

THE PAW PRINT POST

Flashback and Year Ahead

By Isabella Bueno & Jordan Miller

2018 was a crazy year filled with many shocking moments, from the MSD shooting, to the devastating outcome of Hurricane Florence, to even Pete Davidson and Ariana Grande's break up. Although 2018 was a busy year, many people are looking forward to the new year of 2019. At Indian Ridge, many students had their best memory of 2018 at a common event. As Jovani Major, Seth Goon, and Alexis Gardiner agree their best memory was at a school event- The Jaguar Jog. The Jaguar Jog was an event where students jog or walk around the school track to help raise money for our school. A lot of students are trying to make new friends in 2019. Many people are determined to make 2019 a good year.

Many trending challenges went on in 2018, including green needle and brainstorm, and the tide pod challenge. These were all very popular but the most popular one was Yanny and Laurel. That was the trend that you would either hear Yanny or Laurel. It all started when a high schooler was studying for a test. "Flowery Branch High School freshman Katie Hetzel was prepping for her world literature course on a Friday when she needed to learn the definition of 'Laurel,'" she told tech magazine, Weird. She searched for the word on Vocabulary.com, but when she played the pronunciation recording, she thought she was hearing "Yanny," according to Fox News.

Trends in 2018 included charcoal, unicorn, and rainbow foods. People would use activated charcoal or food dye to color different foods to create completely black or colorful edible treats. These trends were common amongst ice cream, toast, waffles, and acai bowls.

2019 is predicted to be a great year. Many new movies are coming out such as "Five Feet Apart", "Frozen 2" and "The Lego Movie 2". Prince Harry and Princess Meghan are going to have their royal baby. While they won't say the exact due date, the baby should be born sometime in spring. Throughout the year, there is thought to be five solar eclipses worldwide. Lastly, there will be The FIFA Women's World Cup in June and July.

2018 was a trendy, devastating, and unusual year, but in 2019, the best is yet to come!



Jovani Major, 7th grader claims his favorite event in 2018 was "The Jaguar Jog." Photo by Jordan Miller



Seth Goon, 7th grader states he is looking forward to "8th grade" in 2019.

Administration

Principal:

Mr. Ian Murray

Assistant Principals:

Mrs. Irene Ortiz

Mrs. Karen Birke

Mr. David Greenfield

Beyond the Ridge

By Sharon Hopengarten and Jonathan Ramirez

Do you believe in extraterrestrial life forms outside of our galaxy? Astronomers have been picking up fast radio burst's (FRB's) outside of our galaxy that are billions of light-years away. So far over a dozen repeated FRB's have been heard. Astronomers believe that this could be another group trying to message us. Others believe it could just be a black hole opening.

FRB's are short millisecond-long radio waves that come from billions of light-years outside of the Milky Way Galaxy. As of right now astronomers have picked up over a dozen FRB's. Astronomers have been picking up FRB's since 2002, but recently one FRB was found to repeat itself **twice**. A group of Canadian astronomers picked up the repeating radio signal.

Several earth science teachers here at IRMS were interviewed about the FRB's. Ms. Blews said, "I think it's other planets or galaxies sending the signals, not black holes." Ms. Blews thinks these repeated FRB's will help with the future discoveries of extraterritorial beings. "Of course, any little bit of knowledge will help. We are already researching and looking to go to Mars. At this point we have only traveled within our solar system," she said.

Most people would describe aliens as green and large headed creatures, while others see them as any living species outside of our planet. Science teacher, Ms. Blews does not believe that aliens exist, though. She added, "Do I think we are the only beings in our universe? No, our universe is too huge to be just us. But do I think they are aliens? No." When asked if she believes in aliens with the definition that aliens are any living thing outside of our planet she said, "Yes."

The repeating FRB could mean life out there, deep in space, far outside our galaxy, or it could be a black hole opening far away, or even a near dense supernova. While we may not know enough to understand these strange radio signals from far away, nor be able to make contact with what are creating/sending the FRB's, we can continue to learn about them and grow to understand them.



The Chime Telescope.
Photo Credit: Chime.



Astronomer, Tom Landecker at the CHIME telescope, one of the researchers who study the FRB's.
Photo Credit: Herzberg Astrophysics.

What's Trending?

Netflix's "Bird Box" Getting Much Attention From Teens

By Dani Larios

Disclaimer: Bird Box is rated R. Please ask your parents before viewing.

"Bird Box", a thriller movie released on December 13, 2018 on Netflix, has gotten much attention from over 45 million adults and teens. After a strange force that kills anyone who looks at it takes over the world, survivors must avoid coming head-on with the force that takes the form of their worst fears. Sandra Bullock plays the main character, trying to go on a journey to a place that may offer a sanctuary for her and her children.

The reason the movie became so popular was because of all the Twitter memes people made after watching the movie. As more and more people saw the memes, people got curious on what they meant. This eventually caused a huge increase in adults and teens watching the movie and making more memes about it.

The Bird Box internet challenge has also been causing much commotion amongst teens, and not in a good way. The challenge consists of a person doing a task while blindfolded, like the movie. Some people do the challenge safely in their home with family supervising them, while others take it to another level. In the movie, there's a scene where a group of survivors must drive blindfolded in order to buy groceries. A 17-year-old girl in Utah crashed her car into another car while driving blindfolded, attempting to do what was done in the movie. Luckily, nobody was injured. The challenge has gone viral and is a huge danger to teens that love participating in these types of challenges. Because of the incident and the risks that come with doing the challenge, the challenge has caused YouTube to change its rules and guidelines for posting such videos.

Picture of Egg Becomes Most Liked Photo on Instagram

By Dalila Blanco-Oriolo

Everyone seems "egg-cited" for @world_record_egg. On "Instagram" Kylie Jenner used to have the record of the "most liked" post with 18,586,230 likes. But now it's a picture of an egg with 50, 873, 409 likes! An egg beat (get it...?) Kylie Jenner's post by more than two times the double likes! The caption under the egg said, "Let's set a world record together and get the most liked post on Instagram, we got this." Of course, Kylie Jenner was not happy about the egg situation, so she made a video on her Instagram story called "Take that little egg". In the video "Take that little egg" Kylie cracked an egg that looks exactly like @world_record_egg on the floor. Little is really known about the person behind the @world_record_egg account, despite having the most liked picture on Instagram. The person's name remains unknown; all we know is "I'm am an individual living in London" according to *The Independent*.

18 million likes.



50 million likes.

Sport-acular Jags

By Vanessa Flores and Rylie Giland

Volleyball Wrap-up



The Boys and Girls Volleyball Teams play against Plantation Middle.



Emily Boyce, a player on the girls volleyball team, said, "The best part is winning. Winning is the best feeling in the world."

At Indian Ridge, the Jaguar Volleyball season is coming to an end as the teams work to make these last few games count. The boys volleyball team is currently undefeated. Playoffs will begin on January 31st at Indian Ridge against Nova Middle. Coach Lendinara is the coach of the boys volleyball team and Mrs. Hill is the girls volleyball coach. This season the players and the coaches worked hard, put in effort, and had fun.

Volleyball is an active sport that requires certain characteristics to play successfully. Being energetic and outgoing, as well as hard working, can help to achieve in this sport. Though these qualities are helpful, volleyball can still be challenging. Fortunately, as said by one of the players, "the 8th graders are there to help lead or guide the others to who they want to be." Volleyball improves other skills including social skills and team work. This sport gives athletes the opportunity to get active and have fun.

Huddle Up, Jaguars!

Flag Football season has started at Indian Ridge. With the players chosen, their first game will be on January 30th against Falcon Cove. A flag football game has two halves that last about 20 minutes with a three minute mark (half time) in between. The goal is to get the ball over the opponent's line without losing your flag, which is tied to your waist. Flag Football is considered a safer version of standard football since there is no tackling.

Flag Football is a challenging sport which requires athleticism, speed, teamwork, and coachability. Like all sports in school, the players are required to have a 2.0 GPA. The hardest part about learning flag football is memorizing the many different plays and demonstrating self-control. Since flag football has no tackling, this means the athletes have to refrain from being too rough with the other players. This sport involves a lot of exercise, but it's also a lot of enjoyment!



The girls flag football team practices their plays.

Zoe Mullings is a player on the girls flag football team. When asked the best part of flag, she said, "You get to work with a team that will always have your back."



The Boys Flag football team huddles up during practice with their coach Mr. Cochran.

Sport-acular Jags

Head Coach No More?

By: Giselle Bouzaglou

Coach Adam Gase has recently been fired from being the Dolphins' head coach as of December 2018. Owner Stephen Ross is making sweeping changes around his league. Gase led the Miami Dolphins to a 10-6 record and made an appearance in the playoffs. His career record is 23-25, as well as finishing Miami with a 7-9 record. Although, Gase dealt with quarterback issues before his dismissal. Miami's starter Ryan Tannehill missed five games in 2018 due to injuries. With those issues happening, the head coach brought the Dolphins on a three-game losing streak. However, one game had an embarrassing outcome to the team. The Dolphins' 42-17 loss against the Bills became the last unfortunate straw for Gase's career. Despite being fired, he is still respected by his old team.

Brian Flores is presumed to be the next head coach. That has not been confirmed yet.



Photo credit
Michigan local news

NFL Playoffs

By: Gabriel Maya

Everybody has been wondering who would be going to the Super Bowl on February 3rd. It was between four teams – the New England Patriots, Kansas City Chiefs, Los Angeles Rams, and New Orleans Saints. During the Patriots/Chiefs playoff game, in the first quarter, the Patriots scored a touchdown starting off the game with a score of 7-0. Then, in the second quarter, the chiefs intercepted the ball from the Patriots. When it was almost the end of the second quarter, the Patriots scored a touchdown, making the score 14-0. The Chiefs scored a touchdown and the Patriots attempted, and made, a field goal during the third quarter making the score 17-7. During the fourth quarter and the Chiefs scored a touchdown making the score 17-14. Then the Chiefs surprised the Patriots by intercepting the ball. The teams went back and forth, serving up and answering touchdowns. The Chiefs made a 39-yard field goal attempt tying the game at 31-31. The two teams went into overtime, and the Patriots scored on the first drive, making them the AFC Champions.

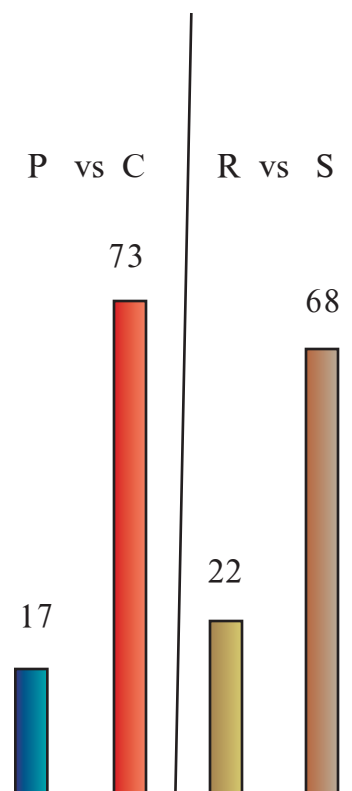
In the Saints vs Rams game, the Saints started off the first quarter with a 37-yard field goal. making it 0-3. The Saints also intercepted the ball from the Rams during the first quarter and scored a 29-yard field goal attempt and another touchdown, ending the first quarter with a score of 0-13. The Rams came back with 36-yard field goal and a touchdown in the second quarter putting up a score of 10-13. The Saints and Rams each made a touchdown in the third quarter keeping the game close at 17-20. The fourth quarter was back and forth with field goals including a 31 yard, 48 yard, and 57 yard effort. The last field goal from the Rams put them ahead for the win with a final score of 26-23.

Superbowl LIII will be held at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta on February 3, 2019 at 6:30 ET on CBS. Maroon 5 is slated to be the Halftime performer, and the legendary Gladys Knight will perform the National Anthem.

Poll

Q: Who do you think will win the playoffs?

Out of 90 votes each



Jaguar on the Spot

Magnet Schools vs. Zone Schools

by Kayla Barcenas and Hadley Turner

We have quite a few students here at IRMS who are interested in going to one of the many magnet schools presented in the showcase we had recently on January 16th. Josefath Lopez Villegas and Mark Checott are both considering a magnet school and went to the showcase. Josefath Villegas wants to go to McFatter Technical College and High School for mechanical engineering. Josefath said, "I learned more about the school at the showcase, but it also made me nervous about what I'd chose." At the magnet showcase they talked a lot about other options, so naturally it would make anyone skeptical about what they had chosen. But overall Josefath wants to stick with what he picked in the beginning which is mechanical engineering.

As for Mark Checott, he also wants to go to McFatter but for a medical diploma. Mark was referred from a friend, and thought it sounded interesting. He said, "medical studies has always been something that intrigued me." So naturally, once he found out that he could start his career early, he did everything he could to be able to. Magnet schools have their pros, but for most students, zone schools are the better choice.

A zone school is a school in your district or zip code, that teaches common core curriculum, while a magnet school focuses on one specific subject, such as marine biology, performing arts, or engineering. Most children don't know what they are interested in doing when they grow up because of the other things going on in their minds, such as school or sports. This makes a zone school more beneficial because it prepares you for everything. On the other hand, a magnet school is better for kids that know what they want to do. It helps those kids prepare for their future early on, and it looks better on their college resume.



8th grader Josefath Lopez Villegas is interested in going to a magnet school for mechanical engineering



8th Grader Mark Checott is interested in going to McFatter Tech. for medical studies.

The Jaguar Den

By Kai Navarro and Samantha DeCapua

End of The Year Trips

All the students that attend Indian Ridge Middle School know about the end of the year field trips. These trips are held in May every year in each grade. These trips take place in the Disney and Universal parks in Orlando, Florida. Each grade goes to a different park and what parks each grade goes to can change each year. This year, though, the sixth graders are going to Disney's Animal Kingdom and are going on Tuesday, May 21st. The seventh graders are going to Universal Studios on May 22nd, and finally the 8th graders are going to Islands of Adventure on May 23rd. The prices for these trips have not been decided yet but will be soon. Remember, if you have bad grades or disciplinary problems, you might not be eligible to go.



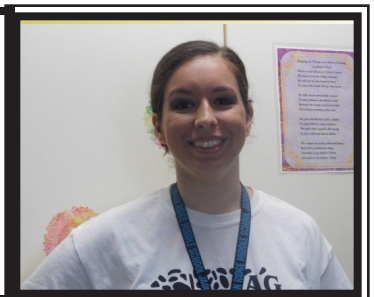
Photo credit: DIS



Photo Credit: Orlando Informer

New Club for Anime Lovers

Mrs. Munoz, an excited new 8th grade teacher here at IRMS, is in charge of the new Anime Club.



Here at IRMS we have a variety of different clubs and extra-curricular activities, one of which, is the brand new Anime Club. This club meets after school almost every Tuesday, from 4pm to 5pm in room 184. At meetings, the members of the Anime club may do many activities such as discussing anime, playing various games, and more. Ms. Munoz is the teacher in charge of the club. On Tuesday, January 15th, the clubs first meeting was a hit, with the club having roughly 35 new members attending. Ms. Munoz is very welcoming to new members, but requests that they are respectful and on time.

Up For Debate

Are AirPods Worth it?

By Chiara Cremonti

AirPods have had a spike in popularity recently, but are they worth the hefty price tag of \$159? AirPods are wireless ear buds that are an Apple product. They were on the market in 2016 but seemed to have had a sudden spike in popularity. There are many reasons why they seemed to have a sudden spike such as the holiday season, the memes, and peer pressure. A lot of celebrities also use the product and endorse it which may contribute to the popularity of AirPods. There are memes going around that if someone owns AirPods they have a wealthy status, and people are taking normal ear buds and cutting the wires off to make them look like AirPods.

Apple is a mainstream brand and popular for their electronic devices but why are their ear buds so important? They automatically connect to your Apple devices once you take them out of the case and they have a sensor that knows when you take them out of your ear so it automatically pauses what you were playing. AirPods also have 5 hours of playback in one charge and 15 minutes of quick charge. The best part? They are small and convenient. The overall question: are they worth \$159 price tag? Our opinion- they are convenient, but they aren't really worth the \$159 price tag, and you're better off spending your money on a cheaper option.



Alexis Brooks is a 6th grader who thinks that AirPods are a bit over priced.
Photo by Hunter Ring.



AirPods, which cost \$159.00 from their distributor Apple are packaged in a sleek and convenient container.
Photo by Madison Adkins.



Madisson Abreu is also a 6th grader who says, "They are easy to lose so I would not buy them."
Photo taken by Hunter Ring.

Jaguar Judges

Should our school provide more electives?

By: Hunter Ring

Electives are fun periods that give children a class to look forward to. There aren't many electives to choose from though, so the school board should make more electives for kids. For example, P.E is fun, but some kids only want to play one sport. There could be classes where kids are taught one sport like football or basketball. Also, there could be an elective based on fundraising. Kids could spend a couple days thinking of ways to raise money for the school. Kids could travel as a field trip to different places around Indian Ridge like Publix or Walmart. From there, children could sell different types of candy such as chocolate bars for a good cause.

By Hannah Brant

Our school offers many electives such as art, physical education (P.E.), and technology, but some students' interests might not fall into any of those categories. In my opinion, our school should provide more open option electives, such as coding and photography, to students who might not want to take the stereotypical electives. Both photography and coding classes can train students in skills that might be necessary in other electives such as journalism and yearbook, or in future careers. Adding these electives can be another way students can explore new things and make new friends in the process. For many years our school has offered many great electives but adding classes such as photography and coding can allow students to find new interests, explore more opportunities, and acquire skills that could be used for other classes.

By Valerie Roa

School electives are our way to express ourselves, learn things we are interested in, and follow our dreams. There should be more options for students with different needs and interests. Some electives that a lot of students would like are culinary for 7th grade, 3D art, and digital art. I think that these options added to the list of electives would get students more excited about choosing their electives. 3D art is a more interesting way to make art into sculptures. Digital art is also a modern way where the only materials needed are a tablet making drawing and painting unlimited. Also, culinary for 7th graders would be a great add on so that the 6th graders that like cooking don't have to wait until 8th grade to take culinary again. Also, culinary and P.E should be different electives so that kids that want to do one and not the other are not stuck with both.

By: Madison Adkins

Indian Ridge already offers good electives like technology, physical education, and art. But there is not a wide variety. At Indian Ridge we should have more electives like foreign language classes. The foreign language classes could include French and sign language. It is scientifically proven that bilingual students get hired more often, setting IRMS students up for future success. Also, it would be fun to speak to your friends in a language that only the people in that elective would understand. If it's successful and they find a good teacher, it could become a high school credit. If Indian Ridge were to add these electives our whole school would benefit.

By: Chiara Cremonti

There are some interesting electives such as speech and debate and journalism, but there aren't any electives that are unique. An interesting and unique elective could be forensics. Forensics has educational value, while being fun. Some other middle schools in Florida have a forensics elective and some electives at middle schools could make or break someone's choice of attending that school. There could be some controversy around it because it may be considered "gory" or "inappropriate". To avoid these issues, parents could sign a waiver after knowing all the material that is going to be taught. The curriculum could include things such as: fingerprints, toxicology, and biological evidence. There could be experiments, tests, and quizzes to go along with it. Forensics would be a great addition to Indian Ridge Middle School.

Dear Jaguars...

Organization and Time Management

By Ciara Matthews and Ella Dever

Organization and time management are obvious problems that teenagers struggle with. During school hours, kids have a hard time with trying to find loose papers and other school supplies in their backpacks. Once students have wasted their valuable class time trying to find these supplies, their classwork becomes homework. Even with an organized backpack, trying to finish classwork on time can be a big struggle for students.

A messy backpack can lead to a messy mind. Keeping things neat is very hard for middle school students. Ms. Golembiowski, the peer counseling teacher, has given tips to help students stay organized. The first thing she says to do is to use the agendas the school gives to the students. “You’d be surprised how many students have an agenda but never use it, never write in it, or even open it.” When asked for organized students to interview, Ms. Richard picked Emily Boedhram from her sixth-grade class. We asked Emily how she keeps her backpack organized, and she said, “For all my periods I put them in order from first period to sixth period so I can get it out easier.”

Many students spend their time after school playing sports or going to club meetings. They can forget about their homework and focus their time on things they think are more important. Watching YouTube, Netflix or Snapchatting and scrolling through their Instagram feed seems more important to students nowadays. However, all students should have good time management and realize the importance of getting their work done. Learning to focus your attention on the more important things like your homework is extremely important and will help with your time management.



Ms. Golembiowski, the peer counseling teacher, says agendas are important so kids can write down assignments and due dates.

Emily Boedhram, a sixth grader, is very organized by separating her books and notebooks in her backpack by periods.



Fuzzy Feelings

Straight A cabaret

By Hannah Keller

At Indian Ridge, we have a lot of rewards to recognize students who stand out and strive to make it to a goal. These students have straight As, demonstrate excellent character traits, and try to make a good effort. These students have gone above and beyond expectations. Good job! You deserve to be celebrated!

Straight A students are getting recognized in the Straight A Cabaret. They gave us some of their study tips like using different color highlighters or making note cards. Why is it important to get straight A's? Madelyn Streisfeld said, "Because it could effect your high school classes, your current G.P.A. and your high school G.P.A." Madelyn Streisfeld is one of many students who got straight A's last quarter. Good job to all the students who got straight A's in the 1st and 2nd quarters. It must have been difficult, but worth it!



Madelyn Streisfeld, an eighth grader, usually gets straight A's.

Mid Year Strive Awards

By Marvin Mercelus



Kirsten Kustin, the president of the PTO (right), tells us the reason why we have Strive Awards for our school.

Mid-year Strive Awards are going to be given out soon for those who went above and beyond. The purpose of the awards, according to Kirsten Kustin, PTO President, is, "to let the students who are genuinely trying to improve their competency in a subject or their work be recognized". The awards are going to take place on February 7th from 9:30 to 11 a.m. The awards will include a trophy with each student's name on it and a breakfast with your family. Also, the awards, according to Mrs. Kustin, are planned to be an annual event, so if you are in sixth or seventh grade, and aren't recognized this year, you have something to "strive" for in the future!

Cubs of Character

Show Some Respect!

By: Ella Glassman, Jaden Little and Brianna Harrison

Respect is one of the most powerful words in the dictionary. By treating people in a positive manner that acknowledges them for who they are, respect is the door to a positive future. You have to give respect in order to receive it. Respecting your peers, teachers, classmates and staff is one of the most important ways to show who you truly are at school. Respecting yourself and using proper conduct plays a big role here at IRMS as well.



Devin Phipps says he follows the rules that his teachers give.
Photo Credit: Ella Glassman

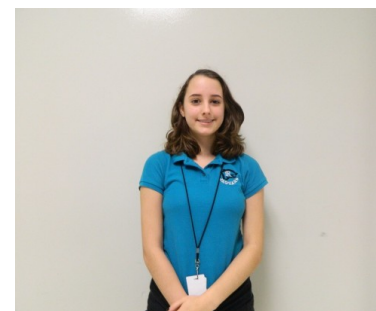


Giana Mattis says respect is to be considerate of other's boundaries and follow the directions.
Photo Credit: Ella Glassman

6th Grade: Devin Phipps, Riley Moulson, Alejandro Correa, Isaac Afolabi, Emmy Ortiz, Kaylin Hadbafnick, Alexandra Arencibia, Julien Koulouvaris, Dianna Lizarraga, Kaleb Mansey, Madison Lemay, Nathaniel Lincifort, Seth Javellana, Dominic Poux, Lucia Farreras, Valentina Nino, Erica Hoy, Ashlynn Zavarro, Isaiah Rojas, Matthew Guadino, Lindy Ramirez, Juan Bolivar Chacon, Thomas McEachron, Matthew Camacho, Malia Bryan, Daniel Dodds, Claire Shannon, Gavin Clay

7th Grade: Vanessa Flores Chung, Nguyen Alexander, Jaelyn Norwood, Angel Strachan, Kristian Poux, Andrew Castanada, Gabriella Xipolitidis, Tam Ho, Christian Fernandez, Kaley Garzon, Jonathan Ramirez, Alyssa Boyd, Stephen Roland, Mitchell Beckford, Emily Quinn, Sarah Osorio, Madyson Wahl

8th Grade: Giana Mattis, Katelyn Selph, Angela Cruzan, Kyle Wagner, Camryn Gamez, Joseph Santini, Scarlett Roa, Jacob Schmidt, Lauren Shea, Kennedy Shaw, Sophia Devia, Allen Duong, Jahnae Cavacanti, Lola Ramirez Allie Dorr, Sara Hoffpauir, Maddox Olson, Sebastian Rodriguez, Ashley Archila, Chloe Nelson, Lillian Young, Camryn Kreitman



Vanessa Flores says respect is to be aware of how other people feel and think.
Photo Credit: Ella Glassman

Staff "Spot"light

Officer Evans

By: Carlos Mallett

For the month of January, Officer Evans, who is Indian Ridge's current school resource officer (SRO), has been chosen for staff spotlight. She is a proud SRO for Indian Ridge who loves the school, enjoys her job, and truly believes she is the SRO for "one of the best schools in Broward County." She just transferred to the school this year and from first impressions, it is evident that Officer Evans is kind, respectful, tolerant, and warm-hearted. Officer Evans explains, "My goal is not only to meet with the students when they are in trouble, but it is to be able to form relationships with all the students and be a source of advice as well mentorship for them as well." We should be thankful for a resource like Officer Evans who we can go to for help for any problems around the school. She can even assist with some personal issues that may be going on. She is helping to provide a safe education here at Indian Ridge.

There is a background story to why Officer Evans wanted to be police officer. Officer Evans talked about she became a police officer because when she was in college, a friend of hers went missing. She watched the case go through and the whole investigation inspired her to help other people. Obviously, to become a police officer, there are many things you must do to be eligible. According to Officer Evans, "We have to go through qualification courses such as target shooting and have to be able to hit the targets with a certain percentage and complete accuracy." It took lots of hard work and dedication for Officer Evans to get where she is today.

Undeniably, Officer Evans cares for the students of Indian Ridge and wants them to have a safe education. She hopes that she can help them through their situations and build up relationship with them. Although she just transferred to Indian Ridge this year, she has tremendously helped students with all types of situations. Ultimately, Officer Evans is one of the best school resource officers of one the best schools.

This is Officer Evans, SRO of Indian Ridge Middle School. She is more than proud to be apart of the IRMS staff.



“Paw”se to Remember

By Malik Suleman and Vania Guadarrama

Remembering The Challenger

On January 28, 1986, the Space Shuttle Challenger burst into flames 73 seconds into flight, killing all seven crew members. The explosion was caused by two rings designed to separate the sections of the rocket booster. The two rubber O-rings had failed due to the cold temperatures during the time of the launch. Roger Boisjoly, an aerospace engineer, warned that the cold temperatures could cause catastrophic failure to the shuttle. His warnings were disregarded, and NASA decided to launch anyway, leading to the failure of Challenger.

On board Challenger was Francis R. Scobee, Michael J. Smith, Ronald McNair, Ellison Onizuka, Judith Resnik, Gregory Jarvis, and Christa McAuliffe. Christa McAuliffe, however, was a teacher at Concord High School. She was the winner of the Teacher in Space Program. This program was announced in 1984 by Ronald Reagan to inspire students and teachers and to encourage learning mathematics, science, and space exploration.

Ms. Mauck, an Indian Ridge Middle School science teacher, was in her Florida home at the time when the Space Shuttle collapsed. She recalls watching the launch and witnessing the Challenger erupt into flames. Mauck explains, “In my mind, you know certain risks when you’re doing certain things.” Like any other dangerous jobs, there are certain mistakes that can potentially cost people’s lives. She believes that more precautions should have been taken to ensure a successful flight.

After the terrible disaster, President Ronald Reagan made a speech as tribute to the Challenger tragedy. In his 4-minute speech, he declares, “I know it is hard to understand, but sometimes painful things like this happen. It's all part of the process of exploration and discovery." This event taught NASA to take precautions before launching their aircrafts and to listen to warnings.



This is the Space Shuttle Challenger being launched.
Photo credits: NASA



Ms. Mauck, 7th grade science teacher, saw the Challenger lift off.
Photo credits: Jordan Miller