

# KMS PURPLE PAGES

*Kenai Middle School  
Kenai, Alaska  
February 2024*



## **Mindset Matters**

By Sawyer Graham



### **Introduction**

Chris Koch is an amazing and inspiring human being, or more accurately, half a human, if you believe his brother. However, his lack of limbs does not take away from his incredible personality and unbelievably optimistic mindset. When Chris could have lay in bed and felt bad for himself, instead he used his not-dis-but-ability to be a shining example for anyone and everyone. His mindset is what makes him such an amazing motivational speaker and a brilliant role model to help people through hard times.

### **Childhood**

While growing up, Chris had a tough childhood. When his parents could have given him an easy and cushy life, they stepped back and let him figure stuff out, giving him the best gift a parent could give, a great

mindset, and helping him to become a great problem solver. Growing up, he worked his farm in Canada the best he could. His family, from the very beginning, passed on an amazing sense of humor and amazing tolerance. When Chris was born without limbs, his grandmother said his dad never finished anything he started. His brother even refers to Chris as his 'half brother' and if that's not good humor, what is?

### **Accomplishments**

Over his lifetime Chris has been to many places, whether for motivational speaking, adventuring, or supporting friends and family. He has been all over the world helping where and how he can. Chris has been to 7 continents, 33 countries, and even 40 of the 50 US states. Once, he decided to go across Canada purely on kindness by hitchhiking, and it only took him 17 days!

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# Mindset Matters

(continued from page 1)

And the most inspiring thing about Chris is it takes him 400% more energy to do things ordinary people do, yet he does amazing things that lots of people don't do in their lives, such as marathons, bungee jumping, and adventures with sharks. And if that isn't inspiring enough, he doesn't just go around doing fun stuff all the time, he motivates schools and teams, and after that he doesn't rest, he goes and works on his farm! That is a true example of a hard-working man.

## Meeting Dosko

Thanks to Mr. Dosko, KMS had a personal visit from Chris Koch. Back in 2020, Mr. Dosko met Chris at his son Dalton's hockey game, where Chris was making a motivational speech to the team and promised to go to the national championship game if they made it, and they did. Later on, Mr. Dosko asked Chris if he would like to come up to Alaska and talk about his life and experiences; as you probably know, he agreed.






## KMS Assembly

When Chris arrived at the school, all the staff and students were called into the gymnasium for an assembly. There was a stage and a projector for our guest. At the beginning, Mr. Dosko told us a little about Chris and how they met. Afterward Chris talked about his life and adventures and what he learned from them.

## Afterword

Chris had tons of patience with the questions the students asked. He even stayed after the assembly and played with the students during recess and after the last bell. If Chris Koch can tolerate hundreds of energetic middle school students all day, he sure has more patience than I do!

<b>Purple Pages</b> <b>Age Ratings</b> By Chris Freeman	
	U: Suitable for all.
	PG: General reading, but some pages may be unsuitable for young people.
	12: Suitable only for people of 12 years and over.



## Bee of Spelling

By Axel Washington

The KMS Spelling Bee was held in the library on January 25th with about 30 students participating. The entire spelling bee lasted nine rounds in total, for two class periods, third and fourth, or about an hour and a half. Some of the hard words they spelled were platypus, gastritis, congregation, and desecration.

Mrs. Moss was the organizer, Mrs. Nabholz was the official pronouncer, and Mr. Gustkey and Ms. Johnson were the spelling judges. The top three people in the spelling bee were Aidan Cole in 6th grade placing 3rd, Emma Karron in 8th grade placing 2nd, and the number one spot was taken by Joslynn Bernhardt in 8th grade, who will compete in the state spelling bee in March!

# SOM Students Slay!

By Grace Wik

For January, we had three 6th graders, three 7th graders, and five 8th graders. Our 8th graders were the most awarded, but we are obviously proud of all of our students of the month!

## 8<sup>th</sup> graders



Eli Pancoast, Arianna Thompson, Lyman McBride

## 6<sup>th</sup> graders



Alora Martin, Elyse Lundeberg, Reagan Reed



Zoe Cole



Tasha Bell

## 7<sup>th</sup> graders



Alyeska Cronk, Noah Pancoast, Grace Wik

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*"Believe you can and you're already halfway there."*

*-Theodore Roosevelt*

*"There are no secrets to success. It is a result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure."*

*-Colin Powell*

## Locker Stalker

By Lily Taliesin



Aliya Davenport, 6th grader: "The coolest thing in my locker is my award."



Emery Wagner, 7th grader: "My favorite thing in my locker is my picture of Hallie."



Scarlett Charbonneau, 8th grader: "My favorite thing in my locker is my backpack."

## Distinctive Deus

By Dylan Fry



Amadeus Nelson is a smart and outgoing 6th grader with a great attitude. His name was inspired by his mother's liking for music, which was passed down to her son. Deus, his nickname, also means god or deity in Latin.

When he was little he used to take apart devices around his house and build new stuff from it, which might be the reason why he joined the robotics team this year. Even though it was only his first season, the team was able to go to state with his help!

He told me he scored in the 98th percentile for physics, so it would be an understatement to say he's particularly good at science. Amadeus says his most challenging class is geography because identifying specific places on maps can be difficult.

In his free time, he likes to play games on his Nintendo Switch and read fantasy books like the Aru Shah series. He also likes to watch anime, including Demon Slayer, One Piece, and One Punch Man. Amadeus also has four pets, including a bunny, a dog, and two cats. He's been to many places, including Colorado, where he was born, Utah, California, and now Alaska.

## Bubbly Benny

By Uriah Smith



Bennett Martin is a 7th grader who enjoys hanging out with his friends and family and doing sports.

Benny does basketball, swimming, cross country running, track, and soccer. Benny's most memorable sports moment was in swimming when he swam the 50 free in under 30 seconds!

His friend group consists of Leif, Jay, Greyson, Noah, Ceaton, Gage, Ryan, Everett, Molli, Emma, and Uriah. You can find them playing basketball, doing triathlons, swimming, and having sleepovers.

Benny's family members are his mom, dad, and older brother, and he also has a cat named Milkshake! His favorite food is his dad's homemade mac and cheese. He describes it as cheesy, buttery, and garlicky.

Benny is Jewish and will have a Bar Mitzvah very soon! It celebrates when a Jewish boy turns 13, it represents him becoming a man. He is really looking forward to that happening next summer!

## Classy Kiah

By Bridger Copple



Kiah Bushnell is an 8th grader here at KMS who enjoys spending time with her friends and drawing. Her favorite things to draw are little people with weird hats. Her favorite things to do with her friends are talk, hang out, and listen to music.

Kiah's favorite music genre is a mix of everything. Her favorite song playlist is a mix of techno and punk.

Her favorite school subject is history, and she enjoys Mr. Prusak's class. She said, "History because I think it's the only good subject." Kiah also enjoys how Mr. Prusak knows about American history and how he makes it sound fun.

She also enjoys baking; her favorite foods to make are homemade waffles, french toast, cake, and cookies. She said, "I enjoy baking because I can listen to my favorite music and vibe. Overall, it's just a good time."

She also has three dogs: a Mutt named Roscoe, an Australian Shepherd-Pitbull mix named Santio, and a German Rottweiler named Choco.

Kiah hopes that when she goes to KCHS, she will make new friends and still have her current ones.

*"If you spend your whole life waiting for the storm, you'll never enjoy the sunshine." -Morris West*

# Sources of Strength

By Lily Taliesin



The Sources of Strength student group had a training program recently. The training consisted of games and activities with a total of around 50 people.

The SOS training had a guest instructor and pizza for lunch. When the SOS students walked into Soldotna Prep school, they were given name tags and a vote for pizza flavors. We had breaks for water, snacks, and bathroom breaks. During the breaks, the guest instructor would take song requests.

In one activity, the students broke into groups of four. They were given a poster, on which they drew strengths. Then, in front of everyone, they would rap about their strengths.

Another activity the students did was the Transformation Game. The instructor would close her eyes and yell out an animal, and if the students had transformed into the same animal, they would be out. There were prizes and fun. Nurse Dixie said, “My favorite game was the transformation game!”

Everyone at the training learned the signs of depression, how to get help for people, and the SOS mission statement, which is “to prevent adverse outcomes by increasing wellbeing, help-seeking, resiliency, healthy coping, and belonging. Sources of Strength moves beyond a singular focus on risk factors by utilizing an upstream approach for youth suicide prevention.”

# OPINION-8-ED

By Dylan Fry

## What’s your opinion on Skibidi Toilet?

- Eli Bemis - “Brain Rot.”
- Tyler Morris - “A big L.”
- Jamie Curren - “I don’t know.”
- Leroy Tomrdle - “Fortnite.”
- Izze Selanoff - “It’s overrated.”
- Harper Chervenak - “It’s annoying.”
- Scarlet Charbonneau - “It slay yesss.”
- Indego Erikson - “Y’all are obsessed.”
- Emma Castimore - “Uh, da best game ever!”
- James Martin - “I’m 15 so it’s not in my generation. I think it’s stupid.”
- Mr. Prusak - “I can neither confirm nor deny the existence of Skibidi Toilet.”
- Eli Pancoast - “Skibidi Toilet Skibidis the Ohio Toilets.”
- Luke Karpik - “I think it’s overrated. That meme died last year so get over it.”
- Easton Chilla - “I don’t fully understand what it means, it’s kind of dumb.”
- Cooper Every - “Pretty Skibidi brown toilet water.”
- Andrew Stein - “Only in Ohio with sigma rizz.”
- Corbin Grimm - “Apparently it is being disclosed from Twitter because of backlash.”
- Max Bianchi - “So cool and amazing.”
- Daniel Stuart - “It’s stupid and annoying.”
- Ellore Smith - “Very overrated and people just scream it.”
- Hallie Songer - “Nobody likes it but furies!”
- Jaedyn Chunn - “This question is kinda goofy... ahh... but it’s mid!!!!”
- Annabelle Jennings - “Um IDK what that is but cool.”
- Effie Muster - “Skibidi toilet should die.”
- Kaia Dale-Johnson - “It’s annoying, and Mr. Prusak says it too much.”



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

is brought to you by reporters Amelia Adams, Bridger Copple, Kyle Foster, Dylan Fry, Sawyer Graham, Sydney Hershberger, Autumn McCaughey, Marley Mesa, Melody Pfile, Hunter Pontius, Mia Settlemyer, Uriah Smith, Lily Taliesin, Axel Washington, Grace Wik, and Bryleigh Williams, with support from Journalism advisor Mrs. Nabholz. Illustrators for this issue include Axel, Lily, and Kyle, with guest features created by Nik Sebesta and Chris Freeman. Thanks to all the students, teachers, staff, and parents who helped with news and photos!

*“I never lose. Either I win, or I learn.” -Nelson Mandela*

# Top Secret Tunnels

By Mia Settlemyer & Melody Pfile

Rumor has it that when KMS was built back in 1970, they added a secret tunnel that connects to KCHS underground. KMS was built during the Vietnam War and was originally built as a school with a bomb shelter underneath it. The windows were blacked out, and what is now Mr. Tilly's office was a fallout shelter. The door that leads down to this tunnel is located in a 7th grade teacher's room.

Back in 1970, Kenai Middle School never existed. It was called Kenai Junior High School and held grades 7, 8, and 9. The school blueprints originally had plans to add a swimming pool, but that later changed into what we know today as the basketball court outside.

The blueprints of KJHS, aka KMS, are located in a room upstairs where there is access to the roof and some air ducts. Only staff have access, although they have made a few exceptions.

One exception was in 2020 when a girl named Azilyn Hall played Rafiki in *The Lion King* play. She was on the roof holding a stuffed animal who played Simba. She got on the roof the same way we got to the blueprints. Mr. Lyke, the drama teacher and director, was on the ground filming with a drone.



Another exception was in 2023 when a former Purple Pages reporter named Hayden Williams wrote an article called "KMS Behind the Scenes," and Mr. Tilly let him look behind lots of locked doors to do research for his article.

Even though KCHS was built in 1964, the tunnels were not planned until 1970, when the junior high school came along. The tunnel is connected to the high school through a square hole in the wall that is 3 1/2' tall, 10' long 3 1/2' wide. Kids in the past have gotten into this tunnel through the metal grate in the ground in the back of the high school. While kids weren't injured (that we know of), many got sick from the fumes. This tunnel is only big enough to crawl through and has a gravel/concrete floor.



No kids or people were reported missing, but there are rumors of missing children that got left behind during an evacuation. When Mr. Felchle went down there, he heard feet echoing through the tunnel.

From one of the janitors at KCHS, we heard that there may be more than just one tunnel in the schools. There could be tunnels underneath the whole school, but we don't know why this tunnel is so secret.

"Strength is keeping it together when everyone expects you to fall apart."



# KLUBS for KOSSACKS



## Wicked Warball

By Kyle Foster

Jailbreak! Warball started off with a slam on the first Wednesday as Mr. Rose walked into the mat-room, only to be met by a warball moving at 30 mph towards a competitor. Due to the fact that he must take attendance, he had to stop the fun.

But that didn't last long, because the minute he was done, SLAM! He was hit in the chest by yet another warball. The mat-room lit up with noise like a spark in an oil spill.

Like a ritual, Mr. Rose must pick a game moderator. The first game moderator was Lyman McBride. He was my favorite moderator, because he always yelled; I could say that his favorite word was jailbreak, and this was because when anyone got out, or he got out, "Jailll-Breee-aaa-kkkk!" And the fun would spark again.

The next Wednesday was almost as much fun, due to Max (the tall one) being chosen as the moderator. He would call jailbreak, but only if he got out. This led to people getting Max out if their friend had been hit.

This club was certainly exciting, but I think Mr. Rose should have participated more often. He would join the action but leave if he got out. Then, he would take the walk of shame all the way to his corner in the entryway.

Now, if you're a 6th or 7th grader, sign up for warball club next year! It is normally filled up very fast, but you could get lucky. If so, then you too will join the fun of this exotic club. Stay fast and have fun!



## Lightning McQueens!

By Amelia Adams

Mr. Schoessler's car racing club is a very exciting club. It is all about making and racing air-powered drag racing cars. To make them, you drew an outline on paper, but you had to make sure it wasn't any bigger than the wood. You would then put the paper outline on the wood and cut it out. To make it smooth, you would use files and sandpaper, then straighten the wire axle with a drill, which sounds like an interesting thing to watch.

Truman Dodson said that one of the funnest parts was cutting out the wood. Overall, this club seemed to be super enjoyable, plus you got to race your friends after you built your car and learned new skills!



## Alaska Native Arts

*Anime-Manga*

*Beaded Jewelry*

## Bestest Board Games

By Lily Taliesin

The board game club consists of eight students and two sponsors. Every Wednesday they sit down and play board games. The two sponsors are Mrs. Bressler and Mrs. Dragseth. Mrs. Bressler claims her favorite board games to play are Battleship and Guess Who. She said, "Two of the most popular games in the club are Upwords and Scrabble, although last week they played Uno." The board games are played all together because the club is small. The board games come from the school's storage, but the reason the club was created is because the school owns a bunch of fun board games!

## Shinny Shots

By Hunter Pontius

Shinny is amazing because you get to spend time with friends and play hockey, according to Brayden Gregory. The coaches who teach it are good at hockey, and the players learn a lot from them. Mr. Newton said that the shinny club is awesome: "It's fun to go over to the rink. I love to see all the levels of hockey players from beginning to advanced. You just have to keep your head up and look out for pucks."

## Friendship Bracelets

STEM Design Challenge



## *Chocolate & Chapters*

By Bridger Copple

Afternoon Tea and Books club is really relaxing. We get snacks, different kinds of tea, like chamomile, peach, and peppermint, but if you don't like tea there is hot chocolate.

Each week has a different snack, like donuts, chocolate chip cookies, and Oreos. We had soft Valentine's cookies to celebrate Valentine's Day.

Though we get all of these fun things, there are two rules; don't make a mess, if you do, it is not someone else's responsibility to pick it up. The second rule is that you need to be quiet so people can read their books.

Books, as in e-books, audiobooks, and physical books are all acceptable. Lily Taliesin was in this club, and she said, "It's like a rainy day in an hour. I can read, drink my favorite tea, and relax."

Ms. Johnson runs the club, and she said, "When they asked me what I wanted to do with an extra hour in the day, I said I wanted to read books. The first year, it was just books, then a student asked if they could bring tea, and that's when it became Afternoon Tea and Books."

## *Sensational Spirit*

By Amelia Adams

Ms. Christie's club, KMS Spirit Club, is full of spirit and learning. It's fun enough that one student, Taeja Stephens, has picked this club all three years! The club is a brief

## *Awesome Artists*

By Autumn McCaughey

The drawing club was a relaxing, mellow time every Wednesday. Mrs. Rininger explained that they worked on projects like Valentine's Day themed projects, stickers, and watching YouTube tutorials. The club had free rein for personal projects, doodles, and other creative activities. They were able to freely work on projects during the one hour club period.

## **Robotics**



## **Challenging Chess**



introduction to cheer, and you even learn a few moves to cheer on KCHS. For example, one of the cheers they learned for basketball is "D-D-D Defense!" You also learn how cheerleaders support other sports and recognize other athletes. This club is full of fun and teaches you new skills!

## **Crazy Crewmates**

By Uriah Smith

This year Mrs. Beck ran computer club! She says she likes it because it's a club kids are always looking forward to! She also likes it because it's a fun environment where kids get to socialize with their friends and play games.

There are about 25 people in the computer club. The best gamer duo in computer club is Dalton Wik and Parker Metteer, the person who rage quits the most is Sydney Hershberger, and the funniest person is Landon Stanley.

A funny moment in the computer club was when we were all playing Among Us and there was an anonymous imposter named Short and Stubby who was killing all the girls in the game. At the end, when everybody found out who the imposter was, Grace Wik yelled a little too loud, "CEATON'S IS SHORT AND STUBBY!" After that everyone started laughing because it was really funny at the time. This shows how much fun computer club is!

## *Rock Climbing*





## Fantastic Four

By Sydney Hershberger



“It is a fun and fast-paced game. Anyone can play because you don’t really have to be that athletic to play,” said Mrs. Tews, who is leading the four square club. She loves seeing people’s real personality come out. She also likes getting to know the kids and seeing all of their cool tricks while playing.

She sometimes plays with them and has two courts set up for whoever wants to play against each other. They have about 16-18 kids and it doesn’t really get that chaotic, but sometimes when kids get out, they go a little crazy. She said that last year she had only 8th grade boys, but now this year she has a mix of genders and grades.

You play four square the whole time except for resting on the side. I think that this club would be a great choice if you love the sport and are wanting to make friends. “It can be a little intimidating at first, but once you get the hang of it then it’s so much fun,” said Mrs. Tews herself.

Keleigh Gregory loves laughing in four square. Her favorite part was when Neveah defeated Mrs. Tews and she screamed when she lost. Keleigh said that she “joined the club because her friends did it.” She liked the club and enjoyed watching Mrs. Tews lose!

## Karaoke Kossacks

By Grace Wik

The idea for the karaoke club came from Mr. Tilly, who wanted to give kids who are not in choir a chance to sing. One thing he loves about the karaoke club is getting to see kids with different music tastes.

Mr. Tilly’s own music tastes include country music and music from the 70s and 80s. He also notices that when kids listen to movie soundtracks, they usually get introduced to a lot of older music.



In karaoke club, once a kid knows what song they want to sing, no matter the genre, they add their song to the list and wait for their turn. According to Mr. Tilly, there are 15 kids in the karaoke club, with an even number from each grade, although he did notice there seems to be a lot more girls than boys. Overall, the karaoke club seems like a great club to be in!

## Coloring Crew



## Superb Sustenance

By Mia Settlemyer

Foods Across the Country (plus Canada) is a club with Mr. Carson and about 15 kids. Each of these states and cities have iconic foods. You begin with a little lesson about the foods, like how they were created and what people think of them. Mr. Carson has visited some places himself (everything is better in its hometown). You can then watch or help out to make the food.

After all the food has been created, you get to eat. (The office ladies love this club because they also get some.) I would say you have to be open to trying new foods. Some of these foods include Chicago deep-dish pizza, Philly cheese steak sandwiches, and Chicago-style hot dogs. These foods bring different flavors and experiences to the table for anyone to try.

## Avenging Legos!

By Melody Pfile



In Legos club there are 15 people in total, with 12 boys and 3 girls (Autumn, Brailea, and me). Each Wednesday there’s a topic on the board that we have to follow; one week, for example, we had a space theme. The girls have always won, but there have been two ties that the boys say were “their victories.” Mr. Calvert, the instructor, gives the winner a box of candy. We have won five times so far. While we’re building, we also watch *Lego Avengers*. **9**

## Royal Frosters

By Bryleigh Williams

Ms. Chantel and Ms. Laker were the guiding stars of cookie club this year. Ms. Chantel made royal icing at home every Tuesday night or Wednesday morning for all the students to use, and she bought sugar cookies and oatmeal cookies.

The first day, they decorated graham crackers to practice decorating their cookies. Over the next four weeks, they worked on new techniques like piping the edges and then flooding the cookies. They learned how to decorate using a wet-on-wet technique. They also decorated circles, hearts, unicorns, and bees.



## Aren't You Curious?

By Axel Washington

Are you curious about the curiosity club and want to know what we do? Well, I'll tell you... The curiosity club is run by Mr. Prusak, and in his club we talk about all the questions (appropriate for school) that you could ever have.

Do you have questions about language? We'll answer that. Questions about math, art, science, space, minerals, anything you could question! To answer most of these questions, we go on dives into YouTube and watch videos explaining these questions, or we go on Google and search for answers.

You may have questions about the club itself. Well, there are 13 students, although there was a max of 20 allowed in the club when signing up.

It all started with an 8th grader named Sawyer Graham, who would routinely ask questions in history which either couldn't be answered in the time given or would send them off track, so Mr. Prusak made it into a club so he could ask all the questions he wanted... but he didn't end up joining it. 😊☹️

## Gym Games

By Sawyer Graham

The Gym Games club is, in my opinion, one of the best clubs in the entire program. It is basically a club where you get to play any of the games you usually can play with Mr. Songer such as trash can ball, dodgeball, prison ball, football, and even basketball. Although you have to share the gym with the rock climbers, you still have enough room to play!

## Blasts from the Past

By Marley Mesa

In this club, students watch movies that most adults watched when they were our age. It's run by Mrs. Castimore, the sub for Mrs. Newton. The students get to munch on popcorn the whole time, and even bring in other snacks and beverages to share! Mrs. Castimore said, "We do three batches using the awesome pre-packaged pouches the office has for the popcorn machine. It makes enough for all the members."

Mrs Castimore finds some school appropriate movies that she likes, and some options that Mrs. Newton gave her. The students then pick the movie they want to watch the most. So far, they've watched *Little Rascals* and have started *Jumanji*. When asked which movie the students liked the most, she said, "It's hard to tell... I think they enjoyed *Little Rascals*, but I bet when we get into the exciting parts of *Jumanji*, they'll be pretty invested." The students love the opportunity to "just sit, relax, and do nothing."

## Everett's Cracked!

By Dylan Fry

Supervised by Mr. Stephanos, Video Game Club could've been described as an extremely fun and laid back club with no specific guidelines or directions. The students were allowed to bring in basically any device they could carry, which usually included Nintendo Switches, phones, and Chromebooks. Some people decided to take things up a step though, bringing in larger items to school like an Xbox, a VR, and other various consoles. Since most of these needed a TV to play on, those were brought to the band room as well.

A wide array of games were played, including smaller games such as Call of Duty Mobile, and more popular games like Fortnite. A popular game played was Super Smash Bros on the Nintendo Switch. Corbin Grimm stated, "Everett Poulin is cracked at Smash Bros." I shared Corbin's comment with Oscar Marcou, and he stated the opposite, but Everett himself confirmed Corbin's statement.

# Non-Liquid Mineral Experience

By Amelia Adams

Recently, KMS 8th graders went on a fantastic field trip at Solid Rock! They split into six different groups with six different stations. The field trip was very exciting, and everyone who went now has lots of stories to tell their friends!

At one station, we played a game called Octoball, also known as gaga ball. Everyone would get into the little pen and hit the ball at each other, but it had to start with someone dropping the ball and saying gaga ball. It also couldn't go too far off the ground, or it was a lift. If you got hit below your knees, you were out. Lots of people loved this game, and it was really fun.



At the sledding hill station, there may have been a few accidents. A couple people got stuck under the fast-moving rope, but no one got hurt too bad. The hill was slightly steep and very long. Plus, you could go down in all sorts of different ways. That includes backward, forward, on your belly or back, and you could even ask the helpful volunteer to spin you as you went down! I believe this station was a lot of people's favorites.



Another really fun station was the bungee run. There was a bouncy house-like thing, and you had to wear a harness that would connect to ropes. You would grab bean bags with Velcro on them, and try to get them as far as you could before you reached the rope's end. Whoever, out of you and the person you went against, got theirs the farthest, won. This was a really fun competitive game, and everyone loved it.



Mr. Prusak ran a station where we played broomball. This game was similar to floor hockey, but you used a different type of stick, similar to a broom, but with a hard and smaller end. Surprisingly, I'm pretty sure this is the station with the least amount of injuries, though some people were kinda surprised how heavy the ball was.



There were two stations where you got to do whatever, as long as you stayed in a certain area. Well, three including lunch, which was delicious, by the way. The two other stations were the s'mores station and the inside games station. The s'mores station had s'mores and hot chocolate, a swing, and a covered area to play a few games that include foosball. The other station was inside the building, and you could play or watch games, or just hang out with your friends. They had foosball, but also air hockey and table tennis.

This field trip was awesome, and a lot of 8th graders wish they could do it again. The Solid Rock staff were very helpful and nice, which made this trip even more enjoyable. All the 8th graders who went loved it, and the 7th graders are lucky to do this next year.

# Sensational Skiers

By Marley Mesa

This year's XC Ski season is off to a great start, especially with such an uplifting team! Even with cold weather in the air, these XC skiers keep up on their hard work. We are so proud of our skiing Kossacks, and we would especially like to acknowledge Kailey Crouse, Olivia Tews, Rosie Dura, Eli Pancoast, and Leif Laker; these are our top skiers! We have some pretty tough and fierce skiers on our Kossack team, so good luck with your meets and boroughs!

Each day, these skiers gather all their gear and dress out to proceed to the soccer fields outside. For warmups, they usually ski laps using no poles, double poles, or trying different techniques for laps until the coaches say it's time to stop. Then, the skiers ski to the frisbee-golf course. Sometimes, the skiers split up into groups according to their speed and run through their skiing course. Some days, they work on techniques they should know for races. Besides skiing and practicing at the golf course, they ski the Tsalteshi trails at Skyview. And on the days before meets, they wax their skis to get ready for the meet.

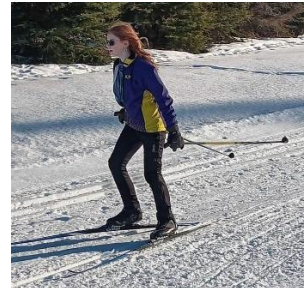
One of the most important things these skiers need to learn and work on is balancing. Balancing is a key technique because they can't be falling down in races!

As well as techniques, they work on intervals. And some days, the coaches let the skiers free ski until their practice is over. And even when it's below zero outside, these skiers still work hard! They dress out in their workout clothes and meet in the weight room to work out. Even if it's extremely cold, these skiers still have to be in shape and be strong to do well in their races.

This year's head coach is Mr. Lewis, our 7th grade science teacher. Mr. Lewis loves to coach for the XC Ski team. He said, "It's a fun experience! We get to go outside and get fresh air. I also get to have a different relationship with the students, so it's not just teacher and student." Mr. Lewis first coached for XC Skiing when his son was going to school at KMS 14 years ago. The ski team didn't have a coach, so he volunteered for one year. Mr. Lewis got back into coaching last year as an assistant coach.

This year as a head coach, he definitely has noticed some improvements from the skiers after just a few weeks of practicing. "We mostly notice the improvements of students that have never skied before. They struggled the first few practices, but after a few weeks they have been able to master the techniques and have been able to do well on their races." Besides Mr. Lewis, Ms. Silva, Mr. Prusak, and Mr. Carson are volunteering as assistant coaches. Great job to all of them for coaching our awesome XC Ski team!

(continued on page 13)



*I gave up cross-country skiing. It's been downhill ever since!*

## XC SKIERS:

### 6th Grade:

Myka Battiest  
Carolyn Bishop  
Arlo Cooper  
Aliya Davenport  
Rosie Dura  
Sienna Graham  
London Parrish  
Shirin Reza  
Elias Ritter

### 7th Grade:

Isaak Browning  
Hannah Coffell  
Kailey Crouse  
Truman Dodson  
Austin Gardner  
Landen Hoffman  
Leif Laker  
Iver Ledahl  
Autumn Oettinger  
Noah Pancoast  
Gavin Real  
Charles Roberts  
Megan Ross  
Ryan Ross  
Gage Sturman  
Sofia Tews  
Emery Wagner  
Dalton Wik

### 8th Grade:

Amelia Adams  
Landon Baze  
Easton Chilla  
Rayson Coffell  
Brock Cooper  
Corbyn Crisp  
Kyle Foster  
Dylan Fry  
Tolson Hall  
Luke Karpik  
Dezmond  
McCaughy  
Eli Pancoast  
Bryce Simper  
Andrew Stein  
Olivia Tews  
Leroy Tomrdle

## Sensational Skiers

(continued from page 12)



Everyone has worked really hard on their performance, but especially our top skiers! In the Anchor Point meet for the girls' race, Olivia Tews got 2nd place, with Kailey Crouse a place behind in 3rd place! Rosie Dura also finished in the top ten, not too far from Kailey and Olivia. In the boys' race, Eli Pancoast finished in 5th place in the Homer race; he wasn't able to race in the Anchor Point meet. Leif Laker also finished in the top ten, receiving the 5th place award in the Anchor Point meet.



This year, boroughs took place at Homer! KMS performed well and finished their season strong. In top ten on the girls' side, Rosie Dura placed 6th, Sofia Tews 8th, and Olivia Tews 9th. For the boys, it was Eli Pancoast taking 5th and Leif Laker finishing 9th. Way to go, Kossacks!

Great job to these skiers, but also great job to everyone on the XC Ski team for putting effort into their races and practices. It takes hard work, perseverance, and teamwork to accomplish great things, and our ski team has and always will do so! Seventh grader Megan Ross says, "I wanted to get second to last to show that asthma won't stop me from accomplishing great things. It would also show that I've improved a lot." Everyone on the team has worked hard this year and showed great teamwork. Great job, Kossacks, for your overall XC skiing season!

## Wraging Wrestlers

By Lily Taliesin & Hunter Pontius

### Conditioning

Conditioning is a challenge all wrestlers need to do to improve their speed, strength, and health. Wrestlers do things like fast feet, five lines, and scenario wrestling. Wrestlers go into five lines in order at the end of the mat room and complete different exercises that Coach Brown tells them. Conditioning is very important but also difficult for wrestlers.

### Singlets vs. Doublets

The main purpose of singlets and doublets is so wrestlers don't have clothing in the way. Your opponent can't grab your clothing and the outfit is skin-tight. What wrestlers prefer is entirely up to them. Some people think singlets are easier to put on and take off. These are some wrestlers' preferences and what they think is more comfy. Andrew Fowler said, "Singlets make you look better, and they are comfy." Some people disagree, like Nolan Stillwell, who said, "Doublets not only have the school logo, but they are also easy to take off."

### Road Trips

During longer road trips, the wrestlers get to stop at Safeway. Wrestling meets usually take around 5-6 hours, so the coaches stop by Safeway to let the kids get food. On the way to the meet location, the wrestlers are expected to have snacks. The Safeway stop is on the way home, and a bunch of kids buy candy, sushi, and snacks. Some even buy Starbucks. All the wrestlers are usually quiet on the way to the meet, but on the way back, they are loud.

(continued on page 14)





## **Wraging Wrestlers**

(continued from page 13)

### **Scoring**

Refs know how many points to give out for near falls, takedowns, throws, escapes, reversals, and penalties. If you shoot for a double leg and get a takedown, you get 2 points, and if you throw your opponent, you can get 2 or more points, depending what throw you do. Near fall is when you get them on their back but you don't pin them. You earn more points the longer you can keep them on their back. A pin is an instant win, even if you are losing by 10 points. If you can manage to hold people on their back all the way for three seconds, you win the match, but both of their shoulder blades have to be on the ground for it to count.

### **Takedowns**

Wrestlers have many takedowns that are most effective. Kaiser DesOrmeaux said that his favorite takedown is a High C, "It throws them off, and I can get a single leg if the double fails." Brennan Roney said, "I like doing a move I call a single leg jam trip or tomahawk for short. I like to finish the move by getting a deep half nelson and pinning his hands to the mat while putting all my weight on top of them. If that fails, I try to get a bow and arrow cradle."

### **Weight Classes**

The weight classes the wrestlers can wrestle in vary between girls and boys weight classes. But the weight classes for girls are 72, 81, 89, 97, 105.5, 113, 120, 128, 136, 145, 155, 175, 195, and 275 pounds, and you have to be under the weight class to wrestle in it. The boys' weight classes are 70, 77, 84, 91, 98, 105, 110, 114, 118, 122, 126, 132, 140, 148, 160, 174, 210, and 275 pounds. The girls can also wrestle in a boy's weight class, but the boys have to stay in their weight classes.

### **6th grade wrestlers**

Ike Davis  
Joel Downum  
Bricen Johnson  
Thomas Kitchen  
Samuel Macias

### **7th grade wrestlers**

Leilani Boone  
Noah Cole  
Teddy Dodge  
Dakota Farmer  
Andrew Fowler  
Ryker Hammond  
Harley Hyatt  
Logan Magallanes  
Hailee Painter  
Kaylee Phillips  
Hunter Pontius  
Brennan Roney  
Nik Sebesta  
Teeson Serrano  
Gabriel Smalling  
Landon Stanley  
Nolan Stillwell  
Lily Taliesin  
Greyson Whicker  
Liam Wilshusen  
Dawson Yeoman

### **8th grade wrestlers**

Kaiser DesOrmeaux  
Alexander Grundberg  
Jayden Jacko  
Chase Johnson  
Jan Lehmborg  
Aiden Nerby  
Chaska Smith  
Lucas Swanson  
Rylee Trent  
Braylynn Young

*Wrestlers argue a lot, but someone always ends up pinning down the facts!*

### **Borough Results**

**First place**  
Harley Hyatt  
Hunter Pontius  
Kaylee Phillips  
Braylynn Young (went undefeated in borough competitions this year)

**Second place**  
Kaiser DesOrmeaux  
Brennan Roney  
Leilani Boone

**Third place**  
Bricen Johnson  
Nolan Stillwell  
Lily Taliesin  
Dawson Yeoman

**Fourth place**  
Dakota Farmer  
Ryker Hammond  
Chase Johnson  
Samuel Macias

**Fifth place**  
Joel Downum  
Teddy Dodge  
Nik Sebesta  
Chaska Smith  
Rylee Trent  
Thomas Kitchen

### **Wrestlers Going to State**

Leilani Boone  
Kaiser DesOrmeaux  
Andrew Fowler  
Harley Hyatt  
Bricen Johnson  
Hunter Pontius  
Kaylee Phillips  
Brennan Roney  
Landon Stanley  
Nolan Stillwell  
Lily Taliesin  
Dawson Yeoman  
Braylynn Young

# Victorious V-ballers!

By Bryleigh Williams & Autumn McCaughey

## 8th grade A-team

Our 8th grade A-team had an awesome start to the season, and they have gone undefeated against all teams except Homer. On Valentine's Day they traveled to Homer with our B-team. The 8th graders went back and forth for points in both sets, but unfortunately Homer won both sets by two. Coach Beck says that Homer is definitely beatable, and she loves how our team walked confidently onto the court, ready to battle back and forth for the point. March 2nd is boroughs, and Kenai has another chance to play Homer again. Fingers crossed for a big win at boroughs!



### Coach Beck

Selah Coots #5  
Kaia Dale-Johnson #7  
Ellie Elordi #1  
Kennah Gregory #4, #21  
Abbegail Harwell #14  
Harper Kruzick #2  
Izze Selanoff #6  
Ella Siemers #8  
Ellore Smith #3  
Hallie Songer #13  
Bryleigh Williams #10

## 7th grade A-team

The 7th grade team did great against Skyview 7 and the Nikiski team! The Nikiski game was 25-18 in the first set and the second set was 25-14. The team held high spirits with loud chants through all their games, and on the sidelines during the 8th-A and B-team games. The 7th grade A-team has done a great job of working together. They have excellent communication on the court and do an amazing job with uplifting each other. Good luck at boroughs!



### Coach Dragseth

Brooklyn Coleman #8  
Maci Daniel #13  
Shay Gonzalez #9  
Sydney Hershberger #5  
Maci Miller #12  
Mia Settlemyer #15  
Jayden Smith #4  
Grace Wik #10 & #11  
Audrey Williams #18  
Kennedy Wortham #2



## B-team Bumpers

Starting on January 22, the KMS volleyball B-team has been working hard to learn the basic fundamentals of volleyball! Ava Haugstad said that she started this year and likes learning new things. She explained that the team plays better when they communicate in both games and in practices. The team has experienced a lot of growth this season. You could see that in the game against Homer, with the team's high spirits during the match. They had great communication and teamwork, as well as getting a few spikes during the game. They won the match with a score of 25-13.



### Coach Duke

Maggie Bemis #26  
Kelsie Bliss #28  
Stella Drobnick #18  
Indego Erikson #19  
Keira Forstner #1  
Ava Haugstad #24  
Emma Karron #21  
Autumn McCaughey #17  
Alexi McIrvin #27  
Omaira Sagar #23  
Riley Smith #25

Why couldn't the volleyball player cross the road? *Too many bumps!*

# Hooper Loopers!

By Sydney Hershberger & Grace Wik

KMS wanted to have extended season basketball because it would “give kids an extra opportunity to play basketball,” said Mrs. Smith in a recent interview. There was a rumor that something like this was happening ten years ago. But now this is the third year KMS has had their extended basketball season.

It started with Mrs. Smith and Mr. Felchle having the idea, and in Mrs. Smith’s words, “We just made it happen.” Although this year Mr. Songer is coaching, Mrs. Smith said that she would be very open to coaching in the future.

Unlike the regular season, boys and girls both practice together on only Tuesdays and Thursdays. In practice we sometimes practice together and work on drills or work on plays separately. Mr. Songer usually teaches one play per practice, and sometimes he even introduces us to a new out-of-bounds play during our game. One of the out-of-bounds plays he taught us ended up getting us girls over 15 points!

Amare’ Williams plays extended season because he gets to play his favorite sport longer and gets to chuck people out of the paint. This is his first year playing point guard for KMS. His favorite thing about playing point guard is being able to control the game. His highest points scored in a game was 21 points.

Rylee Trent plays extended season for more practice. This is her first year playing post for KMS extended season. Her favorite thing about playing post is rebounding the ball and fighting for the ball. Basketball is her favorite sport because it takes her mind off of other things. Her favorite thing about extended seasons is the games and the break-away layups because they are very exciting.

Maci Miller thinks that it is fun, and it gives her a chance to play her favorite sport some more. “It’s the best!” she says. Her favorite part is playing games with her friends. She plays every position but wants to play wing full time. Although this is her first year playing for KMS, she is our only 7th grade starter!

Overall, the basketball extended season gives players a great opportunity to practice basketball more and enjoy the sport!



## #KMS hashtags

#howtousea  
#Romantoilet  
#xylosporgium  
#errorsyntax  
#yodahas  
#battleofthebooks  
#stanleyyelnats  
#Alaskakidz  
#flannelfriday  
#journalismjokes  
#KMSkossacks  
#sportsteams  
#annotating  
#isawesome  
#ilacksleep  
#dodgeball  
#PEmakeups  
#poisonousnewts  
#delulu  
#lulu  
#memememes  
#setting!  
#XCskiing  
#dollhallpass  
#wateringcan  
#statechamps  
#takedown  
#birkenstocks  
#crocabearamoose  
#cros  
#recycling  
#isleptthroughclass  
#lessonplans  
#ieattoes  
#dawgs  
#almostspringbreak

What do you call an NBA  
themed fast-food restaurant?  
*Shake-Shaq!*

What is a New Year’s  
resolution basketball players  
shouldn’t make?  
*To travel more!*

Why did the  
basketball player fail  
his math test?  
*He didn’t like to pass!*

Why aren’t cats  
good at basketball?  
*They shoot too  
many hairballs!*



# B.O.B. By Amelia Adams

Have you ever wondered what the Battle of the Books actually is? No, we do not throw books at each other, though it can get pretty competitive. Battle of the Books is actually a group of hard-working bookworms who have to read ten books and just about memorize them. The reading and memorizing might be hard, but B.O.B. is full of fun!

The two teams, 6th grade and 7th/8th grade, have to remember some *pretty* hard titles. For instance, most of the 7th and 8th grade team members have memorized a book title with over 15 words in it! Geez, that takes a lot of effort. Perhaps this doesn't sound very fun yet, but there's more.

Not only do you get to meet up with your friends and challenge them, but you also get to skip a whole day of school! There are snacks, drinks, and definitely entertainment from the battlers. Also, most of the books are pretty good picks. Yes, occasionally there are books that are just tiresome to get through, but a lot of Battle of the Books members have found their favorite books through these battles! There is always a variety of genres, both fiction and nonfiction.

This year, our team's competitions were on February 6 (6th grade) and February 7 (7th and 8th grade), and we had lots of fun. The 6th grade team enjoyed it a lot, not caring about how they placed. Rosie Dura excitedly explained that Mrs. Crouse brought them all "tasty chicken noodle!" They had lots of other snacks, including sugary Nutella bread. Though they had a couple tough rounds, they are still very proud of themselves, just as they should be.

The 7th and 8th grade team rocked two challenges and placed sixth! They even had a team name: The Book Baddies! One problem, though, was that the team had *way* too much sugar. One kid ate eight scones, and everyone had multiple cups of soda and juice, but it was worth it! The team also had four mascots/buddies: G.G., or Guilty G.O.A.T, and Reading Rhino – both from last year's 7th and 8th team – Bloody Jerry the tinfoil buddy, and Isaak Junior, the teddy bear. They worked really hard, and their top round was round three, with a score of 101 points, which was amazing. There were three challenges, two of which – one by Melody Pfile and one by Amelia Adams (me!) – were successful.

Overall, our Battle of the Books were amazing this year, and it's always full of fun and reading! If you enjoy fun, reading, and fun reading, you should plan to join next year.

## 6th grade team:

Saramae Croom  
Rosie Dura  
Harley Gillis  
Hannah Hardesty  
Allie Stonecipher



## 7th/8th grade team:

Amelia Adams  
Emma Castimore  
Oscar Marcou  
Autumn Oettinger  
Melody Pfile  
Andrew Stein



# ***Kids in the Hall*** By Grace Wik



Would you rather have really long hair or no hair?

Harper Kruzick, 8th: She would rather have super long hair

"because I wouldn't want to look like a cancer patient." Also, she already had long hair before so she would be used to it.



Would you rather have an unlimited gift card to McDonald's or Subway?

Chance Purcell, 7th: "McDonald's because they have burgers and milkshakes."



Would you rather have a bucket of worms or spiders dumped on your head?

Raegan Lingenfelter, 6th: "Worms, because spiders can bite, and I hate the feeling of them crawling on me." She also said that they look really weird.

# MASTER MATHLETES

By Marley Mesa

Every year, KMS hosts a club called MathCounts. This is a program where advanced math students go to learn new patterns, techniques, and easier ways to go about solving math problems. But it's not just for the highly gifted mathletes; anyone can go and learn new ways to 'do' math!

This year, MathCounts students have been meeting in Mr. Lewis's room after school on Wednesdays. MathCounts is headed by Coach Thomas, who is an HEA engineer and insanely great at math. Each week, Coach Thomas brings snacks, teaches a new math lesson or technique, and puts a lot of math in front of us. He's been a MathCounts coach for many years!

The program starts with a warm-up sheet, usually to write down the first 12 lines of Pascal's Triangle, answer squares and cubes up to 12, or write factorials. After the warm-up, Coach Thomas shows us a challenging lesson about math that most students have never learned about before. For example, he might show us how to find the surface area of an icosahedron. He passes out crunchy snacks like Goldfish or Cheez-Its so we can snack on something while we listen. Later, he splits us into groups, and we play games of Spot It, Dots, Set, or Chess.

Towards the end, Coach Thomas passes out a packet of an AMC test, or sometimes a practice sheet for a Team Round or Lightning Round. The Team and Lightning rounds are both events for MathCounts competitions. They help us to practice math individually, but also to practice working as a team. These skills are important if we are picked for a team to go to a MathCounts competition, or to participate in school math competitions.

MathCounts is a worldwide program that hosts math competitions. Each year, KMS chooses a team of four students to compete against many other school teams from around Alaska and try to advance to the next competition.

Advanced math students, especially the ones who go to MathCounts, also take an advanced math test, the AMC 8. Testers have 40 minutes to work out 25 questions, each question getting harder and harder. The AMC 8 helps students to show what they've learned in math academically.



This year's KMS team members are Leif Laker, Luke Karpik, Eli Pancoast, and Charlie Wang. The team traveled to Anchorage on Thursday, February 8th, and competed in the MathCounts Chapter meet on Saturday, February 10th. We are so proud of our mathletes for doing such a great job at the challenging competition, and we're so proud to announce that our KMS team earned first place in the team round. They will be advancing to the MathCounts State Finals in late March!

Aside from taking the AMC 8 test, and the MathCounts competition in Anchorage, there are local competitions that advanced math students compete in. On February 20th, 18 students from KMS competed in a Quest Middle School Math Meet in Homer against students from about 12 schools in the district. The meet consisted of Sprint rounds, Target rounds, and Team rounds.

Out of all the tests the students completed, the judges had to pick the top 12 students out of 90 students! From KMS, Luke Karpik, Brock Cooper, Eli Pancoast, and Megan Ross made it to the top 12. After the Countdown round, Megan Ross came out in 2nd, and Eli Pancoast came in 3rd! Eli Pancoast also won 2nd place in both the Sprint and Target rounds earlier that day.

There was also a mixed Team round, with each team of 3-4 students representing different schools, grade levels, and math abilities. Three KMS students were on the top winning teams: Kiah Bushnell was on the 1st place team, Megan Ross was on the 2nd place team, and Brock Cooper was on the 3rd place team. Great job, Kossacks, for representing KMS at your math meet!

MathCounts is an important program and keeps math up-to-date, fun, and challenging! We would like to thank our coach, David Thomas, for helping and volunteering time to continue this program!



## MathCounts Sample Questions:

1. If  $5x + 2 = 7$ , what is the value of  $15x + 6$ ?
2. Given  $4(n - 5) + 2 = 3(n - 1)$ , what is the value of  $n$ ?
3. What is the product of the greatest common factor of 4 and 10 and the least common multiple of 4 and 10?

\* \* \*

Who invented the Round Table?  
*Sir Cumference!*

What do you get when you cross  
geometry with McDonalds?  
*A plane cheeseburger!*

My math book fell on my head  
today... *I can only blame my  
shelf!*

What is a dung beetle's favorite  
writing utensil to use for math  
homework? *A #2 pencil!*

Where do math teachers go on  
vacation? *To Times Square!*

What do you call the guys in Mr.  
Songer's math class?  
*Alge-bros!*

Why should you never start a  
conversation with Pi?  
*It will just go on forever!*

You know what seems odd to  
me? *Numbers that can't be  
divided by two!*

There are three types of people in  
the world . . . *those who can  
count, and those who can't!*

## ASTE Award



Congratulations to Chloe Sturm for being selected as the Alaska Society for Technology in Education (ASTE) Middle School Student of the Year for 2024!

Chloe's recognition is a testament to her exceptional enthusiasm, problem-solving skills, and innovative "What if?" approach during the Robotics season. Chloe's dedication and passion have truly set her apart, and she is indeed deserving of this prestigious award!

Mrs. McCown nominated Chloe for the award for her awesome contributions to building the team's robot from thousands of Legos and working on the coding programs.

According to Chloe, her favorite part of Robotics was hanging out with her friends and working together as a team. She learned that even though team members can get on each other's nerves, it's important to stick together and resolve your issues.

Her favorite out of the 16 possible missions was The Dragon, especially using the color-coded cogs and gears and the chomper attachment to make turns and move the target.

In the future, Chloe plans to start working as a fishing guide when she is 18 to earn money to attend veterinary school.

Congratulations to Chloe for earning this amazing award!

## Noteworthy Narcissus

By Kyle Foster



Lights, camera, action! Gage Sturman has heard all this before and lived it! Gage is a 7th grader who is quick witted and has a love for the theater. I interviewed him about his latest play, *Greece Is the Word: The Zeusical*.

According to Gage, when he saw that he had an opportunity to do another play and saw that it was a Greek play, he thought that it would be fun to be Narcissus: "For the part I had to look into a glass of water and sing a solo about how beautiful I was." He also said he played a minotaur, and that he had to wear a mask that didn't allow him to see or breathe.

This was Gage's 20th play; his favorite out of all of them was "Mary Poppins," but it is contested by the play "Frozen." Gage was certainly the perfect choice for this play.



Everyone should step outside their comfort zone and try out for a local play. Gage sets an example that all of us can follow.

Annnnd, scene!



## Pages in the Past

By Bridger Copple

Five years ago, the Purple Pages were close to what this issue is like, except for a few key things. One of the things that was different was that the reporters had added some food and music recommendations!

Some food recommendations from the *February Foods* article are ice cream, strawberry cheesecake with caramel, Ben & Jerry's Phish Food ice cream, dark chocolate blueberries, and warm brownies with whipped cream and ice cream.

Here are some of the song recommendations from the *V-Day Songs* article: *Shallow* by Lady Gaga, *All of Me* by John Legend, *Let Me Love You* by Mario, and *Love Don't Change* by Jeremih.

Another different thing was the clubs KMS had in 2019. Some clubs that were available were rollerblading, pottery, and watercolor painting.

Mr. Songer was one of three teachers who were new in 2019. If you don't know Mr. Songer, he is the boys' 7th and 8th grade gym teacher, and the algebra teacher for advanced 7th and 8th graders.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

By Axel Washington

- 03 Denali Singleton
- 03 Graysen Besse
- 05 Landen Hoffman
- 06 Royce Hinton
- 06 Falon Snyder
- 06 Parker Metteer
- 07 Nolen James
- 07 Sophia Bilger
- 08 Carson Cramer
- 09 Naomee Day
- 10 Lyman McBride
- 10 Tanner Gregory
- 12 Lucas Swanson
- 12 Gracelinn Freeman
- 12 Keegan Guthrie
- 13 Eileen Arness
- 13 Nik Sebesta
- 14 Kolben Lopez
- 15 Isabel Theron
- 16 Caitlyn Cramer
- 16 Parker Byerly
- 16 Tatem Van Slyke
- 17 LeRoy Tomrdle
- 18 Lawrence Dean
- 19 Riley McGahan
- 19 Stella Drobnick
- 20 Grace Wik
- 20 Jacob Lawson
- 21 Ms. Johnson
- 22 Noah Cole
- 23 Sophia Sturm
- 23 Landen Pietz
- 26 Robert Karron
- 26 Kaiser DesOrmeaux
- 27 Mattie Castimore
- 27 Hezekiah Curren
- 28 Amare' Williams
- 28 Leif Laker
- 28 Sharon McConnell
- 28 Lexi Soares

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

By Axel Washington



- 01 Andrew Stein
- 01 Aiden Nerby
- 01 Alexi McIrvin
- 02 Nick Stappenbeck
- 02 Mrs. Wingster
- 03 Taeja Stephens
- 03 Michael Barger
- 03 Noah Pancoast
- 04 Landon Stanley
- 05 Jeremy Robinson
- 05 James Adams
- 05 Jaedyn Chunn
- 06 Veronica Weeks
- 06 Rylee Trent
- 06 Samuel Macias
- 07 Keith O'Larey
- 08 Truman Dodson
- 09 Scarlett Castellon
- 09 Lluvia Castellon
- 11 Saramae Croom
- 14 Mrs. Rodriguez
- 15 Mr. Tilly
- 15 Riley Bezdecny
- 15 Emma Castimore
- 15 Aidan Cole
- 16 Stolz Mueller
- 16 Lily Taliesin
- 17 Maggie Bemis
- 18 Corbyn Crisp
- 18 Caedyn Hammond
- 19 Quinton Beplat
- 19 Kadence Holmes
- 20 Avah Cozzini
- 26 Hunter Goodrich
- 30 Daniel Stuart
- 30 Amelia Adams



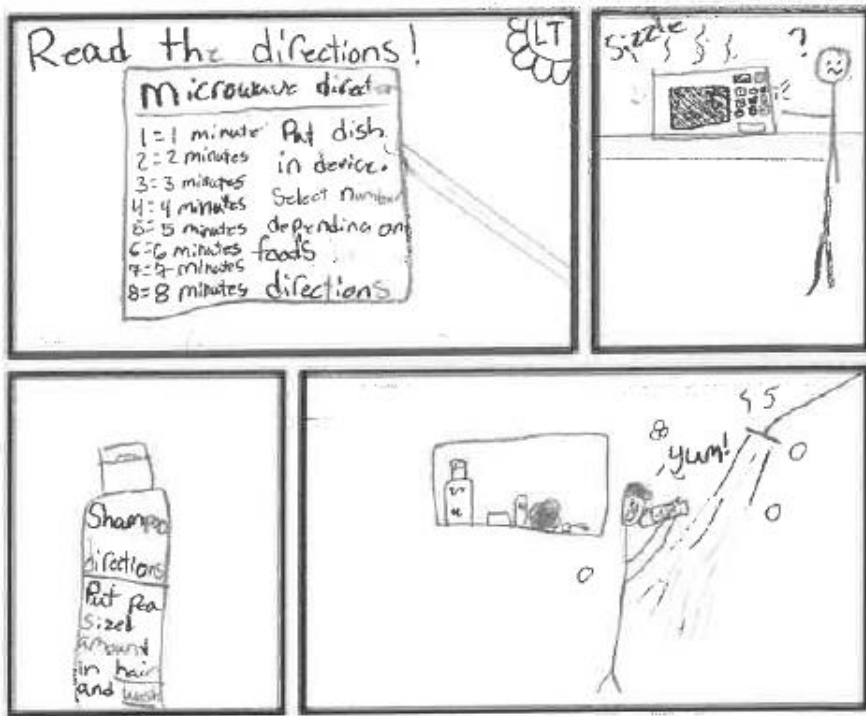
# Frankenstein, Einstein, and Andrew Stein



Gracelinn Freeman and Nurse Dixie showing off some student artwork!

## Artistic Alebrijes

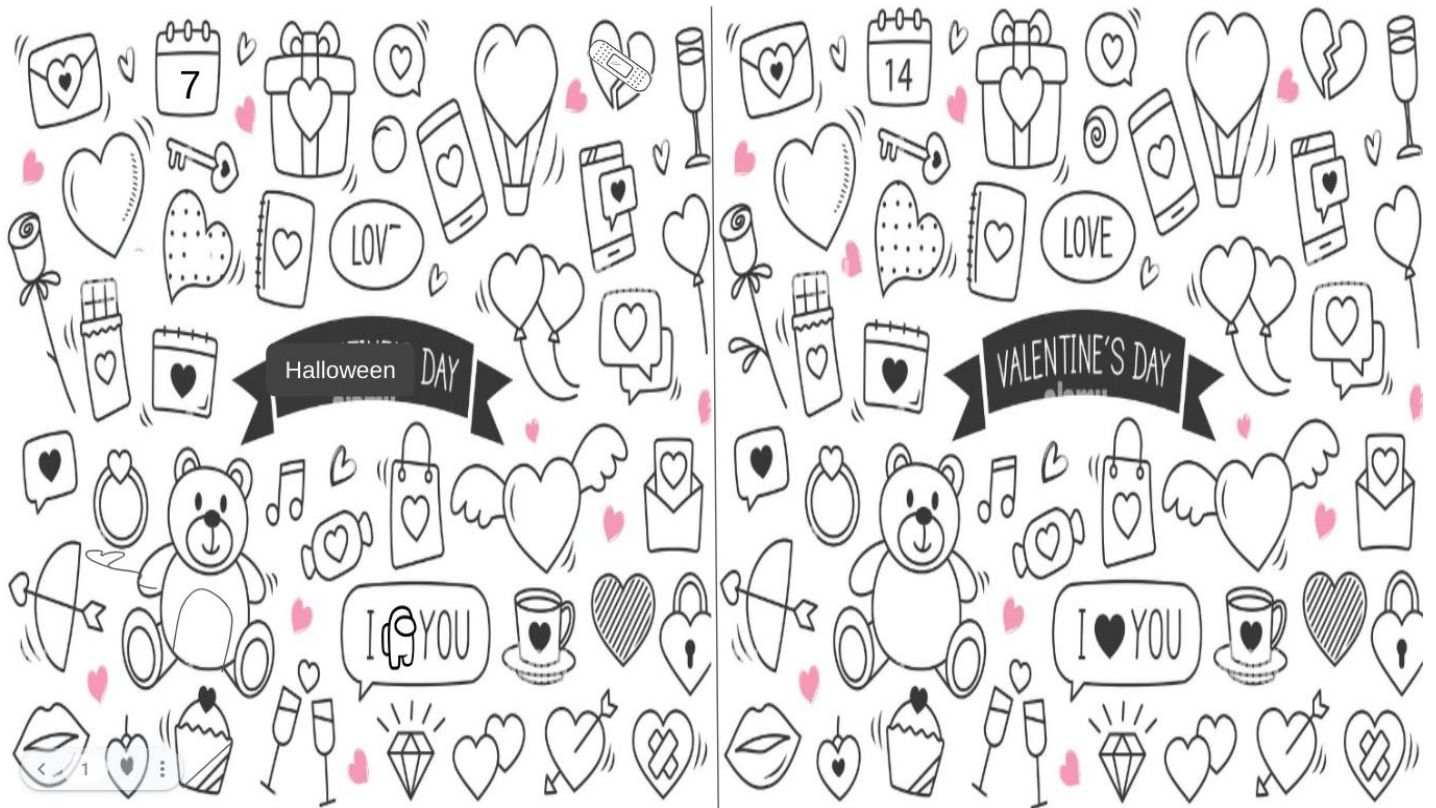
Students in Ms. Silva's sculpture classes recently made these amazing mythical creatures using wire armature, aluminum foil, paper mâché, and colorful paint pens!



# Spot the Difference

By Nik Sebasta

Can you spot all 12 differences between the pictures?



*"You can't cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water."*

***"Be there for others, but never leave yourself behind." -Dodinsky***

***"The most important trip you may take in life is meeting people halfway."***

***-Henry Boye***

*"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk,  
if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do,  
you have to keep moving forward." -Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*"Don't waste your time in anger, regrets, worries, and grudges.  
Life is too short to be unhappy." -Roy T. Bennett*

**Check out the Same Name Game and Cute Critters Scavenger Hunt on the colored insert page!!!**

# Anonymous Confessions

By Open Door & Professor Behemoth Brain



“I eAt CoW.” -VeGaN TeAcHeR

“What’s the point of being vegan then?” -open door

“My friend starting meowing during class! I think shes a fury!”  
-Anonymous

“Haha, that was probably me!” -open door

“I like to bark, meow, and crawl all over the floor.”  
-Anonymous

“Oh! I think I’ve seen you in the hall.” -open door

“I POP Toes.” -Sunflower Kernel

“I eat toes.” -open door

“I Just LOVE MAKING MY OWN FURSUITS! DO YOU?” -  
Anonymous

I have never been a fan of making my own pelt finery and seeing as I am the smartest creature in the universe of all time, following my advice is pretty crucial for your survival, and also considering your below average intelligence, you would probably mess it up like the rest of your life.

-Professor Behemoth Brain

“I wanted to be a tree when I was three.” -Anonymous

Your less than ripe age is no excuse for harboring such vegetational fantasies, I can promise that your penalization will be severe. And if you continue to pine for such a fate, I propose getting a life, as that usually helps with skill issues. -  
Professor Behemoth Brain

# OVERHEARD

(continued from page 24)



“There’s no eye contact until marriage.”

Student 1: “It’s my parent’s birthday today.”

Student 2: “Happy birthday!”

“Can I go to the home ec room? I gotta get dog treats.”

“Please don’t rub your head on my foot.”

Student 1: “It’s not inking.”

Student 2: “Well, ink it better!”

\*Gets down on one knee\* “Don’t worry, I’m not proposing.”

“Did you know bathtubs can’t float?”

“Was George Bush the guy who killed Abraham Lincoln?”

“A rabbit is not an assorted fruit.”

Student 1: “That’s my daughter.”

Student 2: “That’s my wife.”

Student 3: “That’s my sister.”

“I am getting a goat dog for Christmas.”

“Why don’t you wanna be used as a chair?”

Student 1: “What’s black and white and read all over?”

Student 2: “A baby penguin in a blender.”

“Is anyone named Guacamole?”

“Why are your feet creamy?”

“Why are you having an intellectual conversation about skibidi toilet?”

“It’s good for a genre of book I’m allergic to.”

“I’m not sniffing your tattoo.”

Student 1: “That’s a pretty necklace.”

Teacher: “Thank you, it’s glass.”

Student 2: “I kinda wanna break it.”

Teacher: \*Slowly walks away covering necklace.\*



# OVERHEARD

By Amelia Adams

“What’s that one dude with the legs and the... hair?”  
“Eat his butt then connect them.”  
“Why would a midget be in your worm bottle?”  
“Graffiti frog.”



“You are a butt nugget.”  
Student 1: “My mom said I will get arthritis from popping my fingers.”  
Student 2: “What are popcorn fingers?”  
“You have a mustache and a skullet? She has actual hair.”

“On leap days, there’s only 6 hours.”  
Student 1: “Yellow’s for pee...”  
Student 2: “Yellow’s for bananas.”  
“I must formally apologize for the cheese incident in home ec.”  
Teacher: “Can you at least attempt to be normal for once?”  
Student: “I tried, but I didn’t like it!”  
“I’m not fully deaf, just selectively deaf.”  
“Jungle! Like pines?”  
Teacher: “Who knows what archipelago means?”  
Student: “Sounds like a dinosaur.”



“Those boys all look constipated...”  
Student 1: “My Chromebook’s Russian.”  
Student 2: “Does it have a babushka?”

“That’s me! I’m Dwayne the Rock, Rock.”  
“It feels very Monday-y today.”  
“Why is your hair crunchy?!”  
“When he runs, he looks like a jellyfish.”  
“I’ll flex with you on that.”  
“You look like a demented frog.”  
“I like wine!”  
Student 1: “You just wasted a bunch of trees.”  
Student 2: “No one cares about the trees...”  
“Don’t inhale a tissue.”  
“Kiss the girl, WAA WAA!!!”  
“That’s MY butt warmth!”  
“DON’T touch the toes, thank you.”  
“You should know by now that my hearing capabilities are as good as a 90-year-old grandpa.”

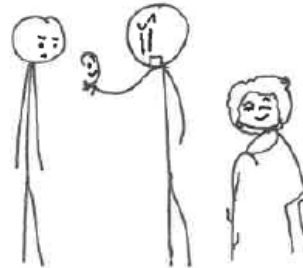
“My Chromebook’s southern.”  
Student 1: “Why did you send me a toad singing chandelier?”  
Student 2: “Because it’s fun!”  
“My eyes are blurry.”  
“He had been abducted by aliens.”



“Why am I at my desk?” \*Gasp\* “Paperclip!”  
\*Student starts crying\* “It was a good staring contest, but I lost. That light is too good.”  
“I sneezed. I’ve been waiting for so long, I’m so HAPPY!”  
“I don’t have a social life. Yay!”  
“Why are you asking her to rub her feet with my shoe?”  
“Don’t eat my pencil.”  
“I have the German National Anthem stuck in my head.”  
“It’s kinda comfortable to sit on my leg.”



“That looks like the baby powder that turns into slime after ten minutes.”  
“I have found the origin of the cheddar penguins.”  
“I was thirsty, so I ate a blueberry muffin.”  
“I’m telling (teacher) that you ate your to-do list.”  
“Mighty green space lizard!”  
Student 1: “You killed Shrek?”  
Student 2: “Yeah, I like purple men.”  
“My armpit isn’t as strong as it used to be.”  
“Dairy Queen is for hillbillies.”  
“There’s a pregnant man emoji now.”  
“Mr. Carson is so zesty.”  
“Infected scratches are not cool.”  
“I either have something-something-something with chicken or...”



“Do you want my mom’s ear?”  
Teacher: “Sometimes the stapler is dysfunctional.”  
Student: “OH MY GOSH! Just like me!”  
“I should’ve written down my fever dreams from covid.”

“How dare you sniff my presence!”  
“The muffins have been eliminated.”  
“Is it like fun fun or like fun?”  
“I was born in like every state.”  
“Jellyfish, but I prefer peanut butter fish...”  
“I am NOT mewing.”



(continued on page 23)



# Cute Critters Scavenger Hunt!


By Melody Pfile

For this scavenger hunt, you need to find 12 cute critters all over the school. First, figure out where this little Bunny hopped away to, and when you get there, you will find the next animal and your next clue. Be sure to write down the animals in the order you find them.

After you solve the clues and have all 12 animals filled in below, add up each letter of the animal's name to get a total number (you can use the letter/number key below). Then add all the total numbers to get your final answer (it's okay to use a calculator). You have to get this final number right to be in the drawing to win.

When you think you're finished, see Mrs. Nabholz in room 31. She will check to see if you have the correct answers for the animals and the math problems. If you do, you will be entered into the drawing. On Wednesday, March 6, we will draw two names out of the entries to win prizes, so turn in your entry by lunchtime. Have fun searching for all the cute critters!!

A = 1	F = 6	K = 11	P = 16	U = 21	EXAMPLE:  BEAR = 2 + 5 + 1 + 18 = 26
B = 2	G = 7	L = 12	Q = 17	V = 22	
C = 3	H = 8	M = 13	R = 18	W = 23	
D = 4	I = 9	N = 14	S = 19	X = 24	
E = 5	J = 10	O = 15	T = 20	Y = 25	
				Z = 26	

Clue #1: This hungry little Bunny runs to get first place in what line? 

1. B U N N Y = 2 + 21 + 14 + 14 + 25 = \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL = \_\_\_\_\_

# SAME NAME GAME

By Marley Mesa

This game includes clues of either first or last names of people at KMS. Read the clues and figure out the common name. Example: NAME = Songer + Newton + Prusak In this case, the FIRST name would be Jake. Fill in all the blank lines to the right of the clues with the correct names. In each correct name, there will be a white blank under a letter. There is also a number for each clue. Put the letters on the white blanks in the spaces at the bottom of the page with the corresponding numbers of the clues. Example: Jake is the answer to the number 5 clue. E would be on the white blank in the name, so we would write E on the number 5 blank at the bottom of the page. The letters should spell out an obvious statement. Bring your paper to Mrs. Nabholz to see if you decoded the correct answer.

## FIRST NAMES

- 1.) NAME = Ross + Smith { ----- }
- 4.) NAME = Castimore + Karron { ----- }
- 5.) NAME = Newton + Prusak + Songer { ----- }
- 3.) NAME = Roberts + Dupuis { ----- }
- 13.) NAME = Miller + Guest + Teates + Taliesin { ----- }
- 10.) NAME = Cole + Pancoast + Anding { ----- }
- 11.) NAME = Cooper + Larson { ----- }
- 12.) NAME = Axtel + Tews { ----- }
- 18.) NAME = Cramer + Bezdecny { ----- }
- 15.) NAME = Byerly + Metteer { ----- }
- 22.) NAME = Tews + Cox { ----- }
- 20.) NAME = Dravis + Smalling { ----- }

## LAST NAMES

- 6.) Brailea + Jayden + Uriah = NAME { ----- }
- 17.) Aidan + Noah + Zoe = NAME { ----- }
- 7.) Lily + Maci + Iverson = NAME { ----- }
- 9.) Alora + Bennet + James = NAME { ----- }
- 21.) Sofia + Olivia = NAME { ----- }
- 8.) Mattie + Emma = NAME { ----- }
- 2.) Cooper + Dayzie = NAME { ----- }
- 14.) Brooklyn + Mila = NAME { ----- }
- 19.) Aliya + Elijah = NAME { ----- }
- 16.) Jesika + Harley = NAME { ----- }
- 23.) Aiden + Arianna = NAME { ----- }

**H Z**

-----  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

**F U**

----- !  
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23