

THE PAW PRINT POST

April Issue

Journalism Elective

College Entry Scandal

By: Madison Adkins and Chiara Cremonti

The children of celebrities are being accepted into prestigious colleges. That's until recent news broke that it's possible they weren't accepted on merit. The celebrities have allegedly been paying SAT and ACT test directors to bump up their kids' scores. Fifty people were charged for having a role in a false entry nationwide including three people who organized the scams, two SAT or ACT test administrators, one exam proctor, one college administrator, nine coaches, and thirty three parents.

How would celebrities get into this? Well, celebrities usually want to maintain a good image, and like most parents, want the best for their children. Lori Loughlin, Gregory and Marcia Abbott, and Felicity Huffman were among the thirty three parents that were charged. Erica Hoy, 6th grade, and Ariana Baker, 7th grade, both say that it is not morally right to have your parent(s) pay for college entry because they are taking someone's spot who deserves to be there, and they cheated their way in.

Bribing colleges presents many legal issues including that it's a felony. Bribing college officials is considered fraud. Fraud is a very serious offense which can cause many consequences and not just on the legal end of it. Colleges are very strict and have limited spots for students to fill. It takes a lot of credentials and hard work, especially to get into Ivy League schools. Dr. Watson, a teacher at Indian Ridge, was a college professor that taught leadership, history and economic courses at multiple colleges before becoming a teacher at Indian Ridge. Although he hasn't heard about any stories or gossip at the college he has worked at, he knows the serious offenses that come along with bribing college officials. "Fraud is still fraud, getting something through fraudulent means in a school that you are getting into has serious offenses," Dr. Watson said.

FSA Testing Dates

6th grade:

5/1 - ELA (Session)
5/2 - ELA (Session 2)
5/7 - Math (Session 1)
5/8 - Math (Session 2)

7th grade:

5/6 - Civics
5/9- Math (Session 1)
5/10 - Math
(Session 2 & 3)
5/13 - ELA (Session 1)
5/14 - ELA (Session 2)
5/15 - Algebra (Session 1)
5/16- Algebra (Session 2)

8th grade:

5/1 - ELA (Session 1)
5/2 - ELA (Session 2)
5/8 - Bio & Science
(Session 1)
5/15 - Geometry & Math
(Session 1)
5/16 - Geometry Session 2
Math (Session



Dr. Watson has taught at multiple South Florida colleges.



Ariana Baker (left) and Erika Hoy (right) say that paying for college entry is not right.



Administration

Principal:
Mr. Ian Murray
Assistant

Principals:
Mrs. Irene Ortiz
Mrs. Karen Birke
Mr. David Greenfield

Photo Credit: Chiara Cremonti

Do you want to know what is going on at your child's school? Come to the IRMS School Advisory Council meeting on Tuesday, May 14th, 2018 at 4:30 PM in the Media Center. We look forward to seeing you there!

What's Trending?

Billie Eilish

By Ella Dever

Billie Eilish is a 17-year old musical artist who has become very popular this year. She was born on December 8th, 2001 in Los Angeles, California. Billie's first hit song was called "Ocean Eyes." It went viral on soundcloud in 2015, which launched her career. A vocalist named Celia Babini sang one of Billie's hit songs, "idontwannabeyouanymore" on The Voice, blowing the judges away. Billie's older brother, Finneas O'Connell, writes most of her songs. He wrote "Ocean Eyes" and two years later cowrote her album "Don't Smile at Me." Billie is very close with her brother and values him more than any artist she will ever meet.

Billie released a new album called "WHEN WE ALL FALL ASLEEP, WHERE DO WE GO?" consisting of her popular songs "You should see me in a crown" and "Bury A Friend". Her album, according to her fans, has a creepy vibe to it and was released on March 29th, 2019. According to reviews of her album, a fan of hers says, "I love how this album tells different stories within each track from different perspectives. Each track presents its own unique sound and some songs story-lines can also be cleverly intertwined together." Dani Larios, a seventh grader, said, "Billie has a unique singing style where it is more like an angelic voice but creepy at the same time. I have never heard anything like her music."

Her songs help her followers with anxiety and/or depression. According to her fans online, her music helps them cope with it, making them feel less alone and cared for because they know Billie has gone through what they have and she is open about it. She tells Radio New Zealand about her song "idontwannabeyouanymore." "It's about not wanting to be you anymore, and everyone goes through that. If you say you don't, you're a liar. I go through a lot of depression and I know other people do too, but I have an outlet that so many people don't. If you have that inside of you and can't get it out what do you do? I feel like I write so that people can think of it as theirs. If my song is exactly about your life right now, then it is - I don't even want to say that it's mine because it's yours," says Eilish.



Dani Larios, grade 7, likes Billie Eilish's music because it's unique.

Avengers: Endgame

By Ciara Matthews

The Avengers: Endgame movie was released on April 26, 2019. The Avengers: Endgame movie was a sequel to the Avengers: Infinity War movie which was released on April 27th of last year. In Avengers: Infinity War, Thanos collects all six infinity stones and kills fifty percent of the universe's population with a snap.

In the credits of Avengers: Infinity War you see a clip of Nick Fury and Maria Hill both vanishing. Before he vanishes, you see Fury paging someone. When the pager falls to the ground you see a logo which Marvel comic fans will recognize as Captain Marvel's logo.

Captain Marvel was a U.S. Air Force pilot known as Carol Danvers before she lost her memory and became Captain Marvel. She gained her powers when trying to keep a lightspeed engine made by Mar-Vell, or Wendy Lawson, away from the Kree. To do this she shot the engine which made it explode. And when it exploded, she absorbed its power. But, in the beginning of the Captain Marvel movie you see Carol living a very different life on the Kree's planet Hala. She doesn't remember anything that happened earlier in her life except for some recurring memories. With the help of Nick Fury, she finds out the truth about her life. She figures out that the things the Kree told her were lies. That the Kree are actually the bad guys and the Skrulls, the people she has been helping them fight, are the good guys. And, that the Kree didn't give her powers to her and they can't take them away. She ends up helping the Skrulls and becomes friends with Fury along the way.

In Avengers: Endgame the remaining Avengers get together and time travel to get the six infinity stones to undo what Thanos did. They succeed and the Hulk snaps his fingers to bring everyone back but they soon realize that Thanos, Gamora and Nebula from the past have come back with them. Eventually, the other superheros come to help the Avengers defeat past Thanos. Tony Stark, or Iron Man, uses the infinity stones to kill Thanos but when he does this he kills himself as well.

Beyond the Ridge!

737 Airplane Crashes

By Marvin Mercelus

On March 10th, 2019 a Boeing 737 Max crashed into Bishoftu, Ethiopia six minutes after takeoff. Some people may think that this was the first crash, but there was one before that was the same airplane design. The first crash had 189 deaths; this crash had 157 deaths. The planes were made by Boeing. The CEO of Boeing issued an apology and said that the MCAS (Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System) was the reason for the crash due to an incorrect angle of attack information. The cause is hard to find because there were so many reasons this could have possibly happened that haven't been confirmed. Although, they think it was the MCAS. What MCAS could have done, it takes readings from sensors. There is also fear that the pilots were not trained fully because MCAS is automated and can be hard to work with. According to Andrew J. Hawkins, "When the Max jet was under development, regulators determined that pilots could fly the planes without extensive retraining because they were essentially the same as previous generations". That saved Boeing tons of money. The scenario according to CNN, was that shortly after launch, the plane's left sensor gave information that conflicted with the right sensor, causing the nose to tilt 40 degrees. The pilots were trying to tilt it back up, but it didn't work, and they finally crashed. Boeing addressed this and they stated that it was a MCAS malfunction. They have cancelled a huge amount flights, about 90 flights a day. Boeing is already in a bad situation and the cancelled flights are making it even worse. It got to the point where that the CEO of Boeing said that they need to earn back trust due to these two accidents. There are rumors that they "rushed" the plane to compete with Airbus, their rival.

Notre Dame Cathedral

By Hannah Keller and Ms. Didier

The Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France caught on fire on Monday, April 15. The cause of the fire is still unknown but is believed to be an accident. The fire alarm went off twice, once at 6:20 pm, and then at 6:43pm. After 9 hours, the firefighters put out the fire. Much of the interior was still intact, like the bell towers, the cross, the alter, and its stained-glass rose windows. Historical relics, including The Crown of Thorns dating back to the 13th century, and brought to France by King Louis IX, were removed immediately, preventing damage. Notre Dame Cathedral is an 850-year-old church that will now take approximately 2-5 years to repair. This will be just in time for the 2024 Paris Olympics. Global News reported that in just one day after the fire, \$995 million was raised with donations from companies such as Apple, L'Oreal, Chanel and Dior, and The Walt Disney Company, along with French businessmen.

The Notre Dame Cathedral landmark was not only a place to worship. Tourists from all over the world have been photographed in front of the Cathedral. According to Conde Nast Magazine, it has been tagged and posted more than 1.3 million times on Instagram alone.



The Notre Dame cathedral in flames on April 15th.
Photo credit:
Wikimedia

Sport-acular Jags

A Year In Review

By Ella Glassman
and Carlos Mallet

The Indian Ridge sports teams did a fantastic job this year! Since it is the end of the year, it is time reflect on each team's performance and listen to what the players and coaches have to say about the seasons. The many sports at Indian Ridge include basketball, soccer, golf, cross country, volleyball, track, flag football, and cheerleading.

Boys Sports

This year the boys sports teams have had a great year with many accomplishments! These include, but are not limited to the volleyball team making it as far as the semi finals, the boys basketball team winning their last 6 games of the season after having a rough start, and the football team coming up clutch in division games such as the one against Falcon Cove. Although, not all teams were able to say they were part of the playoffs, they can all say they ended the season with a positive record and learned a lot more about the sport they participated in. Mainly, the coaches think practices need to be more intense to improve themselves next season. On the other hand, the players believe they need to improve their chemistry. Aiden Andreu, a member of the volleyball team adds on to this by saying, "We could have done even better if we bonded as a team more." This is something for coaches to take into consideration. Ultimately, these sports players have done amazing this year and have each want to improve their results next season.

Girls Sports

The girls teams for IRMS were amazing this year! The majority of the coaches said if they run harder practices, the team will play better in games. In agreement, most of the girls said the coaches need to work them harder. In addition, Madyson Whal from the soccer team says, "The team needs to communicate more." The soccer team went all the way to the playoffs, but sadly did not go to the championship. The girls basketball team played an interesting game against Franklin Academy, where they won 46 to 2! Some of the girls on the soccer team said the best part of the season was when they beat Tequesta Middle School. All of the players are excited to try out again and the coaches cant wait to come back.



This is Lucas Pitera from the cross country team. Lucas says he enjoyed playing for the team. Photo credit: Ella Glassman

This is Ava Bristol. She was on the girls volleyball team this year. She says "There is always room for improvement." Photo credit: Ella Glassan



Sport-acular Jags

Track

By Jaden Little and Gabriel Pacheco

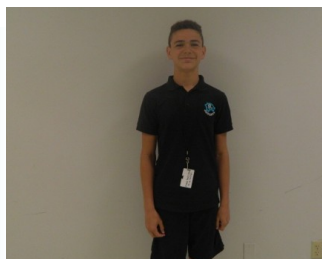
In IRMS, track is one of our sports. Lots of players say they do track because of the exercise. According to Annabel Alazraki, an 8th grader, track practices are held Monday through Wednesday every week. She said, “In track what you do is run relays and pass the baton and sometimes jump over hurdles.” Giuliana Stanko, a 6th grader who is participating in track for the first time this year commented, “In track practices they mostly run 800 meters.”

At their meet on Tuesday, April 16th at home vs McNichol and Perry, they did not take the win, but the players are confident in their next meet. There are two more meets and the dates are Thursday May 9th at South Plantation High School and the Big Country Championship at Coral Springs High School. All home meets begin at 4:30. The track season will end in May. The teammates support each other by “cheering each other on in different races” says Giuliana Stanko.

Mr. Brosz, one of the track team coaches, said, “I think we are doing great this year; we are way better this year than the last few years. The athletes need to listen to their coach and come to practice every day.” Jake Lubar said, “Mr. Brosz is a really good coach and teaches us about our forms and how to run the right way and execute better. And I learned to get nervous, feel confident, and feel relaxed. Most athletes like Jake Lubar and Annabel Alazraki enjoy track because of the running and jumping over hurdles. Mr. Brosz is proud of his team because they show confidence and they work together.

Regarding the progress of the season, Jake Lubar said, “We had a good first meet and we got 2nd place out of 6 teams.”

Photo Credit: Ella Glassman



Annabel Alazraki said that she participates in track because, “I enjoy exercise and running”

Photo Credit: Ella Glassman

Jaguar on the Spot

Preparing For the Best Summer Yet

By Malik Suleiman and Jordan Miller

Indian Ridge students are as excited as ever now that summer is coming very soon. After a long, tedious year of assignments, teachers, projects, and late nights studying, students are ready to indulge in a long break. Summer begins on Tuesday, June 5th and many students have thrilling plans. Many are organizing bucketlists, parties, and plenty of other activities to make their 2019 summer break perfect. From traveling to new and delighting places, to hanging with friends at summer camp, students are preparing for the best summer yet.

Many students are planning to go on vacation outside of Florida. Whether it's in the country or abroad, visiting foreign places is on the top of their to-do list. People are flying to places such as Spain, Peru, Pennsylvania, Canada, and New York. Many students are also going on cruises. Some of their cruises will be going to Mexico and the Bahamas. Most of the people interviewed mentioned that they were going to summer camp. Some summer camps relate to the sport the student plays. Kierra Williams, a 7th grade student, claims that she will be attending a tennis summer camp.

We surveyed 86 students at IRMS, and 64 of them are going on vacation during summer. Also, out of the 86 students we surveyed, 22 of them are going to summer camp this summer. We also asked Ms. Golembiowski where she was going and she said New York. Ella Dever, a 7th grade student who we surveyed, is going to Europe. She stated, "I am going to Germany, and taking train rides to different cities there, I'm also going to meet my sister who is studying abroad."

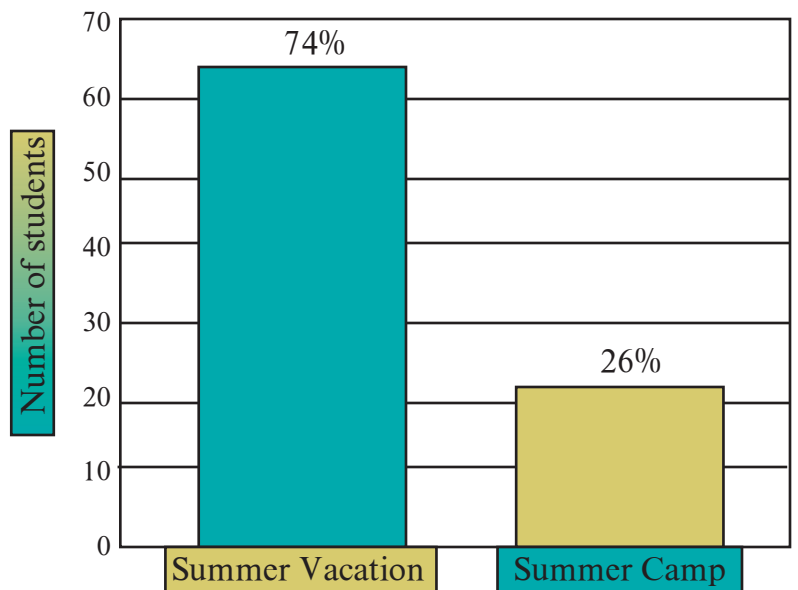
After all the testing and school work over the past nine months, summer break is highly anticipated. Students have so many exciting plans ranging from summer camps to exotic cruises. Are you ready to have fun this Summer?



Kierra Williams a 7th grader, is going to a tennis camp.

Photo taken by Jordan Miller.

What Students are Doing for Summer



The Jaguar Den

Week of the Ocean

By Isabella Bueno

Week of the Ocean is a fair for 7th grade science classes throughout Indian Ridge this April. 7th grade students chose a project category and created a project according to the guidelines. Categories included ocean poetry, salty satire, ocean posters, ocean art, ocean crafts, underwater human habitat, techy ocean teaching, and ocean projects. Students present in front of their class and get judged by their teachers as well as their classmates according to the effort they put into their presentation and project.

Week of the Ocean isn't a walk in the park. Students don't just need to make a fun project, but they also need to write a research paper on their ocean/organism. Some classes require a 1000-word research paper while other teachers recommend 700 words. Anthony Jones, a student who participated in the fair, states that it took him, "a few days" to do his research paper and project. Organisms people chose, ranged from sea turtles to great white sharks, and starfish to pufferfish. Sea creatures were better explained throughout the duration of this fair and some issues were addressed. For example, pollution was one of the topics affecting many of the organisms and oceans in people's projects.

Week of the Ocean was time consuming but informational. Students learned about sea creatures while doing their research and while listening to their classmates. Week of the Ocean is an important event for seventh graders around Indian Ridge.



These magnificent projects displayed in the media center are getting the recognition they deserve.

Photo taken by Jordan Miller

Step Team rocks the stage during their performance!

Photo taken by Vania Guadarrama.



5th Grade Orientations

By Vania Guadarrama

Soon-to-be 6th graders from different schools took a tour and learned about Indian Ridge Middle. Several elementary schools came to visit IRMS on April 16th, 17th, 18th, and 23rd from 10:00 to 11:15, including Silver Ridge, Flamingo, Fox Trail, and Country Isles. During the orientations, the students met the principal, Mr. Murray, the 6th grade administrator, Mr. Greenfield, and several elective teachers. Topics like agendas, uniforms, IDs, and rules and procedures were covered. There were several performances done by clubs to show the students a sneak-peek into what they do best.

The orientation was coordinated by the 7th grade peer counseling program. Every peer counselor had an important role in their orientations. Students worked endlessly to make everything go as planned. "I had to remember many pages of information to make our orientation successful," Shayna Banano says. Ms. Golembiowski, the orientation manager and peer counseling teacher, had high expectations for her students. She expected all her students to be energetic and work together. Lena Castellano, one of the orientation MCs, exclaimed, "The performances and work done by every person were lively and well-coordinated."

The Step Team, Cheerleaders, Band, and Chorus performed to show off their skills. They all cleaned up their performances and improved every time they did it. "It's a great way to recruit new members ... we need to show them what we do best," Irlanda Velasquez states. The performances were action-packed and made the 5th graders excited to join their groups and become IRMS Jags!

Up For Debate

Should Teachers Wear Uniforms? By Dani Larios and Jonathan Ramirez

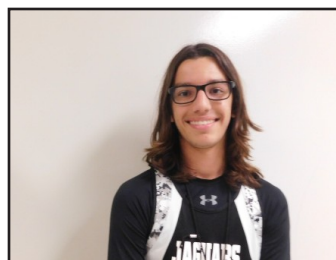
Most schools require all students to wear their uniforms and IDs. But should this apply to staff and teachers as well? Although it's obvious that students would want teachers wearing uniforms because they think it'd be more fair, there are other benefits as well. If teachers wore uniforms, it could increase the safety at school.

YES Damon Bell, an eighth grader at Indian Ridge, believes teachers should wear uniforms. He said, "It would allow people to distinguish who is a teacher and who is not. People will be able to see your school colors and if you're employed in the school or not." This is true, since outsiders wouldn't be wearing the school uniforms. Jonathan Ramirez, a 7th grader at Indian Ridge also feels that teachers should wear uniforms. He responded, "Yes, if they are enforcing these polo shirts and bottoms for us to wear, then the staff should also wear the same uniforms as well. It would also benefit security. IDs can help security members around campus identifying who is who." Uniforms allow teachers to look more professional, which is important for a learning environment. Looking professional helps students know that the teacher is the head of the classroom and that he/she should be taken seriously. Uniforms also show that they're ready to teach and that they care about their students. Adhering to a certain dress code helps show off the school's colors and logo as well.

NO Kyle Deedrick, an 8th grader at Indian Ridge, feels that teachers and staff shouldn't have to wear uniforms like students. He says that they shouldn't wear them because they could be uncomfortable or not feel welcomed. He also responded that uniforms could benefit in the school's safety by letting people know who's part of the staff and who's not. Mrs. Birke, the 7th grade assistant principal also believes teachers shouldn't have to wear uniforms. She says it is against the teachers' contract that they are mandated to wear uniforms. Mrs. Birke states, "I think if uniforms were going to be imposed upon the adults, the uniforms should consist of a shirt that has the school logo."



Kyle Deedrick, 8th grader: teachers shouldn't wear uniforms.



Damon Bell, 8th grader: teachers should wear uniforms.



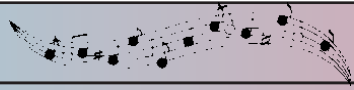
Jonathan Ramirez, 7th grader, says teachers should wear uniforms.



Mrs. Birke says teachers shouldn't wear uniforms.

Jaguar Judges

80's vs. Today



The 80's lifestyle was very different than today's lifestyle. Some would agree that they were better, while others would say the opposite. In the following editorials, four Paw Print Post members share their opinions on the topic of whether the 80's were better than today.

My opinion on the "80's vs Today" topic, is that the 80's were better. The bands were better back then. Bands actually played instruments and they had a lead singer. For example, Motley Crue had a bassist, a guitarist, and a drummer as well as a lead singer. While bands of today, like One Direction, are all lead singers. They have the exception of one or two members of bands that actually play an instrument. They didn't pretend to be someone else and have a fake persona, which to me was better than today's musicians' fake perfect lives.

- Sharon Hopengarten

I think the 80's were not better than today for a few reasons. I personally really like the music we have now, and I've heard the music they had back in the 80's. I enjoy today's music more because it's more of my taste. I also enjoy today's trends more. 80's clothes just seem a little too funky and loud for my liking. I don't think people from the 80's would have really liked how I dress because my clothes are pretty simple. And not to mention 80's hair, a wild and curly poof on your head. I absolutely wouldn't be able to stand the music, fashion, or trends from back then. But it would be cool just to go back in time and see what life was like.

-Dani Larios

In the 80's, a bunch of things that were popular just look weird today. To be honest, most things that we've never seen before look weird to us. In the past thirty years or so, new stores and styles came along. Of course, some of the new styles may have come from the 80's, obviously some elements changed but the overall style didn't change as much, for example big sleeves. Back then, big sleeves were on the shoulders, when now big sleeves are near the wrists. So, the 80's fashion was not good or bad to say, there are both good things and bad things.

-Dalila Blanco-Oriolo

I believe the 80's was not the best time period to be alive in. I think that today, we are more advanced than back then, and we have come a far way to be thinking about the past. The 80's did not offer many of the advantages we have today. Our amount of education has increased, technology has been much improved, we have found many different cures to diseases we did not know existed, and rate of crimes such as murder and theft have severely lowered since the 80's.

-Jonathan Ramirez

Dear Jaguars...

Dealing with Peer Pressure

by Vanessa Flores, Rylie Gilland, Giselle Bouzaglou, Gabriel Maya

At Indian Ridge, students are continuously pressured throughout the school year, academically, emotionally, and socially. Peer pressure is an influenced decision caused by someone. Peer pressure can affect not only you, but your health, too. These influenced decisions can weigh heavily on your attitude and can also lead to even worse decisions.

Spoken pressure is when someone pressures you into doing something you do not want to do. An example of spoken peer pressure is someone asking you to try a vape or to drink alcohol under age. Unspoken peer pressure is when you feel that you are having to do something because other people are doing it. If you find yourself in a spot where your friends are trying to get you to do something you don't want to do, then remember it is ok to stall. Ms. G, the peer counseling teacher, advised students in this situation to try and get out of it by making an excuse for leaving. This would give you a little bit more time to decide what to do from there.



We interviewed Ms. G on what contributes to peer pressure. She said, "One of the things that contributes to peer pressure is that kids feel like they need to be liked by other kids. Not everybody has to like you and you have to be wise when choosing your friends. A friend who tries to pressure you into doing something you do not want to do is not a good friend."

There are different types of peer pressure, like spoken and unspoken. There are also different forms of peer pressure. Unlike spoken and unspoken which is the act of pressuring someone, there is negative and positive pressure which is the overall affect or outcome. Negative peer pressure is when someone is trying to influence you to do something that you shouldn't do. For example, insisting on doing drugs, drinking alcohol, causing a fight, cutting school, or even getting you to steal. Positive pressure is when someone tries to encourage you to do something that you may not want to do, but it is something beneficial. For example, a friend trying to encourage you to keep trying when you really want to give up.

We interviewed Tyler Jenkins, a Peer Counselor, about Peer Pressure. His advice is "To have a family member pick you up if you are in a situation that is going a dangerous way, which could harm yourself in the future or in that moment." We asked what someone should do once they have gotten out of a pressuring situation. He responded, "... you can see how you can change from it. Maybe you did something bad, but you can say, 'Oh I'm never gonna do that again'... It's pretty much a learning experience." Tyler's advice to Peer pressure is, "It's better to say No and not regret it later."

Fuzzy Feelings

April's Autism Awareness

by Vanessa Flores, Rylie Gilland, Giselle Bouzaglou, Gabriel Maya

The Paw Print Post is recognizing the month of April for Autism Awareness. Autism is a condition affecting the nervous system. Another name for autism is autism spectrum disorder, or ASD. Many factors can influence certain symptoms. This disorder blunts the ability to communicate and interact socially. The three main types of autism are Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Asperger Syndrome, and Autistic Disorder.

Autism symptoms vary depending on where the person's autism falls on the spectrum. High-Functioning Autism (level 1) is the lowest on the spectrum and symptoms are not as severe but still effect everyday life. Autism (level 2) is the next level on the spectrum and is more noticeable. Severe Autism (level 3) is the highest level of Autism. Some symptoms of Autism are not understanding social cues and stimming, which is having repetitive actions or movements such as finger-flicking and rocking back and forth.

Our Experiences by Rylie Gilland and Gabriel Maya

Gabriel:

Living with my brother that has autism can be difficult, but I find a way to calm him down. I help him with reading because he can't read. He can get a little out of hand, but I can handle it. He likes to pick on me and my little brother, but he stops when we get annoyed. Because I live with someone who has Autism, I now see autistic people the way they would like to be seen in other people's eyes. I am more generous towards kid with autism since I know their struggles.

Rylie: I live with a little sister who has Rett Syndrome which falls onto the autism spectrum. Living with my sister has changed my perspective of people who have autism. It has changed my life because I now feel empathy for them since they have to deal with those problems that most of us never have to experience. For example, one day my sister woke up and started making noises. Then my other sister started yelling at her because she wouldn't stop making noises, then my little sister started to cry. I would never blame her for what she was doing because I know it wasn't my little sisters' fault. I have realized how important it is to show tolerance, acceptance, and patience with her, and any others I meet that are on the ASD spectrum.



Mrs. Ramirez, an ESE Support Facilitator, was interviewed about how she has bettered from being involved with people who have exceptionalities. She said, " So, I guess when you're a kid, you don't really know what's going on. So when you go to a store and see a mom with a kid whose freaking out, you'll kind of look at them. But now being an adult, who deals with kids with disabilities, you're not as quick to judge, point a finger, or make a face. I'm more sensitive to other people."

Cubs of Character

TOLERANCE

By Hadley Turner and Kayla Barcenas

Being a middle school student is difficult. You constantly feel judged by everyone around you, not to mention the pressures associated with social media and its affect on self esteem. But imagine a world where you could be yourself, flaws and all, and no one would mind, you were just accepted for exactly who you are.

The character trait of tolerance is when you recognize and respecting differences, values, and beliefs of other people. This is such an important trait to have in today's world. Whether you're working in customer service and dealing with a loud costumer, or a teacher dealing with a misbehaving student, you need tolerance, because you would want others to do the same for you. Having tolerance for another may seem difficult at times, but it will surely pay off in the long run. The most important way to be tolerant, is to be patient, have lots of self-control, and be kind. Tolerance can prevent many disasters, especially in teens.

CUBS OF CHARACTER

Sixth grade:

Andrea Aguila, Addison Shea, Stella Seamon, Jake Davis, Jacqueline Correa, Camila Palacios, Bailey Moyer, Sophia Tikasingh, Gabriela Menendez, Kayla Aurich, Skylar Schock, Karla Ramos, Madison McEachron, Ashlyn Zavarro, Camille Hansinger, Gabriela Gamba Esquivel, Javian Lewis, Mason Gordon, Madden Edwards, Kalani Aybar, Miguel Angel Martinez, Hope Elgazar, Anjali Nori.



Anjali Nori is a sixth grader, who says, "Tolerance is quality that everyone needs to have."

Seventh grade:

Alexia Rodriguez, Sage Cuevas, Tyler Hilaire, Alexandra Burgmayer, Veronica Mazzella Dibosco, Matthew McCoy, David Balta, Ashlyn Korn, Justin Zeller, Khang Ho, Chung Nguyen, Ava Bosket, Marco Morales, Tam Ho, Isabella Mandoeng.

Phiona Francois, is an eight grader, who believes, that tolerance is acceptance and understanding.

Eighth grade:

Romie Penton, Yiley Linares, Jenna Sahrleh, Ariel Dery, Tai Nguyen, Jody Cunningham, Sam Orcinolo, Lisa-Mba Kolley, Arrissie Ambroise, Phiona Francois, Philip Marano, Alex Castaneda, Krish Chatuvedi, Evelyn Guardado, Jayden Perez, Nathan Hogan.



Staff "Spot"light

New Teachers at IRMS

Coach Gray

By Samantha Decapua By Hunter Ring

Coach Gray grew up in the state of Indiana, and attended Marian University in Indianapolis, Indiana, for his teaching degree. Even though growing up Coach Gray wanted to be a pilot, he always liked the idea of teaching as a backup plan. Since both his mother and father were teachers, and his favorite subject was P.E., it wasn't a hard choice. "I decided to join the IRMS staff, because I felt like it was a great opportunity to work with a great staff and feel at home. Accepting the job at IRMS gave me the opportunity to move back to South Florida and get out of the Midwest."



Ms. Finley

Ms. Finley is one of the new teachers here at the Ridge. Ms. Finley says that all of her children are fantastic and that she would love to teach here again next year because of how nice it is. She loves getting to know the kids more than anything when teaching, because she is interested and loves to learn, as well as teach. Ms. Finley believes that when teaching, kids sometimes have a negative attitude towards learning, which she says can be quite challenging. She took over for Ms. Ingraham, and has been welcomed by the staff with open arms.



Mr. Alcin

By Hadley Turner

Coming to a new school in the middle of the year is difficult in many ways. But for Mr. Alcin the transition was rather easy. Mr. Alcin taught at a high school for about eleven years before coming to IRMS. And while he's jumped around different grade levels, he has always taught either social studies or civics. When asked what challenges and pleasant surprises he had faced in coming to a new school, he said, "The only reservations I had was wondering if the students would accept me or not. I was pleasantly surprised by their warm acceptance." All in all, Mr. Alcin's experience at IRMS has been great so far!



Ms. Finer

Although Ms. Finer is not a teacher, she is the new 6th grade guidance counselor here at The Ridge. She is constantly running around the school, yet she still finds the time to interact with, and help, various students. She has had a warm welcome to the school, and plans on staying a member of the Indian Ridge Middle staff.

By Kayla Barcnas

“Paw”se to Remember

EARTH DAY

By Hannah Brant

“What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.” Jane Goodall

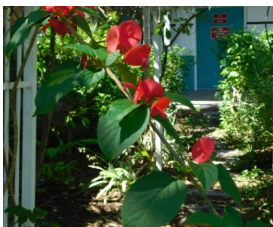
On April 22nd millions of people celebrate the Earth we live on. This annual holiday has been celebrated for over 49 years marking the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement.

Earth Day was brought to attention in the United States roughly around the 1970's. Air pollution from the products like gas and tobacco were commonly accepted in a means for the businesses to grow, and the environment wasn't commonly talked about. Although America remained oblivious to environmental concerns, a woman name Rachel Carson changed that by writing a single book. In 1962 the publication of her New York Times bestseller Silent Springs, represented a historic moment . The book sold more than 500,000 copies in 24 countries, and it began to raise public awareness and concern towards the environment and living organisms and it all linked back to pollution. Earth Day in 1970 channeled the energy of anti-war protest movements and put environmental concerns on the top.

Sadly, the very Earth we live in is facing more damage than it has had in many years. Things such as pollution, global warming, coral bleaching, and poaching, just to name a few, are killing our environment quicker than anyone could imagine. According the World Resources Institute, a large study has found that up to one half of all plants and animals' species on dry land could face extinction by the year 2050 due to global warming, and 100 species die each day due to tropical deforestation. The loss of trees to deforestation equals twenty football fields, or 1,152,000 feet, cut down each minute. In addition, plastic is another huge issue. Each year around 300 million tons of plastic is produced for modern use, and out of that 8 million tons is dumped in the ocean. Less than 1% of those bags find their way into the recycling bin. Because of this around 1 billion birds and mammals are dying each year from the ingestion of plastic. Due to many environmental issues they all combine to form global warming.

Humans are the only ones that can stop and change the way we live, and we should make the change. The many issues cause harm to the organisms, plants, and even humans every day. It is critical that every person does their part and contributes to helping the earth because the smallest deed can make the difference.

Beautiful flowers in the butterfly garden.



Ms. Prager is with some of her kids that run the garden.



Multiple vegetable plants in the garden.



TIPS AND TRICKS TO HELP THE EARTH

By Valerie Roa

Earth Day was Monday, April 22. It's purpose is to teach us about the Earth and how to help it. Earth Day should be every day because it's necessary to help it as much as we can. The Earth needs to be taken care of and everything we do counts. There are countless ways to take care of our ecosystem and many of them are not complicated. Some things we can do to help our planet are recycling, reducing the amount of plastic we use, minimizing the use of energy and water, and planting trees including many others. This is our home and the home of many other creatures. Think about the earth and the animals that live here every time you leave a plastic bag on the sidewalk or keep the light on in your house when you are not home. Taking care of a garden is a great idea to help the earth because it provides us with oxygen and more nature and plants in the world. According to Ms. Prager, herself and her class have been taking care of the garden for two years and "we plant strawberries, green peppers, cucumbers, peas, and three banana trees" This is an awesome fun activity to get organic, healthy food while helping mother nature. Another great idea that professionals have been working on are eco-friendly technology and products from eco-friendly search engines to eco-friendly cars. Tesla is a company that sells electric cars that do not use any petroleum or gasoline. These cars are for sale already and they will become more common in the near future. Also, Ecosia is a search engine that uses the money it makes to plant trees. This is just one out of thousands of eco-friendly products that you can use and most of them are not as expensive as a high-tech car. Help the Earth, help our home.

