

THE PAW PRINT POST

December Issue

Journalism Elective

The 2018 Winter Olympics

By : Diya Mehta and Zachary Montealegre

The 2018 Winter Olympics is going to be held February 9th, 2018 – February 25th, 2018 in Pyeongchang, South Korea where the best athletes from countries throughout the world can compete for medals in celebrated winter sports. This is the second time that South Korea has hosted the Olympic Games, the previous being the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul. Fifteen different sports, including skiing, snowboarding, ice hockey, and figure skating will be played in over 102 events. Alpensia's ski centers will be serving as the main location for the games.

Russia has been banned from the Games after cheating in the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. Athletes were allegedly using performance-enhancing drugs, or doping. Many athletes who doped and participated in Sochi have been stripped of their medals after being investigated by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Russia has also been fined \$15 million to pay for the investigations conducted on the athletes. The IOC has decided that clean athletes, who didn't dope, could compete in the Olympics under a neutral Olympic flag. None of the medals they win would be awarded to Russia. It is unsure whether or not Russia will compete at all at the Olympics, because they may boycott it all together.

Remember to tune in to the Winter Olympics on NBC to see many talented athletes compete in fantastic sports!



Photo courtesy of nbcolympics.com

National Assessment of Educational Progress

Indian Ridge Middle School will be participating in NAEP testing with randomly selected 8th graders. The testing will take place on February 14, 2018.

NAEP is often called the "Nation's Report Card." It is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in core subjects. NAEP is congressionally mandated, and was first administered in 1969 to measure student achievement nationally.

Your 8th grade student will be notified if he/she will be part of the selected testing group.

Letters to the parents of those selected students will be given to the students in January, 2018.

Please visit our Indian Ridge website for additional information about NAEP.

Feel free to contact Mrs. Morgan, 8th grade School Counselor and NAEP Coordinator at Indian Ridge, at 754-323-3351 with any additional questions.

Administration

Mr. Frank Zagari, Principal
Ms. Irene Ortiz,
8th Grade Assistant Principal
Mr. Michael Lyons,
7th Grade Assistant Principal

Ms. Kellee Davis, 6th Grade Interim Assistant Principal

Beyond the Ridge

PRINCE HARRY POPS THE QUESTION!

By: Logan Wealcatch & Sydney Long

On November 27, 2017, Prince Harry popped the question to Meghan Markle. They are set to marry on May 19, 2018 at Kensington Palace. The couple met through mutual friends, and knew they were meant to be the day they met. Planning the wedding isn't the only thing they have to do, Meghan is taking safety training classes which has hostage scenarios and terrorism attack classes. Because of how she is preparing, many people think she will fit in perfectly and succeed at the role of being part of the Royal Family. When a student, Giana Mattis was asked, she said, "I think Meghan Markle will do very well with her new royal family. Meghan Markle is the first American to be taking a Royals hand in marriage. Meghan Markle is used to the spotlight as she plays a role on the USA Network show," Suits," as Rachel Zane. With her engagement to Prince Harry, the spotlight is shining even brighter, now that royalty is part of this actresses life. Prince Harry is also used to being in the spotlight, manly for good reasons. But this Christmas he sparked some controversy with the Markle family. By commenting about how his family is the family Meghan has, "never had." The Markles commented by saying ,“She has a family.”Even with all the controversy the newly engaged couple will stay strong, and marry happily.



What's Trending...

Cali Fires Gone Wild!

By: Camila De Leon Regil & Camryn Kreitman



Story written during the week of Dec 18-22.. Updates can be found on alternative news sources California wildfires had been going strong since Monday, December 4th, in Bel Air, Ventura County, and other parts of California due to a very dry climate, deforestation, and low humidity. The fires have burned through homes, buildings, streets, and even major highways. In addition, schools were closed since the previous Thursday and Friday. Even UCLA, had to be closed down days before important final exams. The busy 405 Freeway near the Tony Bel Air area of Los Angeles was shut down because of the almost five hundred acre massive fire. The freeway has since reopened, but many lanes and ramps remained closed as of December 22. The wildfires have destroyed over 150 buildings and homes, with residents forced to evacuate Monday night. The fire's name is Thomas, roughly the huge size of Denver, Colorado, has grown so immense that it can even be seen from space! California residents have said that the wildfires have caused extreme amounts of damage since Monday, December 4th. People are trying to help the victims by collecting and donating items and necessities for support. In addition, fire crews are working around the clock to prevent the fires from spreading more.

Invisible Box Challenge

Kids today are coming up with trends almost every single day. One of the most recent trends that has risen to fame is the invisible box challenge. With a simple tweet, Ariel Olivar, a Texas high school cheerleader began a viral video! She posted a video on Twitter of herself attempting the box challenge on December 2nd, 2017 that got 145,000+ retweets. She defied the laws of gravity as she stepped onto an invisible object. Although this cheerleader may have made it look easy many other videos clearly showed us that this is not a simple task.

First, you need to set the scene. Imagine that there's a box in front of you. Second, throw your foot up and hold it. Put your foot in a position where it looks as if you are jumping over a box. Next, jump by lifting your opposite leg higher than your stationary leg. Jump as if you are jumping over a box. Lastly, that's if you actually complete the challenge you can celebrate and post videos all over social media. From flipping a bottle to applying 100 layers of makeup to your face, we definitely have come a long way especially with defying something even scientists can't ...gravity!

Paw - some Players

Down, Set, Hike!

By: Daniel Coulson

2018 is here and with a new year comes a new team! From December 4th tryouts were held after schools to were boys and girls of all grade levels tried out to make the two new teams. in order to prove to the coaches that the students should be part of the team, students had to run, run, run. during the tryouts coaches had the students primarily do running exerises like running forward and backward, catching a ball and sprinting.

With a new season comes a new chance to go undefeated. this wont be an easy feat, coaches will have to hold many practices in order to get there team into tip top shape.



Basketball Review!

By: Madison Feller

On Thursday, December 7, the IRMS boys and girls basketball teams played their final game against Nova Middle in the Indian Ridge gymnasium. After a very successful season for both teams, the girls sadly lost with a score of 15-19. The boys also lost with a score of 40-35. Since this was the semi-finals game, neither the girls nor boys will go on to the next round of playoffs.

We are very proud of our Jags this basketball season, as they kept fighting and made it all the way to the semi-finals! We know the teams will both continue to do great things in the years to come.



The Boys' Volleyball Team Sets Up for a Great Season!

By Madelyn Streisfeld



Accomplished, proud, special. This is how the new players on the 2017-2018 boys volleyball team feel as they get ready to ace this season. They have worked hard to prepare for their first game of the year, which took place on December 21st.

As the season kicks off at IRMS, the boys' volleyball team practiced hard to prepare for their first home game. "I really wanted to represent the school," says Justin Reisler, a 7th grader on the team. "It's very different when you are playing a sport and wearing that Indian Ridge jersey... it pushes you to try your best." After three days of intense try-outs and a lot of preparation, the final cut list was posted for the boys to see. It was a new experience for many of them, either having never been on a school athletic team before, or trying out for volleyball for the first time. It shows our Jags have some real talent! "I'd go up to each cut list telling myself I didn't make it, and then I would see my name up there on the paper." explains Cristian Alvarez. The team has one goal this season: to try their hardest and get to the championships!

"It was a lot more fun trying out for a sport this year as a seventh grader," said Dominic Alonso, another player on the volleyball team. "In sixth grade, you don't have as much of a chance as the older kids, but that's what makes it so enjoyable when you finally get on the team in seventh or eighth grade." The first game of the boys' volleyball season on December 21st resulted in a victory! It was a close game, but the boys kept fighting until the very last second and won two out of three of the sets! It was a great way to start the season!

Block! Assist! Spike!

By Catherine Otero

The girls on the volleyball team practice for their 1st game!



It's volleyball season and the girls on the team are excited! They practiced for their first game on December 18th at Glades Middle School, which was canceled, but had another game on Thursday the 21st! We interviewed 2 girls on the team, Sydney Long and Titarina Carpio, and they gave us their thoughts about volleyball, making the team, their reactions, and how they all work together! Former team member, Sydney Long, says she was "really excited to play volleyball again and see everyone who was on the team last year!" Titarina Carpio, former team member as well, shared her thoughts about teamwork, "We all try to help each other if we don't know something."

The Jaguar Den

By Cristian Carrillo, Camila Rosales, and Chloe Bruce

Can the Teachers Ball Too?

By: Cristian Carrillo, Chloe Bruce, and Camila Rosales

On December Twenty-Second, Indian Ridge hosted a Teacher V. Student Basketball Game. The teams; the Basketball Teams against Indian Ridge's own staff members. Every year this game is bound to be entertaining,, and along with that, all proceeds raised from this game go to various charities. So, in the end, everyone wins! However, this year, the teachers were the ones came out on top! Go IRMS Staff!



From a Few Pennies to a Couple Benjamins

By Cristian Carrillo, Camila Rosales, and Chloe Bruce

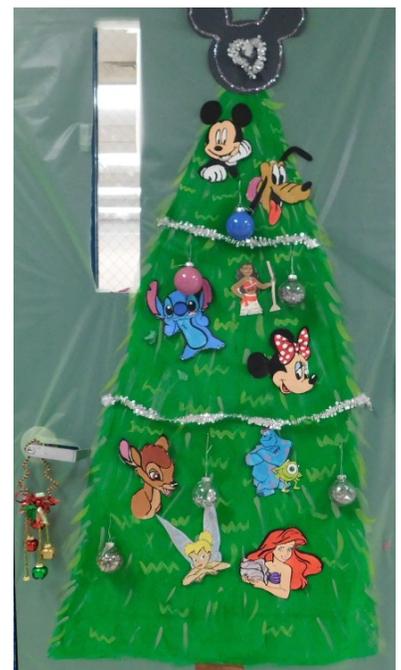
Every year, Indian Ridge holds a Coin Drive to raise money for ongoing Student Council projects. However, this fundraiser does not only benefit the school. According to Dr. Watson, the head of Student Council, "Monetary contributions to other organizations are also given, including the Make a Wish Foundation, and the Broward County Humane Society." In previous years, some of the profits were given to the American Red Cross. Once, they even made \$25,000!!

This year, though, they only expect a humble \$300. This fundraiser has been going on for a few years now, and it does not look like they plan to end the drive anytime soon. To find out more about the Coin Drive, and Student Council in general, visit Dr. Watson in room 161.

Door-Decorating Duel

By: Cristian Carrillo, Camila Rosales, and Chloe Bruce

It's that time of the year again. When we come together for the holidays to...decorate doors!! The door decorating contest has been held for two years now. It was run this year by Mrs. Hill and previously by Mrs. Knowles. This year, 15 teachers participated. The winners received gift cards and other various rewards, along with bragging rights. Some teachers even decorated a whole hallway! Ms. Santos, Mr. Laury, and Mrs. Prager with the help of their kids made a whole Whoville! Last years winners was the now sixth grade office. However this year, the winner was the all-around great, Journalism, Language Arts, and Yearbook teacher herself, Ms. Didier! With the help of her fantastic students she managed to create a door that represented Christmas, Hanukkah and Disney magic!



Jaguar on the Spot

School Starting on a Wednesday?!

By: Ethan Horwitz and Madison Green

The Broward County School District recently released the 2018-19 school year calendar online, and to many peoples surprise it starts on a Wednesday to give teachers time to plan. Next year, school will start on Wednesday August 15, 2018. Not only does school start on a Wednesday it will also start six days earlier than the 2017-2018 school year. This will be the first midweek start in recent years.

However the school year will also end a day earlier than this school year.

Students and teachers have many different opinions on this matter. Most students and parents dislike the idea, however there are a few that think it is a smart choice, like district officials and teachers. One student, Irlanda Velazquez in 6th grade said “School should start on a Monday so that you can have an entire first week.”

District officials think it’s a good idea for the school year to start on a Wednesday so that the two semesters for secondary schools can have the same amount of days. One teacher, Ms. McGann thinks its a great idea saying, “Everyday brings more challenges!” Parents, however, oppose this because they think that an earlier start could interrupt sleep-away camps or family trips.



“This should change because you will wake up the rest of the school year on a Monday.” said 6th grader Brooke Goldman.



“It is a bad idea because it should be consistant with the rest of the year.” said 7th grader Kameron Willis



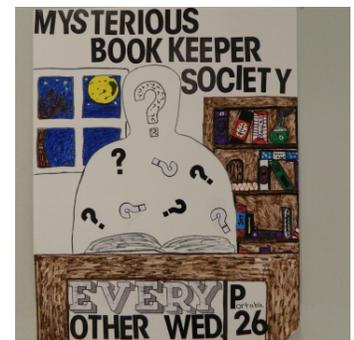
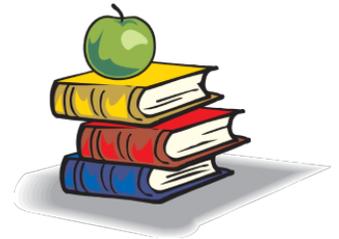
“Its a bad choise because we start earlier and we are supposed to enjoy our summer.” said 8th grader Gabriella Martinez

Pawsome Clubs

Reading for Fun!

BY: Cami Cala

The Mysterious Book Keepers Society is a group of students who meet every other Wednesday to discuss the book they read for that month. They meet in portable twenty-six with Ms. Kannal in charge. This months book is Counting By Seven's. Zoey Manriquez, a seventh grader who is very passionate about books stated that reading many different types of books helps her build stamina. Zoey again stated that reading books that she normally wouldn't read helped her explore new genres. The Mysterious Book Keepers Society is a great academic club that helps students build their reading skills.



Beliefs Made Bigger

By: Claire Cheatham

First Priority improves students views and connects interests with their religion. On Thursdays students meet in room 130 to discuss each others points of views of Christianity. This club joins kids that feel separated from the their religion and helps each other reconnect. Ms.Wynter, a 6th grade science teacher holds weekly meetings. First Priority often invites guest speakers. In these meetings they also go over each others stories and perspectives in Christianity. Saylor Graff, a First Priority member says she was drifting away from her religion. First priority tied her and Christianity together once again. For fun First Priority has pizza parties to add a kick to each meeting. This club is a great way to feel connected with Christianity again if you feel distant from it!

Electives That Make Us Go Wild!

Hola!

By: Andrew Morales

Ms. Flesh teaches the Spanish elective from first through fifth periods at Indian Ridge Middle so that kids have the advantage of being bilingual. As of now, the students are being taught "grammar rules, expressions, and right now we're learning adjectives to describe people," as dedicated student Erick Matosinho says. Mrs. Flesh's teaching style was described as, "very active and moving and also has a lot of activities." This style of teaching is very useful and teaches the students very well, which is what makes her a great teacher.



The Future Writers of America

By: Jasmin Mathney

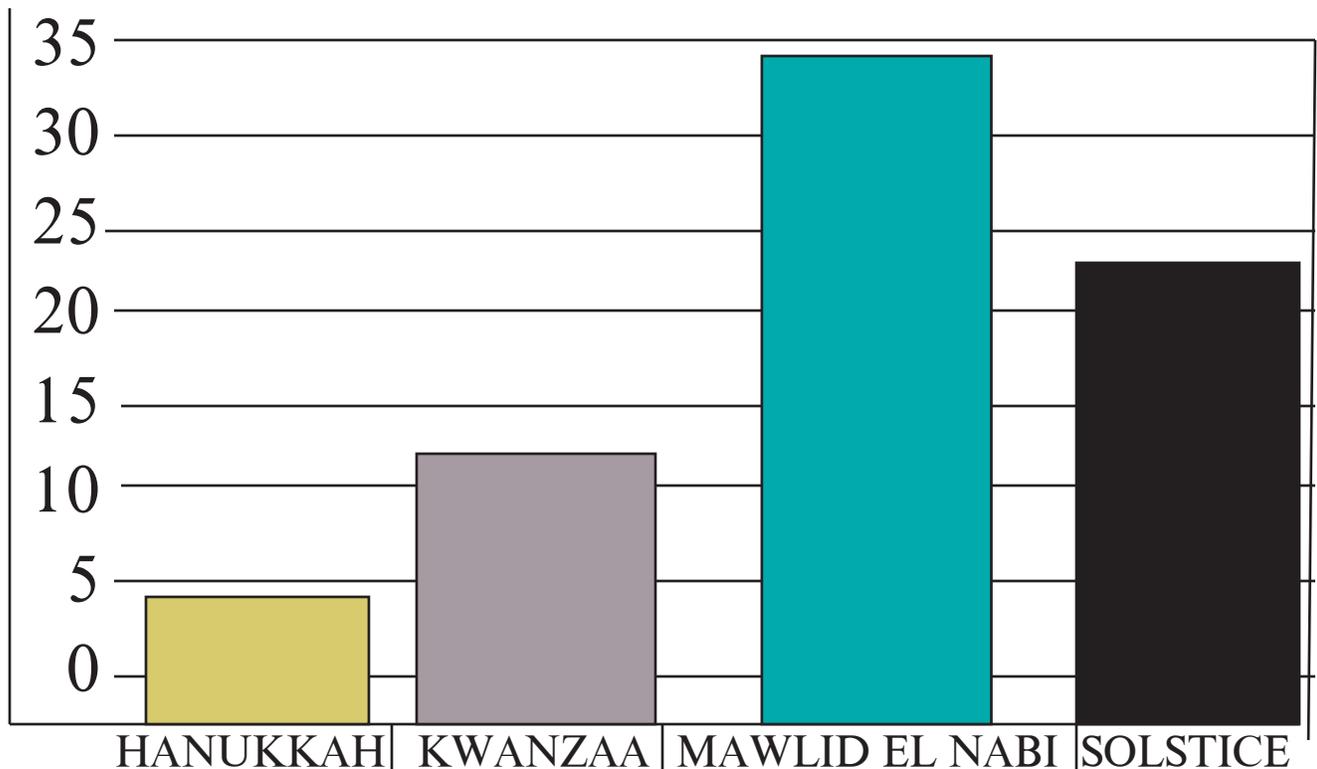
Journalism, a seventh grade elective, is held in Ms. Didier's classroom. Journalism students are talented writers learning additional writing skills above and beyond essays and poetry. They create articles for the school's online newspaper, The Paw Print Post. The elective was made as a prerequisite course for the Yearbook elective. It is only 7th graders in journalism, and they are responsible for choosing interesting topics that fit their assigned section each month. Our school newspaper contains many articles to inform students and members of the school community about topics from school events to the latest trends. There are thirty-four members in this elective and each provide their individual strengths to interview, photograph, and research all of the articles for the newspaper. Every one of these young writers learns new tips and tricks to advance their writing skills. Journalism is mainly about writing, but the elective also improves traits such as note-taking, teamwork, and confidence. After, completing all the requirements of creating an article, it must be edited, then approved, and finally published for student enjoyment. Journalism has a demanding, but rewarding, process for creating each and every issue.

Up for Debate

By: Eli Seiden

When you think of the holidays what do you think of? Maybe snow, candy canes, or gingerbread. Many people only think of Christmas. At Indian Ridge Middle School 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes were asked which holiday they think is represented the least. For example, there are Christmas commercials for candy and cars. For Hanukkah and Kwanzaa there are commercials for Hallmark, Walmart, and Target. From Christmas to Kwanzaa, the traditions may vary, but are all of the holidays represented equally?

What December holiday do you believe is least represented?



Jaguar Judges

Recently, there has been an abundant amount of powerful and courageous women coming out about misconduct in the workplace nationwide. Our Journalism team has some strong opinions on this matter, since it will greatly affect the world around us.

Aysia Jarrett

Women coming out towards misconduct...I believe this generation is learning more about how to stick up for themselves. No matter the race, color or gender, we should all have equal rights. The next generation will learn from this one, and everytime a woman or man comes out and protects themselves they are teaching the kids that will soon be the adults. Nobody should be treated in the wrong way.

Amber Kelly

Misconduct, especially against women, has been surfacing recently, which has had a positive impact on society. With the uprising, hopefully women will now speak up about these kinds of situations. I believe that men and people in general will be more aware of how they treat women now that they are open about it. But there are some negative affects from the reports of misconduct as well. The large amount of reports being filed means that some may be false. Some women are stretching the truth and can get themselves in serious trouble. Overall, the misconduct has made people more careful of how their hands, and bodies are used in that matter of speaking, and hopefully put misconduct to an end.

Eli Seiden

I believe that the recent misconduct cases by celebrities, will severely effect the next generation. The things that have been occurring are not okay. From government officials to newscasters, this is bad. This is setting a horrible example to the next generation. Just because people are famous doesn't give the the right to do whatever they want. If famous people keep doing this, bad things will happen. I think that people who commit these unspeakable acts should go to jail. Just think about everyone who would be affected by these actions.

Giana Mattis

The effect that misconduct will have on our generation is that it will inspire them. It will allow kids to feel more motivated and comfortable to speak their minds. I feel that these events not only happen to women, but men too. These mishaps in history will/could have a lasting effect. The lasting effect this could have is that it will allow others to kill off a prejudice block we have in America. Once this prejudice block is gone equal rights would be more equal.

By; Aysia Jarrett, Amber Kelly, Giana Mattis, and Eli Seiden

Welcome to the Jungle

By: Carly Heilig, Ashley Castresana, Ariel Rivero, and Jenna Sakhleh

Winter Formal?

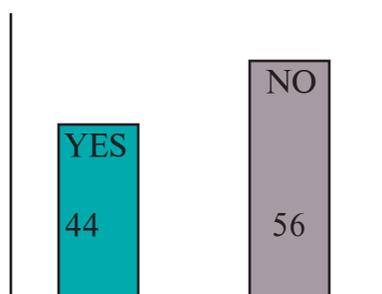
On December 1, 2017 students of all grades got together and danced, ate, and had fun with friends. They were having fun at the winter dance. This dance was a celebration for the winter break coming up soon. Although many kids came, we polled 100 students to find out if they wish that it would have been a winter formal, instead of a winter dance. When the results were analyzed, the final result was 44 students said yes and 56 said no. Many students said no because they like the dance just how it was. They like being able to just walk over to the auditorium in their casual and comfy clothes. On the other hand though, many students would prefer that it was a formal dance. They wish that they could go home and get all dressed up, and then come back to school to have fun. Valerie Pares, a seventh grade student, said she wished it could have been a formal dance because the dance wasn't interesting to her.



A+



Would you attend a formal winter dance?



Congrats on an A+!

On December 5, 2017 the students with straight A's, from all grades, were called to the cafeteria. When they arrived at the cafeteria they were able to go and sit with their proud parents. These students had worked extremely hard to achieve A's in all of their classes. They had to perform well on all of their tests, quizzes, projects, and many other assignments. Each grade was called up separately. When the student heard their name called they got to go up to the stage, with their certificate in hand, and receive a bag of goodies, and a hand shake from both their assistant principal and our schools' principal, Mr. Zagari. After the ceremony concluded, the parents and students got to enjoy pizza and drinks. Afterward some of the students had the choice to leave early, whereas others went back to class. Now each and every student continues to strive for A's in the second quarter so that they can be called up to that same stage once again.

Outside of the Jungle Walls

On December 21, 2017 students at IRMS preformed in the Winter Showcase. They presented skits, dances, steps, and much more to express performing arts.

Dancing to the Beat!

Samantha Orcinolo, seventh grade, and Mariam Kolley, sixth grade, both participated in the Winter Showcase. Some of the performances were dances such as the conga dance, and a hip hop performance called the Nutcracker mash up. Paula Gorokhovsky, seventh grader, played the clarinet and Jordan DeBlasis, also a seventh grader, played the saxophone. Paula stated “I am not scared. I have done it hundreds of times.” On the other hand, Jordan stated, “Even though we have practiced it many times I am still a bit nervous.”



These performing arts students are presenting their dance called Conga.



The step team formed a “W” during their performance as a part of their routine.



Singing your Heart out!

Beside dancers there were other performances such as hilarious skits, beautiful singers, and amazing step dancers. The singing performers were Natalie Solomon, Jaime Shrewsbury, Anna Fox, Madelyn Streisfeld, and Daphney Bendayan. There were also many skits such as “The Secret Life of Teachers”, and “You Can’t Sit With Us”. These skits were humorous and showed off the students acting skills.

Cubs of Character

Kids of Kindness

By: Kira Patel and Emily Ryan

At Indian Ridge Middle School December is the month of kindness, where teachers chose students who they believe demonstrate a good character and make others smile. Due to winter break, there were no kids of character but, here are kids who were nominated because they demonstrated kindness.



Sixth grade

Hannah Keller stated, "It was really cool to be nominated for the first time this year, better yet in middle school." We also asked Hannah how it felt to be nominated. She stated, "I felt really honored because it shows that I am a great friend and student."



Seventh grade

Jasmin Mathney stated, "I am really happy that I was nominated for the month of kindness and I also believe I was nominated for helping my fellow classmates in school."



Eighth grade

"It was good to know I was nominated for a character trait since it is my last year at the school." stated, by Noor Azeem. She also believes that she has been nominated for a trait in seventh grade. This shows what a great student and friend she is to others.



Staff "Spot" light

Introducing Our New Administrators!



By: Saioa Elesgarai

Ms. Ortiz is the new eighth grade assistant principal at Indian Ridge. She took Mr. Muniz's place when he retired, and started working on November 28th, 2017.

Ms. Ortiz has been working as a marketing and finance teacher for over 20 years. Now, she ensures that all learning and teaching is in every classroom or portable. Ms. Ortiz came to Indian Ridge from Olsen Middle School in order to take over in Mr. Muniz's absence. She worked at Olsen Middle there for seven years and wanted a new experience.

Ms. Ortiz's goal is to bring a positive effect to Indian Ridge. She wants to "...encourage students to look into their future careers and take their role as a student as an active change agent of their future." Ms. Ortiz also hopes to introduce our school to a writing camp. The writing camp is to help students prepare for the writing exam in March. Indian Ridge gives a huge welcome to Ms. Ortiz and hopes to have her for many years.

By: Elisha Peter and Quinn Kustin

Ms. Davis is taking a temporary job as an assistance principal in the 6th grade office, and started working on November 30th, 2017 while Ms. Knowles is on maternity leave.

Ms. Davis has been an administrator for 14 years! She has always been working in middle schools and Indian Ridge Middle has been her 4th school of employment.

As an assistant principal, Ms. Davis makes sure that every student receives a quality education in a secure environment. She also supports the vision that Mr. Zagari has for the school. Ms. Davis is proud to be at a school like Indian Ridge Middle that has "...such a stellar reputation." Ms. Davis is glad to be a part of the Indian Ridge family. She believes "IRMS has many academic initiatives that work well for the school." We are excited to have Ms. Davis as a part of the Indian Ridge family for the months to come.



Paws-ing to Remember the Past

The Bombing at Pearl Harbor

By Emma Barney and Sean Craney

Seventy-six years ago, on December 7th, at 7:48 in the morning, there was a Japanese naval air strike at Pearl Harbor. Pearl Harbor is a U.S. naval base near Honolulu, Hawaii. 2,403 innocent Americans lost their lives. The attack was a surprise, but Japan and the United States had been nearly at war for decades. So, angered, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt announced that American would officially be entering World War II which was happening at the time. After four years of fighting and plenty of bloodshed, Japan surrendered in July of 1945, three months after Germany surrendered. Now every 7th of December, we pause to remember the attack on Pearl Harbor, that caused the nation to join a ruthless war.

No one had expected this to occur, as Pearl Harbor was located near the middle of the Pacific Ocean, 2,000 miles from the U.S. and 4,000 miles from Japan. Also, Americans thought that Japan would attack nearby European colonies.

Pearl Harbor was attacked by 353 Japanese aircrafts, American navy battleships were damaged, then four sank. Over 20 important naval ships were damaged or destroyed leaving little left of Pearl Harbor. When it came to the Japanese, the losses were minimal with only 25 aircrafts lost and 64 fatalities. Following the attack the U.S. formally declared war on Japan and entered

World

War

II.



Credit: Wallpaper Clicker