

Middleview

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Educator of Note Award Received by SMS Music Teacher, Alan Schwartz

by Elle Chiu

This year, Alan C. Schwartz received the Long Island Music & Entertainment Hall of Fame (LIMEHOF) 2023 Educator of Note award! It's an important and great award to get, and SMS is proud of Mr. Schwartz.

Mr. Schwartz has been teaching for 29 years at SMS, and he's made a HUGE contribution to the school, including being the founder of the famous Friday in the Front—his biggest achievement. Whether you've seen it or performed in it, it's enjoyed by all.

Upon finding out about getting the award, he said,

"There's no question that I felt proud. I didn't get into teaching to get awards and accolades. I got into teaching to learn how to be the best version of myself. And to be rewarded for being comfortable with who I am is the most gratifying feeling possible." His advice for musicians is to always try practicing with others too, to build collaborative skills valuable for any career.

Finally, his legacy. You may remember him as a music teacher, a funny guy, or something else, but also remember Mr. Schwartz as a unique individual. He hopes students remember him positively, to

remember him as "the music teacher with no hair. He was... different."

Congratulations to Mr. Schwartz on receiving the LIMEHOF 2023 Educator of Note Award!



Gino's Pizzeria: A Trip Back to Italy

by Emily Yu

You've undoubtedly seen the iconic Gino's pizzeria if you've gone through the dainty and charming Plaza of Great Neck, and the question that usually rises is: Why is Gino's such a hit? Granted, there are plenty of other pizzerias in Great Neck that provide top-notch pizza, but what makes Gino's so appealing?

A walk from the pharmacy store in Gussack Plaza, you can find Gino's Pizzeria. From the outside of the store, you can view the bustling interior with a long line of customers waiting for Gino's specialty— a classic Italian pizza. Two floors make up the pizzeria: the lower floor for ordering, and the top floor for dining. The store has a vintage exterior; with glass showcasing

the various types of food, and a small door leading in. Sometimes when I walk past the pizzeria, I would see lines flowing out the door.

Gino's welcomes all! They have a vast variety of options on their menu, so all are welcomed to eat, anytime, at any day of the week. I had Gino's for the first time when my Girl Scout troop visited the pizzeria to celebrate a finished year. After we ordered our pizza, we waited behind the long line, and I watched as a thin crust pizza appeared. It's golden, cooked to perfection, and has a promising crunch. Molten mozzarella pours in creamy waves across the



How Seaweed Can Change the World

by Anthony Wu

As of 2019, an estimated 150 million tons of plastic were sitting in the ocean, and if plastic continues to pollute the oceans, a possible 900 million tons of plastic could be in the oceans by 2050. But a new breakthrough which turns seaweed into plastics could change this.

The main problem with today's plastics is that they don't decompose easily, taking from 20 years to 500 years to decompose completely. But new bioplastics change all of this, as they are biodegradable and won't result in much pollution.

In 2014, a London based startup called Notpla was founded, and they started to develop seaweed based bioplastics as an alternative to the normal petroleum based single use plastics. These new plastics are meant to be composted or dissolved after being used, and some are even edible, only taking about 4 to 6 weeks to decompose, which would greatly reduce the amount of plastics flowing into our oceans each year.

In addition to its biodegradable properties, it is also more sustainable because seaweed grows very fast and is a renewable resource unlike petroleum. Countries like the Philippines can benefit from this a lot because they have easy access to massive

amounts of seaweed, and there are already seaweed farmers there who get their seaweed by foraging them from the ocean. They will be able to generate more income if this becomes an industry.

The way that this works is by making use of the polymers and carrageenan in seaweed, which due to their gelling abilities make them suitable for coatings and other plastics.

Currently, only some companies are using seaweed plastics, mostly for fast food packaging. But in the future, we could see seaweed plastic farms taking over the industry.

These new plastics are renewable and good for the environment. If these companies expand their operations and get seaweed plastics to all over the world we could change the future of our environment.

Sources: CNN, Mongabay



surface, covering it in an appealing cheesy embrace. Fresh tomato sauce and a mix of toppings combine to create a delightful taste; leaving one craving more.

Gino's not only has a large menu, but it also offers a large variety of ways to enjoy your meal. Gino's can assist you with organizing birthday celebrations, anniversaries, and even school

lunches! Every Tuesday, my elementary school got pizza delivered by Gino's. I vividly recall my classmates and I squeezing into the lunch line, waiting to get a slice of delicious pizza.

Gino's Pizzeria is a must-see for everybody who passes by. Everything on the menu draws attention, and the charming pizzeria welcomes all. The aroma always introduces a warm and fresh meal, meant to be enjoyed specially with friends and family. Gino's pizzeria: a worthwhile and stomach-filling meal that sends the eater on a trip back to Italy.

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Check out our comic addition to the newspaper!

Tony's Terrible Idea
by Liam Whitehorn

Does Pineapple Belong on Pizza?

by Stuti Dutta and Hali Jiang
Illustration by Liam Whitehorn

Hey, South Middle! What toppings do you put on your pizza? Pepperoni? Extra cheese? Sausages? Mushrooms? Or do you like plain pizza? Or some of you may even put a combination of toppings on your slice!

But what about... PINEAPPLE?! There has been some conflict regarding if pineapple belongs on pizza. We interviewed three members to see what they think.

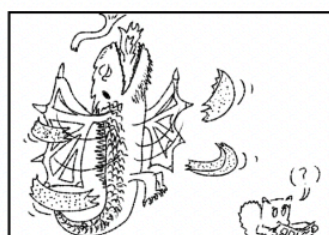
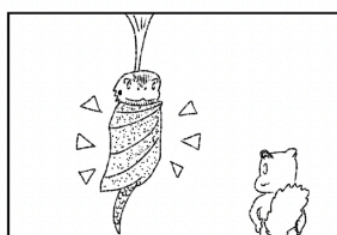
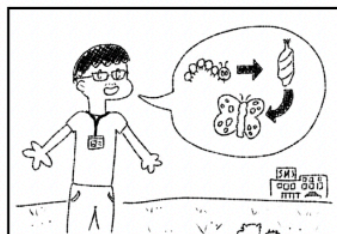
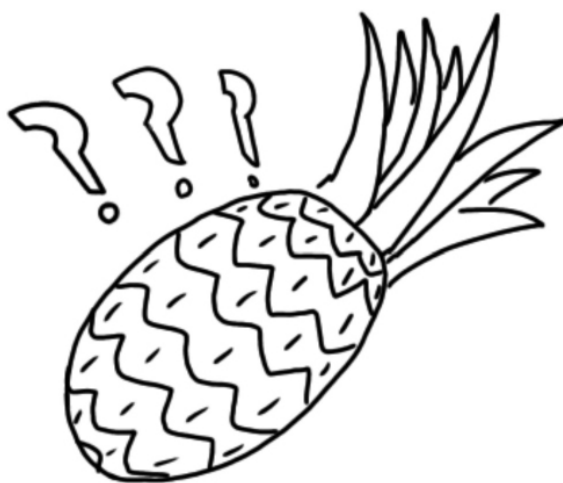
Sixth grade Social Studies teacher Mrs. Bazzani in room 605 claimed, "YAHHH-HH! IT'S SOOOO GOOOOOD!" There is no other way to have pizza. I know it's not a popular choice, but it's SOOOO GOOOOOD!" The taste of pineapple is so unique and you can't have pizza any other way.

But then conflict occurred. Akash Nandy, a high schooler declared, "Pineapple on pizza? Seriously? The sweetness of the fruit clashes

with the savory essence of a good slice, making it a culinary anomaly. It messes with the texture, and you won't find any pineapple-topped pies in Italy, where pizza originated. So, let's keep the pineapple in its tropical domain and leave pizza to its cheesy, savory glory." Fruits don't belong on pizza. Fruits and pizza are just a bad duo. Especially pineapple.

Marissa DuPont, a student in 6th grade, offered a more diplomatic approach when she revealed, "It really depends. If it's pineapple on pizza itself then, sure! But when pineapple on pizza is placed with any other topping like mushrooms or pepperoni, then NO!" A mixture of the different kinds of toppings and flavor along with the bitter-sweet flavor of pineapple doesn't taste well.

So...what do you think? Do you think pineapple belongs on pizza? Why or why not? What do you think is the best topping to put on your pizza? Which people do you agree or disagree with and why?



15 MINUTES LATER...

Inside the Kaleidoscope

by Neil Marantz

The butterfly is generally recognized as one of nature's beauties, without an animal bias as with cats and dogs. But few consider its past form, the caterpillar, to be elegant or graceful. So how does a hairy caterpillar that shoots silk like a mini-Spiderman become a colorful and eye-catching presence? It all happens within the chrysalis.

The chrysalis is a sort of barrier formed by the shedded skin of the caterpillar. On the outside, it will appear opaque and light green or gold, and will gradually become more transparent as the process reaches its end, showcasing the caterpillar's new wings.

Inside, however, the caterpillar is dissolved from the inside out using the same juices it had previously used to digest food. Its body is broken down into imaginal cells — cells that can become any other type of cell. The cells and remaining tissues will reform into the legs, wings, and other parts of the caterpillar's new vessel, commonly called a butterfly. The butterfly will emerge upside down from the bottom, and will spend anywhere from 30 minutes to 2 hours flexing and drying its delicate and scale-composed wings before taking off.



Mark your calendars, South Middle, for March 21, 22, and 23. SMS will be performing Finding Nemo. Good luck to all of the cast and crew in these beginning stages of planning. We can't wait to see what you all can do!



Three New Clubs Introduced to SMS in 2023

by Ethan Han

Many of you may not be aware of three new clubs that were introduced into SMS this year. These three clubs are the debate club, chess club, and coding club.

Debate Club

Description: The Debate Club meets in Room 609 on Tuesdays. Its purpose is to teach people about the easiest forms of debate: Public Forum and Elementary. Though the club is about the introduction to debate, there will be a fun end-of-year tournament to encourage growth and development. This new club is composed of mostly 6th grade students, while there are some 7th and 8th grade students in the mix. This is one of the smallest clubs in the school, with only 33 people in the google classroom. This club is one of the only student-run clubs in the school.

The google classroom code is qihzujl.



Current club status: The club is currently active and has about 10-15 people on any given meeting day. The club members are currently working on writing and refining their speeches about current topics such as social media and genetically modified organisms.

Who to contact for questions:
Student Founder: Ethan Han at ehan2@student.gn.k12.ny.us
Advisor: Ms. Sandrowicz at psandrowicz@greatneck.k12.ny.us

Chess Club

Description: The Chess Club meets in the library every Wednesday. Its purpose is to teach players about chess at different levels - from beginners to 4-digit Elos. The club has an inspirational enviorn-

ment, and, though sometimes quiet, it has a lot of tension as people challenge and check-mate their opponents.

The club meets in the library on Wednesdays. Space is limited to 20 people every meeting. To enforce this, a lottery / first come, first served system will be implemented.

Current Club Status: The club is currently active and running with sign ups filling up almost immediately under nor-



mal days. The club is currently playing matches in the library while posting daily puzzles.

Who to contact:
Advisors: Ms. D'Onofrio at hdonofrio@greatneck.k12.ny.us and blorusso@greatneck.k12.ny.us

Coding Club

Description: The coding club is student-run and meets in Room 709 (the library computer lab) on Thursdays. Its purpose is to allow students to let their imaginations run wild as they code fun games and projects on Scratch. This club finds itself in a great situation with a well-stabilized, systematic approach to the club.

We are allowed to print the exclusive Google Classroom code here in this edition! It is lf67bwp.

Current Club status: The club is currently very active and running with a good flow of people. The club has a multitude of things to do, from beginner to advanced projects.

Who to contact:
Student Founder: Annabelle Low at alow2@student.gn.k12.ny.us
Advisor: Mr. Dibiase at ldibiase@greatneck.k12.ny.us

The Argument About Candy Corn

by Michael Sun

Candy Corn. Candy that looks like corn, and has a sweet taste and chewy texture.

However, there has been an ongoing debate between certain teachers in South Middle School on the true taste of this interesting snack.

"I don't like candy corn because it is a fact that all the candy corn ever made was made in 1911," says Mr. Ruvio. He believes that the candy corn manufacturers don't make the candy corn any more. "What happens after Halloween is that people throw all the candy corn in the dumpster, and the manufacturers come to collect it for repackaging."

However, Ms. Donofrio thinks otherwise. She says that candy corn is super festive for Halloween. "It tastes like honey! Also it's festive. Who doesn't like festive candy?! The pumpkin shaped ones are the best." She even goes as far to say that "Real friends don't hate candy corn. Anyone who says different is lying." Ms. Donofrio states that even if you drop a piece of candy corn, it is still an amazing piece of deliciousness, and so you should not hesitate to eat it off the floor.

Well, what do the students at South Middle think?

From a survey that was filled out by 92 students, 63% of the students said that they do not like candy corn, and 37 % of the students said that they do like candy corn.

Many students have sided with Mr. Ruvio, with Sahil Gupta saying that, "Candy corn has a really weird texture and tastes like dehydrated water." Two students, including Anaya Chaudhry, stated that candy corn tastes like literal plastic! Many students have said that the taste is way too synthetic and artificial. Some other reasons that the students provided are that it tastes like wax, it's weird, and too chewy.

Some people are ambivalent, such as Ava Isopo. "Candy Corn is not the worst; there are just so many more options of candy that are so much better." Michael Sun (not me, there are 3 of them in this school), states that candy corn tastes abnormal once you eat it in large amounts.

But, a great counterargument that many students have stated is that it really fits the theme of Halloween. Nathan Hui says, "I like the texture and flavor." Other

people such as Cameron Fein says that he likes it because it gives him sugar. Daniel Liu likes candy corn because it is unique with its flavor.

Mark Li brings up a good point, saying that candy corn has 8 grams less sugar than other candies. Joshua Goldberg makes a bold point, saying that if the prosperity of candy corn does not continue, then the spirit of Halloween will deteriorate.

What do you think? Is candy really a good staple for Halloween, or is it a menace to society?



Three Insane Military Inventions

by Sahil Gupta

The PHASR - short for Personnel Halting and Stimulation Response Rifle - is a non-lethal weapon that temporarily stuns its target. To achieve this, the PHASR uses a focused laser to blind the target without permanently inflicting damage.

The CornerShot comes as a gun or grenade launcher and bends left or right up to 60 degrees. It comes fully equipped with a camera to show the agent where they are firing. This gun is so popular that law enforcement is using it in 15 countries.

The Railgun is an electromagnetic gun that is being

developed by the US Navy. It will have the ability to shoot a projectile at Mach 8 or 8 times the speed of sound (5,000 mph). It will be used to protect warships and is even powerful enough to launch a spaceship into orbit.



Check out the next edition for a history of weapons from prehistoric times to the 1900s.

SMS had Rebels Day, Elections, Halloween, and Team Trips!



Team Hero Meets World War II Veterans on 11/8

by Joshua Hun and Kyle Zheng

On November 8, 7th grade Team Hero saw World War II veterans visit SMS and talk about their stories during a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The three veterans- Dominick Critelli, Arthur Grabiner, and Armand Taran-telli- visited our school to share their insight and life experiences during the largest war in human history. The veterans served in both theaters (areas) of World War II (the Pacific and European theaters) and served in the Air Force, Navy, and Army respectively.

To prepare for this event, Team Hero spent weeks learning about the veterans and prepared

thank you cards, artifacts, and speeches to show their support and gratitude for those who gave their lives to serve our country.

The organizer of the event was a former Marine and founder of a WWII veteran organization named Mission Margraten Plus, Roger Kilfoil. Mr Kilfoil led the discussion in the auditorium with the visiting veterans and was critical in bringing this special event to SMS. The veterans shared many lessons and stories of their time in service. But, more importantly, they shared their wisdom and thier hopes for the future of our country.

On November 9, Team Hero saw other veterans from our community, including Gulf War, Iraq,

and Vietnam veterans who also shared their insights about their time in service.

Because this event is so unique, my partner and I decided to interview a few students and teachers to see how they felt about this special experience.

“I thought that it was a very important event that encouraged us to celebrate the veterans not only on Veterans Day but everyday.”- Kaiden Ko

“I think that this was a very special and memorable event because these stories won’t be told first hand in the near future and this is the only time that we can

hear these stories straight from the source. It was the chance of a lifetime.” -Chloe Pyun

“It was a great event where students can learn about veterans and their experiences. We learned to appreciate their efforts and sacrifices in protecting our country.” -Lucas Woolf

“I enjoy the day. It is an opportunity for me to learn more about my father and what he experienced during his time as an army private as well as a major in the reserves. The WWII veterans coming to South Middle is such a wonderful opportunity. Their stories and lessons are so valuable.”Ms.Sagevick, Team Hero



MagLevs

by Mark Li

You stand on the platform as a train smoothly glides into the station, floating in the air. Magnetic Levitation is a relatively new technology, but it has great potential. Maglev trains use electromagnetic suspension to levitate, eliminating friction and allowing higher speeds than conventional wheeled trains. Maglevs are also quiet without the presence of friction, thereby effectively reducing noise pollution. Maglevs do not contribute to pollution as they do not have an engine and instead use a linear motor. Also, Maglevs are very safe because they can maintain constant speeds and have no worry of derailment. Maglevs can also accelerate and decelerate faster, allowing for safer travel. Maglevs will become a practical method of transportation in the future.

Maglevs have great potential to become the leading source of transportation as speeds are significantly higher than wheeled trains due to friction. The laws of thermodynamics prove that friction slows down an object. As Maglevs use electromagnetic suspension, friction is eliminated, allowing faster speeds. "This means that the only drag experienced is aerodynamic and electromagnetic, allowing Maglevs to reach top speeds of over 360 mph with a lower energy consumption," says authors Terry Brown and John Dacquist from the Illumin Magazine. Maglevs have less drag than conventional trains, so they can reach higher speeds. Additionally, Maglevs are environmentally friendly. They do not require an engine because they use electrified coils in the guideway walls to create a magnetic field, which propels the Maglevs forward. Maglevs do not emit pollution and are also the quietest form of transportation. U.S. freight trains usually produce an average of 85 db of sound. According to sciencedirect.com, Maglev trains produce about 20db, a significantly smaller amount of noise than wheeled trains. For reference, an RC car can

create up to 50-70 decibels of sound. Maglevs are also very safe and require little maintenance because of the lack of physical contact with the track. Maglevs use advanced control systems to prevent collisions with other objects. Another benefit of Maglevs is that they cannot catch up to another Maglev in front as they can maintain a constant speed. The linear motors of Maglevs also allow for Maglevs to accelerate and decelerate in a short distance, allowing accidents to be avoided. Also, maglevs are not "subject to deformation or freezing, reducing traditional constraints placed on rail travel." Jesse Powell, a maglev expert stated, "With Maglev, there is no driver. The vehicle has to move where the network sends them. That's basic physics." Maglevs have the ability to be automatic, which reduces the chance of human error. Powell continues, "So now that we have computer algorithms for routing things very efficiently, we could change the scheduling of the entire network on the fly. It leads to a much more flexible transportation system in the future." Maglevs can be controlled easily by a single network, allowing for a "flexible transportation system."

Maglevs are very convenient, but why are so few commercial Maglevs in operation commercially? Many consider the Shanghai Maglev to be the only commercial Maglev line. There are other lines in South Korea and Japan, but all these lines also have a very short distance. The Shanghai Maglev is only 30 kilometers, while the Beijing-Guangzhou high-speed railway is 2,300 kilometers. Throughout the years since Maglev technology was introduced to the public, companies have been trying to create Maglev lines that will stretch throughout

different countries. However, none of these plans have taken off as Maglevs are more expensive than wheeled trains. According to Worldbank.org, each mile of high-speed rail in China costs 17-20 million US dollars. The Shanghai Maglev train had a price of 39 million dollars per mile, by contrast. Train lines that are not high-speed can call for an even smaller amount of money to create. This is due to the many requirements to create Maglev lines. They require very straight and level tracks to maintain high speeds. Thus, extensive quantities of via-



ducts and the need for tunneling increase. Additionally, Maglev lines require "dedicated infrastructure" according to author Patrick Kingsland from railway-technology.com. In 2005, a proposal was made for a 1,300 kilometer maglev line that connected the Chinese cities of Beijing and Shanghai. "There was already a railway system between the two cities," says Roger Goodall, professor at Loughborough University. "When they started to analyze it they realized that it was just a lot cheaper to upgrade that line rather than build a completely new alignment with completely new technology. Therein lies the rub with maglev."

Despite enormous costs and requirements, creating Maglev trains can heavily benefit society and can offer a form of transportation that is fast and reliable. "High speeds allow for maglevs to be a realistic alternative to flying," writes Brown and Dacquist. Additionally, supplies and infrastructure required to create Maglev lines will be more widespread and accessible in the future. Creating Maglevs would be cheaper and more efficient. Maglevs also have less aerodynamic resistance and use up to 30 percent less energy to operate, which makes them very efficient for maintenance. Also, due to linear induction,

the propulsion system of a Maglev has no moving parts. Also, Maglevs are being studied and tested by many companies in different countries, where many plans have the potential to be revolutionary. One example of a design is the Evacuated Tube Transport, which involves Maglevs traveling in enclosed vacuum tubes with air-locked train cars, which causes the Maglev Train to have very little air resistance. Another design is the SkyTran, which is under construction in Israel. This design allows passengers to travel in small automated vehicles that fit up to two people. However, this model only allows for maximum speeds of 100 miles per hour. By contrast, a new Maglev developed by China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation can reach speeds of over 373 miles per hour or 600 kilometers per hour.

In conclusion, Maglevs will become a practical method of transportation in the future. Maglevs are very efficient and have higher speeds than wheeled trains due to electromagnetic suspension and an efficient linear motor. Maglevs do not directly emit pollution and are the quietest form of transportation. Maintenance of Maglevs is also easier due to the elimination of friction and lack of surface contact. Despite expensive costs and need for good infrastructure, Maglevs can potentially be the universal source of transportation, as using Magnetic Levitation on trains allows for a safer and more reliable form of transportation. Maglevs will be successful in the future as many companies are developing Maglev technologies, including Evacuated Tube Transport, where there is practically no air resistance to slow down the maglev and allow for even greater speeds. Christopher Beanland from The Guardian stated, "Like flying cars, rocket-fuelled monorails and supersonic passenger planes, maglev is one of the great 'what ifs'?" Maglevs will cause a revolution in transportation as a new age of technology arises.

Image from VentureBeat

Afraz Merchant: President

1. Why did you choose to run for President of South Middle School?

I ran for School President because I felt that our school wouldn't be complete without some things such as a badminton team. I feel like it is unfair to those who spend all of their effort and time practicing it just to not play for our school.

2. How do you want to use your power to make this school a better place?

Middle school is all about getting ready for high school, which is where our whole lives could be dependent on. "Teamwork makes the dreamwork" and we will try to have an immense impact on our school.

3. How will you make sure that the president/vice-president is a successful and productive relationship?

As the president, it is very important to be very professional, so if I ever have any

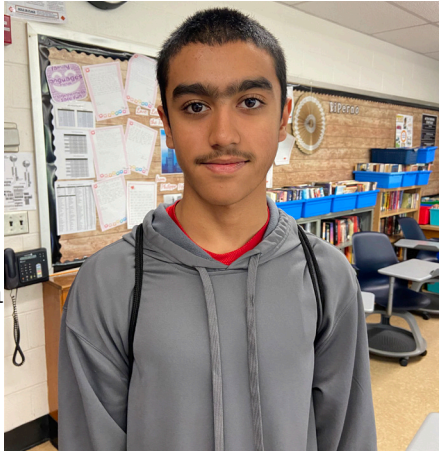
problems with the vice president, Enkhjin, I will always be happy to talk it out instead of making it a bigger problem.

4. What do you want to say to all of the students of SMS- both the ones who voted for you, as well as the ones who didn't?

Thank you so much to everyone who voted to me and even more to the people who didn't vote for me. That gave me a challenge and taught me a great lesson which was, you never know what's going to happen.

5. Are there any public figures you look up to? If so, who and why?

A public figure that I look up to is Kobe Bryant. One thing that I love about him is his mentality and determination to be the best that he can be. RIP Black Mamba. Once again thank you so much for this wonderful chance to have a paragraph in our school's newspaper.



Enkhjin Altankhuyag: Vice-President

1. Why did you choose to run for Vice-President rather than President?

I chose to run for Vice-President because of my older sister and to represent the students. My sister served as an inspiration and role model that I could look up to in my life. Back when she was in middle school, she was also vice president of her student council, and I felt that I needed to walk in her

footsteps and continue this legacy of hers within our family. When I was in sixth grade, I knew I wanted to be a part of the student council because I was a shy individual who noticed things that normally

went unaddressed. I wanted to represent the people who felt or feel apprehensive like I did. I want to make middle school easier and more fun for the students as well as the staff.

2. What goals do you have to help SMS become a better place?

My list of goals to help SMS this year include: giving all students a voice, enhancing the learning experience, contributing to extra-curricular activities, and providing funds for our school. Firstly, I want to give students the option to submit their concerns, questions or suggestions for the school if they don't prefer



speaking directly about it. I'd do this by creating a Google Form to be sent out in each grade's Google Classroom. Secondly, I want to help make SMS a vibrant learning environment by utilizing snow days towards building a community by having those days serve as Rebel Days. If not, then they could be used as normal days off. Thirdly, purchasing new sports equipment so that gym classes and sports teams can have smoother, easier, and better gameplay. Finally, this leads to my idea to host more snack sales, bake sales and sell better school merchandise. These sales would raise more money to make my third goal and other ideas possible and overall provide funds that would be distributed for our own school and also towards relay for life, cancer research, charities, and possibly more field trips.

3. What are some of your attributes that will help you be so successful in your new role?

My attributes that will help me be successful in this new role are my strong sense of justice, responsibility, empathy, understanding, and especially my positive mentality and attitude. This is incredibly important because it's what allows me to continue forward in life.

4. At the end of the school year, how will you know that you have been a success at your position?

I believe that no matter what I do, I will have been a success at my position knowing that I

did everything in my power to make an impact and improve our society. "What if," is the worst kind of poison. Useless worries gradually weigh down on people, but what's important is what you do to purge the poison. I'm willing to do whatever is necessary to accomplish my goals this year and I do not want to leave this year feeling unaccomplished. I have a list of ideas for this year and I trust that my peers will help me fulfill these goals. If I have completed and gone beyond the list, I will know that the year has been a success. I have faith in all of our abilities.

5. What do you want others to know about you?

I want others to know that, the one thing I regret the most is my hesitation, even down to the littlest moments. Whether it's feeling guilty from not raising my hand even though I knew the answer, not volunteering to do something because I thought I might embarrass myself, to passing up countless opportunities in my life due to that hesitation. I've learned that it doesn't matter if you think you've embarrassed yourself by doing something because it's better than having regret from not doing it at all. Students should not let hesitation hold them back, and certainly not let it stop them from coming to me if they have a problem. I want everyone to know they can come to me if they have an issue and I will try to resolve it, so they will have no regrets this year.

Dave Rubinchik: Secretary

1. Why did you choose to run for the position of Secretary?

I see problems that can be fixed, and I want to fix them.

2. How will you support the other members of the SMS Student Government cabinet?

I will help them in all ways a good Secretary should. In simpler terms, any way possible.

3. What changes do you want to see at our school, and how will you help bring about those changes?

There are a lot of little prob-

lems I see in our school like lack of sports equipment, no cups in water fountains, dirty bathrooms, etc. I plan to discuss these issues and ways to fix them at any meetings and personally advocate for their resolution.

4. If you will be taking notes at the Student Government meetings, how will you work to ensure the rest of the SMS community has access to these notes?

I will try to spread them via word of mouth.
(continued on page 7)

Student Government: Rubinchik (cont.)

5. What do you want others to know about you?
I want people to know that I will devote a lot of time and energy into this position and the betterment of SMS as a whole.



Mark Li: Treasurer

1. Why did you choose to run for treasurer?
I chose to run for treasurer because of my experience in math and the stock market simulator. Additionally, I wanted to help our school manage where money is spent. Whether it's calculating budgets, managing expenses, or making financial decisions, I will try to make the best of our money and school.

2. What do you hope to accomplish in your new position this year?
I hope to be able to create more events and programs to raise money for our school to get more equipment and more school lunch choices. I want to be able to make exciting events that will gain the support and popularity of our school community.

3. How will you make sure that your administration has a successful and productive relationship?
I will effectively communicate with the other members of the student government to ensure the wellness of our school. We will try our very best to make necessary changes to our school and our system, and manage materials and

resources where it's needed and best used.

4. If our Student Government was given \$10,000, how would you suggest it be spent to have the greatest impact?

I feel it would be a good idea to renovate some of our existing spaces, such as making a new wing with a few classrooms, which could also help alleviate the amount of people walking at a given time.



5. How will you try to get more people involved in school life and issues this year?
I would create more appealing activities that could potentially help towards fundraising, which would allow a mutualistic situation for students and those receiving donations, as students can have a fun and enjoyable experience and at the same time contribute to a good cause. Additionally, money raised can help the school acquire better supplies, such as sports equipment and safety goggles, and can help make the school lunch menu have more variety.

India's Chandrayaan 3 Space Mission Shutting Down

by Kyle Zheng

Just a few months ago, India became a new space power, landing its Chandrayaan 3 rover on the lunar south pole for the first time in history. But now, India's ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) Chairman has just announced that Chandrayaan 3 Rover is going into a deep sleep mode and there is "no certainty" that it will wake up.

Before I move on, let's start from the beginning. The Chandrayaan program (- chandra means moon and -yaan means vehicle in Hindi so Chandrayaan mean Lunar Vehi-



cle) which started in 2003 after proposals began for its creation in 1999. Then, the ISRO worked to develop its first vehicle which was launched in 2008, partnering with the ESA (European Space Agency) and NASA. Following this is Chandrayaan's 2nd mission which launched in 2019 and the Chandrayaan-3 mission launched this year in July. Chandrayaan-3 was launched specifically on July 14 this year, where over the course of a month, it traveled to the moon and got in the correct orbit to land. There, after checks and preparations, it landed on the moon on August 23; there it released a small rover. The rover soon began its mission by taking soil samples, measuring the lunar environment, and discovering movements below the lunar surface and multiple resources in the lunar surface. But the rover and the spacecraft were not built to survive the lunar nights that can reach down to -208 degrees Fahrenheit. As time progressed, the night grew colder and the ro-

er began to fail. ISRO soon made both the spacecraft and rover enter sleep mode and point their solar panels to where the sun would rise after the lunar night ended, hoping the rover and spacecraft would survive. But the electronics inside the rover and spacecraft could not handle the cold of the night, and so ISRO soon lost connection with the rover.

Even though Chandrayaan-3 has died, its impact has not. Chandrayaan-3 paves the way for future human colonization of the moon and the solar system. The lunar south pole is full of frozen water after being discovered back in 2008 (which coincidentally was discovered by Chandrayaan-1). Water is critical for space development because it is not only useful for drinking, but it can be used to make oxygen in the process of electrolysis (splitting water in hydrogen and oxygen) and it can make rocket fuel because liquid hydrogen and oxygen are rocket fuels. The lunar south pole itself is the interest point for many space agencies, especially NASA and their Artemis mission. The goal is to put someone on the lunar south pole by 2025. Besides water, Chandrayaan-3 had other amazing discoveries, from detecting sulfur in the lunar soil and discovering "moonquakes" on the lunar surface. And now, the ISRO is looking for a sample return mission, trying to bring the samples the rover collected back to Earth for further examination.

All in all, Chandrayaan-3 was a very short mission, only lasting around 14 days, compared to other lunar missions like NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter which lasted 14 years, or the CNSA's (Chinese National Space Agency) Yutu, which lasted 2 years. Chandrayaan-3 also had a comparatively small budget, only costing about \$75 million. But Chandrayaan-3 had a massive impact on the scientific world- and even on the world of us "normal people"- as we get closer and closer to becoming an interplanetary species. So this should show you how no matter how small something is, it can have a massive impact.

Congratulations to all SMS students who ran for a position in the Student Govvernment for the 2023-24 school year. Running takes a lot of effort and hard work! SMS is proud of you!

- Top Winter Holiday Songs, as collected by Stuti Dutta and Marissa DuPont:
1. "All I Want for Christmas is You" - Mariah Carey
 2. "Santa Tell Me" - Ariana Grande
 3. "Last Christmas" - Ariana Grande
 4. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" - Gene Autry
 5. "Somewhere in My Memory" - John Williams for Home Alone film
 6. "In the Candleglow" - Sally Albrecht and Jay Althouse
 7. "Frosty the Snowman"- The Ronettes

Fall Sports Memories

by Elle Chiu, Grace Fang, & Kylee Wolf
This past season, the fall sport teams enjoyed a sport and had fun. This article is a compilation of memories. For 7th and 8th graders, this is a memory book. For 6th graders, this is an opportunity to check out some of the SMS sports!

If you want to find more information about a sport you are interested in, go to your grade level Google Classroom or the school website. We hope to see you at upcoming sports meetings and tryouts! You should join school sports so you can get a wonderful experience by staying after school. In sports, you'll build trust and friendship between your teammates.

The girls' Swim & Dive team was filled with friendship and

enjoyment; every girl left with a smile. A popular thing on the swim team was away games. "It was especially fun because we are all friends on the team and like blasting music on the bus rides home, win or lose."

Cross-country/track is a running sport where you can just improve and enjoy yourself! A highlight is "being able to connect and hang out with friends" and having fun. By joining track you can create long lasting friendships.

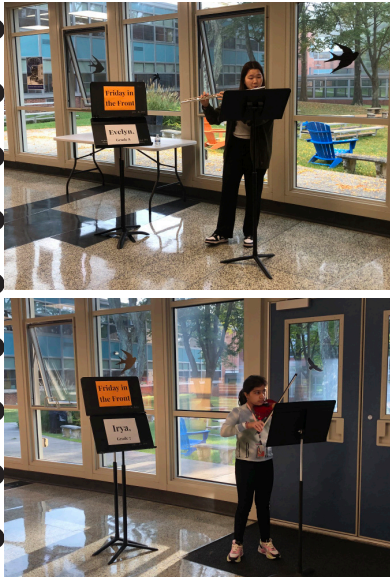
A third sport featured below is oys' soccer. They experienced an exciting season, with four wins, four losses, and one tie. They always worked together. They improved a lot, and played rival teams with intense games.



The Community Action Committee spread kindness like confetti!



Friday in the Front



Congratulations to our 8th grade Self Select students who took on the WordMasters Challenge in November! Way to push yourselves!