

THE PAW PRINT POST

2020 Presidential Candidates

By Ella Glassman and Carlos Mallet

With the 2020 election quickly approaching, there are many celebrities who are rumored to be running for President. Some of the rumored candidates are Oprah Winfrey, Will Smith, Kanye West, and Alec Baldwin. Seventh grader Adam Rosen states he would like Kanye West to win because he is a very respectable man. Taeyoung Kim from Ms. Golembiowski's second hour said, "I would like Oprah to win because we need a woman president, she is a great influence, and she is very well educated." Sophia Espinoza adds, "I would like Oprah to win because she is an amazing leader." Elizabeth Ochoa states she would like to see Will Smith take the election because, "he is very mature and professional." Obviously, everyone has mixed feelings on who they would like to win out of these rumored candidates, and the idea of having a celebrity is definitely interesting! Here's a preview of the most likely candidates for 2020.

Elizabeth Warren

Elizabeth Warren is one of the strong candidates for the 2020 presidential election. Elizabeth Warren will be running as a Democrat. Warren is one of two Senators for Massachusetts, serving since 2013. Warren is mostly focused on rebuilding and fixing the middle class, as she was born into a middle class family in Oklahoma. Elizabeth's rule for her campaign is: no fundraisers, dinners, receptions, or phone calls with wealthy donors. Here is what Warren says about this rule, "For every time you see a presidential candidate talking with voters at a town hall, rally, or local diner, those same candidates are spending three or four or five times as long with wealthy donors -- on the phone, or in conference rooms at hedge fund offices, or at fancy receptions and intimate dinners -- all behind closed doors."

Howard Schultz

Howard Schultz, former CEO of Starbucks has announced that he is going to run for president in 2020. He is currently on an independent run for president. This means he is neither a democrat or a republican but is running for president with no formal party connection. There are many people who think he couldn't run for president including the current president, Donald Trump. Trump says, "Howard Schultz does not have the guts to run for president!" This doesn't affect Schultz at all as he proudly states, "I think I can beat the system." Although Schultz is confident in himself, the Democrats believe 'the only thing he will accomplish is getting Donald Trump reelected.'



Howard Schultz, a presidential candidate for the 2020 election. He will run as a third party.
Photo credit: Stephen Brashear
Elizabeth Warren, current Senator for Massachusetts, will run as the democratic candidate.

Administration

Principal:

Mr. Ian Murray

Assistant Principals:

Mrs. Irene Ortiz

Mrs. Karen Birke

Mr. David Greenfield

Beyond the Ridge

Climate Change Affects America

By Isabella Bueno and Malik Suleiman

Cold temperatures during a Polar Vortex affected northern states at the end of January. Citizens were trapped in their homes, barricaded by snow and unable to go outside. The last Polar Vortex occurred in 2014. Polar Vortexes aren't common. There have been some major climate changes throughout the U.S. since the mid twentieth century, and people have been contributing to the rise of temperatures. Pollution and littering are some problems humans create that destroy our atmosphere. Ice in Antarctica is receding; satellites measure that Antarctica is gaining sea ice but losing land ice at an accelerating rate which has implications for sea level rise.

Climate change is the gradual warming of planet Earth. According to NASA, "Climate change refers to a broad range of global phenomena created predominantly by burning fossil fuels, which add heat-trapping gases to Earth's atmosphere. These phenomena include the increased temperature trends described by global warming." The increased heat causes events such as the sea level rising, loss of ice in Greenland, and the Arctic glaciers melting. Animals such as polar bears, ringed seals, and koalas, can be affected by climate change, making them endangered species.

With changing temperatures, winter ice is beginning to melt. Over time, the January polar vortex caused a lot of missed school days. Global warming is not a good thing though. Once all the snow melts, temperatures will keep decreasing. This puts plants, animals, and humans in danger. With more UV rays, people can get sunburned, or in severe cases, skin cancer. Plants that are used to cooler temperatures will die out. Animals will get sick. The polar vortex and global warming are parts of a major climate change the world is experiencing.



Polar vortex affecting northern states with its polar climates.

Photo Credit: independant.com

What's Trending?

Ariana Grande Top Three

By Jordan Miller

On February 16, 2018 Ariana Grande was the first artist to have 3 songs in the Billboard Top 100 since The Beatles in 1964. “7 Rings,” “Break Up With Your Girlfriend, I’m Bored,” and “Thank You, Next” are the top 3 songs on the Billboard Top 100 (in that order) as of February 25th. “7 Rings” has been number one for four weeks in a row. This is the first time “Break Up With Your Girlfriend I’m Bored” is on the Billboard Top 100. “Thank You, Next” was number one for seven weeks, then it dropped to number seven and now it’s at number three. “Thank You, Next” took a big step forward from number seven to number three. “7 Rings” rose from 10 to 9, up 23 percent to 61.7 million audience impressions in the week ending Feb. 17. Ariana Grande has had 13 songs on the top 10 throughout her career.



Ariana Grande is the cover of a magazine.

Photo Credit to E! Online

Shane Dawson's New Series

By Vania Guadarrama

Shane Dawson started a new YouTube project on investigating popular conspiracy theories on January 30, and fans are losing their minds. Shane Lee Yaw, famously known as Shane Dawson, is a comedian, influencer, and actor with over 20 million subscribers on YouTube. The influencer is especially interested in theories. Previously, Dawson has released series starring famous YouTubers with backlash to answer questions the public has. When Shane Dawson released his trailer for the upcoming series, fans were curious and eager to watch part one.

For example, Dawson explains a longtime conspiracy theory that left-over pizza slices are combined, re-heated, and served to the next customer. The reasoning behind the speculation is that each pizza slice is shaped differently, and the toppings do not match up between slices. Instead of just discussing the theory, he decided to look for answers and ordered a pizza. They stood in complete shock as their pizza came with inconsistent slices. Social media flooded with reactions and memes on the postulation. The restaurant was getting extreme backlash and bad publicity.

According to NBC, Chuck-E-Cheese, the restaurant in question, later responded to the controversy by sending Dawson a cease and desist letter, meaning he had to erase the video. However, this has not been confirmed by Dawson. “I think Chuck-E-Cheese should relax because Shane has the right to speak about the controversy,” Lena Castellano, a seventh grader and Shane Dawson fan, explained that Chuck-E-Cheese may take legal actions and come after Dawson. Nonetheless, since the Constitution’s First Amendment states he has the right of freedom of speech and press, he could use the First Amendment as protection from any potential lawsuits.

Sport-acular Jags

Boys Volleyball

By Dalila Blanco-Oriolo

At Indian Ridge Middle School (IRMS), there are a variety of sports, including volleyball. All games started at 4:30 p.m. this season. If there was a game, all players left their 6th period class at 3:30 p.m. to start preparing for the game at 4:30 p.m. Hunter Ring, a player on the IRMS volleyball team, said, "Practice begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 9 a.m. and is usually on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday." The semifinals this year were on February 4th. Unfortunately, the boys volleyball team made it to the Championships but fell short with their only loss for the season. This sport helps with people's trust, social skills and responsibility. Students in a school sport learn these skills faster than students that are not, and develops trust amongst teammates that they will spike, set, or serve the ball as planned. As far as responsibility goes, you must show up to the practice and games on time and ready to work. Students make more friends in school sports because they have the same interests as the other students on the team.

Boys Flag Football

By Dani Larios

Besides volleyball, Indian Ridge also offers the sport of Flag Football. To be part of the team, you must have participated in try-outs and made the cuts to be on the team. Carlos Mallet, a seventh grader on the Indian Ridge Boys Flag Football team, has been playing the sport for a year. He likes Flag Football because it helps him stay active for when he's not playing basketball and it helps him become faster and stronger. When asked about what teammates do at practice, Carlos says, "We run a lot. We practice our routes, practice plays, practice defense." Carlos adds that the most difficult part about playing Flag Football is being able to cover his zone. When there's an upcoming game that he needs to get ready for, he stretches and practices his routes. Practices are everyday of the school week except for Fridays. They last from 4:10 to 5:15 after school.



Hunter Ring, seventh grader on the IRMS Volleyball team.



Carlos Mallet, seventh grader on the IRMS Flag Football team.

Sport-acular Jags

Super Bowl LIII

By Sharon Hopengarten and Jonathan Rameriz

The 53rd Super Bowl was on February 3rd, 2019. The two teams that played were the New England Patriots and The Los Angeles Rams. Most say it was a dull game. After all, it was the second lowest scoring in all of NFL history. The Patriots beat the Rams 13-3.

The Patriots have won the Super Bowl five times before, making their recent victory against the Rams their sixth win. The game went on for four hours with the halftime show in between featuring several performers, one of which was Maroon 5, the lead act, followed by Travis Scott and Big Boi. Several individuals were interviewed to learn what their favorite players, plays, teams, and singers were. For the most part, the people that were interviewed were rooting for the Rams, saying that the Patriots were “winning too much”.

Seventh grade student, Adrian Martinez was asked about these topics and said he wanted to see "Lil Pump" perform next year at the half-time show. He also stated that his favorite play was when they “intercepted the ball”.

Coach Rubin, a Physical Education teacher here at Indian Ridge Middle, was also asked about the Super Bowl. This year he said he was rooting for the Rams. He said he liked to root for the “underdogs.” Next year Coach Rubin says he wants the Miami Dolphins to play in the Super Bowl. His favorite play was, “the first kick off return.” Coach Rubin told us why his favorite player in the Super Bowl was James White, because he was a student at this school. Next year he says he wants "The Village People" to be in the half-time show. As for this year though, he said, “Adam Levine had some weird dance moves.”

In a nutshell, Super Bowl LIII was a slow game. The Los Angeles Rams and New England Patriots didn't put up a good show. According to several of the interviewees, although they wanted the Rams to win, they did expect the Patriots to come out on top.



Photo credit:
David Goldman



Photo credit: USA Today



Photo credit:
sportingnews.com

Jaguar on the Spot

Spring is Back At It!

By: Giselle Bouzaglou

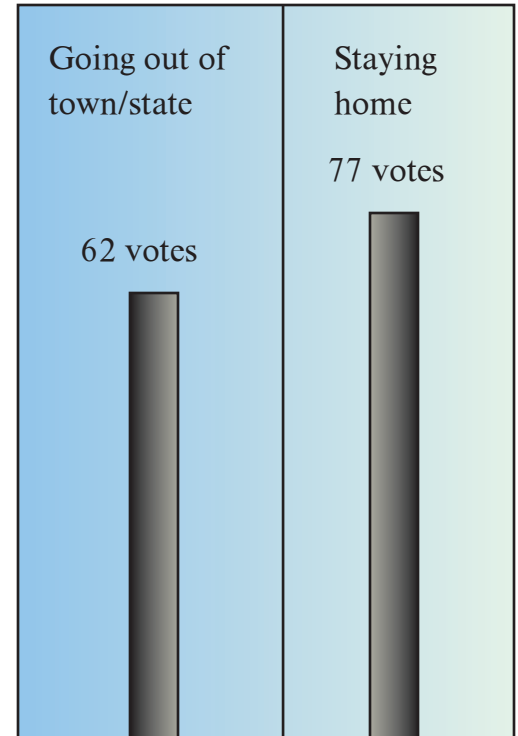
From March 25th to the 29th, students and staff across Broward County are able to take about a week off from school for Spring Break. Trying to find out the “perfect” spot for a vacation can be difficult. A family may choose between vacation places or spending time at home together. Although both ways are great ways to start off your break, trying to find out where to go during a small break can become a tough situation. In spite of that, ideas such as San Francisco, California, or nearby Orlando, Florida, could be great suggestions. According to a survey, many people believe that Almaguero Coast, Italy is a wonderful place to visit. Due to its several beaches and hiking trails, people have loved to visit the town. Plus, there are 13 cliffside mini-towns to explore.



Angelina Grimes says, “Spring Break in Universal. I’m going on all the rides.”

Photo credit: Rylie Gilland

Q: What will you be doing this spring break?



Other than traveling, it is okay to stay in state or town. Quality time with your families should be important. “I’m going to Universal to meet up with some of my family members,” says sixth grader Angelina Grimes. Her family will be going to Universal, Orlando, Florida for spring break. Staying in state could possibly narrow down your choices instead of going to another state. Staying in town can be a better alternative, if you are not a traveling type family. You could be next to friends and family members for a better experience. Nearby there could be entertainment centers to go to, such as a nearby mall. Local attractions are a great way to spend a week off. Staying at home, sleeping, relaxing, and playing video games or watching Netflix, is also a way to go!

The Jaguar Den

By Vanessa Flores and Gabriel Maya

Literary Fair Winners

Congratulations, to all the first place winners of the 2018-2019 Literary Fair!

6th Grade

Children's Book: Madison Lamay

Fable: Savannah Simpkins

Comic Strip: Daniel Mastrodomenico

ABC Poem: Gino Diaz

Copy-Make Poetry: Charlee Shon

Ekphrastic Poem: Madison

Freixas-Hernandez

Ode: Wade Prevatt

Classic Literature Book Cover: Kylie

Osenkowski

7th Grade

Informal Essay: Jaiden Weber

Poetry Movie Poster: Valerie Roa

Myth: Caroline Waller

Personal Narrative: Taeyoung Kim

Cinquain: Giselle Bouzaglou

Poem for Two Voices: Natalie Solomon

Rhymed Verse: Madisyn Urquhart

Sestina: Nicholas Forero

Shrinklit: Joey Fisher

Prose Interpretation: Madisyn Urquhart

Poetry Interpretation: Nicholas Forero

8th Grade

Scene Writing: Star Nguyen

Satirical Cartoon: Asha Seemongal

Short Story: Zoey Manriquez

Free-Verse Poetry: Valerie Lopez

Haiku: Taylor Gregory

Spoken Word Performance: Johnathan

Fuentes

Sonnet: Brennan Dickson

Tritina: Lily Wukasch

The Literary Fair

From the end of January to the start of February, students at Indian Ridge wrote, drew, and performed entries for the Literary fair. Now the results are in. Language arts classes of each grade gave out the options of which type of entries the students can do. Each grade has a different list of options. There is 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for each category. The winners worked hard to put in effort and creativity to their piece. This hard work paid off, as the winners will have their entries placed in "The Book of Lit." This is an Indian Ridge book of all the winners and their entries for that year. A copy of this book goes to each winner and each language arts teacher.



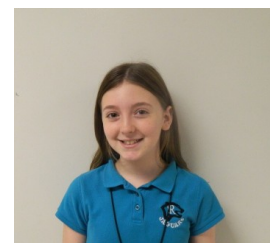
All the winners of the science fair gathered together to take a picture with their winning projects on display.

The Science Fair

The students in Mrs. Hazza and Mrs. Weizman's classes participated in the Indian Ridge Science Fair on February 8, 2019. Out of all the students, ten were chosen to continue to the county fair. The winners are: Luca Pitera, Edie Killpack, Noah Dolberg, Maria Gaitan, Nicole Dale, Karsten Woltz, Conner Applebaum, Cameron Vannostrand, Maryn Buchsbaum, and Natalie Pascut. Congratulations to all the winners and good luck in the county fair!

The Spelling Bee

A group of students from each grade competed in the Indian Ridge Spelling Bee on January 23, 2019. The language arts teachers gave out a list of words that may or may not be used in the competition. The students practice the words, and then, on the day of the competition, the students compete to win. Whoever goes the longest without spelling a word wrong, wins. The winners were Kristela Malaj (8th grade), Leah Budraj (7th grade), and Charlee Shon (6th grade).



Charlee Shon was the first place winner for 6th grade. She said she studied with her grandmother for the competition.

Up For Debate

SAFER≠SAFE

By Hadley Turner and Kayla Barcenas

In the past two years, vaping, notably the brand *Juul*, has spiked in popularity with teens and adults. A lot of adults have picked up vaping to help stop smoking, whereas teens have started to be cool or due to peer pressure. Schools have put in policies prohibiting vaping, but that doesn't stop most students from doing it regardless. It's most common among high schoolers and college age students, but there have been a few cases where middle schoolers have been caught Juuling/vaping. Whatever your age or reason to start, you should stop. A lot of people's defense to vaping is that it is safer than smoking, but does safer really equal safe? While it is true that vaping has way less chemicals than cigarettes it still can have nicotine, the addictive substance in cigarettes. We asked two Indian Ridge students what they thought on the subject, and while they were controversial on semantics, they agreed that you should never vape or smoke.

“Vaping is an addictive substance that is very bad for you. It has less chemicals than cigarettes but it is still unhealthy. I have in the past but wouldn't again, it was a bad idea and I only did because my friends were, but wouldn't do it again, it was a mistake,”
anonymous



On the left is a 30 year old man, whose vape pen exploded in his mouth. Unfortunately this happens far too often.
photo credit: Nate Eaton of the East Idaho News

Don't be afraid to seek help if you are struggling with nicotine addiction. Whether it be a teacher, parent, sibling, or some type of authority figure in your life that you trust, don't be afraid to ask for help. The website thetruth.com informs people about the negative impacts of vaping. Their motto is “safer≠safe”, meaning that just because vaping is better for you than smoking it doesn't mean that you should vape. They also have commercials and YouTube videos that inform you about the risks and side effects of vaping and smoking. If you are ever considering starting vaping or smoking, try checking out the websites and videos first, they might just change your mind.

Jaguar Judges

School Safety Policies

By Hadley Turner

With the one-year anniversary of the February 14th Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooting just passing, a lot of questions on school safety policies have been brought up. Some policies administrations across the country have been considering are metal detectors, clear backpacks, or even going as far as arming teachers.

Clear backpacks are a bad idea for many reasons; they are an invasion of people's personal spaces, and invade our privacies, which is why schools who have previously installed these bags, you will have students rebelling by showing off their personal, non-school approved items. They most likely won't be of much assistance, because if someone was to bring a weapon to school, they would probably end up putting it in a folder, or disguise it as something else, eliminating the whole purpose, of a see-through backpack, and leaving students to feel uncomfortable, and exposed.

By Samantha DeCapua

Some of the new safety measures schools are considering such as metal detectors, clear backpacks, or even arming teachers, are not the best ideas. For example, I think that metal detectors are causing more trouble than they would be solving. They are big and bulky and very expensive. To add it would take a long time to get hundreds of students through these metal detectors all before class starts. Clear backpacks are also not the best idea because many students may have personal items that they wouldn't appreciate being on display. Students might also find a way hiding items intended to harm other students in between books or in folders.

By Kayla Barcenas

School is a fascinating place for kids, teens, and young adults to further enhance their education. Although, some people just don't look at school this way, in fact there are problems that occur in all schools very often. Problems can vary from a small argument to a fist fight to extreme measures. Fortunately, there are some ways to prevent a shooting. If kids were to where clear back packs, then others would be able to see what they have stashed in their bags. Or, teaches could be armed with a hand gun. Some people would say this is a foolish idea because is a shooter was just a fellow student, then he or she could easily just grab the gun. But a teacher could always just have small safe an only the principal or some other member of staff would know the passcode.

Luckily there are ways to prevent a shooting from ever happening. By Hunter Ring

Arming teachers is far from making our schools safe, and yet so many schools are considering it. Not only do most teachers not want to be armed, it gives teacher an unfair advantage. Just because a teacher feels threatened doesn't mean they are, and putting that kind of responsibility in the hands of a teacher could lead to accidents. Metal detectors are another policy that are way more trouble than they are worth. They would be expensive, and it would take way too long in the mornings for every student to go through. They are unrealistic for a school of this size. Indian Ridge Middle School is an A school, that has never had any incidents, so implementing these policies is not necessary.

By Hadley Turner

Dear Jaguars...

Recently, there seems to be a growing negative trend of some students not showing respect toward their teachers. They respect their peers but have a missing piece for teachers. Teachers are here for our benefit and should not be disrespected. If you disrespect a teacher, you're just hurting yourself because they are teaching you things you need to graduate and get a job.

"We have a lot to offer and with disrespect they are not getting the benefits of our experience and expertise," said 7th grade teacher Ms. Mauck. Ms. Mauck is a science teacher here at Indian Ridge. She has much teaching experience, so she knows how to deal with disrespectful students. Mr. Bacon, a 7th grade Language Arts teacher says, "In the classroom you don't have a whole lot of time to restate directions multiple times, so it's important to listen and have respect for rules and teachers."

How to Cope with and Respect Your Teachers

By: Madison Adkins and Chiara Cremonti



Miss. Mauck, a 7th grade science teacher, who thinks respect is key for a good classroom environment.



Mr. Bacon, a 7th grade language arts teacher, wants to benefit kids with his knowledge.

Being disrespectful and distracting isn't good for the students or the teacher. It disrupts other students from learning, and it could also result in a lunch detention, or even worse an ES (external suspension). Just remember to be respectful to your teachers to benefit yourself and others. Showing respect toward your teachers goes a long way in receiving respect back. You have to treat others the way you want to be treated, and remember that most teachers have over one hundred students everyday. The more positive you can make your interactions with them, the better you both will feel! Going to school is a privilege, so don't abuse it!

Fuzzy Feelings

She really works magic

By Hannah Brant

Ruby Kate Chitsey, an 11-year-old-girl, is not a genie but she has been working her magic to grant the wishes of nursing home patients. She was inspired to help the elderly residents after she spent last summer helping her mother with her work. Amanda, Ruby Kate's mother, runs a business in which she assists dozens of patients at five different nursing facilities across Harrison, Arkansas. Ruby visited the nursing home one weekend with her mother, and she saw one of the residents gazing out of a window. She felt confused because the only thing that was out of the window was a woman walking a dog into a car. She asked the patient "What was so important?", and she told her that it was her dog of twelve years, and she didn't know when she would be able to see it again. Ruby Kate told 'goodnewsnetwork.org', "I thought that of all the things in this world Pearl could have, she would probably just ask for more visits with her dog." The resident told Ruby that she had to give her dog away because she was unable to pay for her dog on her own. She told her that since half of U.S nursing homes are funded by the government, patients are only given about \$40 to spend on "extra" comforts outside of their room. Ruby said, "I'm 11, and even I have enough money saved in my piggy bank to help her get a few more visits with her dog." This has inspired her to help more of the residents at the nursing homes by asking them, "If they could have three wishes what would they be?" and the wishes were shocking. You would expect people to wish for a million dollars, but most of them just wished to spend time with their families, new clothes, or more food. To this day Ruby Kate has a foundation called Three Wishes project and a GoFundMe page to raise money to help grant the wishes of the patients. The donations have helped to buy clothing, medication, food, shoes, and the most commonly request of those items: dog food.

365 Teddy Bears

By Hannah Brant

A 12-year-old boy named Campbell Remess has been making homemade teddy bears and stuffed animals for the sick and grieving for three years. Campbell has, on average, made one new bear every day for the last two years. He's self-taught, using his mother's sewing machine to create what his mom calls his "funky" bears that reflect his own imaginative style. When he is done sewing the bears by hand, he then sends these one-of-a-kind plush toys to the hot spots of misery around the world. Campbell delivers them to local hospital and ships them overseas to places such as Paris and Brussels to those who are dealing with grief and pain. One of his recent shipments were to locations of recent terrorist attacks, giving sad, grieving, or frightened children something to hold tight. One day, while he was at school, volunteers surprised him by raising one thousand dollars and converting his bedroom into his own workshop. Many shelves were stocked with donated fabrics, stuffing, and other materials that he need to make the plush toys. His mother says to this day that she is so happy that she let her son borrow her sewing machine.

Book Drive

By Valerie Roa

The book drive, organized by CHOC and Human Relations is about kids donating new books to give them to needy kids. The people in charge of the book drive were Ms. Overcash and Mrs. Weintraub. A total of 286 books were donated and sent to Jackson Hospital. The first-place winner was Mrs. Laichak and her class donated over 100 books. As a reward she gave her students donuts and some little treats like school supplies. Mrs. Hill was the second place winner and she also gave her students a donut party in 6th period. This activity encourages children to give and be kind to others. Let's work together and donate more books in the years to come!



Cubs of Character

Honesty is our Policy

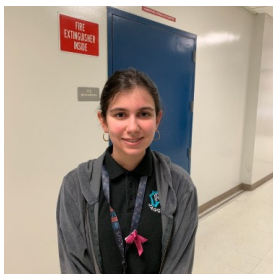
By Ella Dever and Ciara Matthews

Honesty is being truthful, free of deceit, and sincere. Honesty helps kids cope with anxiety, depression, and stress; it also helps kids with being true and trusting to themselves. Being honest shows all sorts of respect for what is right and is one of the best traits of any responsible and successful person. According to the Walt Disney World YES program, Techniques of Teamwork, trust is the foundation of any high performing team. It is one of the character traits of successful people. Our school, Indian Ridge Middle, has character traits of the month called Kids of Character. Teachers select one student from all their classes who they think represents the character trait the most (this month is honesty). Congratulations to who were chosen!

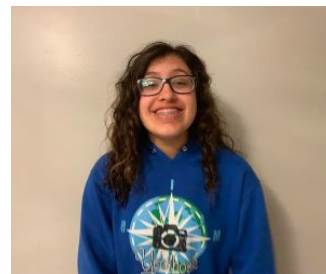
6th grade- George Frank, Mason Sterner, Felipe Castaneda, Sofia Ojeda Camacho, Lana Tarr, Matthew Chonillo, Chandler Forges, Kayla Van, Laura Ramirez, Saydee Kemp, Jaden Saer, Tierney Wilkes, Nam Nguyen, Viktoria Torres, Milton Milledge, Paola Diaz Rosa, Valerie Ulloa, Giuliana Stanko, Sofia Aguia, Sydney Manarite-Diaz, Zalman Berman, Rebecca Zwick Niko Davis

7th grade- Gabriel Maya, Madyson Wahl, Anh Pham, Karissa-Lyn Rodriguez, Giovanni Rivera, Yaakov Berman, Mason Lobracco, Joanne Iannella, Angel Santiago, Lourdes Corsini, Zola Turk, Audrey Heilig, Walter Guzman, Isabella Giraldo, Isabella DeLeon, Iselena Martinez

8th grade- Camila Deleon Regil, Yiley Linares, Alejandra Umana, Samuel Rial Cuadrado, Zoey Manriquez, Lita Hansley, Jasmine Mathney, Elizabeth Ochoa, Justin Cruzet, Jorden Gonzalez, Elianys Chacin, Connie Rijos, Jocelyn Salpeter, Brieana Ernst, Jasmine Griona, Viviana Vando, Gabriel Fernandez, Madison Feller, Natalie Pichardo, Chloe Nelson, Roger Lanza



Zoey Manriquez, 8th grade, says, "It is very hard to be honest because sometimes it affects negatively on you or someone else."



Camila Regil, 8th grade, says that "if someone says to not say the truth, still say it even if it gets the other person in trouble."

Staff ‘Spot’light

Mrs. Flesh, the Spanish Teacher

By Marvin Mercelus and Hannah Keller

Learning Spanish is very important here at Indian Ridge Middle School. On Jan. 24th and 25th, students in the 8th grade elective went on a field trip to Ybor City in Tampa, FL. There were 110 students and two full buses. Mrs. Flesh organized the field trip to improve the educational experience of the students taking Spanish I, a high school credit elective. It helps you graduate high school and is better in the long run even though it may be hard. However, Spanish is only for 8th graders, but according to Mrs. Flesh “Things might be changing at Indian Ridge,” so Spanish I may be available to 7th graders, and 8th graders may be able to study Spanish II.

The students in Spanish I class went to Ybor City in Tampa, FL. Ybor City is a city in Tampa, Florida. The city hosts a few Cuban and Latin American eateries. Ybor is also known for its boutiques and vintage shops. The city is an outstanding place especially for those who know the the history. Ybor City was founded by Vicente Martinez Ybor who was born in Spain. Ybor City’s Spanish ethnicity is further boosted by how strong the Spanish culture is in South Florida, which makes this place the perfect field trip. During the field trip they experienced a Spanish Flamenco Dance while eating dinner at a Colombian restaurant and the next day went to Busch Gardens.

Spanish is a good elective for many reasons. One reason is that it is very important to know two languages. Mrs. Flesh said, “One important reason [for learning Spanish] is to be able to communicate with our Spanish speaking friends and their families.” Learning Spanish makes you part of the Spanish culture and Mrs. Flesh claims it leads to, “Appreciating the Spanish culture.” It is never too since “the Spanish culture is all around in South Florida,” says Mrs. Flesh. Learning Spanish even gives you many advantages. Mrs. Flesh explains that “becoming bilingual has so many educational advantages” and “it can open doors to prestigious universities and ultimately to more job opportunities.” Academically, it is a good idea to take Spanish, but wait there’s more! The added bonus is that you can make someone’s day because according to Mrs. Flesh, “Spanish people appreciate and feel honored that you are trying to communicate to them in Spanish.”



Ms. Flesh, the Spanish teacher at Indian Ridge Middle School.

“Paw”se to Remember

Remembering the Tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School

By Jaden Little and Gabriel Pacheco

It was the one-year anniversary of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooting this month. The tragedy occurred on February 14, 2018. All schools in Broward and Palm Beach Counties are preparing to honor the 17 people that passed away at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland one year ago. Marjory Stoneman Douglas High school students had the option to report to campus on Feb. 14 for a half-day of community service activities. Ever since the shooting, young Parkland survivors have emerged as the driving force in calling for stricter gun laws in the United States. A Stoneman Douglas graduate named David Hogg said, “You don’t get over something like this that shouldn’t have happened”. Parents of students at Stoneman Douglas have reported that while their kids were sleeping, they started having nightmare of the shooting. Some students are going to therapy to get some help. Therapy dogs are also often present on campus.

Stoneman Douglas students and their families gathered in the city’s largest park to remember their friends following a half-day at school. Museums and a local nature central opened their doors for free to honor the victims from MSD. Other schools such as Miami Senior High school and Western High school honored the 17 victims on Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooting. Here at Indian Ridge, students participated in activities about kindness and hope. The entire County also took a moment of silence to honor the victims.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas, a year after the shooting, has changed a lot. Many additional security measures have been put in place. The school had no dress code or uniforms before this tragedy happened. Now their dress code is khaki or black shorts and pants and their school logo shirt. Their backpacks must be clear and there is a rule that students can only have two pencil boxes under a certain weight, or be subject to search.



The memorial at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School
Photo Credit: Spectrum News