Merion Wins Third in Citizenship Challenge

By Sofia Viator

Once again, Mrs. Friedlander's class participated in this year's Citizenship Challenge. The Citizenship Challenge is an essay competition open to 4th and 5th graders in school districts from around the Philadelphia area. It focuses on issues related to democracy and it always begins with a question. This year, it was, "Why is the First Amendment important to you?" For many weeks, Mrs. Friedlander's students researched the First Amendment and then wrote an essay all together. They edited the essay carefully and then finally submitted it. After a couple weeks, they received a phone call from the challenge organizers, telling them that they were in the top ten. When Mrs. Friedlander announced the news, the class was ecstatic!

The next step was to create a small performance about what they wrote in their essay. The class worked together to write lines for everyone, picked up a song (a new version of Philadelphia Freedom), and then practiced everything together for days.

Then, on December 11, 2018, it was finally the big day! The students in 5F, along with Mrs. Friedlander and Ms. Heffron, went to the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia to perform in front of the judges of the Citizenship Challenge. Many parents also came to support Merion Elementary School. Each group had three minutes for their performance and the Merion students were amazing. The judges seemed impressed, but now it was the time to wait and see. While the other schools were doing their performances, 5F toured the National Constitution Center.

After the tour, all 12 class finalists gathered around a podium in the middle of the National Constitution Center, waiting for the results. Mrs. Friedlander’s class had won this challenge once before and placed in the top three another year. This year, former Governor Ed Rendell shared the results. Merion Elementary School won 3rd place, tied with another class from Roxborough, and both won $500! If you pass by Mrs. Friedlander’s classroom, you can see the big check hanging on the bulletin board.

This contest is a unique opportunity to get to know your classmates and work together, but it’s also an exciting way to research our history and learn how to express an opinion. Let’s hope this competition continues for many years! Congratulations, 5F!

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Merion Makes an Impact

By Faith Coyle

Ever wonder where some of the unique and large-scale artwork that hangs on Merion’s walls comes from? Every year, the Merion Home and School Association (HSA) sponsors an art experience led by a professional artist. That artist works with every student at Merion to help create a school-wide project. This year, our Artists in Residence are David Stelman and Beth Warren from Sweet Mabel Studio in Narberth. With our help, they will create a hanging sculpture made out of small plastic pieces, much like the “plastic dog” that is on display in the flower bed of Station Circle in Narberth. I got a chance to ask Beth and David a few questions about this year’s project.

How will creating a plastic sculpture at Merion teach our student body about the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling plastics? All trash has to go somewhere, and items such as plastics do not biodegrade. They create dangers to wildlife, our water systems, and our general health. The first part of the 3 Rs cycle is to reduce—meaning we should use less new plastic materials. The second part is to reuse—meaning using materials you already have before seeking new. The final part is to recycle—meaning converting waste into reusable material. Unfortunately, many plastic items cannot be recycled, and we hope this project will call attention to the fact that the plastic items we use will be around long after the kids from Merion have kids of their own.

How did you decide to build a dog out of plastic? (Referring to the structure that currently lives in Narberth Station Circle). The idea for a plastic installation came from Cyné Riickards and the Narberth Plastic Ordinance Initiative. The dog is based on David’s Labrador retrievers.

Where did you get all the plastic pieces that make up the dog? Sweet Mabel Studio is a “found object” art business, where we use almost all exclusively found, donated and scavenged materials. The plastic pieces that make up the dog came from our studio.

How do you feel about the Plastic Ordinance in Narberth? We completely support the ordinance and feel it’s time for more towns to help eliminate wasteful plastics and care for our environment and our future.

Inside the Office:

Getting to Know Mrs. Raschiatore and Mrs. Bernhardt

By Mavee Gilligan

Have you ever wondered what wonderful things Mrs. Bernhardt and Mrs. Raschiatore do in the office? Well I have, and that’s why I interviewed them to get more details.

According to Mrs. Raschiatore and Mrs. Bernhardt, working in the office is a lot of fun. When I asked them if they enjoy it, Mrs. Raschiatore said, "Absolutely!" For Mrs. Bernhardt, the most enjoyable part is seeing all of the kids and parents. Plus, she says, she gets to multi-task—often doing at least three things at once! For Mrs. Raschiatore, she most enjoyable part is seeing all of the students and talking to them about their day. They have a lot of different responsibilities, like going through notes to see who is going home early and who has an excuse for sickness, and doing the announcements over the loudspeakers every morning.

Not everything is easy, though. Mrs. Raschiatore thinks that the hardest part is remembering all of the students' names. Mrs. Bernhardt thinks that it’s dismissal because "All the walkie-talkies are screaming," she says.

Even though working at Merion is a lot of fun, it's not Mrs. Bernhardt's only dream job. She used to work in a museum when that was her dream job, but now she wants to be an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), or someone who works in an ambulance. For her part, Mrs. Raschiatore says, 'I've been working at Merion for 27 years, so if this isn't my dream job, what is?'

When they go home, they leave their office work behind and pursue other fun hobbies. Did you know that Mrs. Bernhardt enjoys painting? Mrs. Raschiatore spends time with her eight grandchildren. I said that eight grandchildren must keep her busy, and she agrees that they sure do.

Lastly, I asked Mrs. Bernhardt and Mrs. Raschiatore if they would recommend working in the office to any of the students here, and they answered with an enthusiastic "Yes!" Maybe one day, you will work in a school office too.
Merion Trends: What's Cool in School

By Alessandra Cahill

Do you consider yourself trendy? If you actually are, you’ll agree with the following: Last year’s top trends were dubbing, slime, the Eagles, Squishies (foam stress-relievers shaped like objects), and of course, fidget spinners. But now, in my opinion, they are OUT. Here are some of the top trends today.

1. Fortnite and its Dances
Fortnite is an extremely popular video game where you try to be the last one alive to win the game. When you attack someone, you use emotes and your game system to dance. Fortnite dances have not just been seen in the game. Around school, sometimes you’ll see a kid trying to bust a move, like the “hyper.” When you do the “hyper,” you hop on one foot, bring one arm up and out, then pull them both back and forth.

2. Hair Ties in Wacky Styles
You may not have seen this one, but I sure have. Ever see a girl walking around with her ponytail straight up and covered in dozens of hair ties? That is what I'm talking about. My friend did that for a dare, and it was hilarious seeing the looks on people’s faces in the hallways.

3. The Friday Song
Originally written by Rebecca Black, this song is sung loud and clear when the bell rings on Friday. Put some dance-like-nobody’s-watching moves into it, and you’re ready for the weekend. You can find it on YouTube if you haven’t heard, “It’s Friday, Friday, gotta get down on Friday” around school yet.

4. Old Navy Sleeve-Stripe Hoodie
Okay, this may not be an actual trend, but I've seen a lot of girls walking through the hallways wearing this style. The shirt has a hood and two stripes on the sleeves. On the Old Navy website, it is called the “Plush-Knit Sleeve-Stripe Pullover Hoodie for Girls” and comes in gray, black, reddish-purple, and blue. It’s cute, cozy, and apparently popular.

5. Sloths
Is it true that sloths are stealing unicorns’ limelight? These slow but suave creatures have charmed the hearts of kids around the nation. My friend has a sloth lunchbox and my brother has a sloth stuffed animal, so I am under the impression that they are becoming more loved minute by minute. Everyone can agree sloths are cute, right? (See survey findings below.)

You may not think my choices for 2018-19 are actually trending, but if you pay attention to kids walking around the halls, you might just change your mind.

Trend Closeup: Sloths vs. Unicorns

Are sloths really taking over? I did a survey to find out if kindergarten, first, and second grade girls would favor the mystical, magical creatures from beyond or the slow, cute animals in the trees. I’ve noticed that the older the grade, the more sloths were favored. Cast your vote now, and let’s see which grade agrees with you...

As you can see, kindergarten was almost unanimous (everyone agreed) that unicorns rocked. First grade was a little more welcoming to the cuddly tree-dwellers, but still voted that unicorns were better. Second grade almost tied between sloths and unicorns, but the magical horses still pulled ahead by 3 and won. But in my own unofficial research, fifth graders love sloths the most. All 7 Merion Muse editors, including the boys, declared sloths were in!

Top Sneakers of 2019

By Harry Kwiat

There were a lot of great sneakers that came out last year, but the following three are, in my opinion, the best in terms of style and comfort.

#1 Adidas Ultra Boosts.
Adidas Ultra Boosts are one of my favorite types of sneakers. I like them because they are extremely comfortable to wear. They are so comfortable because they have Cloudfoam. Cloudfoam is a material used inside the sole to make it feel like a pillow for your feet. Another reason they are so comfortable is because the material on the outside is not very tight, so the shoe can adjust to your foot. Plus, they are very stylish and come in a variety of colors such as blue, gray, black, red, and many more.

#2 Yeezys by Adidas.
Yeezys are one of the most comfortable sneakers I've ever worn. The whole shoe is made out of a plastic-patented material which makes them different from any other shoes. Yeezys comes in many styles and colors, so you can feel like your shoes were made just for you.

#3 Kyrie 5 by Nike.
Most people know who Kyrie Irving is (he's a basketball player for the Boston Celtics), but not many people pay attention to his shoes. I like Kyrie 5 shoes because, in my opinion, they are one of the only comfortable basketball shoes out there. They are made specifically for basketball because they have a special material inside the sole to help you stay balanced when both dribbling and shooting. Finally they have a cool, unique style that sets them apart from the competition.

There you have it: My picks for the best shoes of 2019. Make sure to check them out next time you're shopping for trendy, comfy shoes.
A New Face at Merion: Mrs. Kehoe

By Noor Ahmad

Whenever you use the library entrance near Mrs. Atienza’s room, there is a little room that’s now an office with a face that you may not recognize. That, my friends, is Mrs. Kehoe. She is our new Vice Principal. She just recently came to Merion from Belmont Hills Elementary School. Mrs. Kehoe replaced our former vice principal, Mrs. Partridge (who is now at Penn Wynne Elementary School).

So our school was lucky enough to get Mrs. Kehoe this year, and we don’t know about it. However, after I thought I would interview her so we can all get to know a little more about our new Vice Principal.

Why did you become a Vice Principal? Growing up I played school as a young girl with my sisters. I knew I always wanted to be a teacher. While being a teacher and continuing my schooling, I realized I wanted to become a school leader. I had been inspired by school leaders when I was in school and wanted to be a similar influence for other students and teachers.

How long have you been teaching? I am in my 17th year of working in the public school system.

Which one is better: Belmont Hills or Merion? Ha ha! That’s not a fair question, but I’ll say that this year is the best Merion experience I’ve had yet!

If you had the choice to have any other job, what would it be? I have the best job. I get to see smiling children every day who are excited to come to school.

Did you have a different job before this? Before becoming an assistant principal, I was a special education teacher. I have worked with children in Pre-K through age 21.

What are your favorite quotes? Every day brings new changes. Make the most of each day. Keep smiling.

I learned a lot about Mrs. Kehoe during my interview. Although we may have a loss with Mrs. Partridge moving to Penn Wynne, we also have a gain in Mrs. Kehoe.

Free Seating: What Do People Think?

By AJ Higgins

On November 5, 2018, the 5th grade held a vote to see how many people wanted free seating versus how many people wanted assigned classroom seating in the cafeteria. The results were astonishing! Eighty-eight wanted free seating and just twenty-seven wanted classroom seating. It seemed obvious that most people wanted the freedom to choose their seats, but that got me thinking: What do people really think about free seating?

First, some might wonder, what is "free seating?" At Merion, free seating is where you can sit at any of the five tables in the cafeteria. Currently, only 3rd through 5th graders are able to have this opportunity. First and second graders are required to sit at their assigned classroom table—whether they like it or not! I’ve heard that some people enjoy free seating because of the independence. Many like it because the older they get, the more privileges they get in the lunchroom. So I asked a few people to share what they think.

“I really enjoy how you get to sit with your friends that aren’t in the same class as you,” said Trinity Bethel in 5th. She went on to say, “I also notice that kids get quiet faster and listen to the adult when they ask for the kids’ attention.” Shimmery Manman added, “I enjoy sitting with a variety of different people.”

On the other hand, some kids don’t really enjoy it that much. “It’s too crazy,” a small group of kids told me. “Everybody is trying to find seats and people are trying to save seats for their friends.”

Overall, it seems that there are different opinions on free seating depending on who you ask. Some kids enjoy it while others find it hectic. In some cases, it eliminates problems in the lunchroom. Some teachers say that when kids feel more independent in the lunchroom, they are more well behaved as a result. If you’re not old enough for free seating yet, you’ll get to judge for yourself.

Fourth and fifth graders pick their own spot in the cafeteria with free seating. Pictured here are fourth graders. Photo credit: Faith Coyle

Chorus: A 5th Grader’s Perspective

By Hannah B. Barr

Aeryne Cannan is a 5th grader who lives in Merion Station with her mom, dad, brother, and a cat named Shelly. We talked about what she thinks about being in Chorus.

Were you in Chorus in 4th grade? Yes I was.

How do you feel when practicing? Do you feel happy, or do you want it to be over?

Well, I had different perspectives from the beginning and end of Chorus. The first time I started Chorus in 4th grade, I thought, “This is great! I’m excited, and this is awesome!” Now it can sometimes be tiring getting up every Tuesday morning.

Do you like having Ms. Sattler as the Chorus teacher?

She’s good! I’ve had three Chorus teachers, Mr. Blaghour, Ms. McCarley, and Ms. Sattler. And they’re all good Chorus teachers!

Did Chorus practice help you read music sheets better?

I feel like instrumental practice helped me read music sheets better.

Did you know how to read music sheets before you joined Chorus?

No. I did not know how to read music sheets. I mean, I kind of did, but not really.

If somebody does not know how to read music, should that keep them from joining?

Even if they don’t know how to read music notes, that should not keep them from joining Chorus.

What would you say to someone who is willing to join Chorus?

It’s a good thing that you could do, and it’s certainly worth it.

Well, thank you so much for having the time to do this, and I really appreciate this! You’re welcome!

Merion Orchestra Performs for School Board

By Sasha Romanski

On December 17, 2018, nine 5th grade Merion Orchestra students were selected to play music for the Lower Merion School Board to showcase the district’s elementary music education program. Led by orchestra teacher, Marybeth McCarrick, the group played two pieces, Pachelbel’s Canon in D Major and Linus and Lucy by Vince Guaraldi, for about 50 people including a CBS News crew! This was the first time one of the elementary schools had been asked to play for the school board, so it was very special.

Pictured above (left to right): Ads Onder, Finn Gilligan, Alessandra Cabill, Sasha Romanski, Sam Lockman, Theo Goedde. Present but not pictured: Adrienne Hillis, Simon Nickerson, and Liana You
Fun in Fifth Grade

By Anna Schmittid

Do you think fifth grade is scary because of all the stressful tests, loads of homework, and tough teachers? Well, you shouldn’t—fifth grade is anything but scary! It is really fun and interesting because we get to go on cool trips, do research for a lot of cool projects, and get our names printed on the back of a special fifth grade T-shirt.

Would you like to be 30 feet up in the air, strapped to a harness and being pulled towards the sky by belayers (people controlling the ropes you’re strapped to)? Well, every fall the fifth graders take a trip to Diamond Ridge, a campsite where you get to learn about teamwork, class bonding, and facing by doing different activities and physical challenges that involve lots of cooperation with your classmates. Let’s hear from 5th grader Anna Kobell about Diamond Ridge:

“I think that a lot of people who are scared of heights could definitely face their fear at this place. The staff members go above and beyond with whatever you need, and the lunch is amazing with plenty of options to make your mouth water, including dessert, like cookies, cake, an ice cream sandwich, or popsicles! It is such an interesting place with many activities for you to choose from.

What about all those long-term projects—that is, projects that are due a few weeks after they are assigned, like 5M’s Hero Project or 3D’s project on the Digestive System? In 5B, we did a couple of book reports—we’re doing one right now. We get to choose what tasks we want to do, like creating songs that describe characters, settings, or feelings. If you want, you can make a trailer or movie to show the class. It’s super fun! Here’s what 5th grader Sama-tha Torrecampo had to say about long-term projects:

‘I like them. My favorite project was my digestive system comic because I got to doodle. I also like them because we get to do them at home and we have a lot of time to finish, so it doesn’t stress me out too much.’

As for STEM projects, they’re amazing! Our first STEM project we did was a challenge. We had to build the tallest structure using a cup for stability, toothpicks, and candy corn.

My personal favorite was the project where we got to create, design, and build a house for pilgrims or Native Americans. It had to withstand natural disasters like fire, rain, and snow. You can use anything from the MakerSpace cart, or bring in materials from home.

Very nice on a special T-shirt with the names of everyone in 5th grade to wear on field trips, or other Merion events. Fifth grader Lilian Wang told me that the shirt made her feel important. It will remind me of everyone in our class. I will definitely wear it here and next year in 6th grade so I can show that I’m from the best school ever.”

The teachers, especially Ms. Boyer, are really forgiving. But don’t think you can wiggle out of every mistake—you can’t! If your class is having trouble with something—for example, a class can’t be quiet in the hallway—they make you fun, motivating solutions to fix that problem to get you ready for middle school.

I hope that these benefits of being in fifth grade will help you imagine being in a world of hands-on learning, museums, lots of field trips, and especially, lots of friends and amazing, smiling teachers!

Mrs. Friedlander’s class reading before dismissal. Included: Sasha Romanisz, Finn Gilligan, Jacob Sipe, Lianna Wang, Ayden Skariah, Grayson Archer, Lilly Martin, and Lilian Wang. Photo credit: Kenny Mellon

Should Ten-Year-Olds Be Able to Vote? Merion Students Share Their Opinions

By Finn Gilligan

In the past year, there has been much controversy about the minimum voting age in newspapers and on the internet. Though the voting age has been 18 since 1971, many people now disagree with that. In fact, there has always been someone who disagrees with it. Now especially, there are many disputes about whether younger citizens are informed enough about politics to have a hand in choosing their president. I found myself wondering, What do kids think the voting age should be? So I passed out a simple survey with that question to one class in each grade and tallied up the results. Among the answers were 6, 18, and, of course, the current voting age—18.

Many of the students’ answers reflected society’s current thinking. Age 16 got the most votes with 20 students, and that is the opinion of many people now. It is not a drastic change from 18, so it’s surprising how many people feel strongly that the voting age should be two years younger. Next, with 9 votes, is 20, then 18 and 15 tied for third. So, although 18 wasn’t the most popular age, it still came pretty close to the top. These results show that many students agree with the way the law is now, or it would change only slightly, although there are others who would like more drastic adjustments. But what about their grade? Does that have an effect on their answer? Yes, it does. Most 5th graders voted from 15-18. 4th preferred 16, but 3rd tended to go for 10 and under.

Merion Students Vote on Voting Age

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<th>Age</th>
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The results from 1st and 2nd grade were very spread out. Even though many people disagree about the minimum voting age, one thing is for sure—everyone has different opinions. I myself think that the voting age should be between 16-18 as reflected in this survey.

Winter Before Fall

By Aryeh Honig

You may have heard about last year’s snowstorms. There was a big one in March 2018 but then there was another one in the fall—the week before Thanksgiving! We had an early dismissal that day, which we learned about when an announcement was made over the intercom. Then the real excitement began. At dismissal, we headed to the auditorium where Mr. Mara was on duty. Some buses arrived on time but others took longer. I waited and watched for my own bus to be called. I thought I saw a pattern: it seemed like buses were arriving every ten minutes. Bus 45 was called at 12:25. Bus 24 was called ten minutes later at 12:35. Then Bus 37 was called at 12:45. Bus 69 was called at... wait, it was 12:50! By the time Bus 17 was called, we were allowed to talk quietly (usually we need to be reading a book). At that point, there were three buses of kids still waiting to leave. The kids who take bus 52 moved from the gym (where they had been waiting) into the auditorium because we all started watching the movie, “Brother Bear.”

Finally, at 1:15 PM, Bus 33 (my bus) arrived at Merion and, right behind it was Bus 37—again! A teacher informed us that Bus 37 was substituting for Bus 52, which was running very late. I have no idea when the last bus, Bus 70, arrived at Merion. Still, I got home earlier than a regular dismissal day, but it was quite the wait for our buses on that very surprising early “snow day” at Merion.
What It's Like in Middle School

By Samantha Torrecampo

I just can't imagine 5th Grade ending in a few months. My memories from kindergarten throughout the years studying here in Merion remind me of how fast the years went by. Not only me but many may wonder, “What's like to be in middle school?”

Most of us, for sure, will be anxious. It is a whole new school, a bigger school with wider hallways, big lockers and bigger fields. We will meet new faces, new teachers and will be moving from different classes. Despite feeling anxious, what excites me is that there will be many school clubs! I had a chance to talk to one of the Merion Elementary School alumni who now attends Bala Cynwyd Middle School. He is Ben Palaso, now a sixth grader.

How’s middle school coming along? Is it difficult?

Ben: It's really challenging. The most challenging thing for me is getting organized since we only use one binder for all the classes and we have A LOT of papers.

What time does middle school start? What time do you have to get to the bus stop?

Ben: I have to get to school by 8 am, and I have to get to my bus stop by 7:30 am.

Where do you put your stuff when you go to your classes?

Ben: We put our stuff in our locker or in our main classroom.

What does a typical school day look like for a 6th grader?

Ben: When we get to school, we put our bags and jackets in our lockers and we get to our classes to start our 1st, 2nd and 3rd periods. During 4th period is when we eat lunch followed by 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th periods when we get back to our classes. Then 9th period is when we can do some homework. Then we get our things from our lockers and we go home.

How much homework do you have?

Ben: It depends on what teacher you have. You could have a lot of homework or not at all. It also depends what team you are in. Teams are like your classes. I'm on [team] '6-5,' which gives a lot of homework.

What kind of clubs do they offer in middle school?

Ben: From what I know personally, there is an Anime club, a Chess club, a Gaming club and many more.

Apparently, middle school is way different from elementary school. There may be reasons for us to be anxious but we can't forget the saying, "Life is a constant change." Although we may worry about what lies ahead, moving ahead to the next chapter in life will make us stronger and more mature.

Coming Soon: The Second Grade Spanish Play

By Lianna Wang and Anna Kobell

A buzz falls over the crowd. The Merion second graders burst into song. Many people have no clue what the Spanish means, but they are loving the performance anyway. The Second Grade Spanish play happens every year. Each class gets one song to sing in Spanish to school, families and friends all that they've learned in Spanish. Each class wears a color of the rainbow and they learn a routine that involves props and movement. Every year the songs are the same, but the performance may vary. For example, the lines are different, and sometimes the classes may sing in a range of tones. But what's it like for the second graders? We interviewed one second grader, Charliie Schmittiduel to see how he feels about the play. We also asked one fifth grader, Anna Schmittiduel, what she remembers about it. Here's what they said.

How do you feel about the Second Grade Spanish play?

Charlie: I feel pretty good because it will be fun.

Anna: I felt nervous and excited because we were singing in a foreign language.

Are you excited about the Second Grade Spanish play?

Charlie: Yes, because I heard that it is very exciting.

Anna: I was excited because we had all these props and we spent a lot of time on it.

Were you nervous about singing in Spanish?

Charlie: I am not really that nervous.

Anna: Yes, but only a little bit.

Did you have confidence in yourself?

Charlie: I have lots of confidence in myself.

Anna: Yes, because I didn't have to talk that much, just sing and dance, and if I messed up, no one really saw.

There you have it. The second graders’ and the fifth grader’s answers to our questions. We hope you enjoy the performance on May 31!

Mrs. Glick: Pursuing Her Passion for Education

By Ella Chen

In January, I spoke with Mrs. Glick, teacher of first through third grade Challenge and fourth and fifth grade Spanish, who shared her journey along with her philosophy of teaching. With a PhD in education, Mrs. Glick has been teaching Spanish for 20 years, plus six years of Challenge at Merion.

Do you know how Mrs. Glick became interested in Spanish? When I was in first grade, my brother used to have a Spanish tutor and I would sit in the foyer and listen to his lessons. I really loved it," she told me. "The Spanish tutor would record Spanish words on a tape and I would listen to what she had recorded."

Mrs. Glick, who also enjoyed learning about the culture of different Spanish-speaking countries, continued her study of the language in sixth grade and throughout school. She also gave credit to her amazing Spanish teachers in college for inspiring her lifelong learning of Spanish.

When asked about her Challenge career, she explained that she always wanted to pursue the opportunity to teach another subject using her Regular Ed. Certificate. "I think Spanish and Challenge give me the opportunity to be really creative in what I do and teach," she said. Teaching both subjects has given her two different experiences of being a teacher. She gets to be creative in both subjects, but in different ways. She thinks of Spanish as interacting more with social and cultural pieces, while Challenge tends to be more academic. For example, in Spanish, she organizes Merion's Spanish Festival, where students have to socialize and speak with each other, and learn about different Spanish cultures. In Challenge, she designs a project called F3 (Personal, Pursuit, Project), where students engage in independent research projects. With both subjects, she loves introducing interesting ideas and topics that students have never thought of before. For her, it has been inspirational to think outside the box as a teacher rather than strictly using textbooks.

"Teaching both subjects can be a challenge," Mrs. Glick explains. It is hard to switch gears sometimes when she’s in a Spanish train of thought to then think about a whole other curriculum with different course contents, meetings, and parent input. The good part is that the stress with Challenge and Spanish comes at different times of the year. Although Mrs. Glick recognizes that it takes a lot of work to teach two very different subjects, she still enjoys what she does. "Perhaps that students need to be engaged and really like what they’re learning. Her philosophy is to help kids love to learn."
Learning About Mr. Davis
By Raha Khazaali

I interviewed Mr. Davis to learn more about him and what it’s like being a gym teacher. He’s one of the teachers that kids love the most at Merion Elementary because he teaches sports, and most kids love sports. Here’s what I learned about him.

How do you know about so many different sports? I’ve been a P.E. teacher for 25 years. I played some of the sports that I teach at Merion when I was a kid, and I learned some in college. These days I also use the internet to get ideas from P.E. teachers around the world who post new games and ideas that I may be able to implement in our program here at Merion.

Do you like teaching all the sports every day and every year? Yes. My enjoyment comes from watching students improve.

What is your favorite sport to play? My favorite sport to play is golf because you really need to be confident in yourself and focus on what you are doing.

What’s your favorite sport to watch? My favorite sport to watch is football because it has a lot of excitement... and I love the Eagles!

Which sport is the hardest to play in your opinion? In my opinion, the hardest to play is soccer because you have to look up while you are passing, dribbling, or doing anything else so that’s what makes it challenging. You also have to be in tremendous shape because there is a lot of running.

Which sport is hardest to teach? I think basketball is the hardest to teach, because there are so many skills and rules involved. It’s not hard teaching the skills. Teaching the game itself is hard.

Checkmate: Competing in Chess Tournaments
By Terrence Xia

Have you noticed the growing number of trophies in the library? Those are all chess tournament awards. You should help get some too! (You don’t need to be in chess club to join.) Here are the reasons you might want to get involved.

First, chess tournaments not only have team trophies, but there are also awards for individual players. So whether you win as a team or earn one of your own, you have many chances to win. Everyone feels proud getting a trophy!

Secondly, playing chess helps your brain. Studies have shown that you have a lower risk of getting Alzheimer’s Disease by helping the brain establish cognitive reserve. That’s the brain’s ability to work effectively even when it is damaged or some brain function is disrupted. Playing chess also helps both sides of your brain. (One side of the brain likes pictures, and the other likes words.)

You can also discover someone else’s personality when playing chess. Are they cautious? Are they bold? Do they like to have nothing in their way and sum to take all of your pieces before trying to checkmate you? Or do they try to checkmate as quickly as they can?

Those are just some of the reasons you should play chess tournaments. You may find others. You can join a tournament online by visiting the Shining Knights website at www.shiningknightschess.com and clicking on the tournaments section. Hope to see you at the next tournament!

A Delicious Sandcastle Cake
By Julianna Bernstein

My family’s tradition every year is to make a sandcastle cake. My mom has made it for me every year since I was born for our annual block party on Labor Day weekend. The cake is made of flour, baking powder, salt, white sugar, brown sugar, four eggs lightly beaten, vanilla extract, and milk. We decorate it with sugar for sand and add decorative seashells, both real and chocolate, around the perimeter. My mom adds little paper flags from different countries on each of the four turrets on the cake. At 6:00 PM, I’m allowed to bring the cake out to the party and

I’m always so proud. The dessert table is filled with brownies, cookies, pies, cakes, and other treats but our cake stands out with its sparkling sand, the paper flags that stand proudly on the top of the cake, and the delicious chocolate shells laying out on the sand. When you first take a bite of this fluffy, heavenly cake, it tastes like warm vanilla.

At the end of the night, there are usually only a couple of pieces left on which I can feast.
How to Make Pumpkin Spice Cake

By Stella Sommer

Do you like baking? Baking is so fun, that’s why I wrote this. I’m going to teach you how to make a Pumpkin Spice Cake, with cream cheese icing, step-by-step. You will devour this cake, it is so delicious!

Batter
1 cup flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 1/2 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
1 cup pumpkin
2 large eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 cup vegetable oil

Frosting
6 ounces of cream cheese
1 1/2 cups of confectioners sugar
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/4 cup butter

Start by preheating your oven to 350°. Grease and flour an 8 x 8 pan. Now let’s start making the batter! We’ll start with the dry ingredients first. In a medium bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, salt, baking soda, and pumpkin pie spice and mix that mixture until it’s well combined. Now let’s do the wet ingredients. Put the pumpkin, eggs, vanilla extract, and vegetable oil in a large bowl and mix till combined.

Now we are going to mix all of the ingredients together. Add some of your dry ingredients to your wet ingredients, a little at a time, then mix.

When it’s all combined pour it into your 8 x 8 inch pan. Put the pan in the oven and bake for 45-50 minutes. Now while we are waiting for the cake to bake, let’s make the frosting. Get out the cream cheese, confectioners sugar, vanilla extract, and butter and mix them together in a medium bowl until fluffy. Now you are done! If you want, you can also put some of the frosting into a piping bag for decorating. To do this, first cut a snip at the end of the piping bag and add the tip you are using. Then put some of the frosting into the bag, making sure that you reserve enough to do one layer of frosting over the entire cake before decorating.

Take out the cake and let it cool for 15 minutes. Spread a thin layer of frosting on the cake using a knife. Then put it in the refrigerator for 10 minutes. When it’s done cooling, take it out again. Now you can decorate your cake and do any type of design you want with the piping bag.

Now you can eat and enjoy your cake every day. When it’s done, you can always make another one!

Fudge Brownies

By Eden Charlon

This is a simple recipe for warm, fudgy brownies that I love making for my birthday, New Year’s, or just for fun! They are quick, easy, and delicious. Anyone can make them, anywhere, anytime. They will have you salivating on any occasion!

Ingredients
1/2 cup melted butter
1 cup granulated, white sugar
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1/4 cup all purpose flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon baking powder
*If desired, add 2-3 drops of peppermint oil for minty brownies

Directions
Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease and flour an 8-inch square pan. In a mixing bowl, add melted butter and stir in sugar, eggs, and vanilla extract. Beat in cocoa, flour, salt, and baking powder. Bake in preheated oven for 22 to 28 minutes. Do not overcook! Let the brownies cool for at least 10 minutes, cut and enjoy!

The Perfect Pizza

By Ari Anafi

Since 1905, Americans have been enjoying pizza. Something about pizza makes it appealing to everyone. Could it be the fluffy cheese or the soft crust? Maybe you are a fan of the sweet tomato sauce? I set out on a quest to find the best pizza for our taste buds that is close to Merion Elementary School. Note: This article is my opinion, and you may draw different conclusions when you try the pizza yourself.

Real Pizza is located on N. Narberth Avenue in downtown Narberth. Their pizza costs $3.00 per slice, and $11.95 for a 16” cheese pizza. Their pizza is delicious with a lot of yummy, goey, oily cheese. Their pizza slices are humungous—twice the size of those at any of the other pizza places I reviewed! So, I recommend ordering just one slice. Ordering is a snap, and you never have to wait long for your pizza to be ready.

Nerberth Pizza is a small pizza restaurant on Montgomery Avenue in Narberth. Their pizza costs $2.00 a slice and $11.95 for a 16” cheese pizza, the slice size being average. I think that they have the sauce-to-cheese ratio just right, and felt that some of the other places had too little tomato sauce. The crust is also plentiful and delicious.

Tony Roni’s is a Philadelphia-area pizza chain, which Merion uses for special events. The Tony Roni’s location closest to Merion is on Montgomery Avenue in Bala Cynwyd. The price for one slice of pizza is $2.43 and $11.99 for a 16” cheese pizza. Their slices are light on dough, and in my opinion, very cheesy without a lot of flavor.

Boston-Style Pizza is a small pizza chain. The closest restaurant to Merion is conveniently located in Bala Cynwyd. The price for a slice is $2.75 and a 16” pizza is $11.49. Their pizza has plenty of tomato sauce, and is oily (how I like it) similar to Real Pizza. The dough is good—but nothing special.

My favorite pizza place out of all of them is Real Pizza. I love their pizza because I like very oily and very cheesy pizza. I also like that the slice size is big. After testing all of these pizza places, I am glad to stop eating pizza for a while. Believe it or not, there is a limit to how much pizza you can enjoy in a short period of time.

Stay Warm Recipes

By Alison Badler

Looking for some delicious treats that are guaranteed to fill you with warmth after being outside in the freezing winter cold? If so, these amazing (trust me, I have made both of them) confections are perfect for you! The rich, mouth-watering fudge topped with crushed up peppermint is perfect for any occasion, whether you’re baking to impress or just looking for something to do. The S’mores is delicious, combining creamy Thanks-A-Lot Girl Scout cookies with light and fluffy marshmallow to create edible perfection. Plus, they are both super easy to prepare—all you need is a microwave!

PEPPERMINT FUDGE

Ingredients
3 cups of milk chocolate chips
1 cup (4 oz) of sweetened condensed milk
1 tsp vanilla extract
Hard peppermint candy (candy canes work)

Directions
Line an 8 x 8 baking dish with wax paper. Combine chocolate chips and sweetened condensed milk in a large microwave-safe bowl and heat in the microwave for 30 seconds at a time until the chocolate chips are almost melted. Add vanilla extract and stir until everything is well mixed and smooth. Spread the mixture into the baking dish.

Unwrap (if needed) the peppermint candies and place in a Ziplock bag. Lay the Ziplock bag full of peppermint on the cutting board (this is so you don’t damage the surface you’re working on) and crush the candy with a rolling pin. Then sprinkle the shards on top of the fudge. Refrigerate for at least one hour, until the fudge is chilled and firm. Cut into 16 squares. Eat & enjoy!

S’MORES

Ingredients
2 Thanks-A-Lot Girl Scout cookies (the ones with different flavor images on one side and chocolate coating on the other)
1 Jumbo Marshmallow

Directions
Place two open-faced Thanks-A-Lot Girl Scout Cookies (i.e. the chocolate covered side up) on a microwave-safe plate and add the marshmallow on top of one of them. Place the plate in the microwave for 30 seconds. Take out and cool for 5 minutes. Make a sandwich out of the two cookies. Eat and enjoy!

March 2019 Merion Muse
Meet

Whatshisface

By Alessandra Cahill

If you see this book at your school’s library, don’t judge it. “Whatshisface” may be a vague name, but this story is too phenomenal to be ignored. Written by well-known author Gordon Korman, who also wrote Swindle, Stacker, Restart, and many other GREAT books, Whatshisface is one of the most realistic and also imaginative books I’ve ever read in my 10 years. Shakespeare fans will be surprised at how many references to his work are stuffed into this book, which contains both fictional and real stories about him.

Whatshisface starts with a mischievous middle-schooler named Cooper Vega. His dad’s in the military, so he gets moved around. A lot. Ever been the new kid? Well, welcome to Cooper’s life. “Whatshisface” is the nickname the kids at school give him, because he is almost invisible. Of course, his parents feel sorry for Cooper having to cope with all that, so they get him a brand new, top-of-the-market phone. It is called a GX-4000. Yay, right? Cooper’s starting to wonder if that’s right when the phone goes wacky. There’s buzzing, and a grey blur clouding his self esteem. But he does a double-take when the bbf morphs into the outline of... a person? Turns out, it’s a ghost of a boy who lived in Shakespeare’s time, but what does he want with Whatshisface?

One of my favorite parts is when Cooper tries out for the school play, Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet. When his crush is a shoe-in for Juliet, he is determined to audition spectacularly to steal the part of Romeo. His audition is spectacular, all right. Spectacularly bad. The dialogue alone is hilarious, and Cooper’s thoughts add a unique perspective to this thrilling book.

I’d say the kids in Merion would enjoy this book would be fourth and fifth graders, but certainly third, second, or first graders aren’t forbidden to read this book. For kids who like reading about Shakespeare, crashes, ghosts, and bullies (or have ever read a Gordon Korman book), get on Amazon right now! On a scale of one to ten stars, I’ve got to give it eleven. This book blew my mind. So, what are you waiting for? Get out there and find Whatshisface!

When the Game Gets Too Real

Gamer Army, A Book by Trent Reedy

By Terrance Xia

Imagine if someone invented a virtual city where everyone can access any video game in one place. You can do what you want, wear what you want (for a price of course), and play any game you want. Nobody gets hurt and everyone is safe. This actually came true for Rogan Webber, the lead character in a book called Gamer Army, by Trent Reedy.

Rogan is one of the world’s best gamers in the video game, Laser Viper. He has a max-level Ranger robot and a big ego. A Ranger is a type of robot in Laser Viper that is basically in the medium class. One day, the inventor of the Laser Viper invites Rogan to a video game tournament for the world’s best gamers. Rogan owes a lot of credits for his apartment rent, so the $230,000 prize and 1,000,000 credit reward sounds pretty good.

All of the contestants (including Shayslyne, who is Rogan’s enemy) are flown to the inventor’s headquarters for a gaming tournament where they stay up late in luxury dorms, eat junk food, and watch movies. The tournament starts out pretty well, but doesn’t end so well. The contest becomes harder, and the losers get eliminated. Plus, the contest needs teamwork, which Rogan is not very good at. He has to find the answers to some questions. Why do the soldiers and robots they fight not so weird? What’s behind all the strange glitches? And why does the game feel so... realistic? Rogan has to find the root of the game, but first he has to defeat a crazy billionaire who is obsessed with singularity and will do anything for it. Singularity is a time when a machine becomes so advanced that it has a mind of its own. Pretty crazy, right? The thing I like best about this book is that a lot of this is futuristic and if you like science fiction, you’re going to have to read it.

So, hang on to your seat—soon you’re going to be hit with the full force of the Gamer Army! Want to know how it turns out? Well, sorry, you’re going to have to read the book to find out.

A Creative Reading Adventure

The Serpent’s Secret by Sayantan DasGupta

By Sofia Vistour

Not too long ago, Merion Elementary School held its Scholastic book fair. It was a great opportunity to find new books and discover new authors that you may like.

A really good book to check out is The Serpent’s Secret by Sayantan DasGupta. This book is about a 12-year-old girl named Kiranmala, or Kiran. Living the life of a regular New Jersey girl, Kiran always knew her parents were strange compared to other parents. They’ve always called her “princess,” no matter how many times she told them to stop. It’s only on her 12th birthday that she truly understands why they were acting so strangely with her.

That day, Kiran’s life turns upside down when her parents disappear and a monster called a rakkshosh bursts into her house and destroys her kitchen. Then two princes appear and help her escape. They explain that they have come to bring her to another dimension to rescue her parents from being sucked into a black hole. They also tell her that her parents vanished because the spell hiding her from her real father has been broken. She must save her adoptive parents, and along the way, she learns that she is actually a real princess from another magical world.

The Serpent’s Secret is a creative adventure based on Bengali folktales that will send your imagination soaring. You will love Kiran’s sass and courage as she battles fierce monsters and, eventually, her own biological father. It is a book that 100% recommend!
The Hive Queen, Wings of Fire #12
A New Adventure in the Series!

By Yanna Oler

Have you ever read the chapter book series Wings of Fire by Tui T. Sutherland? It is a great series for people who like adventure, mystery, and dragons. In each book, a different dragon character tells the story from their point of view. Fans will be happy to know that the twelfth book is finally out. The Hive Queen takes us to Palacebrite, where things are changing.

In the book, the dragon Cricket and her dragon friends Blue, Sundew, and Swordtail return for more adventures. Their quest? To save the Hive wing from the wicked Queen Wasp’s mind control and tell the continent that she lied about Clearlight—a book that was supposed to tell the future. But how? Sundew’s intention is to burn the hives, where the dragons live. She wants revenge for what the Hive wings did to the Leafwings; another species of dragons. But Cricket thinks there’s another way they can take down Queen Wasp without hurting her tribe and starting another Tree War. Then Swordtail tells the crew that there’s an underground resistance of Silkwings calling the Chrysalsis that might help them. Maybe they have answers for why Cricket is immune to Queen Wasp’s Hive Mind. So they head off to find the Chrysalsis. Will they find it? Will they defeat the Hive queen? Read The Hive Queen to find out!

Overall, I really enjoy reading the Wings of Fire series. This latest book might not be the very best one, but it’s still important to the series. I liked The Hive Queen for its adventurous, cunning plot twists, and humor. I would recommend any of these books to second graders and above, once you start, you’ll be reading the whole series day and night.

Wings of Fire #12 tells the story of a young, friendly, and curious dragonet named Cricket who might stop a new war. Photo credit: Yanna Oler

Cliffhangers Galore with Three Times Lucky

By Sonya Curtyo

Are you looking for a good book to read? Well, Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage is amazing! You can’t put the book down because the author ends each chapter with a cliffhanger!

Three Times Lucky tells the story of Mo LoBeau, who lives in a small town called Tupelo Landing. She floated downstream on a raft as an infant during a hurricane and now lives in a cafe with Miss Lens and “The Colonel,” the two people who found her after the hurricane. Like Mo, the Colonel also has a mysterious past. He has amnesia and can’t remember who he was or where he came from before the hurricane struck. Although Mo is determined to figure out who her real mother is, Mo learns about the meaning of family. She learns that your family doesn’t always have to be made up of your birth parents. In addition to the mystery of where Mo came from, her town experiences a murder for the first time. Mo is determined to figure out who the murderer is with the help of her best friend, Dale.

The town of Tupelo Landing is filled with characters that have really interesting personalities. That’s why the book is so unique and enjoyable. Mo is a bold, brilliant, and hilarious person. Whatever pops into her head comes out of her mouth. Mo’s best friend Dale is a nervous, funny kind of person and he is always at Mo’s side. Other characters that make this book special are Anna Celeste (Mo’s nemesis), Dale’s older brother, Lavender (Mo’s crush), and Miss Retra (Mo and Dale’s teacher). Sheila Turnage does a good job of describing the characters through what they say to each other. Her descriptions make the readers feel attached to the book.

If anyone is looking for a good book to read, or if you love mysteries, you should try this one. Then, you can go on to read the two sequels, Ghosts of Tupelo Landing and The Odds of Getting Even, which are also superb.

Dreaming Big: Merion at MLK Day of Service

Students from Kindergarten to High School crowded the Lower Merion High School cafeteria to participate in a variety of activities ranging from packaging goods for the homeless to making cards for Veterans. Merion Elementary participated in the event by inspiring students to dream big like Martin Luther King, Jr. Students visiting the Merion Elementary table were inspired by MLK’s “I Have a Dream” speech to make dream clouds, on which they wrote about their dreams for themselves, their community and the world. (Photos and text contributed by Heather Greyson)

The Superpowers of “Bolt”

By Asal Petramfar

Did you ever see the movie “Bolt,” the story of a dog who believes he has superpowers? How did you feel when you watched it? I felt sad in the beginning when the main character, a dog named Bolt, lost his owner, Penny, but as the movie goes on, there’s so much more!

In the movie, Bolt is a dog who is adopted by a girl named Penny. They star in a TV show where the dog is supposed to have superpowers—except Bolt believes he really does have superpowers and that everything happening in the show is real life. When Penny gets kidnapped on the show, Bolt believes it’s real and escapes to find her. Then, he falls into a box and gets shipped far away.

The rest of the story is about Bolt and Penny being separated and their efforts to find each other. He walked and walked until he found some friends, including a cat named Mittens. The cat didn’t want to help Bolt find Penny. Instead, Mittens wanted to make Bolt forget about Penny but he couldn’t do it. He tries using his superpowers to find Penny but they don’t work.

Penny never gave up on Bolt either. Her uncle helped her print papers that had his picture on it so Penny could find Bolt. Toward the end, her uncle came home with a dog and told her that he found Bolt. She got really happy, but only until she understood that the dog was not Bolt.

You’ll have to watch the movie to find out if Bolt and Penny ever find each other.

Which Would You Rather?

By Amanda Kriwitsky and Nieve Clifford

Would you rather eat a disgusting but edible slime, or have it dumped on your head?

Would you rather do 1,000 sit-ups non-stop, or do 1,000 push-ups non-stop?

Would you rather be bitten by a snake or a spider?

Would you rather have a nice house or a nice car?

Would you rather go swimming or skiing?

Would you rather drink the hottest sauce in the world, or eat the sourdest candy in the world?

Would you rather eat mud or rocks for the rest of your life?

Would you rather the Eagles win the Super Bowl or the Phillies win the World Series?

Would you rather listen to 24 hours of Geico commercials or 24 hours of “We Are Farmers” commercials?
What It Means to Be Flexible

By Bryanna Maher

What does it mean to be flexible? The definition of flexibility is the quality of being able to bend easily without breaking. Some people are more flexible than others. Things like gender, age, muscle tension and genetics can play a part in flexibility. However, you can become more flexible if you stretch properly on a regular basis. Developing flexibility has many health benefits too, such as allowing you to move more easily while building strength and stability.

Consider myself flexible because I can move my body in ways that others cannot. For example, I can do a split. I can also do other moves like lie on my stomach and bend my legs so that my feet touch my head. That move is called the Cereal! I decided to ask a few of my friends about flexibility. I spoke to three 5th graders, Raha, Mytal, and Amna, to find out their opinions about flexibility. Here is what they think.

What do you think flexibility means?

Raha: Flexibility is when you are able to move and stretch your body more than others can.

Mental: I think flexibility is when you move a way that another person cannot.

Amna: It’s when you can move parts of your body in a certain way.

What can you do to demonstrate your flexibility?

Raha: I can sit down, put my feet together and bend my stomach to the ground.

Mental: I can do the Cereal by putting my feet over my head while lying on my stomach.

Amna: I can do a split. I can also do a pencil which is standing and lifting one leg into the air so it points towards the sky.

Being flexible is an amazing thing and an incredible talent for those who can do it. But the most important thing in life is just being you!

Bryanna Maher shows us her flexibility while resting. Photo credit: Raha Khazaali

A Guide to Finding a Dog

By Lily Olin

Have you always wanted a dog, but don’t know where to start? There are many things to consider, but here is how you can find your dream canine companion in seven easy steps.

Step 1
Talk with your family and make sure everyone is on board. Caring for a dog is a lot of work, so if your whole family is not willing to help out, it will not work. Therefore, you should not get a dog. However, if your entire family is ready, go ahead to the next step.

Step 2
Decide what characteristics you want or what you are looking for in a dog. Do you want a small couch potato, or a big, active dog? Is your family busy all the time and never at the house? If so, then definitely get one that can stay home by itself for a while.

Step 3
Next you need to decide if you want to get a dog from a breeder, or rescue a dog from a shelter. If you have your heart set on a popular breed, you may want to get it from a breeder. You would be surprised though by what you can find at a rescue shelter.

Remember there are lots of wonderful dogs in shelters that desperately need a home, but never get one. I can’t even write about what will happen if they do not find a home!

Step 4
The next step is to decide what age dog you want. Puppies need lots of training. You don’t want your puppy to pee all over the house, do you? On the other hand, puppies are also playful and awfully cute. A senior dog is usually a couch potato. They might be a little grumpy at first, but they can still be a man’s best friend. A young dog will still have a lot of puppy qualities, with a little bit of senior. If you get an adult dog, it will be more like a senior dog with a tad bit of puppy.

Step 5
Now you are ready to start looking! If you decide to get your dog from a breeder, make sure the people treat the dogs nicely and are not a puppy mill. If you want to adopt a dog, there are many different websites you can go to (for example Petfinder.com or adopt-a-pet.com). Or you can go look for dogs in person at a place like the SPCA or Doggie Style.

Step 6
If you have not met your potential “dog in person yet, it’s time to meet them. You want to make sure your personalities are a match. Don’t worry if the first dog doesn’t work. There is always a dog out there waiting for you!

Step 7
Bring the dog home and make sure to love it!!

Follow these seven easy steps and you will be sure to find your perfect dog!

Riddle of the Thief

By Brian Hsieh

A blue diamond was stolen from the city museum. The police have tracked the thief to five houses. They can’t search all of them at once; otherwise the thief will escape or hide the diamond. You are the city’s best detective and you arrive on the scene. The police tell you that each of the house’s owners has a different nationality, drinks a different type of beverage, has a different kind of pet, and has a different kind of treasure.

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<th>Pet</th>
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<th>Cat</th>
<th>Fish</th>
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<td>Treasure</td>
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<td>Ring</td>
<td>Bracelet</td>
<td>Necklace</td>
<td>Armor</td>
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After some sleuthing, you gather these clues. Use them to figure out where the thief is. Think you figured it out? Find the answer on page 11!

1. The first house’s owner drinks soda.
2. The fifth house’s treasure is armor.
3. The British person drinks tea (as you might guess).
4. The person who drinks tea’s left-side house has a cat.
5. The German’s right-side neighbor drinks milk.
6. The person who drinks milk has a horse.
7. The dog owner’s right-side and only neighbor has a fish.
8. The person who drinks milk’s neighbor drinks tea.
9. The person who owns the bracelet’s right-side neighbor is German.
10. The person who owns the necklace is the left-side neighbor of the German.
11. The right-side neighbor of the fish owner owns a horse.
12. The Norwegian is next to the British person.
13. The person who is a Dane is not next to the Norwegian or British person.
14. The person who has a bracelet is next to the person who drinks water.
15. The person who is British is next to the person who drinks milk.
16. The person who drinks juice has a cat.
17. The person who has armor is Swedish.
18. The person who has a dog is next to the person who has the ring.
A-Muse-ing Comics

Oh Oh Oh!
By Devin Pettit

Work Meeting
By Finn Ryan

Cowa' Bout a Joke?
By Yanna Oler

Puzzle and Riddle Answer Keys

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**Down**
1. SwanDance
2. GreatAmericanPub
3. NarberthTheater
4. VillageTreats
5. SweetMabel

**Across**
5. HandworkStudio
7. RealPizza
8. Baseball
Cartoon Caption Contest!
What would you say?

Art by Devin Pettit

Merion Muse wants to share YOUR humor with the whole school! Write a caption to go with this cartoon for a chance to get published in the next issue of Merion Muse! The caption should be no more than 50 words but ideally around 10-15 words.

Be sure to include your name and your classroom and submit your caption to the Merion Muse basket by Tuesday, March 26. We will try to publish at least one caption from each grade in our second issue!

Art by Devin Pettit

Find the Colors
By Anna Kobell

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Black | Green | Orange
Blue | Pink   | Red
Brown | Purple | White

Solve the puzzles? Looking for answers?
See page 11

Things to Do in Narberth
By AJ Higgins

Down
1. Dancers love this place.
2. This isn’t a British pub.
3. This is the best place to see movies.
4. This ice cream isn’t from the city.
5. This place isn’t salty.

Across
5. Crafty types go here.
7. This pizza isn’t fake.
8. In the spring, you might see kids playing _____ at the park.

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