

KMS PURPLE PAGES

*Kenai Middle School
Kenai, Alaska
May 2024*



Meaningful Memories

By Autumn McCaughey



Since the Class of 2028 is leaving KMS soon, we asked everyone about their favorite memories and quotes, as well as advice for the younger grades. This year has been thrilling for most, so let's start with some of their favorite memories!

Shimi Masson: Running around school playing tag in the hallways.

Selah Coots: When Mrs. Beck would always give us french fries after lunch.

Kyle Foster: Playing a lot of basketball with Eli and Landon.

Jadeyn Jacko: Seeing a pancake stuck to the bathroom stall.

Amelia Adams: Pancake breakfast, because you get to hang out with your friends in different grades.

Noah Anding: Breaking my arm.

Kaia Dale-Johnson: 8th grade A-team volleyball season was the most fun time I had in middle school. The team was great, the coach was great, and we did a great job.

Kanyon Ley: Winning the extended basketball season tournament.

Luke Karpik: Digital storytelling with Brock and Dylan.

Eli Pancoast: Going to state for MathCounts, and 6th grade camp.

Ellore Smith: Biking with the Carson/Tews team in 6th grade, along with 6th grade camp, and all of my sports.

Sindy Aguirre-Ruiz: Learning and hanging out with my friends.

Everett Poulin: The bridge between the cabins at sixth grade camp.

Ezra Jusmable: Warball and activity nights.

Harper Kruzick: Bus rides home with the volleyball team, blasting music.

Caitlyn Burnett: Switching schools and moving to Alaska.

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**Check out the full-color version of the *Purple Pages* online:
KMS Facebook, KMS website, and in your school g-mail!**

Meaningful Memories

(continued from page 1)

- Andrew Stein: When Killian and I found a pickaxe at 6th grade camp.
Keyahna Quimby: Mini courses and mass choir.
Delila Roberts: 7th grade lunch.
Jamie Curren: Basketball.
Hayden Williams: 6th grade camp and mini courses.
Ethan Herrmann: Throwing a football with my friends.
Ava Haugstad: 6th grade skiing!
“Ava help me!” -Hallie during skiing
Nolen James: Being A-team starting center in basketball.
Glenna Strongheart: Being with my friends!
Ella Siemers: The river rafting mini course.
Aiden Nerby: Playing football at the start of the year.
Dakota Hyatt: 6th grade camp and the 28-mile bike ride.
Luke Larson: 6th grade camp and Mr. Rose’s class.
Daniel Stuart: When we went swimming at KCHS, making three pointers in basketball, and wrestling.
Riley Smith: 6th grade camp.
PJ Matulin: The ice fishing trip in 7th grade.
Tanner Gregory: Basketball boroughs.
Dominic Hayden: Making new friends.
Chris Freeman: Hot dogs for lunch and my first Purple Pages comic!
Sabella Christoffersen: My 8th hour history class, every moment in there.
Eva Verrengia: Meeting my friends.
Arianna Thompson: 6th grade camp and yurt camping mini course.



Scholarly Slogans

- Isabel Theron: “Hello young scholars!!!”
Hallie Songer: “Don’t say I can’t.” - Mr. Rose
Rylee Trent: “Special teams, special players, special plays.”
Alexander Grundberg: “Life is like a bike. If you go slow, you get nowhere, if you go too fast, you will fall and have to get back up.”
Bryleigh Williams: “Turbulenceeee!”
Corbin Grimm: “Tonight we ride!”
LeRoy Tomrdle: “The island you once knew was flipped.”
Carson Cramer: “Erm what the sigma.”
Iverson Miller: “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.”
Eli Bemis: “Bazinga!”
Abigail Ziegler: “Have fun, just don’t do what I did.”
Ben Brighton: “What the sigma!”
Dylan Fry: “One day or day one.” - The Rock
Bryce Simper: “It is what it is.”
Sawyer Graham: “Vote Pancakes for president.” (Eli Pancoast)
Brett Goldsby: “Erm what the sigma.”
Jacob Cole: “Why does everybody love to hate but hate to love...”
Olivia Tews: “Know your limits, ski beyond them.”
Lyman McBride: “The zero point is unstable.”
Alex Lehmborg: “If you want the rainbow you have to go through the rain.”
Christa Milligrock: “I’m sleepy.”

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Scholarly Slogans

(continued from page 2)

- Keegan Guthrie: "I'm such a goofy goober." -anonymous
Emma Castimore: "(Burp) *high pitch voice* 'scuse me!" "Stop mewing in class, Ryan!" -Mr. Stephanos
Dezmond McCaughey: "Erm what the sigma."
Chayton Todd: "Wherever you go, there you are" - Mr. Gustkey
Sophia Sturm: "Busted."
Kendra Swearingen: "Love is the most twisted curse of all."
Corbyn Crisp: "Just because you're in the storm, doesn't mean it's over."
Royce Hinton: "Erm what the sigma."
Lucas Swanson: "It doesn't matter if you have a gold scar or a gray pump you can still win."
Killian McClure: "Guess what? Chicken butt!"

Advantageous Advice

- Izze Selanoff: Don't do anything stupid that would get you in trouble and try to have fun when you can.
Kelsie Bliss: Keep up on your work, be a good student, don't be rude, be kind, and have fun!
Joslynn Bernhardt: No name, no grade. No grade, no A's.
River Kruzick: Don't worry about grades too much (unless you're failing).
Kennah Gregory: Don't let people who don't know YOU let you down and bring you to your lowest. Live life to your best ability.
Thomas Robinson: Stay away from drugs, vapes, and weed. It's not good for you!



Advantageous Advice

- MJ Rogers: Stay strong, live life.
Jacob Semeraro: Just be yourself.
Cooper Every: Do good in school and try your hardest.
Kolben Lopez: Don't do drugs at school.
James Adams: Don't take anything from anyone if they offer it to you unless you know what it is.
Autumn McCaughey: Try your best, don't do drugs, and stay out of toxic environments.
Lala Trenton: Don't try to push yourself.
Elijah Davenport: Don't drink the locker room water!
Jacob Barrett: Be scared. Be worried.
Shane Carroll: Practice makes perfect.
Roman Campanella: Don't focus on being popular, be good in school.
Kiah Bushnell: Don't be rats.
Brock Cooper: Do your homework even if you don't want to.
Charlie Naranjo: Don't start fist fights, and accept one another.
Momo Hunt: Turn in your work, procrastination is overrated.
Ben Brighton: Stay organized, or you will be stressed.
Max Modigh: Don't trust anyone you don't know.
Taeja Stephens: Don't get in trouble, and beware of Mr. Gustkey's class.
Braylynn Young: Respect your teachers, they do a lot for you.
Indego Erikson-Gregory: Just try to stay focused, get your work done, you won't have to worry about so much if you're behind, and just have fun.
Oscar Marcou: Don't go to the bathroom.
Lucas Loggins: Just don't get F's, D's are good enough.
Kyler Whitmore: Don't be like me.
Michelle Vanlandingham: Don't fail.
Kira Inman: Just do your best in school, it goes by fast, so make the best of it.
Clayton Cooper: Get all A's.
Heather Newcomb-Hammer: Just turn in your homework.

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Advantageous Advice

Kash Timmerman: Make friends! Your experience, 6-8 grade will improve by 50%. (statistically correct)

Ellie Elordi: Stay out of drama and close to your real friends.

Scarlet Charbonneau: Finding one true friend is all you need.

Keira Forstner: Don't do drugs.

Emma Karron: Have fun and don't make friends with people who don't appreciate you.

Jesika Hyatt: Stay on top of your grades because if you don't, you'll end up being very stressed out with missing work. Focus on school, not just on your friends.

Saylor Huntsman-Norman: Do your homework, WEAR DEODORANT! (and have fun)

Anabelle Jennings: Make good choices and stay in the right groups of friends.



Kossack Kampaigns

By Dylan Fry

Student council is an important part of every student's high school career, even for students not running for office. Each year, four class officers are elected to represent their classmates.

To get elected, you have to do three things. First, you need to get a signature from your parent or guardian on the KCHS student council contract. After that, you need to get a petition signed by at least thirty people. This year, a total of ten people ran for office.

Next, you can start your one-week campaign. This could mean putting up posters or just talking people into voting for you. At the end of the campaign, you can change people's opinions or keep them on your side. This year, speeches were held in the library like a mini-assembly for the 8th grade class.

You can run for one of four different positions, including:

- Class Secretary, who records the meetings.
- Class Treasurer, who handles the class funds and reports them during meetings.
- Class Vice President, who takes the place of the Class President in case of an absence and helps organize fundraisers.
- Class President, who represents their class and takes charge of meetings and fundraisers.

Next year's freshman class officers:

- Selah Coots: Secretary
- Luke Karpik: Treasurer
- Kyle Foster: Vice President
- Eli Pancoast: President

Class Officer Quotes:

- "I want to help give a voice to the women of the school." - Selah Coot
- "I hope to create a better environment for the entirety of the student body." - Luke Karpik
- "I'm here to benefit the people of the school." - Kyle Foster
- "I want to make the school great." - Eli Pancoast

Daring to Drive

By Amelia Adams



If you're 14 or older and haven't gotten your permit, you should. Many older KMS students are starting to drive, including me, so warn your parents to be careful on the roads!

No Stress Test

A lot of people are really stressed right before the test, but it's really a breeze! There are many online practice tests you can take, and most people just do that to prepare, maybe asking family or friends for help and hints when needed. If you like to study a little more, there is an online DMV Driver's Manual; they do not have printed books at some DMV offices in Alaska anymore. If you are stressed about getting your permit, I would really recommend reading it. Emma Castimore studied by just taking practice tests and learning from her mistakes, while I studied the manual and read it front to back.

Parents' Opinions

Emma's mom (for most of you known as Mrs. Castimore) explains that she is "excited for her to learn and get comfortable being behind the wheel - it's a huge step towards the young adult world," and "the freedom and independence that eventually comes with driving yourself places is such a thrilling thing." Of course, Mrs. Castimore is also worried about her daughter's safety on the roads, but she's really happy for her.

My mother, Mrs. Adams, says, "I feel it's a great way for kids to get an extra year under their belt practicing driving with a parent in the car before they are on their own driving." She is also worried about me driving, and won't let me drive on the roads yet, but that may be because when she let me drive down a friend's road, I almost ran into a big rock.

Overall, I believe getting your permit and starting to drive is super important, and kinda fun too. If you're 14 and haven't yet, I would definitely suggest doing it soon!

Mystery of Locker #6105

By Bridger Copple



Have you ever walked by locker #6105? No, you haven't. There is no locker #6105, there is a pillar where #6105 would be. Mr. Tilly thinks that it's a time portal and if you're in 6th grade and you run fast you will go through the alleged time portal and you can skip 6th and 7th grade! But it only works on 6th graders' first day. I think that it was just a mishap in the school's construction. If there was a locker there, why build a pillar in front of it? Were they trying to hide something? What was so bad in there that the locker had to be removed? Why was it removed? Why a pillar? Why not a piece of art? Why not replace the locker? Why not . . . ?

Locker Stalker

By Sydney Hershberger

What's your favorite thing in your locker?



Quinn Taylor, 6th grade
"My phone is my favorite thing in my locker."



Cooper Medcoff, 7th grade
"My sweatshirt."

Faculty Farewells

By Grace Wik

Sadly, KMS will be saying goodbye to a few of our teachers. Some have been here a while and others have only been here for a short period of time. No matter how long they've been here we are going to miss them the same!

Mrs. Dragseth

Mrs. Dragseth, also known as Ms. Gann, is retiring. She has worked as a librarian for 25 years, although she has only worked at KMS and KCHS for 11 years. She came to Kenai from Anchorage. Her favorite memory from KMS was when her Battle of the Books team wanted to take their picture climbing in the stacks of books. She is most looking forward to waking up when she wants to and traveling. Right after school ends, she plans to go to Oregon. She also plans to visit her sister in Australia and next year plans to go to Hawaii. Although she is excited for retirement, she is going to miss seeing all the kids, especially since she sees them grow up from 6th grade to 12th grade. The feeling is mutual, as we are all going to miss seeing Mrs. Dragseth!

Mrs. Bressler

Mrs. Bressler is also retiring. She has worked as a teacher for a total of 31 years, with 13 of those years at KMS as a 6th grade teacher. She was working at an elementary school as a 6th grade teacher, and when this job opened up, she said, "Oh yeah! I'm ready to switch it up." She is most looking forward to having more family time and just more time to travel. Her favorite memory was from a mini course hiking the Russian River a long time ago. There was a kid who had never hiked it before, and when they got to a certain part in the hike, he raised his hand to the sky and said, "OMG! This is gorgeous, I wish it was the steps leading to my house!" She said it was special to her because he had the best day: "I'll never forget how excited he was for that hike." I think anyone who has had a class with Mrs. Bressler loves her and will definitely miss her next year!

Mr. Calvert

Mr. Calvert came out of retirement last fall to teach 6th grade at KMS. He has been a teacher for 40 years in Texas, New Mexico, and Alaska. What he is most looking forward to about going into retirement, again, is to spend more time with his family, including his sisters. I think we will miss having Mr. Calvert here at KMS!

Mrs. Koehler

Mrs. Koehler has been a teacher for 38 years but has only worked at KMS as a long-term sub for two years. She came to KMS when Mr. Dosko called her because she has a Special Education degree and experience with the paperwork. She is going into retirement again and is most looking forward to subbing at different age levels and in different subjects, although she is going to miss getting to know all the students. One of her favorite memories of KMS is the monthly staff lunches. I think anyone who has met Mrs. Koehler is going to miss having her around!



Mr. Calvert & Mrs. Bressler



Mr. Jackson & Mrs. Dragseth

Mrs. Cruickshank

Mrs. Cruickshank has been an IN special education teacher for seven years, with five years at KMS; she is moving over to Redoubt Elementary School. She is most looking forward to being closer to her home, but she is going to miss all the staff, people, and kids here at KMS. Her favorite memory of KMS was being able to be here with her own kids. Even if you have never met Mrs. Cruickshank, we can all say we are going to miss her being here at KMS!

Mr. Jackson

Mr. Jackson has taught here as the 8th grade science teacher for only one school year. Sadly, he will be moving back to Meridian, Idaho. He has been in Alaska since last fall and came to KMS when he moved to Kenai for this job. His favorite thing about KMS is getting to teach science, where before he taught math. In Idaho some of his favorite things to do are take walks by the river and take drives up in the mountains. I think we will all miss Mr. Jackson next year!

March & April Students of the Month

By Melody Pfile

All of these Students of the Month have shown they are very dedicated and ready to learn!
 Congratulations, SOM students!



6th: Sophia Bilger, Emilie Hollister,
 and Alexis Vanloan



6th: Arlo Cooper, Kenzie Toering, and Mila Coleman



7th: Elle Lacy, Mia Settlemyer, and Uriah Smith



7th: Levi Beplat, Maci Miller, Maci Daniel,
 Jayden Smith, and Luey Focose



7th: Nathan Fowler



8th: Autumn McCaughey
 & Caitlyn Burnett



*"A little progress each day adds up
 to big results." -Satya Nani*

**"The best way to predict your future
 is to create it." -Abraham Lincoln**

*"Never be limited by other people's
 limited imaginations." -Dr. Mae Jemison*

#KMShashtags

#sigma
 #kmstrack&field
 #kenailittleleaguebaseball
 #historymovies
 #masschoir
 #8thgradeelections
 #bereal

#SOS
 #sourcesofstrength
 #standbyme
 #massband
 #foursquare
 #daretodrive
 #8thgradefarewell
 #sandrabullock
 #nike

#lululemon
 #deadchromebook
 #lostmycharger
 #summervacay
 #weRfreshmen
 #chewinggum
 #6thgradecamp
 #chesschallenges
 #ppstswimming

#track-boroughs
 #choirbandpopsconcert
 #intheparkinglot
 #isthatacellulardevice
 #snapchat
 #chat
 #invisalign
 #minicourses
 #lastdayofschool

WONDROUS WASHINGTON

By Amelia Adams



Several KMS 8th graders recently went on a school trip to Washington, D.C. From what I've heard, it was really fun; I mean they even got to see George Washington's grave, how cool is that? Keep reading to learn more!

The group consisted of Caitlyn Burnett, Emma Karron, Ethan Herrmann, Lucas Swanson, Iverson Miller, and Joslynn Bernhardt, with chaperones including Ms. Johnson and a few parents. The trip was six days long, and no, the kids were not exempt from homework given during that time, but it was still lots of fun, and worth it for sure. They got to see some pretty impressive and beautiful historic places!

Caitlyn's favorite parts of the trip was seeing colonial Jamestown and Williamsburg, because of how immersive they were, but she didn't really like the Arlington Cemetery, which was a little boring to her, and the Holocaust Museum, which was very sad. Ms. Johnson agreed the subject was sad, but unlike Caitlyn, she really enjoyed exploring the museum, and she also liked visiting Mount Vernon, the home to George and Martha Washington.

Don't worry, they still did other fun things, like when they watched the solar eclipse from the base of the Washington Monument, which looked incredibly amazing; I wish I would've been able to see it! Caitlyn also really liked their meals, saying that the "food was not sketch," though a hotel they went to in Virginia was a little sketch and did not have the best food. I mean, she got a stale apple, how rude...

Overall, I think everyone in this group had a lot of fun and enjoyed their trip. If you're a 7th grader, you should consider going on next year's trip, which will be led by Mr. Prusak.



*"If you want something you have never had,
you must be willing to do something you have never done."*

-Thomas Jefferson



"Midnight Sun" by Greysen Besse



"Water Droplets"
by Axel Washington



"Sister" by Ling Ling Theron

Sketchy Artwork

By Axel Washington

The annual KPBSD juried student art show ran all of April at the Kenai Art Center at 816 Cook Avenue. The show was for schools all over the peninsula from Kenai to Soldotna, Nikiski, Seward, and Homer. The front gallery was for high school students' artwork and the back gallery was for middle school students' artwork. There were a total of 35 pieces entered from Kenai and 13 from KMS. There was so much great artwork in the gallery: drawings, paintings, clay creations, models, and sketches!

Some of the top placers from KMS were Greysen Besse with a first place, Axel Washington with a second place, and Ling Ling Theron with a third place, all in the drawing section. Ling Ling's drawing was a skeleton of the torso, pelvis, and skull all on a book page. Axel's was of water droplets on a brown piece of paper, and Greysen's was a pastel drawing of the mountains with a sunset in the background.

In the ceramics section, Keegan Guthrie won a third place award with his piece "Depth and Heat," Elle Lacy received a teacher's choice award in the painting section with her piece "Colorful Water," and Effie Muster earned an honorable mention for her sculpture "Waving Branches."



"Colorful Water"
by Elle Lacy



"Waving Branches"
by Effie Muster

Just Some Jokes

Why did some schools stop graduation ceremonies?
There was too much name-calling!

What did the thermometer get when it graduated?
A degree!

Why were the fish's grades so bad?
Because they were below sea level!

According to KMS art teacher Ms. Silva, this is how the art pieces are chosen and how the show works: "Each year art teachers from all around the district come together and display their best student work in the district art show. I'm allowed to pick 15ish pieces to put in the show. I try for a variety of different pieces since there are four categories (sculpture, ceramics, painting, drawing). It's hard to pick! I start by looking at each lesson I taught, and I try to pick the best piece. It's tricky; I try not to pick two pieces from the same student because I want there to be more participants. I did submit two pieces from the same lesson, Effie's and Greysen's trees, because they were super different from each other. If I'm torn between two pieces, I try to think of who it would mean the most to. It was so fun to see all the other artwork and put it on display! Judges are usually people who are pretty involved in the local art scene. They go in after setup, but before name/school tags are put up, to agree on which pieces are 'the best'."

Keegan's initial inspiration was getting a good grade on his project, but apparently his grade would have been an A+, as Ms. Silva chose to put it in the student art show! Axel said, "I was surprised, as I forgot about it, and I wasn't expecting to get anything high." Their inspiration was "it was originally an art project in Ms. Silva's class, but I tried pretty hard on it to do better than I did last year." Elle said that she was proud of herself as well as surprised and said that her "lines were lumpy." Her inspiration was "we had to take stuff out of nature, and I've always loved koi fish," so she based her art project on them.

The event was a total success and all of the artists got to see their amazing artwork on display in the exhibit at the Kenai Art Center!

"You are braver than you believe,
stronger than you seem,
and smarter than you think."
-A.A. Milne



Student: "Teacher, would you punish me for something I didn't do?"

Teacher: "Of course not!"

Student: "Good, because I didn't do my homework!"



Brilliant Band

By Bridger Cople

The KPBSD Mass Band on April 30th was entertaining and exciting! KMS band students walked over to KCHS around 8:00 am. After we arrived, we headed to the auditorium and waited for the other schools to arrive.

After the last students entered the auditorium, we gathered our instruments and music and headed to the stage. After we had situated ourselves in our seats (well, percussion had to stand) we started practicing; in total, practicing took approximately six hours. The rehearsal and concert were conducted by Kody Trombley, the band director at Chugiak High.

After we practiced, the KMS band went to the high school band room, watched *Pirates of the Caribbean*, and ate Domino's pizza.

At the concert, the songs we played were *Gently I Wander*, *On the Horizon*, *Free Day*, *Rock Solid*, and *Dragon Run*. *Gently I Wander* is about wandering the lustrous fields of the great plains in the 1800's. *On the Horizon* is about viewing the horizon of the ocean in the Hawaiian Islands. *Free Day* is about the American

Revolution soldier march. *Rock Solid* has rock/punk undertones, and the majority of the song is pieces of *Iron Man* by Black Sabbath. *Dragon Run* is about the courageous knights in fantasy having to go through the perilous caves to slay the mighty dragon to save the kingdom.

Here's what some band members had to say about mass band:

- Ezra Jusmable: "It was cool that we got to see how other people from different schools played their instruments and how we got to learn something different."
- Tommy Robinson: "The trombones were good. After we were done practicing, it was really fun. We got to eat pizza and watch movies with our friends."
- Tolson Hall: "Mass band was fun for the start when we were practicing, but then we got to the concert and I'm throwing up."
- Zalen Fulgencio: "I think the mass band could have done better in playing but it was good in general besides *Free Day*. I hated that song."



A Massive Mass Choir

By Melody Pfile

Mass Choir was held in Homer on April 16th, and it was a total hit this year! Kenai, Homer, Nikiski, Skyview, and Aurora Borealis middle school students were all there and sounded wonderful, although many could argue Kenai did the best! Mr. Dosko, our school principal, was able to attend, but unfortunately, due to health reasons, Ms. Vollom was not able to serve as our choir director.

On the bus ride to Homer, the 8th graders got to ride on their own bus, but since Nikiski is such a small school, the 7th graders shared a bus with them. When we first arrived, everybody was in awe, because nobody really knew how big Homer High really is. The commons are huge, with a sperm whale skeleton hanging from the ceiling! The school auditorium is also huge, with red seats and a massive stage.

Before all the schools sang together, each school performed a piece of their own. Our school choir sang two songs: "Closer to the Flame" and "Hands are Knockin'." Together, all schools sang "SiSi Ni Moja," "Everlasting Melody," and "Hope is Like the Wind." The boys sang "Obwisana" and the girls sang "Sing to Me." A girl from Skyview named Kylie Smith sang a solo in the beginning of the song "Everlasting Melody." Emma Castimore, Emma Karron, and Zoe Cole also tried out; although they didn't get the solo, they all tried really hard and sounded beautiful!

Kossack Kampers

By Uriah Smith

Last week the 6th graders went to 6th grade camp on the 8th, 9th, and 10th. The 6th grade students rode three charter buses to Victory Bible Camp in Sutton. About 110 students and 26 chaperones went to camp.

Some of the awesome activities that happened at 6th grade camp were capture the flag, a glacier hike, and a fossil hike. There were also camp rotations which include fire building, water testing, identifying bugs, and a scavenger hunt.

Before the concert, the clinician, Katie Elshire, listened to our two songs listed above. She gave us some critiques, such as how to project while singing, and fixed our standing order on the risers. When she was done listening to all the other schools, we started to get ready for our concert.

Ms. Elshire is a choir director from Washington State. One day while sitting in her 7th grade choir class, she figured out what she wanted to be when she grew up. She didn't want to teach music to kids in elementary schools because the kids were too clingy, and she didn't want to work with the high schoolers because they were too serious. But she did want to work with middle schoolers because of their creative minds. She says she is naturally an alto but can sing really high soprano notes. Ms. Elshire was a great director, and many of us loved spending time with her. She was pretty funny and great at giving advice.

Overall, Mass Choir was really awesome; you should definitely try choir next year and see if it's for you. We all hope to see you next year at Mass Choir!

Here are some student quotes about Mass Choir:

- Mia Settlemyer- "I think it went ok. It was very hot though. I'm not used to that as an Alaskan."
- Dakota Farmer- "Great... my voice still hurts from singing for 12 hours."
- Faith Graham- "Great, I wish we could pick the songs though."
- Marah Ivy- "I thought it was really fun and meeting people was nice."
- Lily Guest- "Hot."
- Madyson Knudsen- "It was great, I loved it... except for the hot stage..."
- Luey Focose- "It was fun."

The KMS 6th grade camp tradition has gone on another year thanks to all the staff and chaperones, and the owner of Victory Bible Camp. Here's what some 7th graders had to say about camp last year:

- Greyson Whicker said that his favorite part of 6th grade camp was playing card games for candy in the cabins. Another thing he liked was playing outside and chatting with friends.
- Ceaton Grimm said that his favorite part of 6th grade camp was the glacier hike, talking with friends, and playing capture the flag. He also liked playing cards for candy in the cabin.
- Marah Ivy said that her favorite part of 6th grade camp was playing on the big swing and talking with friends.

SLIDINGINTO..... SUMMER

By Mia Settlemyer

Jobs

A lot of 8th graders are 14 and getting summer jobs for the first time, working at coffee shops, McDonald's, and Safeway. I know that Sabela Christoffersen is getting a summer job at McDonalds for the first time. It's a good way to get experience in handling money and customer service as well as earning money and learning how to save and spend.

Hangin'

Some people don't have big plans except just hanging out with friends. Some have smaller activities like fishing, camping, sleepovers, reading, or going to the beach. Kaylee Phillips is going to be spending the summer with her sisters since they are moving out.

Pets

Another big activity is pets. A LOT of people in Alaska own pets and some just have animals that like to wander through their yard, like moose. New puppies and cats are always getting adopted from shelters in Kenai as well!

I hope that you are noticing how the sun is coming up sooner and staying up for longer. This is the first sign that summer is approaching, and lots of people already have their plans set. Campfires, traveling, slip and slides, water balloons, the possibilities are endless! This summer will hopefully be full of sun and fun! Just this last little push, then we are set free! Enjoy!

Travel

Lots of people are fortunate enough to be going out of town this summer. Both Lily Taliesin and Ellie Elordi are going to different states! They are going to have a family reunion, one in Oregon and the other in Idaho. Ellie is planning to go to a waterpark and Lily to hang on the beach and soak in the sun!

Sports

Ellie is also going to Arizona for both club and school volleyball! Mrs. Beck is taking the school team at the end of June. Lots of people are playing club sports like swimming, soccer, softball, and baseball. I know many people who are excited to go out in the sun with their friends.



“You get what you work for, not what you wish for.”

“It doesn't matter what others are doing, it matters what you are doing.”

SOS Super Summit

By Mia Settlemyer & Lily Taliesin

Mia's POV:

Four SOS students went up to Anchorage recently for a training and youth speaker suicide prevention presentation, including Emilie Hollister, Gage Van Vleet, Lily Taliesin, and Mia Settlemyer. Starting on Monday,



April 29th we drove up to Anchorage, all shoved in Nurse Dixie's car with all of our baggage. We stayed in a nice hotel, a little too nice (slightly haunted).

We practiced our speeches until 9:30 p.m. then hit the hay. Putting

Lily, Emilie, and me in one room and expecting us to sleep was a very courageous decision. We did fall asleep after an episode of Gilmore Girls.

We woke up early, sadly, and got ready for our training. Luckily, the training was in our hotel, so we didn't have to walk far. The training lasted eight hours! We learned coping mechanisms, how to help those in distress, how to prevent negative thoughts, suicidal signs, and more. We also acted out situations in how to help suicidal people. This was interrupted by lunch and the most delicious dessert I have ever had.

After a full day, we went shopping and ate more food. The girls went on a shopping spree and had a self-care night. We practiced and perfected our speeches for the presentation.

We woke up early yet again and got all pretty for our presentation. We had to walk to our building, as the presentation wasn't held at the hotel. The presentation went smoothly, our string activity being a big hit. We had a great combination of realness and laughter. We got our message across and made everyone understand the importance of SOS.

Lily's POV:

Time for the more nitty gritty side of the event. The four kids, Nurse Dixie, and Mrs. Christie went to the event on April 29th, and came home around 4:30 on May 1st. When we arrived in Anchorage, we quickly put our luggage in the hotel rooms and ate dinner. We ate at Fletchers, then went to the girls' hotel room to practice. Everyone made little cue lines and sentences to say for every slide. Then, everyone went to bed.

The next morning, Nurse Dixie brought the kids breakfast from The Cubby. Once everyone had eaten, we walked down to the lower lobby, where the suicide prevention training was held.

We trained for about two hours before the first break. The breaks lasted about 10 minutes each, and we had four. Lunch consisted of salad, pulled pork, barbeque chicken, rolls, white rice, and macaroni salad. We ate, then walked around the block to get fresh air. Everyone had a good time with the rest of the training.

After we finished training, the six of us went to the mall. I don't think Gage was all too excited, but I know the three girls were. The girls got jewelry from Icing, and face masks from Ulta Beauty. Once we returned to the hotel, we immediately started practicing lines for the presentation. We practiced for about an hour and a half, then went to bed.

The final morning, we went down to The Cubby again and ate breakfast. Nurse Dixie, Mrs. Christie, and the four kids walked down the street to where the presentation would soon be held. We presented the string activity that we did on the KMS Wellness Day. Besides a few minor inconveniences, everything went perfectly as planned!

After the presentation, everyone loaded into the car and went to Wendy's, finished eating, and drove home. Overall, the summit was fun and successful. Mrs. Christie said, "I'm really proud of the kids at KMS, and I think that Nurse Dixie is setting an example for future generations."



Wonderful Wellness Day

By Lily Taliesin



Sources of Strength planned a Wellness Day for our school on April 18th. The day taught us how improving our mental health can help us in our day-to-day lives. Nurse Dixie, the leader of Sources of Strength at KMS, helped set up the schedule, the groups, the activities, and plenty more important things. She put her time, effort, and money into this day to help every student at Kenai Middle School.

The day consisted of exercise, yoga, sound baths, coping skills party, a lesson on how connection is prevention, a Sources of Strength demonstration, rock painting, lessons on how knowledge is power, and story time. We had donations of coping skill items from some volunteers too. High schoolers came to the school and helped teach vaping prevention.

Everyone was sorted into mixed groups with 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, into A or B groups. The 14 groups did the same things mainly, but they went to different places. The only thing that was different was the yoga for the A groups, and a sound bath for the B groups. There were lots of different groups so we rotated stations. Each session lasted about 35 minutes with five-minute breaks in between. The breaks were full of students walking around and talking to their friends about how much fun they had in each session.

A bunch of volunteers were able to help out and teach some lessons. The volunteers were very greatly appreciated by both staff and students. Nurse Dixie was super excited to share this day with everyone. She also got lots of positive feedback from students. I personally loved every part of KMS Wellness Day!

The Replay

By Hunter Pontius

Have you heard about the new sports podcast? If you have, you should know that the co-host is Kenai Middle School's very own Mr. Rose. "The Replay with Nick and Nolan" is a sports podcast that covers sports all over Alaska, including volleyball, basketball, baseball, football, and many more. You can listen to The Replay on Spotify, ESPN 1130 AM, 96.9 FM, and most places where you can listen to podcasts.

Mr. Rose said that there are a lot of cool things in Kenai Peninsula sports that deserve to be in the spotlight and so that's why they made a sports podcast, so those sports can get a chance in the spotlight. Mr. Rose said that his favorite part of the podcast is interviewing different people around Alaska to get their insights about different sports. He also said his favorite sport to discuss on the podcast is basketball because "basketball is the best."

Some of the topics on The Replay are interviews with players and coaches. On the newest episode of The Replay with Nick and Nolan they interviewed soccer head coaches Erik Dolphin from SoHi and Shane Lopez from KCHS. They also interviewed Principal Sarge



Truesdell from SoHi, plus lots more local athletes in previous episodes.

Nick and Nolan with Emma Beck!

* * * * *

Sports Sillies

I used to have a fear of hurdles . . .
but I got over it!

What do sprinters eat before a race?
Nothing, they fast.

That one time at a track meet where
you're wearing Nikes and you just can't do it!

Speedy Sprinters

By Bryleigh Williams



Sprinters! Two of the sprinting events are the 100m and the 200m. The 100m is one quarter of the track, and the 200m is half.

The sprinting coaches are Mr. Rose and Mrs. Smith. Mr. Rose has been a coach for three years. Mrs. Smith has been coaching for “approximately five years.” I asked them what their advice for new sprinters was, and Mr. Rose said, “Run fast, then faster.” And Mrs. Smith said, “Keep working, don’t give up, practice your starts, use blocks, and find a friend to run with.”

Kennah Gregory has been doing track for two years, and she is one of our fastest girls at KMS. She said she loves running past people in races. Amar’e Williams says he does sprinting because he’s “too lazy for long distance.” He has been running track for two years now and lane 3 is his favorite.

Fearsome 400

By Uriah Smith

The 400-meter dash is an event where you run around the track one time. It is a unique and challenging event, and some people even say it’s the hardest event because it’s not a sprinting event but it’s not a long distance event. You can’t pace yourself and have to sprint for a very long time. If you are fast and have a lot of stamina, then the 400 is for you.

Some advice coaches give for the 400-meter dash is to run the first 50 meters at top speed and the last 100 meters at top speed. For the rest of the race, you’re supposed to keep a steady fast pace.

Noah Anding is one of Kenai’s best 400-meter runners for the boys. He chose to do the 400 because he knew that he was good at it. His strategy is to try to sprint the full 400 meters. Some people say that this strategy doesn’t work, but if you have enough stamina it is possible.

Melody Pfile is one of the best 400-meter runners for the girls. She did the 400 because the coaches thought that she would be good. Her strategy is similar to the coaches’ advice. She likes to start very fast, slow down a bit in the middle, and sprint at the end.

Track is a perfect sport to do at the end of the year to make fun memories with friends and learn things about yourself that you might not have known yet. If you didn’t do track this year, make sure to try it next year. Go, Kossacks!

Fastest KMS girls 100m results

April 19 - 3rd Indego Erikson-Gregory 13.9
April 19 - 8th Sydney Hershberger 14.6
April 19 - 11th Brooklyn Coleman 14.8
April 23 - 3rd Olivia Richards 14.3
April 23 - 4th Bryleigh Williams 14.4
April 23 - 5th Kennah Gregory 14.5
April 26 - 7th Bryleigh Williams 14.7
April 26 - 7th Melody Pfile 14.7
April 26 - 9th Olivia Richards 15.0
May 3 - 5th Bryleigh Williams 14.7
May 3 - 8th Kennah Gregory 14.9
May 3 - 14th Omaira Sagar 15.2
May 7 - 9th Kennah Gregory 15.18
May 7 - 11th Olivia Richards 15.30

Fastest KMS girls 200m results

April 19 - 2nd Melody Pfile 29.4
April 19 - 6th Lexi Soares 31.1
April 19 - 9th Bryleigh Williams 31.2
April 23 - 2nd Hallie Songer 30.8
April 23 - 3rd Melody Pfile 30.9
April 23 - 4th Lexi Soares 31.2
April 26 - 4th Melody Pfile 30.6
April 26 - 7th Bryleigh Williams 32.3
May 3 - 4th Melody Pfile 29.7
May 3 - 7th Bryleigh Williams 31.2
May 3 - 11th Brooklyn Coleman 31.6
May 7 - 6th Bryleigh Williams 31.65
May 7 - 9th Melody Pfile 32.39

Fastest KMS boys 100m results

April 19 - 2nd Kaiser DesOrmeaux 12.5
April 19 - 5th Lawrence Dean 12.7
April 19 - 6th Amar’e Williams 12.8
April 23 - 2nd Amar’e Williams 12.7
April 23 - 3rd Kaiser DesOrmeaux 12.8
April 23 - 4th Lawrence Dean 12.9
April 26 - 4th Patrick Miller 13.2
April 26 - 5th Amar’e Williams 13.3
April 26 - 5th Luke Larsen 13.3
May 3 - 2nd Shane Carroll 12.9
May 3 - 4th Amar’e Williams 13.0
May 3 - 5th Benjamin Baske 13.2
May 7 - 2nd Shane Carroll 13.31

Fastest KMS boys 200m results

April 19 - 1st Kaiser DesOrmeaux 26.3
April 19 - 3rd Lawrence Dean 26.5
April 19 - 9th Shane Carroll 27.6
April 23 - 1st Kaiser DesOrmeaux 26.6
April 23 - 4th Shane Carroll 27.5
April 23 - 6th Brett Goldsby 27.7
April 26 - 3rd Kaiser DesOrmeaux 27.6
April 26 - 7th Shane Carroll 27.9
April 26 - 9th Levi Beplat 29.0
May 3 - 4th Kaiser DesOrmeaux 27.5
May 3 - 10th Levi Beplat 28.4
May 3 - 13th Dylan Fry 30.5
May 7 - 3rd Shane Carroll 27.75
May 7 - 7th Lawrence Dean 28.59

Heroic Hurdlers

By Bryleigh Williams

Hurdles! Hurdles are barriers set at a height of 30” for middle school students; once you get into high school, they get taller. There are 10 hurdles, 10 meters apart from each other, in the 100m hurdles.

Mrs. Dragseth is the hurdles coach. She has been coaching hurdles for 18 years! Her advice for new hurdlers is, “Make sure you’re confident before you try, you can always jump along the side to begin with.”

Selah Coots is one of the top girl hurdlers at KMS. She said hurdles are her favorite because “my cousin went to college for hurdles so I’m following in her footsteps.” Levi Beplat says he likes jumping so he decided to do hurdles. This is his first year doing track and it turns out he’s one of our fastest hurdlers for the boys.



Girls

April 19 results – Top 3 KMS girls

1st Selah Coots 19.1
8th Mia Settlemyer 20.7
15th Naomee Day 21.8

April 23 results – Top 3 KMS girls

1st Selah Coots 17.9
2nd Mia Settlemyer 20.4
3rd Raegan Lingenfelter 20.6

April 26 results – Top 3 KMS girls

1st Selah Coots 18.5
5th Lexi Soares
10th Raegan Lingenfelter

May 3 results – Top 3 KMS girls

1st Selah Coots 18.4
6th Mia Settlemyer 20.6
11th Raegan Lingenfelter 21.1

May 7 results – Top 3 KMS girls

1st Selah Coots 19.30
9th Mia Settlemyer 21.21
11th Raegan Lingenfelter 21.40

Boys

April 19 results – Top 3 KMS boys

5th Levi Beplat 18.2
9th Khayden Jurdi 19.2
10th Dawson Yeoman 19.4

April 23 results – Top 3 KMS boys

1st Luke Larsen 15.8
2nd Kaiser DesOrmeaux 16.3
3rd Patrick Miller 18.3

April 26 results – Top 3 KMS boys

2nd Luke Larsen 16.2
7th Benjamin Bastke 18.3
9th Levi Beplat 19.7

May 3 results – Top 3 KMS boys

6th Benjamin Baske 17.9
8th Khayden Jurdi 18.8
10th Patrick Miller 19.2

May 7 results – Top 3 KMS boys

2nd Luke Larsen 16.67
5th Benjamin Baske 18.47
6th Khayden Jurdi 18.73

Radical Relays

By Melody Pfile

There are so many different events you can try in track! One of my favorite events is relays, where you and your team compete to try to get the baton across the finish line. Relays are popular because you can do them with your friends. Most people like shorter relays like the 4x100 or 4x200, but I think

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all relays are great to try with friends. This year’s relay track teams did an excellent job and showed lots of effort. We hope to see you try out for track next year! Here are some quotes from relay team members:

- Riley Cramer- “I like working with my friends.”
- Indego Erikson-Gregory- “Teamwork.”
- Selah Coots- “I work better when it comes to team sports because it pushes me to do better. Also, it’s good teamwork.”
- Kailey Crouse- “It’s a team effort. You get to run with your friends and push each other to get better.”

Relay Results

April 23

4x100 meter boys

1st: Luke Larsen, Amare' Williams,
Kaiser DesOrmeaux, Levi Beplat

4x200 meter boys

2nd: Khayden Jurdi, Maddox Malone,
Quinton Beplat, Emmett Maguire

4x100 meter girls

2nd: Olivia Richards, Olivia Tews,
Kailey Crouse, Melody Pfile
3rd: Tatem Van Slyke, Lexi Soares,
Raegan Lingenfelter, Kylee Tweedy

4x200 meter girls

1st: Kennah Gregory, Bryleigh Williams,
Selah Coots, Melody Pfile
2nd: Olivia Richards, Maci Miller,
Brooklyn Coleman, Sydney Hershberger

4x400 meter girls

3rd: Marley Mesa, Maci Miller,
Brooklyn Coleman, Kailey Crouse

May 3

4x100 meter boys

3rd: Kaiser DesOrmeaux, Amare' Williams,
Levi Beplat, Lawrence Dean

4x200 meter boys

2nd: Kaiser DesOrmeaux, Lawrence Dean,
Roman Campanella, Shane Carroll

4x200 meter girls

2nd: Bryleigh Williams, Kennah Gregory,
Selah Coots, Melody Pfile

End of Season

(continued)

fastest girls were Joleen Seater, Sofia Tews, and me. For the boys, our fastest runners were Bryce Simper, Corbyn Crisp, and Dawson Yeoman.

This track season has been great, and KMS has been ranking high in team scores. Our long-distance runners have improved since day one of practice and showed off what they can do! They really put their best effort into their meets and ended up scoring us some victories. Great job for doing your best, and for contributing to the team!

Remarkable Runners

By Marley Mesa

The 800 and 1600 meter races in track take a lot of energy. They're hard to run, so not many athletes participate in those events. It takes a lot of courage, endurance, and strength to go through with these events, so we would like to thank the athletes that did run the 800 and 1600 and helped the KMS Kossack team to score points during the 2024 season.

Hard Work in Practices

This year's long-distance coach was Mrs. Hesse, a student teacher for Mrs. Newton. Mrs. Hesse used to run in high school, so it's helpful to have a coach who can teach us useful strategies for distance running.

In practice, she has us run drills that will help us to be successful and get ready for the next meet. For example, she has us work on surging, gradual build-ups in speed, and sometimes just running a mile or two. Some days, we work on cardio, plus ab and leg workouts to stretch and strengthen our muscles.

The day before our first meet in Homer, she had us practice surging, as well as gradual build-ups in speed and sprints. These helped us to get ready for what the meet was going to be like.

The 800 and 1600 meters are probably some of the least popular events because it takes endurance to keep running, even after you feel like you're having a heart attack and have shortness of breath. You have to have strong legs and be able to run at least a mile in a short-ish amount of time to be successful. Most runners wouldn't even want to try these horribly long races!

Distance Runners

Sofia Tews, a 7th grader at KMS, ran long distance races at our first meet in Homer, but she couldn't run too much after because of a foot injury. She said that she likes long distance "because you have to keep your stamina and learn to keep your energy so you can sprint at the end." Sofia competed in XC running earlier this year, so she was experienced at running long distances. When trying to stay fit and make herself better at running, she "stays active outside of school and practices, and does not sit around all day." Next year, Sofia plans to run track again in 8th grade, and hopefully run long distances more often when her foot heals.

Bryce Simper, an 8th grader at KMS, is fast and efficient at running long distances. He saves his energy for the end so he can sprint hard for a victory. "I like long distance running because I'm good at it," he said in an interview. Bryce also ran XC this year and is very experienced at long distance running, especially since he really started running in 4th grade. To get better at running and to help KMS get more victories, "I run until I can't anymore." Bryce also plans on running track next year in high school.

End of Season

This season, we didn't have too many athletes running long distances, but for the runners we did have, they were pretty fast. Our

(continued at left)

Jubilant Jumpers

By Sydney Hershberger

A branch of track events is jumping: long jump, triple jump, and high jump. At KMS Mr. Songer is our high jump coach, and Mr. Carson is our triple and long jump coach.

Mr. Songer has been coaching high jump for three years. He started coaching because his daughter Hallie was starting her first year of track. His favorite part of coaching is working with kids who want to get better. His advice for new jumpers is to stick with it.

Mr. Carson has been coaching for about 8-10 years. He started coaching “for the money!” His favorite part about coaching is being outside when the weather is nice. His advice for new jumpers is to “jump far.”

We had our first meet on April 19th, and the top boy at KMS for high jump was Patrick Miller jumping at 4’8”. The best long jump result was Shane Carroll, with 13’ 5.25”. The top boys triple jumper was Amare’ Williams with 32’ 10”. Amare’ has been jumping for two years. His current PR is 34’ 9.5” for triple jump. His advice for new jumpers is to get better, work hard, and eat chicken before you jump. He started jumping because “Mr. Carson wanted me too.”

The top girl jumper for high jump from KMS is Joleen Seater with a jump of 3’ 8”. The girls long jump winner for KMS was Mia Settlemyer with 10’ 11.5”. The overall long jump winner was Selah Coots! She jumped 27’ 4.5”! Kennedy Wortham said that her favorite thing about jumping is “being the best one there.” Her advice for new jumpers is to “not be afraid of the bar.” Her current PR is 4’ 2” for high jump. She picked it because it was the only event inside.

We had an amazing first meet and are striving to continue to improve every day, leaping to success all the time and looking forward to every upcoming track meet!



Thrilling Throwers

By Sawyer Graham

Discus and shotput are some of the best track events you can participate in! In discus, you throw a 1 kg (~2.2lbs) metal (or rubber) frisbee that you try to hurl as far as you can within ~35 degrees. Shot put is a throwing event where you take a 4 kg (~8.8) metal ball and throw it as far as you can within the same angle as discus.

Throwing Basics

Although fewer people do shot, athletes of all shapes and sizes do discus. For both events there is a metal circle that you must stay inside or your attempt will be a scratch. You also have to leave and enter from the back half or it is a scratch. There are many different techniques and styles in both events, but more in discus where you can spin, step forward, and even just stand there, and while you could do all of these in shot put, I would not advise it.

Athlete Interviews

Discus finalist Eli Pancoast says he chose discus as one of his events because “I’m good at it,” which is a fair reason in my book. His PR (personal record) is 110 ft and 2 in which is really impressive. Lawrence Dean decided to try shot put because his sister taught him how. He plans to hopefully continue doing it in the future seeing as this is his first year (his PR is 29 ft).

Technique

In technique, discus and shot put are very different. In shot put you have to ‘push’ the shot up and away from you, usually off your shoulder, which requires mostly brute strength and less technique. Discus, on the other hand you must swing your arm back and hurl it forward letting the discus roll off your hand, using leverage to make it go far. That’s why you see people spinning like helicopter blades at discus. This event requires more technique and while strength helps it is not necessarily the most important factor. Throwing events are fun, quick, and very exciting, you should try them sometime!



Not Just Horsing Around!

By Amelia Adams

More people in our school ride horses than you would think! For example, Riley Cramer and I both ride, and we love it! If you're wanting to start riding or already do, don't skip reading this article.

Solid Rock

A place for horse lessons that a lot of people are familiar with is Solid Rock. I bet a lot of people at KMS have attended camps there, and I myself have taken lessons there. The lessons aren't expensive, and it's a good place to learn to ride! I've been riding all my life, and their lessons really helped my riding skills, and my relationship with my horse. It's also really good for someone who doesn't own a horse but would still love to learn. You can also take lessons with your own horse, and they offer both Western and English riding styles. They have great lessons for all skills and ages!

Pony Club

Less common, but still really helpful, Pony Club is a worldwide organization that includes horse activities, lessons, and shows as well. There are different levels in Pony Club, and you pass each level with a small knowledge and performance test, starting with D1, then to D2, D3, levels C and B, then all the way up to A3. I joined Pony Club last year, and I've learned more in English riding than I ever did before! Lessons are set in many different places, including local people's arenas and at Solid Rock. It truly is amazing, and very good for all riders, beginners to experienced!

Local Rodeo

A lot of people have seen or been in a rodeo at our local rodeo grounds, but not as many people know about their Thursday night jumping! In the summers, on most Thursdays, people can come and jump with other riders, testing how well they can jump. If you're more of a Western rider, going to the rodeos is always fun too, even if you don't enter. I've gone multiple times with my friends, even though I didn't enter, and got to cheer them on and just ride a bit. It's really fun, and I think everyone needs to go to a rodeo a few times in their life.



Ninilchik Horse Camp

Ninilchik Horse Camp is the highlight of every year for me! Every summer, some of my friends, including Riley, drive to Ninilchik just for this camp! I've attended since I was old enough, so probably around eight years old. Riley loves horse camp as well, though she has only been to one year so far, but this year she's definitely planning on attending.

This camp teaches you just about everything, and if you're competitive, there's a competition in different events towards the end of camp every year! It's a great place to bond with your horse, make new friends, and learn so much. If you want to go but don't have a horse, check on Facebook or Alaskalist.com for horses to lease, and you can usually find a pretty good one.

If you're interested in starting riding, or if you already ride but want to learn more, I would check out these summer programs. They have all helped me so much, and they can help you too!



Yearbook Cover Girls

Congratulations to Kiah Bushnell and Scarlette Castellon for having their artwork selected for the KMS yearbook covers! Kiah created a digital design of the Kossack mascot tearing through some tie-dye paper; she is excited to have her artwork on the front cover during her 8th grade year! Scarlette sketched the moose selected for the back cover by hand and shaded it using colored pencils; she feels it is memorable and hopes that others enjoy it! Thanks also to Nikole Justesen for lettering help.



Castrellon & Cristofer

By Grace Wik

Mrs. Castrellon is an ESL language tutor here at KMS. She came to KMS because she heard of a student who had just moved here from Mexico who was struggling with keeping up since he didn't know the English language at all. She applied with the school district and got hired on. She follows him to his classes and helps translate for him. She also prepares lessons for his ESL classes. They had to start at an elementary level and slowly start introducing him to the grammar of the English language.



After school Mrs. Castrellon goes home and spends time with her family. She has four kids at home and two who don't live at home anymore. She has twin daughters here at KMS who are in 6th grade, Lluvia and Scarlette. At home she also has a 16-year-old son named Miguel and a 19-year-old son who just graduated, Benjamin. She also has two sons out of the home, Jonathan, who is 25, and Livai, who is 22.

Her family's favorite activities include biking and camping. They love going to the park and to Johnson Lake and have picnics. Another part of her family is their six pets. They have two dogs, one a Siberian husky named Luna, and another dog named Bella. They also have four cats, including a tuxedo cat, a Siamese, an all-black cat, and a gray and white calico cat. The youngest of her cats just joined the family at six months old.

Mrs. Castrellon was born in Mexico, but her family traveled a lot to California because her dad worked there. Her mom didn't like living in the USA so that's why they stayed in Mexico for most of the time. After her 15th birthday, she started spending more time in the USA between Alaska and California. The first time she came to Alaska to visit her sister was when she was around 16. Although she didn't like it that much, the next time she visited Alaska she was 18 and started to like it more and more and eventually decided to move here for good. She missed Mexico a lot at the start of her journey to the USA, and she still sometimes misses Mexico, but she has built her family here with her husband Benjamin and their six kids.

Her first language was Spanish, and at her school they learned a little bit of English, but they weren't fluent and the pronunciation wasn't very good. Luckily, in California you don't need to know much English as there are a lot of Spanish-speaking people. When she came to live with her sister in Homer, language was a struggle for her. The main struggle was how to communicate with people, like in a store or a restaurant, other than when she was with her family and they could help her translate.

She started studying by reading more and watching TV. Her nephews helped her practice speaking and corrected her pronunciation, but it took her more than two years to be more fluent in English. Although she is very fluent now, she still struggles with spelling and the pronunciation of many words, but she can say that she is way better at speaking English now. Her struggle with English is what makes her such a great ESL tutor now!

The student she has been helping is Cristofer Espinoza. He is a 7th grader who moved here from Zapotlanejo, Guadalajara, Mexico in the summer of 2023. At the start of the year, he felt like he was just sitting in class and not learning anything. He couldn't understand what was going on even with the help of Mrs. Nabholz, Mrs. Smith, and Ms. Johnson. Then Mrs. Castrellon came to the school, and he finally felt like he was understanding and actually learning. He feels very thankful for her and the school because she can help him translate during class. He feels stronger and more comfortable with her helping him in different classes with the language. With Mrs. Castrellon's help, he finally feels like he is understanding what's going on in class, learning, and being able to learn and speak a little English. Mrs. Castrellon is great at making Cristofer feel comfortable here at KMS, and she is a great addition to the KMS staff!



* * * * *

“At a time when we are all too often being reminded of what divides us, there is common ground to be found when we share our stories.” -Emma Watson

Sensational Smith

By Mia Settlemyer



Mrs. Trish Smith is our new evening custodian! She was hired after Ms. Teresa retired. She started working at KMS on February 2nd, 2024.

She used to live in Washington, but after a need for a change, she decided to move to Fairbanks, Alaska with her daughters in 1997. She and her husband then moved down to Kenai in 2023 because it was too cold in Fairbanks!

One of her favorite hobbies is showing rabbits. She does this in Fairbanks and Palmer. She helps in a program called 4-H which helps get kids involved with rabbits and rabbit shows.

She also has a Great Dane, English Mastiff, and a husky Malamute! Sadly, one of her dogs passed away recently at 11 years old. The rest of her dogs are five, two, and one years old, and their names are Thunder, Wolf, and Samson. She usually does dog shows but is still in the process of training her dogs until they're ready.

Mrs. Smith worked in building maintenance in schools throughout her life and then went into custodial work right after. She said that one thing she would like to change is having more time to clean. She likes her job and gives a job rating of a big thumbs up. We should all be very thankful that we are surrounded by such nice and friendly adults like Mrs. Smith!

Chess Championship

By Kyle Foster

Checkmate! The Chess Challenge started out better than a king's pawn opening. Okay, that may not have made sense to a LOT of people. A king's pawn opening is when you move the pawn that lies in front of the king up two spaces as your first move. It is the most common start to any chess game!

Chaturanga, also known as chess, originated in India. Chaturanga began around 600 AD. It spread throughout Asia and Europe over the coming centuries as the renowned game of strategy and eventually evolved into modern chess in the 1600s. Now that you know the brief history of chess, we'll move on to the tournament basics.

The April Awesomeness Chess Challenge started with a small selection of players, because to qualify, you must earn two checkmates. Now that may not sound hard to some people, but every player uses their own openings and tactics, which can be countered in different ways.

The rules are pretty basic, such as being required to move once you lift up a piece, and other normal things like not moving while in check, unless it gets you out of check.

While the event itself was fun, the organization was planned out by the Quest teacher, Mrs. Nabholz. She took the time and effort to prepare for this tournament, with some help from Eli, who helped rank each player for the brackets.

The people who qualified for the tournament are listed here:

Aidan Cole
Arlo Cooper
Brock Cooper
Kyler Connors
Kyle Foster (me)
Robert Karron
Leif Laker
Marley Mesa
Eli Pancoast
Noah Pancoast
Andrew Stein
Greyson Whicker
Silas Wendt

The Final Four came down to the best in the school – Eli, Aidan, Brock, and Greyson – and ended with a final checkmate. But the main attraction was Eli vs. Greyson, the game of the year. Greyson was performing excellently, but Eli made the final move, and called out checkmate!

Below is a picture of Eli Pancoast and Greyson Whicker shaking hands over the final game of the tournament, where the champion was crowned. The setting within the room was one of silent excitement, but of course, everyone had to be quiet for the other games that were occurring within the room.



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“Take your victories, whatever they may be, cherish them, use them, but don't settle for them.”

-Mia Hamm



Chess Championship

(continued from page 21)

Speaking of other games, I should tell you about my favorite games that I watched. My second favorite game was Greyson vs. Kyler! Kyler came on strong in the beginning, but perhaps too strong... suddenly, Greyson had him in a force checkmate. It wasn't long before Greyson moved the final piece into place and called out, "Checkmate!"

The next game I watched was between Brock and Arlo (yes, they are brothers). Arlo started out with the classic King's Pawn Opening, but Brock quickly ended the game with his queen (the most powerful piece in the game by the way), and he too, called out "Checkmate!"

Eli Pancoast, the KMS Chess Champion, told me that his game with Greyson was quick and not too challenging. He told me that he loved the event overall, because he enjoyed that there were multiple games to play. When I asked him who he thought was his toughest opponent, to my delight, he told me it was me! It turns out that Eli's favorite game was . . . his winning game!

I asked him who or what inspired him to play chess, and he replied, "My dad, and LeRoy Tomrle!" I'm not sure how Leroy connects to Eli's deep passion for chess, but I'll just go along with it. His dad, according to Eli, is good but still would only get one win for every 15 games played.

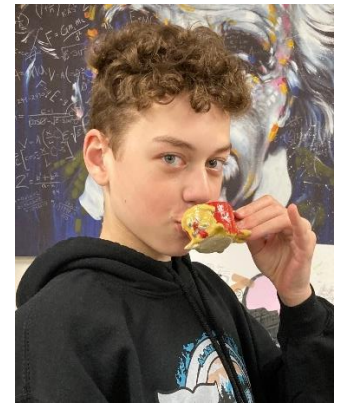
Eli said that when he was younger, he actually started getting into chess. Eventually, after playing enough games against his dad, he joined the biggest chess app in the world, Chess.com. His Elo (chess rating) in this awesome app is reported to be between 1300-1400! If you play Chess.com, then you would understand that this is extremely high.

Overall, the Chess Challenge was fun, and it was certainly interesting to see how different people played! I assure you this isn't an ad, but everyone who has an existing (or non-existing) passion for chess should download Chess.com! Remember, nothing is better than the price of free! Your move.

PINCH POTS

By Mrs. Nabholz

Students in Ms. Silva's art classes recently created original clay pinch pots. Many students decided to make theirs in the form of a cup or mug, with some very fun results!



Benny Martin calls his petite, unique creation "Pug in a Rug Mug." He was inspired by "the first library book that I checked out at Kaleidoscope in kindergarten about how to take care of pugs." Benny has a sincere wish that no one will every tug or chug your pug mug!



Isaak Browning crafted another unique mammal-inspired drinking vessel called "Cool Capybara." He cleverly states, "In order to drink from it, you have to make out with it!"

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

KOMPETING KOSSACKS

By Marley Mesa

In the KPBSD, we have several academic competitions: Battle of the Books, MathCounts, Mind-A-Mazes, Film Festival, and many others. Some of these competitions are for Quest students, including most of the math competitions. In fact, a math competition that was held recently in April was Trimathlon, and a dozen 6th graders from KMS competed!



Trimathlon

Our competing Kossacks rode the school bikes to Mountain View Elementary, where the competition was held, and spent the whole day showing their skills. These four teams from KMS competed:

- The Rats: Arlo Cooper, Aliya Davenport, and Allie Stonecipher
- The Myths: Sammy Macias, Liam Mesa, and Deus Nelson
- Team REI: Rosie Dura, Emilie Hollister, and Ike Davis
- Green Eggs & HAM: Henry Tunseth, Aidan Cole, and Mattie Castimore

Several 8th graders also came along with the KMS teams to help score tests and supervise chess for the competition. Special thanks to Zoe Cole, Brock Cooper, Momo Hunt, and Eli Pancoast, as well as Xiling Tanner, Xinlan Tanner, and MathCounts Coach David Thomas for leading the lightning round.

Trimathlon is sponsored by Quest for elementary students from 4th to 6th grade. The Trimathlon mathletes had two to four students per team. There are three main events, with one team member competing in each: prime factorization, word problems, and chess matches. After these events are finished, there is a final team lightning round.

At the end of the tiring, math-filled day, awards are given out for the first, second, and third place winners in each event, as well as the overall teams. Because this is for younger grade levels, the math difficulty level is not as hard as MathCounts. Although it seems easy, these students had to compete against smart kids from around the Kenai Peninsula!

Chess Competitors

Chess had three rounds, each lasting 20 minutes. Each team had a designated chess player. Our KMS chess players were Arlo, Sammy, Ike, and Henry. These students went up against three different opponents from various schools.



Sammy said that he didn't think the competition was very fun because his team lost. Last year, Sammy competed in the Trimathlon when he went to Mountain View in 5th grade. "It was boring because we sucked," he said in an interview. However, when remembering something funny about the competition, he said, "There was a team named Microscopic Pickles."

Prime Factorization

The students that competed in the prime factorization had a fun event! For those who don't know, prime factorization is the process of reducing a number to its lowest factors. These mathletes competed in one 30-minute round of reducing factors and numbers of mixed difficulty.

Our KMS mathletes in this event were Aliya, Liam, Rosie, and Aidan. Liam said in an interview, "It was very boring and bad because we didn't do very good." Liam, like Sammy, went to Mountain View last year and competed in the Trimathlon, too. When asked if anything funny happened at the competition, he answered, "We ate frogs. They were good."

Brain Busting Word Problems

The mathletes that competed in the word problems event really had to step up their game. Many problems might have been easy, but several sounded pretty hard! Our KMS mathletes that represented our awesome school were Allie, Deus, Emilie, and Mattie. Emilie said that she thought the competition was pretty fun, and that she was excited to compete up to the day of the competition. "I think I could've done better, but it

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Kompeting Kossacks

(continued from page 23)



was harder than I thought it would be,” she stated. Even though the word problems were hard, the mathletes did their best and had fun!



Awards

Our KMS teams did a magnificent job at the Trimathlon. For the individual awards, Aidan Cole won second place in prime factorization. The final award KMS won was awarded to Green Eggs & HAM, who won first place for the overall Trimathlon team grand prize! Great job to our competing Kossacks for representing our school, and for showing off everything that our teachers and coaches helped you learn!

* * * * *



By Sawyer Graham

First opened in 1999, River City Books is a super awesome bookstore in Soldotna. It always has the latest and most popular books! And even if they don't, then you can request books and receive notification when they arrive. Bonus, when you buy a book for \$10 or more you earn a 'book buck', which is redeemable for a dollar off any future book purchase. Then if that isn't good enough, instead of buying your friend a book they might not want or just giving them money, you can buy them a gift certificate specifically for books!

Bookstore Tour

When you open the front door, there is an entryway with flyers, pictures, and even face masks. When you enter the actual store, to the left is a hallway with the bathrooms. On your right side is a line of tables next to the windows for a nice view.

Past the hallway, you find all the beautiful books; right away, you see tables with the bestsellers and such. Left again you find the children's section separated into two parts, picture books and children's nonfiction. Keep going and you'll find yourself between politics/ memoirs and fantasy fiction. If you continue that track, you pass the adult fiction, young adult fiction, teen sci-fi, gardening/pets, science, Alaska history, mystery, thriller, western, religion, romance, philosophy, cookbooks, self-help, and an entire wall just for general fiction!

Structure & Systems

River City Books owner Peggy Mullen designed the current building with two female architects and one contractor. They created a modern, yet super comfy building with its own solar panels and special windows and a pretty cool vibe, if I do say so myself. They get their books from a warehouse in Tennessee and one in Oregon too! They decide which books to get through the internet, friends, and book nerd and bestseller websites. The toughest part of the bookstore is probably the hardcovers (those things can hurt!). On the other hand, the toughest part of *running* a bookstore is the financing for the building, while the best part is providing kids with the latest books and helping bookworms keep reading.

Backstory

As a young child, Peggy and her friends were quite the readers, and while her friends pursued other professions, Peggy stayed and opened the first RCB where Walgreens stands today. She was able to open a store there because that land was where her family homesteaded! Sadly, she later had to swap locations because the building was being torn down. She moved to where Kendall Ford is now, and that also was torn down, but now River City Books stands proudly in its hopefully permanent home!

For more information visit www.river-city-books.com/ The hours for RCB are 10 to 6 Mon-Sat and noon to 4 on Sundays and, last but not least, they restock twice a week, so no more waiting for your favorite book!

Between the Pages

By Lily Taliesin



Journalism is a fun, yet somewhat complicated, class full of interesting and crazy kids. Everyone is graded on employability skills and article assignments.

Employability skills vary from using our time wisely, to accepting criticism from others on our articles. Employability skills are important for the class experience and expectations. The list of employability skills are as follows:

- Maintain a positive outlook and motivate yourself
- Set individual goals - be specific, write them down, get others to help you
- Take pride in doing quality work for the Purple Pages
- Have high standards and put in the time and effort to be successful
- Learn ways to stay focused on tasks and not get distracted
- Speak clearly and communicate your ideas with others
- Be dependable and follow through on work assigned
- Listen carefully and follow directions
- Take responsibility for your actions
- Be open and accepting of criticism and feedback
- Use class time efficiently and meet deadlines

While the students work, Mrs. Nabholz edits drafts and helps certain articles move along a bit faster. Some journalists listen to music or use their phones to help them work, while others prefer to use their computer. At times, students have to take photos; most journalists use their phones to take the pictures.

Sometimes students have to interview others for information. Everyone has different feelings about interviewing. Here are some journalists' opinions about interviewing:

- Grace Wik: "It's nerve wracking if you are talking to Mr. Felchle or Mr. Dosko, but if it's other students, it isn't that bad."
- Uriah Smith: "I don't get nervous."

Another fun part of journalism includes revising headlines. Once everyone is done with their articles, we turn the lights down and look at what the final paper edition will look like. Mrs. Nabholz puts the Doc on the Promethean board, and we go over headlines and final drafts. Here are some inside opinions:

- Mia Settlemyer: "My favorite part of group revising is coming up with silly headlines."
- Sydney Hershberger: "I like creating funny names."

Of course, some people have unusual or funny article ideas. In the past, there were articles about clubs and clans, creative scavenger hunts, and tricky puzzles. Everyone has their own special ideas about the articles they want to do. Some people prefer to write articles about sports or birthdays, while others like more unique topics. Here are some journalists' favorite articles:

- Sawyer Graham: "I think my favorite article was the Fruity Fiasco."
- Axel Washington: "My favorite was the March birthdays because it was easy and I didn't have to do much."
- Bridger Copple: "All the band concerts I wrote about."

On folding/distributing day, the journalists get two pieces of gum as a reward and sit down to fold the papers and stack them into piles of ten each. Once they have ten, the students set the newspapers on the floor. As soon as all the papers are folded, they sort the papers into groups based on how many students are in each 9th period class. Finally, they run and deliver the papers to each class.

Journalism is interesting but complicated. Students are expected to be on their best behavior, but we also have fun. 10/10 would recommend this class, if you don't mind lots of typing!



"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."

May B-days

By Hunter Pontius



01 Mrs. Moss
01 Easton Chilla
03 Charles Roberts
03 Kade Coburn
04 Jay Songer
04 Jesika Hyatt
04 Jordyn Sandback
06 Gabriel Smalling
07 Shimi Masson
09 Jakxton Dalebout
10 Shayleanne Gonzalez
11 Thomas Robinson
11 Max Bianchi
11 Omaira Sagar
12 Kiah Bushnell
15 Mrs. Cruickshank
16 Alexis Vanloan
16 Melody Pfile
16 Hunter Pontius
17 Brayden Gregory
17 Raegen Lingenfelter
17 Ryanne Lingenfelter
18 Ethan Herrman
19 Ms. Hill
19 Braylynn Young
20 Mr. Rose
21 Kelsie Bliss
21 William Shaw
21 Dominic Hayden
25 Reagan Reed
27 Elizabeth Buning
28 Dax Main
29 Mr. Gustkey
29 Oliver Coburn
29 Chris Freeman
30 Caprina Rump
31 Dietrich Muller

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

June B-days

By Grace Wik



01 Arlo Cooper
02 Hannah Hardesty
03 Gabriel Dravis
04 Caitlyn Burnett
05 Destiny Pierren
07 Ava Anderson
07 Kaylee Phillips
07 Alex Vaudrin
08 Logan Magallanes
09 Kylee Tweedy
10 Levi Beplat
10 Clayton Cooper
10 Tolson Hall
10 Alora Martin
13 Brooklynn Mercier
13 Autumn McCaughey
15 Cooper Every
15 Silas Wendt
17 Jackson Parks
17 Layla Berg-Anderson
21 Saylor Huntsman-Norman
21 Nolan Stillwell
22 Mrs. Rininger
23 Quinn Taylor
23 Keira Forstner
23 Dakota Farmer
24 Kayden Galloway
24 Mayvryn Booth
25 Kacedy Falgout
25 Eli Pancoast
28 Audrey Williams
28 Trenton Flood
29 Harley Hyatt
29 Gabriel Jones

"Take pride in how far you've come. Have faith in how far you can go. But don't forget to enjoy the journey."
-Michael Josephson

July B-days

By Autumn McCaughey



02- Ayden Holland
02- Brayden Holland
03- Sindy Aguirre-Ruiz
03- Olivia Tews
04- Levi Lockyer
04- Mr. Songer
04- River O'Clair
04- Dallas Cue
07- Sage Baker
07- Ellie Elordi
07- Joslynn Bernhardt
08- Harley Gillis
08- Matthew Wardlow
08- Maria Wardlow
08- Madyson Knudsen
09- Aaliyah Hibpshman
10- Jayce Morris
12- Mr. Prusak
11- Keegan Kohls
13- Elloree Smith
15- Kash Timmerman
16- Jayden Swearingen
17- Luke Karpik
18- Shakina Wingster
19- Hayden Williams
19- Gavin Real
19- Jadeyn Jacko
20- Mrs. Smith
20- Jace Streacker
21- Mrs. Kurzendoerfer
21- Megan Ross
21- Ryan Ross
22- Madisen Redder
23- Kira Inman
23- Taitiem Hardon
24- Teddy Dodge
25- Layla Sandback
27- Maddox Malone
28- Mr. Dosko
28- Richard Milligrock
29- Mrs. Laker
29- Mrs. Holmes
30- Autumn Ophelan
30- Amara Sanguinetti

August B-days

By Sydney Hershberger

02 Jayden Smith
02 Zillah Nelson
03 Mrs. Taylor
05 Mrs. Dragseth
05 Mrs. Winslow
05 Gema Perez
06 Tyson Swanson
06 Scarlet Charbonneau
07 Abigail Wimberly
08 Draven Swearingen
09 Ezra Jusmable
10 Gage Van Vleet
10 Jacob Reid
11 Owen Darsey
11 Elizabeth Backstrom
12 Izaya Lindemann
13 David Kala-De La Cruz
14 Aidan Murphy
14 Eva Verrengia
15 PJ Matulin
15 Neoma Myers
16 Maci Daniel
16 Abigail Ziegler
17 Jacob Semeraro
17 Lillian Brown
17 Kyler Connors
19 Arianna Thompson
20 Mrs. McCown
20 Liam Wilshusen
22 Mr. Schoessler
24 Luey Focose
24 Kyle Foster
24 Iversen Miller
25 Mrs. Bressler
25 Emery Wagner
25 Chloe McNeel
25 Everett Poulin
25 Lily Guest
28 Mr. Jackson
28 Zhoie Malone
28 Cache Pyfer
30 Zalen Fulgencio
31 Chloe Sturm



Compliments

By Lily Guest

It was P.E. I lay on my stomach, touching the sticky purple mat below me. My friend lay next to me, kicking her feet in the air. Mr. Navarre stood at the front of the class, explaining the game we were to play. We whispered and choked back laughter, our eyes almost tearing up with held back chuckling.

We had our own bubble of security around us, with no judgment. We picked at the itchy gym shirts, looking down at them with disgust. We talked about boys, the rude comments they left on our posts, missing the days boys and girls were equals playing at recess.

"I mean, talk to me when you're taller than me!" she mumbled, pulling the collar of her uniform.

My hand hovered over my mouth, and I laughed like the old me again. Like that little girl who loved Disney and little pink dresses. I laughed like that little girl with shiny blue eyes and a pink bow in her hair. Back in the days when I played outside for hours, giggling in the sunlight.

I looked back at her as I shimmied to my feet. I watched her eyes light up, those deep brown eyes that got a twinkle in them when she heard me. She had a slight smile on her face while she gazed up at me.

"Hey, you laugh like a little kid...!"

"Oh...uh..."

"Like a little girl being tickled, that's the best kind of laugh, that childhood laughter."

I felt a sudden rush of happiness, of pride in myself. I let a little sound come out of me, not quite a sigh, not quite an "oh!" A sound of real appreciation. I smiled widely like when that little girl got her first trophy. I was so proud of my chuckle I almost couldn't think of anything to say back. My lips curled into a smile, my eyebrows slightly turned up, and I had that twinkle in my eye again.

"O-oh...thank you so much!"

"Mhm! No problem, I meant it."

I smiled one more time, then had to move quickly as a ball rocketed by me, twirling at impressive speed.

When I left P.E. that day, I laughed a little louder. I covered my smile a little less. I chuckled a little more. Just like that little girl did.

I do remember the day I had rocked back and forth on the rainbow rug of my kindergarten classroom, munching on goldfish as the teacher dropped a rock into a tub of water.

"You see, class, compliments are a lot like ripples, see how that one rock caused all those ripples? Well, those ripples are positivity!"

I had rolled my eyes, I thought this was stupid, I wanted to do real work, not this kindness exercise. I had no clue how right she was.

And now as I rock back and forth in my metal chair, bored and popping my gum, I think of that compliment. I smiled when I remembered that one-off kind comment. That memory of the ripple example came back to me. I looked up and stared at my friend in front of me, I picked up my head and made eye contact with her, I smiled and tilted my head.

"Your lashes look great today...!"

"O-oh...thank you!"

"No problem, I mean it."

Anonymous Confessions



By Open Door

& Professor Behemoth Brain



"I am THE SIGMA!" - the cute barista who spilled 20 black coffees and went blind

Want to be in my alpha pack?
-Open Door

"I like to stare at my friends sleeping at sleepovers"
-Wide eyed Tim

What friends? -Open Door

DID YOU KNOW THAT EGGS ARE DaIRY PRODuCTS?! I AM VERY AMuSED! THIS IS AWEWSOME! - ALL CAPS

Although I did happen to be aware of this little smidge of this semi insignificant* knowledge, I cannot fathom why you might find this doggerel amusing. To most people this is irrelevant, in fact to most all people YOU dear sir are irrelevant, and for good reason too. THINK ON THAT!!

-Professor Behemoth Brain
*very significant if you're vegan

Overheard

By Marley Mesa & Melody Pfile

Student #1: (coughs annoyingly)

Student #2: "Do you have a red frog in your throat?"

Student #1: "Nope. It's definitely brown."

"I'm good silly goofy."

"Oh, look at me in the sun, I'm photosynthesizing like a plant."

Student #1: "I can't get rid of these hiccups!" (looks up how on Chromebook)

Student #2: "What's it saying that's so funny?"

Student #1: (laughing) "Breathe in a paper bag. Refrain from putting over head."

Teacher: "I don't want to send you late to advisory."

Student: "Is that legal?!"

"This bubble wrap's kinda mid."

"My legs look like Panera bread sticks."

Student #1: "Don't kick me!"

Student #2: "I'm not weird!"

"I've been drawing Cephalopods for years."

"My brother looks like a skid mark."

"I smelled my shower water last night and it smelled like blood."



"I've hugged my mom before.....but she didn't hug me back."

"Have you seen that one video of that one guy who did that one thing?"

"If I become a vegetable, like in the hospital, just pull the plug and turn me into a salad."

"We're windshield wipers!"

"Drink some hand sanitizer, it's very hydrating."

"You just abused me with a trash bag."

"What if a dictionary had an index and a glossary?"

"All I know is that I really like eating horses."

"My eyeballs feel wrong!"

Student #1: "That's a q, not a k."

Student #2: "Oh, I can't count."

"I was evicted! I was a C-section!"



"I would push my medieval boyfriend down a well, too!"

Teacher: "Your locker's messy."

Student: "My locker's just... abstract."

"I'm running with my bad arm."



"My tooth was itching."

"Sometimes I feel like a tightrope walker upside down and under water."

"A goat hurt me."

"I'm not South American! I was born in Canada!"

Student #1: "Stop sniffing the Sharpie!"

Student #2: "Ow, that hurt my eye!"

"You have detention today because of too many detentions."

"Stop tingling your nose."

Student #1: "You called me a cow!"

Student #2: "No, I called you a penguin."

"I just pierced my earrings."

"Time flies so much ... when people are screaming."

"Just imagine boiling hot paper."

"My pants are too hot to put my legs on."

Teacher: "Gravy is just like a princess. If you don't give it enough attention, it makes a mess."

Student: "Like me!"

"Hey, I was ohming!"

"I give him good boy energy."

"Should I add more petals to this eyeball rose?"

Student #1: "I need to be calm before I start."

Student #2: "Meditate like this: Hummm,

hamburger, cheeseburger, big fat Mac, what?"

"Don't mind me, I'm just eating human flesh."

"I'm not wearing my garbage."

"I've got seven bucks and some incense."

"I thought it was Kermit's head."



Multitudinous Melodramatic Memes

By Sawyer Graham & Dylan Fry



Me at 8th grade Farewell



Me when I break my 2-year mewing streak



When Mr. Prusak says there will be a memorization test



When the track coaches sign you up for the 1600



When your teacher tells you to stop talking even though you weren't



Me when I finally prove I'm not a robot by clicking on 27 bikes



Me at the start of the mile . . . me after

"It's about being alive and feisty and not sitting down and shutting up even though people would like you to."
-P!nk

"Never give up on a dream just because of the time it will take to accomplish it. The time will pass anyway."



POV: school just got out on Friday and I will not be seen until Monday



day before



school picture day



day after

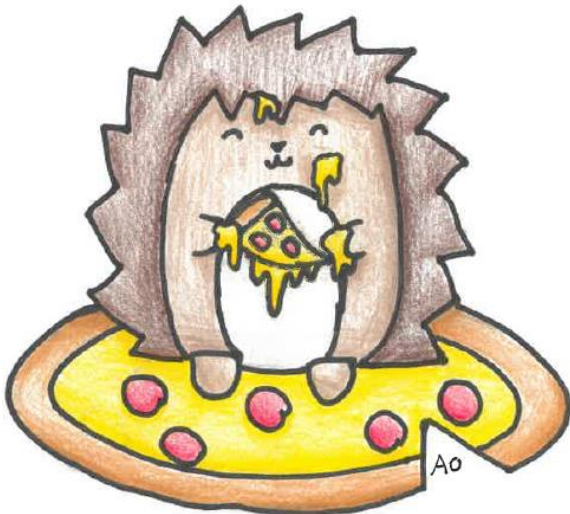


When you get a sticker in Mr. Prusak's class



POV me when the teacher rewards the class with gum

Practice writing your name here in microscopic cursive!



When your hedgehog is selected as Student of the Month

**Forget to order a yearbook?
Use this space to gather signatures from
all of your friends who will be
famous celebrities in the future!**

