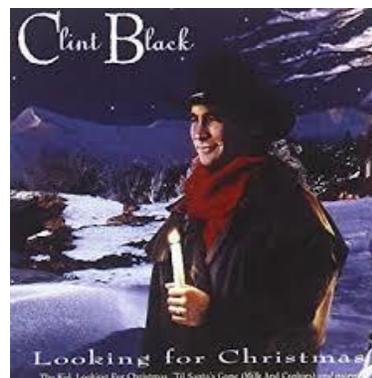
honored for being the "Highest-charting holiday (Christmas/ New Year) song on the *Billboard US Hot 100* by a solo artist" with this chart-topping hit.

6) "Christmas in Hollis," Run DMC. A Christmas rap/hip-hop song isn't common, but this Rock & Roll Hall of Fame trio from Hollis, Queens, New York were big after crossing over to popular & rock music in the late 1980s.

7) "The Chipmunks Christmas Song (Christmas Don't Be Late)," Alvin & the Chipmunks. Within three weeks of being released, this song had sold over 2.5 million copies, making it the fastest-selling record of 1958. It hit #1 on December 22, 1958, and stayed there for four weeks. This is the last Christmas song to hit #1 in the United States. The Chipmunks were called Alvin, Simon, and Theodore; they were named after Liberty Records president Al Bennett, owner Si Waronker, and the audio engineer on duty when it was recorded, Ted Keep.



8) "Home for the Holidays," The Carpenters. Labeled by music lovers as one of the best voices ever, the late Karen Carpenter performed this song in the 1970s.



9) "Milk & Cookies," Clint Black. An original by Clint Black, but Mr. Tilly told me about this Country Western song that I was not aware of and to which most of us can definitely relate.

(keep reading below for three more holiday hits!)

The History of Thanksgiving

(continued from page 6)

The Wampanoag natives had come to attack the Pilgrims. Both groups readied their weapons, but neither seemed to want to attack first. After a while, their leaders met and talked together; using Squanto as an interpreter, they came to an understanding that benefited both groups. The Wampanoag were constantly under attack by neighboring tribes, so the Pilgrims agreed to help defend them with their guns and cannons in exchange for help surviving in the New World and help planting crops.



With Squanto's help, the Pilgrims were able to learn how to plant corn, beans, and squash. When fall and harvest time came, the Pilgrims were able to harvest enough food to be able to survive the winter, so they and the Wampanoag gathered food such as deer, fish, birds, corn, beans, and squash, for a great feast which lasted three days. This feast included games, stories, and entertainment. Though these two peoples were friends for a time, this would later change, but for a while they continued to help each other.

Sources: History.com & Cody Bonds' "Awesome Histories" on YouTube

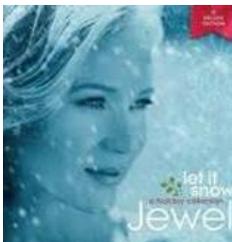
"12 Days of Kossack Christmas"

On our seventh Kossack Christmas,
My teacher sent to me
Seven sixth grade teachers
Six screens for Zooming
Five Felchle Names
Four bawling kids
Three Grinch Men
Two latex gloves
And a principal and his VP

10) "Put A Little Love in Your Heart," Annie Lennox & Al Green. Jackie DeShannon performed the original in the 1950s, but Lennox, who hit it big with her band Eurythmics in the 1980s, lent her voice to team up with the soulful Reverend Al Green for this song that was featured on the Bill Murray movie *Scrooged* soundtrack in 1988.



11) "Please Come Home for Christmas," Eagles. After Bernie Leadon left the band in 1975, the Eagles were Don Felder, Don Henley, Joe Walsh, Glenn Frey, and Randy Meisner. A little known fact is that this American band used to back Linda Ronstadt before they became famous, and all of them are in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Many artists have covered this song, with the Eagles taking it to #18 in the U.S. in 1978. The song is found on "The Very Best of the Eagles." However, their "Greatest Hits Album 1971-75" is the all-time best-selling album in music history.



12) "Winter Wonderland," Jewel. How can we not have an Alaskan singing a winter song to round out our list?

* * * * *



Thanksgiving Traditions

By Sylvia McGraw

On October 3, 1863, President Lincoln announced that the nation would celebrate Thanksgiving on November 26, 1863. It was actually the Secretary of State William Seward who wrote the speech that said on the fourth Thursday of every November Thanksgiving will be held, and ever since that day families have added their own traditions to pass down to the next generations.

What is your favorite Thanksgiving tradition?

Mrs. Rininger: "Just eating a lot. That is pretty much my only tradition."

Mrs. Newton: "When everyone around the table shares what they are thankful for."

Do you have any traditions that are unique to your family?

Mrs. Rininger: "We had several years where we celebrated two Thanksgivings. We called it Fakesgiving where we get together with a couple other close family friends. We normally do foosball tournaments and lots of puzzles and games with the kids."

Mrs. Newton: "We always dry out the wishbone and a few days later, my sister and I each grab an end, and see when it breaks who gets the most bone, that means their wish will come true."

(continued below on page 9)

"12 Days of Kossack Christmas"

On our eighth Kossack Christmas,

My teacher sent to me

Eight Google Classrooms

Seven sixth grade teachers

Six screens for Zooming

Five Felchle Names

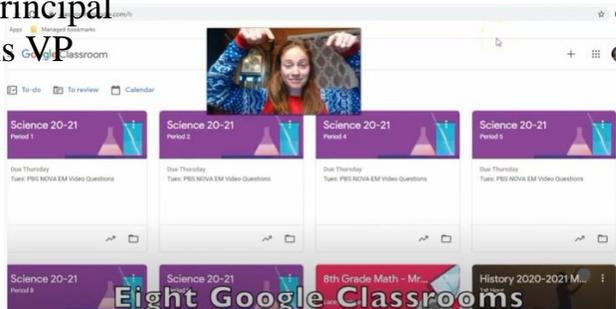
Four bawling kids

Three Grinch Men

Two latex gloves

And a principal

and his VP



Tasty Thanksgiving

By Taylor Pyfer

The Pilgrims celebrated the first Thanksgiving at Plymouth Plantation in late November of 1621. The Pilgrims had a grand feast in celebration of arriving in the new land, which ended up being the first Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving was then declared a national holiday in 1863.



Thanksgiving today is a celebration of harvest and blessings of the past year. Thanksgiving is normally celebrated with a turkey. We eat a turkey on Thanksgiving because turkeys are hunted in late fall around the same time as Thanksgiving. Turkeys are one of the main birds to

hunt in North America so the bird gained popularity as the Thanksgiving meal of choice. Other side choices Americans normally eat for Thanksgiving include stuffing, ham, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, and dessert is normally pie.

Sites to get Thanksgiving dish recipes!

- Easy, No-Fuss Thanksgiving Turkey - Tastes Better From Scratch
- Old Fashioned Glazed Ham - Food Network
- Stuffing Recipe - Cooking Classic
- Cranberry Sauce - Simply Recipes
- Perfect Mashed Potatoes - Simply Recipes
- Roasted Sweet Potatoes - Chelsea's Messy Apron
- Old Fashioned Pumpkin Pie - Simply Recipes



Thanksgiving Traditions

(continued from page 8)

How do you plan to adjust your traditions this year due to coronavirus?

Mrs. Rininger: "This year we are just going to Seward and spend Thanksgiving with my husband's family. Both of his parents are retired and have been helping us with the online schooling and our kids. So we have pretty much been in contact a lot, you could say they are part of our bubble."

Mrs. Newton: "Since we do not have family up here to celebrate with, we normally bring a Thanksgiving feast to our good friends on the MacDonald Spit, but this year we are going to stay home and celebrate with just the Newtons."

What is your favorite Thanksgiving dish?

Mrs. Rininger: "Sweet potatoes and pumpkin pie."

Mrs. Newton: "This is a tough decision... I can't decide between deviled eggs or green bean casserole!"

* * * * *

"12 Days of Kossack Christmas"

On our ninth Kossack Christmas,

My teacher sent to me

Nine Trappers prancing

Eight Google Classrooms

Seven sixth grade teachers

Six screens for Zooming

Five Felchle Names

Four bawling kids

Three Grinch Men

Two latex gloves

And a principal and his VP



Turkey Art Contest

Congratulations to all the artists who entered their terrific turkeys in the art contest sponsored by the Purple Pages! And the winners are...



Tasty Textured Turkey – Agent Fannon

Boldly Beautiful Bird – Brooklyn Phillips

Crazy Creative Critter – Miley Corwin

Picture Perfect Plumage – Kayani Whicker

Cool Colorful Creature – Keziah Simons

"Bad to the Bone" Beast – Mady Martin

* * * * *

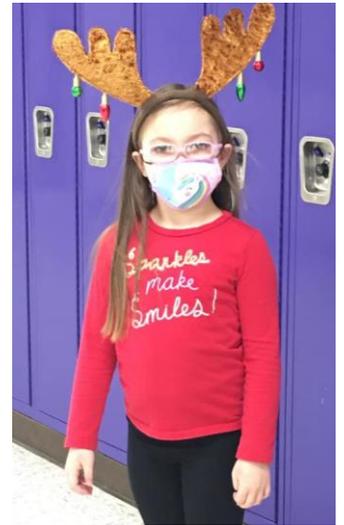
Holiday Spirit Week

From December 14-17, KMS students and staff celebrated dress-up days with these holiday themes: Sparkle & Shine Day; Red, White & Green Day; and Holiday Spirit Day. Check out all their spirit!



Mr. Beck's gnome twins take a break from their aquatic observations and show off their school spirit on "sparkle and shine" dress-up day!

KMS Holiday Spirit Week



"12 Days of Kossack Christmas"

On our tenth Kossack Christmas,
 My teacher sent to me
Ten tractors sweeping
 Nine Trappers prancing
 Eight Google Classrooms
 Seven sixth grade teachers
 Six screens for Zooming
 Five Felchle Names
 Four bawling kids
 Three Grinch Men
 Two latex gloves
 And a principal and his VP



KMS Holiday Spirit Week

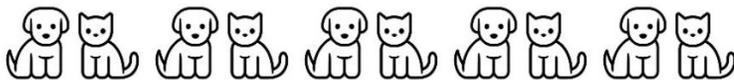


Silly School Spirit Days

“Blast from the Past” – April 2020

By Zoomie McZoomface

- Monday – Pajama day!
- Tuesday – Crazy background day!
- Wednesday – Crazy hair day!
- Thursday – Change your name day!
- Friday – Bring your pet to class day!
- Next Week – Repeat all of the above!



Graffiti Girls

“Blast from the Past” – April 2020

Ava Gruber and her younger sister Sophia stopped by the school entryway recently to brighten up the day for KMS teachers with some cute chalk artwork! Do you think it’s possible to move this slab of concrete to the wall in Mr. Felchle’s classroom?

Ava and Sophia moved to North Carolina with their family at the end of summer, but they were KMS remote students for first semester. They are now enrolled in 8th grade and 6th grade in North Carolina, and we really miss them!

“12 Days of Kossack Christmas”

On our eleventh Kossack Christmas,
My teacher sent to me
Eleven packet pick-ups
Ten tractors sweeping
Nine Trappers prancing
Eight Google Classrooms
Seven sixth grade teachers
Six screens for Zooming
Five Felchle Names
Four bawling kids
Three Grinch Men
Two latex gloves
And a principal and his VP



Opinion-8-ed

“Blast from the Past” – November 2020

Who or what are you most thankful for in your life? Why?

Destin Trickel- “I am thankful for Steven Universe because that show is why I draw.”

Bella Kroto- “I am thankful for my family because they are the most trustworthy people in my life and they have always helped me get through certain things I couldn’t get through on my own, and they have also shown me what I am worth.”

Arianna Hensley: “I frickin’ love my cat, and he is amazing, and he doesn’t judge me even when I act super weird in front of him.”

Mrs. Bressler: “I am thankful for my family and friends near and far because each one is a part of who I am.”

Mrs. Stotz-Mason: “I am most thankful for my husband because he always finds humor in trying situations. I am thankful that our internet finally became functional after getting the right antenna, and this allowed me to both work from home while sick and actually watch the news (as opposed to listening to it on the radio).”

Nurse Dixie: “I am thankful for The Lord because he brings me peace within chaos.”



We all know that Nurse Dixie is our guardian angel!

Life’s Ruff for Bella

“Blast from the Past” – April 2020

By George Navarre



This month has been especially laborious for KMS resident pup, Bella. Despite lacking opposable thumbs, or any semblance of object permanence, Bella has been forced to pick up the slack left behind by the missing middle school students. She can be seen here working through some particularly difficult geometry.

When pressed for an explanation regarding this inhumane treatment, KMS teachers replied with, “You’re barking up the wrong tree,” “Life’s ruff,” “It’s a dog eat dog world,” and several other cringe-worthy, dog-related puns. In all seriousness, Bella, and all of the KMS teachers, are missing the presence of our incredible students!



So far, Bella has only had one full day working with students, back before spring break on March 5th.

Editor’s note: Bella is thrilled to be back at school studying with her student buddies! She has graciously agreed to be interviewed and featured in future issues of the Purple Pages.

“12 Days of Kossack Christmas”

On our twelfth Kossack Christmas,

My teacher sent to me
Twelve forgotten passwords

Eleven packet pick-ups

Ten tractors sweeping

Nine Trappers prancing

Eight Google Classrooms

Seven sixth grade teachers

Six screens for Zooming

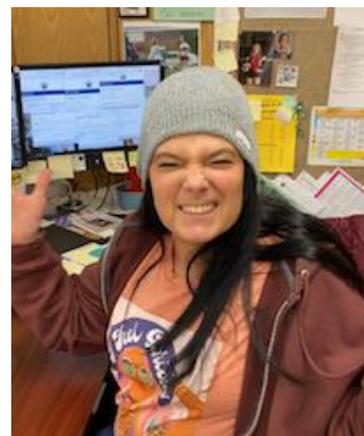
Five Felchle Names

Four bawling kids

Three Grinch Men

Two latex gloves

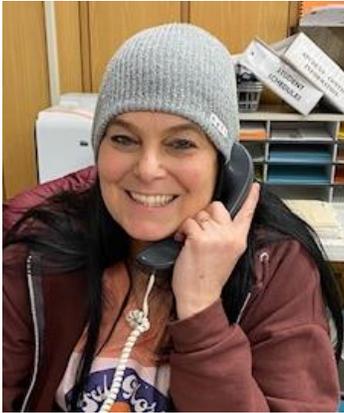
And a principal and his VP



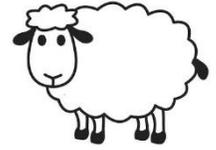
Hilarious Hat Day!

KMS School Spirit Day on December 8, 2020





Brutally Belated Birthdays



We promise that we wished very happy birthdays to all of ewes way back at the end of 2020!

November B-days

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 01. Sylvia McGraw | 14. Jalyn Yeoman |
| 02. Savannah Tiel | 14. Silas Freeman |
| 02. Mr. Lyke | 14. Alexis Taylor |
| 04. Colby Sturman | 17. Charlie Vermette |
| 04. Adie Sparks | 18. Nikki Somers |
| 05. Elliot Stockton | 19. Vail Coots |
| 06. Elizabeth Theron | 20. Katie Johnson |
| 07. Jessie Johnson | 21. Cecil Newcomb |
| 07. Devalynn Duniphin | 21. Makai Johansen |
| 08. Matthew Krol | 22. Tyler Maxie |
| 08. Chase Johnson | 22. Mr. Dahlman |
| 08. Mr. Carson | 26. Trae Pitsch |
| 09. Isaac Potton | 27. Jace Appelhans |
| 11. Jackson Taliesin | 27. Evyn Witt |
| 11. Rhett Bilger | 28. Brooklyn Stewart |
| 11. Syber Miller | 28. Cole Langham |
| 12. Owen Koroll | 29. Jackson Linebarger |
| 14. Jenna Yeoman | 29. Kohyn Orlob |

December B-days

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 01. Keziah Simons | 16. Sophia Gruber |
| 01. Aaliyah Bookey | 16. Austin Thompson |
| 01. Bryce Jolicoeur | 16. Simone Watts |
| 02. McKenzie Spence | 17. Kevin Smith |
| 04. Taylor Crista | 17. Sage Wilson |
| 04. Lincoln Nelson | 18. Chloe Miller |
| 04. Ellee Pancoast | 18. Mrs. Meyers |
| 04. Noah Hallam | 19. Nik Bezdecny |
| 05. Keanu Swearingen | 20. Thomas Krol |
| 08. Bridger Begich | 20. River Covey |
| 08. Angelina Bond | 21. Riley Galloway |
| 12. Mateo Menah | 26. Elijah Cooper |
| 12. Damien Rodriguez | 26. Gage Engle |
| 12. Mikey Nutter | 27. Jossy Olson |
| 12. Andon Wolverton | 28. Evelyn Cooper |
| 13. Jylann Green | 29. Maddie Barrett |
| 15. Mady Martin | 31. Mrs. Vest |

Symphonic Stephanos

By Lyna Percival

This guy loves to hang out with his dog Jack and fish lots of trout, it's Mr. Stephanos! He loves music and band is his passion. He has played trombone, euphonium, tuba, trumpet, and last but certainly not least, the guitar since 2002, about 18 years. His favorite instrument is the trombone because there are a lot of cool sounds he can make with the trombone, and it is the closest thing to a human's voice.

Mr. Stephanos also teaches band next door at the high school, where he also leads the drumline. He has been teaching marching bands for nine years, and he also played in one all throughout high school and college. He has performed all throughout the Lower 48 states, where he was raised in the suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia. Welcome to KMS, Mr. Stephanos!



Intramural Basketball

By Katie Johnson

Intramural basketball is a three week long period where you learn how to play basketball or get better at basketball. Normally after the three week long period we have try-outs, but since this year has been “interesting” because of COVID, we just kept doing intramural basketball. We were practicing without masks, but we haven’t been having any practices since November.

During intramural basketball we worked on the following drills:

- Ball handling and dribbling
- Shooting: wraps, 20's, lay-ups, Mikans, block shots, spot shooting
- Passing: four corner passing, 3-man weave
- Defense reaction and conditioning
- 3 on 2 defense
- Reaction rebounding and passing to an outlet
- Full court passes and lay-ups

If you have never touched a basketball in your life and you are interested in playing basketball, you should definitely do intramurals. Coach Beeson said, “All you have to do is show up. Once you show up, you will see that everyone there is supportive and encouraging, no matter the ability level. We are all a team and in it together to grow, improve, and be the best that we can be,” and this, “Middle school is the age where student athletes try sports for the first time. And as a coach, it is my responsibility to teach the fundamentals so that someone who is a beginner can improve their abilities and succeed in the sport.”

McKenzie Spence said, “I hoped to become a better player and teammate. I got to know some of the teammates and became close with them. And because of my coaches I am a better player.”

Sailor Tallent said, “I hoped to get better, have fun and hopefully make the team, and I did achieve two of my goals, to get better and to have fun, mainly because of our coach Mr. Songer.”

With that being said, next year you should definitely try basketball!

BTW, none of the following players actually play ball for Kenai Middle School!



Mrs. Bressler Has Class

“Blast from the Past” – December 2020

In her 6th grade language arts classes, students wrote Dear Santa letters from a naughty character’s point of view, explaining how they had been misunderstood and asking for forgiveness, then read their letters on Flipgrid to share them virtually with classmates. In reading classes, they watched *A Wrinkle in Time* after they finished reading the novel together.



Zoom Zoom Zoom !!!

Con-GRAD-ulations!



Mr. Beck keeps a close eye on Mr. Stephanos as he rides a snowmachine for the first time!

KMS:
Making dreams come true for adults too!

Mrs. Vann Has Class

“Blast from the Past”
December 2020

Student in Mrs. Vann’s 6th grade class wrote paragraphs about their favorite seasons, with winter well ahead in the lead! They wrote about having snowball fights, building snowmen, playing in the snow, and riding snowmachines. Students also wrote about how much they like the winter season because of Thanksgiving, and their favorite holiday, Christmas!

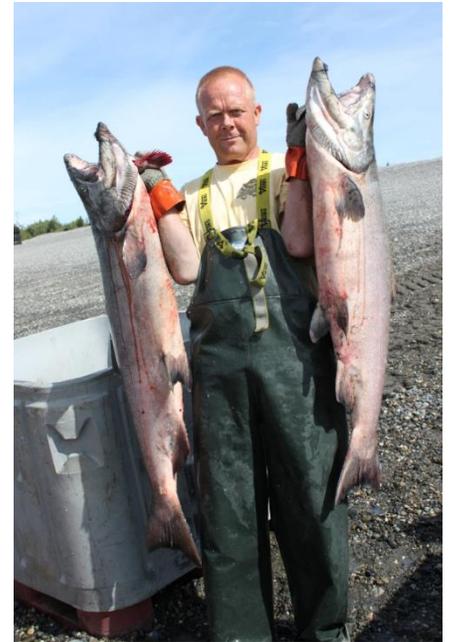


Mr. Litke recently graduated from Grand Canyon University with his Master’s degree in Special Education. He completed his student teaching during first semester in Mrs. Vann’s 6th grade classroom, where he also worked alongside Mr. Dahlman.

Mr. Litke has lived in Alaska for 30 years and worked with youth programs most of those years. He also has six children of his own, so he has lots of experience with kids! He has always wanted to work in education, but he spent 25 very busy years being a dad and commercial fishing in Cook Inlet.

This semester he is working as a long-term substitute and teaching Mrs. Rininger’s 8th grade math classes, plus one period of art class.

Congratulations on earning your advanced degree, Mr. Litke!



S’more Tubin’ at Solid Rock

“Blast from the Past” – April 2020
By Kylee Verkuilen

What did you enjoy the most on the 8th grade class trip?

Ashlyn Potton: “Sledding because it’s an adrenaline rush and Mr. Summer dared me to go head first.”

Anonymous: “Watching Mr. Summer go down the hill head first.”

Jackson Marion: “The sledding hill because of the thrill from hitting the bumps.”

Boston McEwen: “Trying to stuff a hot dog in Jackson’s mouth.”

Isabel McClure: “Sledding because Lianna, Jacob, Kylee, and I all got stuck at the bottom of the rope lift and had a snowball fight and tea time.”

Quandaries in Quarantine

By Mrs. Nabholz

The KMS Drama Department was pleased to present *Scenes from a Quarantine* by Lindsay Price on December 10, 2020. The KMS audience viewed the collection of Zoom-recorded scenes over Zoom, and admission to the PG show was totally free!

The play featured the acting talents of Oliver Boersma, Moriah Cox, Aurora Cronk, Silas Freeman, Blake Gillis, Benjamin Harris, Arianna Hensley, Allie Hutchins, Rylee Novak, Lylah Smith, Lacie Sorhus, Cooper Tallent-Darling, and Simone Watts.

The student actors portrayed people (and even some pets) experiencing feelings of uncertainty, frustration, annoyance, apathy, depression, anxiety, confusion, desperation, guilt, jealousy, and even excitement!



In “Love in Quarantine,” Moriah as Juliet and Silas as Romeo discover that their love might not be as wonderful as they first thought once they can only meet online and have the time to learn more about each other’s true personality.

In “Meetings Are Hell,” the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse meet via Zoom to discuss their relative evils, with Blake as Famine, Allie as War, and Arianna as Death, all feeling just a bit jealous that Aurora as Pestilence is getting all the global attention. Blake stated that it was fun to perform and not as scary as you might think to act on camera. Aurora learned how important it was to be part of a team, and she will always remember how the play helped people laugh.

This issue of the *KMS Purple Pages* . . .

is brought to you by past reporters Oliver Boersma, Tanner Clyde, Elijah Cooper, Trapper Cottrell, Sophia Ensley, Katie Johnson, Olivia Koppes, Sylvia McGraw, Rylee Novak, Lyna Percival, Taylor Pyfer, Beverly Roney, Kylee Verkuilen, and several guest reporters, with support from Journalism advisor Mrs. Nabholz. Thanks also to the many students, parents, and staff members who provided assistance with news and photos!



Meanwhile, Ben, as Shadow the Cat, calmly licking his “paws” and wishing to be left alone, just can’t understand why the hyperactive Moriah, as Lucky the Dog, is so excited to spend the entire day quarantined at home with her owner.

In “Best Friends” and “Best Friends Thwarted,” Lacie plays the enthusiastic Co (short for COVID-19), who invites herself into the homes of Ollie and Lylah and tries to get closer with them, stating, “I can’t help it if I’m popular!” Lylah felt that some of the scenes were very sad because they were so true. She pointed out that students have been going through a lot during the pandemic, but using your talents can really help, and so can laughing at your mistakes and helping others. She said, “I will definitely remember spitting out water onto my floor so many times to get our scene just right!”

If you want to check out their awesome performances online, search for “KMS Scenes from a Quarantine” on YouTube. The show was directed by Mr. Lyke and produced by special arrangement with Theatrefolk.



Sensational Students of the Month

By Olivia Koppes & Sophia Ensley

These students were selected as Students of the Month for September, October, and November of 2020.
Thanks very much to everyone who submitted their photos to help us celebrate their success!



Carter Felchle 6th



Vail Coots 7th



Caitlyn Eskelin 7th



Stella Selanoff 8th



Isabella Bond 8th



Elijah Cooper 8th



Thomas Smith 8th



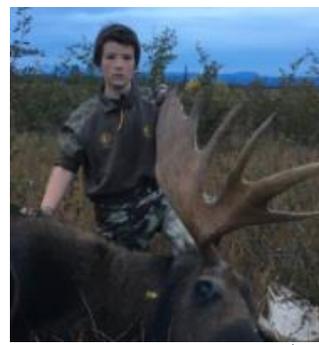
Azilyn Hall 7th



Ellsi Miller 7th



Olivia Koppes 7th



Charles Vermette 7th



Sophia Gruber 6th



Lucia Carson 6th



Miguel Castellon 7th



Enrique Mercado 8th



Maddie Malone 8th



McKenzie Koliba 8th



Katalla Tomrdle 6th



Keira Larson 6th

6th Grade - Not Pictured

Justice Adcox
Isla Crouse
Jack Linebarger
Gracie Martin
Chloe Miller
Blake Morris
Mason Vermette

7th Grade - Not Pictured

Royce Griechen
Makenzie Harden
Madison Holcombe
Trae Pitsch
Gabe Rison
McKenzie Spence
Sailor Tallent

8th Grade - Not Pictured

Moriah Cox
Dain Douthit
Kaya Lanman
Rylee Novak
Austin Thompson
Sawyer Vann
Dakota Wisnewski



Wild Breathing

“Blast from the Past” – April 2020
By Ollie Boersma



Breath of the Wild is definitely a Zelda game, same kind of story, a plenitude of items, and dungeons (they are called Divine Beasts and shrines in this game), lots of dungeons. Buuuut, there were such drastic changes to the traditional formula that if the game didn't have the same characters and story as all of the other games it would be almost unrecognizable from a Zelda game.

This story is kinda long, so here is a quick summary: Link (the player) has woken up after 100 years because he is a lazy brat. He goes out into the world without any of his memories because again he is a lazy brat. But, uh oh! The entire continent of Hyrule has been destroyed. No biggie though. He has to go and help Zelda with defeating the big piggy boi Ganon, but whoops!

He has been getting power to become a big spider pig boi. Yay! It has many more parts, but that is the meat of it.

The story of this game can be completely skipped though (aside from the beginning and the ending) and you can go straight to the final boss. I do NOT advise doing that on your play-through because defeating a Divine Beast (Vah Ruta, Vah Medoh, Vah Rudania, and Vah Naboris) will grant you a power relating to the champion that controlled it. Also, defeating them will take a sizable chunk off of the final boss's health. There are also items scattered across the map, but the most powerful sword in the game is of course the Master Sword. It does 60 damage and can shoot beams if you use the throw button!

Overall, it's definitely a great game, but it could use some improvements, like longer dungeons, more fluent story, a durability meter for your items, and some way to repair them as well, because seriously they break a lot. This game is also a great game for quarantine because it took me about 400+ hours to complete it 100 percent.

Top KMS Video Games

By Trapper Cottrell

If you play video games or at least are connected to the gaming community then you would probably know the most popular games, and you probably have your own opinion on what the best three games are. After asking 12 people from 8th grade, 10 people from 7th grade, and 9 people from 6th grade on what their favorite game was, I was quite surprised by one of the top picks.

Let's start with reviewing the top played game, Among Us. Among Us is a multiplayer game where you play as an astronaut that looks like a bean from a top/down perspective. The point of this game is to finish all your "Tasks" or to vote out the imposter, while the imposter will try his best to not get caught slicing someone in half. The crewmates can find the bodies and try to put together clues and figure out who the imposter is then vote them out by seeing which person got the most votes or if the majority skipped that round.



Among Us is best played with friends but you can play with random people online using the in-game text chat. The text chat only comes up when a body is reported, meaning you have no communication with the other players. One person even said that they play Among Us wherever they have their phone on them.

Next up is Call of Duty Modern Warfare, which is an FPS shooter game, meaning you're in first person as a shooter. In the game you have a choice of playing in a close area (football field size) where you try to have the most kills, or you play on a battle royale sized map called Verdansk where you parachute from a plane and you have to loot to get better weapons (like every single battle royale game). There are multiple game modes you can play Call of Duty on, and you can even have private matches if you have enough friends to start one. There is a way to customize



weapons if you're playing the standard multiplayer to get the higher advantage.

Finally, last on our list is Fall Guys. Fall Guys is another game where you look like a bean, except instead of looking down on your character you can see your character in 3-D and can look around more. The point of Fall Guys is to go through a series of obstacles on different "maps" like parkour courses, with constant moving objects to hit you off a platform, etc. To get to the final map you have to place in the top 50% each round, so if you fail a round where you're in the losing 50% you fully lose. At the final course you have to place first, meaning being the last one standing or the first one to get the "Crown." The crown is the winning trophy which you may use to buy stuff in the in-game store.



Due to its top down perspective and its simple design, Among Us turned out to be the most popular KMS game, with Call of Duty second, and Fall Guys last. If we were to compare Among Us to the nation's most played games, Among Us usually comes from around 10th all the way to #1 on most played games.

Impractical Jokers

Rave Review

By Olivia Koppes

Welcome to this article where I review the comedy show called “Impractical Jokers.” If you know me, I probably have bothered you about this show a lot! Warning, it has rude humor, swearing, and overall mature content. This show sometimes makes my mom uncomfortable with how far the show can go, and my friends don’t really find it funny, but I still watch anyway.

In 1999, four best friends from high school named Brian “Q” Quinn, Joe Gatto, Sal Vulcano, and James “Murr” Murray formed a comedy troupe called The Tenderloins. They did comedy skits in that group then in 2011 they started “Impractical Jokers.” It was first titled “Mission: Uncomfortable.” At the moment there are eight seasons. The show is set in different places but mostly in Staten Island or Manhattan in New York. On some occasions, they have gone to Hawaii, Texas, and Universal Studios in Hollywood to film an episode.



Studios in Hollywood to film an episode.

Murray explains the idea of Jokers: “We were hanging out one night in my apartment playing video games, and we were talking about a hidden camera show, and we had an idea. On all those shows, the comedian is pranking the public. What if we did it the opposite way? What if the joke is on us? It’s an upside-down hidden camera show where we’re the butt of our jokes.”

The guys compete in hidden camera challenges and whoever refuses the most challenges loses the entire episode and receives a punishment that can sometimes go pretty far. Challenges include Name Game, Sign Here, Worst Cashiers Ever, and many more. To do the challenges, the guys in the back have a monitor to see what is happening, and a microphone to communicate with whoever is in play. The joker has an earbud to hear what the other guys are saying, and they tell the joker in play what to do.

Punishments include “Spider-Man,” where Q was strapped down to a board while tarantulas were placed

on him. A similar punishment was “Catastrophe,” where Sal was strapped to a board as well but instead of spiders, the jokers put cats on him (he is terrified of cats). Yes, this was Q’s revenge on Sal!

Another punishment was “Enter the Dragons,” where Joe and Sal lost the episode and had to open for Imagine Dragons. This resulted in a running joke on the show; Sal had to make up a song for the opening and ended up making a song called “Shut your face Grandma,” and the line ended up being used throughout the show after that.

“Mime and Punishment” is the last one I will talk about in this article, but this punishment was too hilarious not to mention. In this one, Q was handcuffed to a mime for 24 hours, during that exact punishment they had a live show so Q was stuck with the mime on their way to the live show with the others laughing at Q the whole time.

So let’s talk about the guys, starting with Sal Vulcano, who was born on November 6, 1976, in Staten Island, New York City, New York, which makes him the youngest joker out of the foursome. He has Italian, Cuban, and Puerto Rican ancestry. Sal has done the most punishments at 68. He also suffers from ailurophobia (fear of cats), acrophobia (fear of heights), and mysophobia/germophobia, all three of which are used against him in challenges and punishments. The Jokers have said that Sal is the easiest to punish due to his neurotic tendencies, multiple phobias, and timid attitude.

Next is Brian “Q” Quinn, who was born on March 14, 1976, making him the oldest joker. Q is half-Italian, half-Irish. He is a former firefighter, having served with the FDNY for eight years. Q has suffered two broken ribs, encephalitis, and meningitis. He had a bad incident as a firefighter when he fell into a burning building when trying to cut the roof and landed on a burning Jeep, and he thought he was going to die. As of March 2020, Q has had the second least amount of punishments at 51. But Q has also done the least challenges out of all the Jokers, due in part to his health problems. He has three cats, named Benjamin, Brooklyn, and Chessie. Yes, he loves cats.

Next, we will talk about Joe. Joe Gatto was born on June 5th, 1976. He was born in Staten Island and is of Italian descent. Joe loves to eat and is frequently seen eating on the show. The Jokers view Joe as the hardest Joker to punish due to his ability to shamelessly

(continued below on page 23)

Impractical Jokers

(continued from page 22)

perform shameful tasks and the least amount of punishments at 44. Gatto is an advocate for the “Adopt, Don’t Shop” movement, encouraging people to adopt pets from shelters rather than purchase them from breeders. He has eight dogs: Spumoni, Biscotti, Tartufo, Napoleon, Panna, Cotta, Cannoli, and Struffoli. Joe had another dog named Mishkeen who died in around 2017, and his other dog Pignoli died recently. He and his wife, Bessy, have two children, daughter Milana and son Remington “Remo” Gatto.

James “Murr” Murray was born on May 1st, 1976. He was born in Staten Island, New York but is of British descent. Murr is teased for looking like a ferret so is constantly called ferret. He is relentlessly teased by the other guys and I would say he has the worst punishments. Murr is an author who has written four horror books: *Don’t Move*, *Obliteration*, *The Brink*, and *Awakened*.

Now let’s talk about the new episodes. Due to quarantine, Jokers was put on hold until they could film again, but for right now they have a show called “Dinner Party” which they started in late May. The last episode of season 8 for Jokers was released on March 5th, 2020, and actually, the 9th season is coming soon. In September, Murray announced on Twitter that they were filming Jokers again, and in early November they announced that season 9 will be coming out February 4th, 2021.

And that’s all I have for this article, so go watch it for yourself! Thanks for reading!



Anonymous Confessions

By Chaotic Cabbage

“I have gained over 25 pounds because of all the candy little kids have dropped on Halloween night.”

-Hot Rat

Normally I don’t agree with stealing money from British kids, but it’s really their fault if they are tying it to their candy.

-Chaotic Cabbage

“I have not had a real chair in 2 weeks and I’m just sitting on a pile of pillows during all the zoom meetings so I can reach the keyboard and mouse.”

-Dungeon Master Dove



How does your mouse feel about this? Does it approve of you sitting on pillows instead of putting the computer on the floor? You shouldn’t let your mouse make you sit on pillows just because it wants to be on a desk.

-Chaotic Cabbage

“One time I got stuck in a trashcan, great experience, 10/10, definitely would recommend.”

-Not stuck in a trashcan carrot

Please stop coming to my house and hiding in my trashcan, it’s really inconvenient because you are tearing the bag and I have to get a new one.

-Chaotic Cabbage



“When my parents leave me home alone I run around and shout COWABUNGA!”

-Cowabunga Kid

I’m sorry to hear that whenever your parents leave you get attacked by evil ninjas and have to dress up as a large green turtle-person.

-Chaotic Cabbage

“My spirit animal is a lawn mower.”

-Nature Mager



That is a good and noble animal, and studies have shown that about 13% of people have a lawn mower as their spirit animal, and another 11% of people’s spirit animals are blenders.

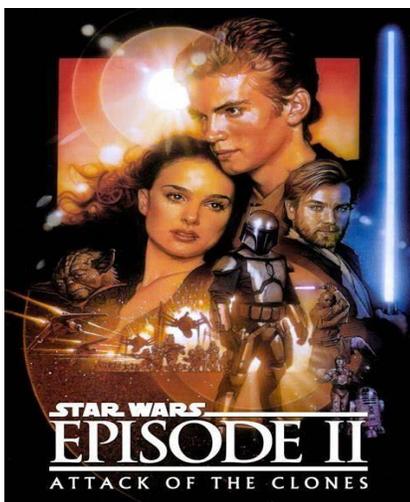
-Chaotic Cabbage

Star Wars: Episode X: The Ranking

“Blast from the Past” – April 2020

By Tanner Clyde

No doubt about it, Star Wars is a massive pop culture icon. With the release of Rise of Skywalker only a few months ago, I wanted to rank my least favorite to favorite Star Wars films from worst to best. And no, I am NOT putting the animated Clone Wars movie in here. That movie was literally a few of the Clone Wars episodes glued together. Also, this is all my opinion. Don't get TOO mad, fanboys. I'll put the ranking from 1-10 for each movie, okay? Good, I'm glad we agree.



#11: Episode II: Attack of the Clones

God, this movie is really anything but good. It has some decent little action sequences, but that's about it. George Lucas wanted to go all out on CGI, and that affects the movie even more today. Hayden Christensen's first turn as Anakin Skywalker kinda really sucked too, considering he was a big whiny baby the whole movie. Let's move on before I go blind from CGI overload. 4/10

Page 24

#10: Episode I: The Phantom Menace

It's a pretty big improvement from Attack of the Clones, but it still isn't great. It was actually the very first Star Wars movie I ever watched. It has pretty good special effects that somewhat hold up better today than Attack of the Clones (what's up with that, George) and a compelling story. What holds it back is the fact that everything goes by super fast and the number of political scenes no one cares about. I know a lot of people hate Jar Jar Binks, but I actually think he's fine. And Darth Maul is really cool despite a whopping seven minutes of screen time and only blinking three times in the whole film. 6.5/10

#9: Solo: A Star Wars Story

First of all, this is indeed a pretty good movie. However, it only existed to make money, which is ironic considering it flopped at the box office. I mean, we all know what happened to Han Solo. We didn't exactly need to see a lot of those scenes if you watched the Clone Wars and Star Wars Rebels animated series (if you haven't, you really should). Mainly the use of Darth Maul. Otherwise, the story and action was really fun. 7/10



#8: Episode III: Revenge of the Sith

This movie has been hated by a LOT of people. I actually really like this movie. Hayden Christensen is a very good actor. He received a pretty awful script, so he delivered a good performance in my opinion. I really like General Grievous even though he had six minutes and thirty seconds on screen. The CGI is showing some age, but I can get past that. The final lightsaber battle is very cool, and it shows a decent story about the fall of Anakin Skywalker. 8/10



#7 Episode IV: A New Hope

I'm gonna get some hate for ranking it low, but this is still a very good movie. Obviously, it's starting to show its age, but this is the film that started it all. It introduced my favorite movie villain in Darth Vader, and the space battles are fun. Simple movie and a great movie. 8.5/10

#6: Episode VIII: The Last Jedi

I don't know what the deal was with this movie. People were calling it "divisive." Like I'm supposed to know what that means.

(continued below on page 25)

Star Wars: The Ranking

(continued from page 24)

I thought it was good. Not a lot of lightsaber fights, so THAT kinda sucked. A lot of people don't like Snoke, but he's OK. Kylo Ren was improved upon in this film, and Rey was better than ever. The Praetorian Guard fight scene is kinda useless storywise, but it's a really cool scene. I do not like the casino plot line though. 8.7/10



#5: Episode VI: Return of the Jedi

People consider this the weakest old one. I have to disagree. Yeah, I'm allowed to do that. We all are. Anyway, people don't seem to like the Ewoks, which is fair. Luke is much better in this movie than the previous two. The movie has some cool scenes, like Vader's redemption and death, the death of Yoda, and Chewie in an AT-ST. Fun movie. 8.8/10

#4: Rogue One: A Star Wars Story

Going into theaters, I wasn't expecting much. I didn't even know what this movie was gonna be about. Obviously, I liked it. Good job, movie. On a serious note, it was a very good movie. There wasn't a single bad character, and the Vader scene at the end is my second favorite scene

in all of Star Wars, not to mention a gut punch ending and the death of almost all the main characters. 9/10

#3: Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back

Probably the most iconic movie in the franchise, it holds up very well today. It has the Hoth action scenes, the carbonite freezing of Han Solo, the introduction of Master Yoda and Lando Calrissian, and probably the most iconic twist AND line in cinema. If you don't know somehow, does "Luke, I AM your father" ring a bell? No? That's OK. 9.8/10

#2: Episode VII: The Force Awakens

Ok, chill out boomers. I know I put Force Awakens higher than Empire. I just really love this movie. Yeah, it IS kind of a rehash of the older movies, but I think it just works better. Obviously, the CGI is fantastic, and I really like the new characters. Especially Finn. He has my favorite scene in Star Wars, when he faces off against Kylo Ren knowing he isn't going to win. He was trying to run the whole movie, and now he stands his ground against a dangerous force wielder. The Kylo Ren/ Han Solo relationship was a good surprise, and the whole movie is very entertaining and re-watchable. 9.9/10



#1: Episode IX: The Rise of Skywalker

Spoilers ahead, by the way. I think I might've made a mistake. Eh, I don't care. I'm nice and quarantined in my house. You won't find me. This movie is friggin' awesome. Carrie Fisher (R.I.P.) was integrated really well in the movie. The action is very entertaining, Palpatine comes back for a cool presence in the movie, and Rey is absolutely awesome. I do wish Finn had more screen time, but that happens. Kylo Ren has his best moments in this movie, and that ending where Rey activates a Sentinel lightsaber that was on the tip of her staff was awesome. By the way, The Rise of Skywalker just came out on Disney+ on May 4, 2020. This movie will probably be lower on the list over time, but it is still a great movie and I highly recommend it. 10/10

* * *

Hey, how about some tasty cookies to eat while you binge watch all these movies?

Yum, keep reading!

* * *

Chocolate Chip Cookies

By Beverly Roney

Ingredients:

1 ½ Tbsp unsalted, softened butter

⅓ cup vegetable oil

¼ cup brown sugar

½ cup white sugar

1 ½ cup all purpose flour

1 tsp baking soda

¼ tsp salt

1 egg

½ tsp vanilla extract

As many chocolate chips as you want

Overheard

“Blast from the Past”

Note: This issue will also include random things “overheard” from Zoom chats, g-mails, and assignments turned in online!

“My cat has bedhead.”

“I’m such a hockey mom. I even have a hockey puck in my purse!”

“Fart nuggets I forgot the link.”

“Mathematicians and rappers are kinda the same.”

“The laundry! It’s done, it’s going to burn!”

“Please add CAKE to your Carrot!”

“The only head I want to be inside is my own.”

“It’s just confused confusing confusion.”

“Aren’t eyebrows just eye mustaches?”

“Who’s to say mustaches aren’t lip brows?”

“Well, looks like he’s enjoying his YouTube video while he is supposed to be listening and isn’t going to answer. I’ll take his turn.”

“Oh my gosh everyone! I think I just became the host of this Zoom. I can do anything! Tell me, everyone. What do you want me to do? I’m just so excited I can’t even think!”

Student: “My nose is running.”

Teacher: “Where is it running to?”

Student: “...down my chin!?!”

Teacher: “Has anyone had alligator and knows what it tastes like?”

Student: “I’ve heard it tastes like chicken.”

Teacher: “Yes, or guinea pig...”

Student: “My computer is glitching. I don’t think I’ll be able to Zoom today.”

Teacher: “You’re on right now, it looks like it’s working great! Let’s get started.”

Student: “Oh there it goes again, ya, this isn’t going to work. I promise to get on tomorrow.”

Teacher: “No, wait, it’s working, we can get a lot of wor.....work done. Dang. I lost him.”

A teacher singing in the hall one day as they headed to their classroom, “What are words for, when no one listens anymore...” (1982 “Words” song by the band Missing Persons)

Zoom chat posts:

we need to learn and stop breeding blind snakes and pigs that can barely breath / pugs / pugs often have brachycephalic respiratory obstruction syndrome / we are good at being awkward / I like the smell of clouds before it’s going to rain / i like the smell of chlorine. / dog paw pads smell like Fritos or popcorn / i wonder what i sound like when i talk on zoom / Sounds to me like cats really are devils

Teacher: “Which font should you use?”

Student 1: times new roman

Student 2: Times New Roman

Student 3: As opposed to Times New Sam?

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375*
2. Mix butter, oil and both sugars in a medium sized bowl
3. Sift in flour, baking soda and salt, and mix
4. Mix in egg
5. Hand mix in chocolate chips
6. Grease a 9x13 cookie sheet, roll cookie dough into palm-sized balls
7. Cook until golden (usually 10-15 minutes)

Cookie Tasting Review

“Blast from the Past”

April 2020

By Eli Smith, 5th grader



Eli testing the cookies with milk!

The recipe was pretty good. The only thing was I think it might need more oil or wet ingredients. It was very crumbly, but overall it was a good cookie. I would recommend it to a friend. They are best fresh out of the oven.

Note: Recipe makes a dozen cookies, unless you’re an 11-year-old boy, then it makes six!

