

PawPrints

Winter Edition

I'm Dreaming of a...

By: Paige Hill, Mia, Alima, Chloe Kegley, Brynn Feller, and Cate Andrews

The 2020 December holiday season may come with a side of social distancing, but people are still going to be able to ask for gifts during this year's ending. In almost all cases, most people have some type of wish list for the holidays, no matter how they've put it together. A global pandemic won't stop people's holiday desires, but it might change them. These gifts can still fall somewhere on the spectrum of things someone would ask for every year, but when someone puts together their wish list this year, they might have to consider the current circumstances the world is in. The pandemic could have the ability to completely flip around someone's holidays. A person might have had plans to travel up north to see family that now need to be canceled, while another could stick with their usual holiday schedule that doesn't affect or involve anyone. Another person might want a gift just to have for the pandemic, while someone else

could have the same item on their list that they would have wanted five years ago. Either way, for any of these circumstances, there still can be a surplus of items people may put on their wish list, such as the new Playstation 5, a pair of new shoes, the iPhone 12, and acrylic nails. Ashlee Lorenzi goes to St. Thomas High School and is very excited for the holidays. But she is going to be safe. She says, "I am going to spend my holidays in Fort Lauderdale with my family and friends, then go up to North Carolina to visit my grandparents." The holidays this year will be different because everybody has to stay clean and physically distanced. Ashlee wants a surfboard for Christmas and many other things, but out of the list we gave her, she chose the iPhone 12. This new phone has many new features, and everybody wants one. "I have wanted this item since it first came out," Ashlee states, "and I want it

because I have had the iPhone 7 since I was in 4th grade and it has a lot of problems." This new phone is a big hit on getting people's attention. She also says that she likes this item because it is new and the best. Phones are a big part of today's society and can help people in many ways. Student Yael Bilia, in 7th grade, can't believe this year went by so quickly, but is thrilled that it's finally the holiday season! But what's different is that this year she'll be home safe and happy with her family, saying that "I can't really go anywhere considering there is a pandemic, but I'm going to spend the holidays at home with my family, and maybe in a cabin in Tennessee with other family members." Bilia has many different things on her list.

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Administration

Principal: Ian Murray
Grade Level Administrators:
6- Mr. Greenfield
7- Mrs. Birke
8- Mrs. Gonzalez

Wish Lists Continued...

Of the options given to her, she chose new shoes as the holiday gift she wants. New shoes are a practical and functional gift, that's perfect for anyone. "I would want this product because they are practical and trendy to use and wear," Yael says, "I've wanted this item for a couple months because it is the perfect time to get new shoes." New everyday shoes are a cute and functional present to gift someone. And Bilia says, "This is something that is super cool, and many people would love to get as a present." New shoes, clothes, and accessories are something that kids now use as a fun way to express themselves, and new shoes as a gift is an amazing choice as something to give to someone.

Whether it's an Xbox or a PS4, people all over the world look for the latest and greatest video game consuls. Recently, the PS5 has just become available, and with all of this free time that comes with quarantining, kids and teenagers will sure be adding this to their wish lists. The Corona Virus has definitely left a lot of us feeling down, but with the holidays coming up, so do the gift options. The PS5 is a new model of the already existing PS4, with other outdated versions such as the PS3.

It is powered on a custom system designed on a chip and is way quicker and more up to date than the other versions. Max Wechter, a 7th-grade student, says that "The PS5 is faster and is more updated technology-wise." He adds that, "I would use it almost every day if I got the chance." The PS5 can also be given out to almost any age, with a variety of video game users ranging from 2 to 17. As the PS5 releases, so do many new video games. The new and improved console will allow its users to have a bigger variety and more diverse selection when it comes to playing games, so no one should ever get bored. No matter the person or their experiences, if they love playing video games then the PS5 is just what they need this holiday. Jonathan Mazor, a 7th grade student at Indian Ridge, is looking forward to the holidays. He knows that because of the pandemic things will be different. He says, "Many people will not be meeting up and even if they wanted to, they know that they can't." He states that although he has not heard much about the new iPhone, "I think that the phone is good, and I would really like the item because I think that it is better than the 11. I also think that it has cool features." He says that although he really wants the new iPhone, he says that he really wants the PS5. "I really want the PS5 because it is a lot better than the PS4 and runs games better. It also has better quality and I've wanted this item ever since I heard of it."

This year has been difficult for everybody, but we must think of the positives. We need to stay safe, healthy, and be cautious of what is around us. Keep your friends close, and your family closer. Shoes, nails, PlayStation 5, and the iPhone 12 are the latest hits and people love these items. Stay safe and have a happy holiday from your Indian Ridge Journalism class!



The new PlayStation5 was released in November, just in time for the holiday season!
Photo credit: Polygon



With nail salons still under restriction, creativity at home has been the key!
Photo credit: Byrdie

Nike consistently puts out new around the holidays to get kids hyped up!
Photo credit: Forstep Style



The brand new iPhone 12, released in October, offers a better camera and 5G running support.
Photo credit: Apple Newsroom

In The Club at Indian Ridge

By: PIPER BATTAGLIA, DYLAN FITZGERALD, SAMANTHA ZIMMERMAN, MYA SANKAR, BRIANNA MASARACCHIO

Indian Ridge Middle School has many clubs. Some of the clubs talk about anime, while other clubs help others. The clubs are another fun activity for the students to enjoy themselves and socialize. Clubs make a difference in students' lives and even other students and kids who are not in the club too. Indian Ridge Middle School clubs are fun after school activities to hang out with friends, talk about your peer's similarities, and make a difference to others at times.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Counsel club is an amazing way to help students become better people. The sponsor of this club is Dr. Watson, also anyone in the school can join this club. Erica Hoy a Vice President in Student Counsel was more than happy to answer some questions pertaining to the club. In student Counsel there are about 9 jobs that you can do, and the club holds meetings usually once a month on a Wednesday. This is a great club to join because it has many fundraisers and events to help our school out. According to Erica “we usually do car washes, hold the winter dance, and sponsors lunches for teachers.” From joining Student counsel Erica is a better and hardworking student who knows how to be responsible and to cooperate with others.

Last year’s Student Council was a huge success! This year Presidents are Haylee Santantonio and Angelica Martinez.



NJHS

The National Junior Honors Society (NJHS) is a club here at Indiana ridge Middle School. Many people that were in the club had an amazing time and they changed for the better as a person. “My name is Jacob Zimmerman and I and I am in 9th grade at Western High School. The NJHS taught me a lot of things about the school and made me more focused and a better student. I wanted to be in the NJHS because it looks good for colleges and it makes you look smart.” The NJHS looks good on college resumes “because in the NJHS you help the community. “In the NJHS we had to do service hours every quarter to help out the community and help our school. When I had to do service hours I would go to the school in the morning and sell candy grams, go after school and help with activities, or do pretty much anything I could do for volunteer hours. I liked hanging out with all my friends in the meetings after school and there was nothing to dislike I thought it was all pretty fun.” The National Junior Honors Society may seem like a lot of work but most people that were in it seems to enjoy it. “We had meeting after school from like 4:10-4:30 and they talked about upcoming services and stuff. The NJHS made me realize that I need to pay attention in school, get better grades, and do better in classes.” The National Junior Honors Society is run by Mr. Cochran and is a great club for 8th grade students.

CHOC

CHOC is a great organization based out of Indian Ridge middle school. It has changed many peoples live and helped children in many ways. The club started by Ms. Weintraub, a 6th grade world history after her daughter got rid of her cancer in her eye. She wanted to help other who were not as fortunate as her daughter. Lana Tarr the Co-President of the club says the club has made her feel like a better person in life. She believes many of the club's members feel good about themselves and good. She also says it makes other kids at the school sometimes depending on their life situations. They have holiday parties for kids in the hospitals and last year they raised enough money to build a school in Nigeria. The purpose of the club is to help other children in need.

ANIME

Another one of our school clubs is the Anime Club. The Club Sponsor, Ms. Munoz, has answered a few questions about the club. The club has been watching the shows on Microsoft Teams so students at home can participate in the club. Meetings are every Monday from 4:15-5:15, and more then 130+ students that watch! "I feel like the students in the club connect with each other in a way that they may not have in the general classroom. Through their love of anime, they've created friendships, shared art, made memories, and overall have found a sense of familiarity with club members." The club is meant to bring students who like anime together so that they can enjoy a good show.

SAVE PROMISE

The IRMS SAVE Promise club is made to help reduce violence and isolation on school campuses. This club is run by Ms. Golembiowski, who teaches Peer Counseling. Ms. Golembiowski has been teaching at Indian Ridge for 6 years. Ms. Golembiowski says, "We have been brainstorming ways to help students feel less isolated during e-learning." The club takes place on the first Monday of each month, and "started just a few weeks ago." SAVE Promise meets on TEAMS after school. Ms. Golembiowski states, "I have attended several district trainings for the Sandy Hook Promise programs, and the SAVE Promise club has had proven results to help reduce violence, and isolation on school campuses across the country." "I really like that the club focuses on creating a more inclusive environment," says Ms. Golembiowski.

Maegan McDonough was sporting the Save Promise Tshirt for Spirit Week!



School Clubs are a good experience and great chance to socialize. CHOC is a great club that helps others and does many fundraisers to raise money for others. The IRMS safe club helps reduce violence on school campus. The NJHS helps the community and services too. The anime club is a great place to talk about anime and socialize while talking about something you enjoy. Not to mention student council that helps the IMRS community. Clubs make a major difference to students.

Holiday Aspects

Family Gatherings



By Aisha Naveo

With everything that's going on in this world it has been hard to celebrate special holidays with family. But not all people have let that intervene with the importance of spend time with the people you love. Nora Viles a loving mother of 6 and grandmother to 14 and is usually all in for family get togethers. She explained, "But I know that health and well-being for me, my husband, and my family is more important". So, she has done her part in social distancing even though it's hard. Covid has prevented them from meeting up more and going places together. She stated, "And even though I'm is healthy, and my family is, they are still at risk". There have been negative points in this, but she has found a good and safer way to be with her family.

As she has done social distancing so has her family. Nora wouldn't mind going to a family gathering. Whenever she does go see them, her family created a system. When they do meet up each person has to quarantine for two weeks before the event to take extra precaution. "Doing this will help ensure that are chances of catching covid are very little". Any time she gets with her family she never wastes it. Since she has a lot of grandkids, help is needed from her. "Before I used to feel overwhelmed by the work but now, I don't consider it work. I consider it fun." But like before she still is careful of knowing where her family has been with and were. So even in times like these you can still find ways to see and have fun with your family.

Holiday Decorations



By Kaleigh Covard

It's finally that time of year where the holidays come around! This year things may be different since now we have to follow COVID19 guidelines. But there are still many ways you can celebrate the holidays while social distancing! For instance, decorating for the holidays is a fantastic way to get in the spirit. So, start getting the decorations out for all the holidays you are celebrating this year!! (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, and New Year's Eve) Mrs. Vazquez (a sixth-grade language arts teacher at Indian Ridge) is very excited to decorate this year! Mrs. Vazquez states, "For Christmas we pull out the Christmas tree and decorate it as a family, then we also put out candles and wreaths to put around the house!" Some people don't celebrate Christmas, but they celebrate Hanukkah! Hanukkah is a great holiday to decorate for. Many people celebrate by decorating with a menorah, lights, table clothes and more! There are lots of ways to share the joy of the holidays. People all around the city decorate for the holidays. Some people enjoy driving around looking at the decorations to get in the holiday spirit. Going into this year's holiday season, precautions need to be made to stay safe during this pandemic. Everyone should be socially distant and wearing a mask. Mrs. Vazquez shared, "For my family, we are unfortunately not going to be celebrating Thanksgiving in a large group. We will be only celebrating it with our immediate family." Although this year will be different now that we will have to take precautions, we can still have fun in many ways. Decorating is a great way to get into the holiday

Holiday Aspects

Holiday Traveling



By: Gianna Castro

Coronavirus has affected us all in many ways but with December coming up, holidays may be looking different. Since March, we have been on the edge, with most thinking that the pandemic would phase out eventually. Unfortunately, we are looking at a quarantined Holiday season. A lot of people are afraid to travel this season since Covid is in the air. I interviewed Mrs. Golembiowski for my article and asked her some questions. Mrs. G told me that the reason her holiday will be different is, “I won’t be gathering with my extended family in New York like I normally do.”. She is not the only one, many Americans are staying home this year due to the conditions of Covid-19, now at its winter peak.

Traveling during a pandemic is risky too, many Americans are turning to roads this holiday season. Airports will still be packed no matter what, many families are meeting and flying might be the only option. Airlines are taking the extra precaution this year to keep everyone safe and healthy during the Christmas season, they are also encouraging passengers to get tested before traveling to avoid spreading the virus. Mrs. Golembiowski says that she will be, “not traveling this year and just stay home for a low-key holiday.”. This is the plan for most American’s this year and for good reason, to try and lower the spread of Coronavirus. Even if this holiday season is more different than any other, we should not let that ruin our holiday spirit.

Holiday Shopping



By: Ella Brennan

Lori Brennan had some important views on shopping during the upcoming holiday season. Her experience with shopping during the malls before the Coronavirus was harder. “Before Covid, everyone was bunched up at the mall and rushing around to get what they wanted. Just recently when I went to my local mall, the were hardly any people in a single store.” Lori also explains that she will be buying as much gifts as she usually would. “Instead of going out and buying gifts for my family this year, I will be doing most of my shopping online. I agree that there will be more people shopping from home, too.” Black Friday sales are also very relevant to Lori. “My holiday shopping will be done between November 27th and December 24th.”

Lori’s favorite online website is Amazon. “Amazon is my favorite because the presents come fast, the website is easily managed, and they have a very large range of gifts.” Every year Amazon comes in handy while the holiday season is around. “During the pandemic, more people have been using Amazon because it is online.” Lori also states how she can only imagine how many people will be shopping on Amazon. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, the holiday season will be a lot different. But even in the middle of a pandemic, the holiday spirit will not be ruined. Lori is so happy that the holiday season is here!

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Are College Costs Getting too High?

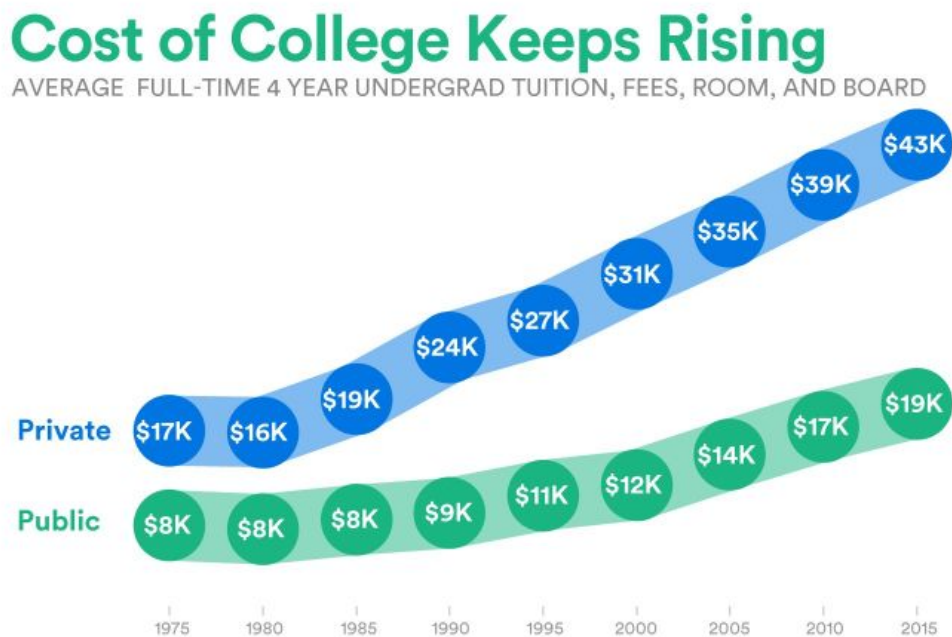
By: Ella Hollaway, Rebecca Hilbert, Layla Buchheit, and Geraldin Parra Medrano

In articles all over the internet, there has been an argument asking whether school tuition should be free or not. It is a controversial issue, and many believe it should be free, and many believe it should not be free.

As we all know education comes with a cost and some people have different opinions on whether it should be free or not. Samantha Zimmerman stated, "School tuition should only be free if you can't afford it." Many people want to send their kid to school but can't. College education can also have an effect on the economy. "I don't know much about the economy, but I know making it free for some people wouldn't hurt it." stated by Samantha Zimmerman. "I have never heard about this argument before, but I know there are some parents that struggle paying for it." according to Samantha. If Samantha Zimmerman had to convince people whether college tuition should be free this is what she would say, "I would say some people cannot afford it but they still need an education to be able to succeed in the future." As we know this has been going around in people's conversations and online news articles for quite a while.

College education is becoming more expensive, making it harder for students who want an education to afford it. Indian Ridge teacher Ms. Golembiowski went to Adelphi University in New York for her graduate degree, and says she is still paying off the loan. It's better to get out of college debt free, so you don't have to worry in the future. "If people came out of college debt-free, it would stimulate the economy because those individuals would be able to go out and acquire their own housing and be financially independent," Ms. G says. Students may fear being in debt, causing them to avoid school entirely. We all deserve an education, so without having to pay for tuition, we wouldn't fear it. I think this could benefit the economy. Ms. G says, "It would probably encourage people to finish their degree and encourage economic independence."

“I don't believe college should be free but made more affordable for all.”, stated Ms. Bromante, “College tuition should be relative to a family's economic status. Scholarships should be made more available to lower economic status families.” Students who take out loans even have as much as 26,000 dollars in debt. “I don't believe it would help the economy.”, Ms. Bromante stated this in regard to lowering college tuition. College tuition doesn't help the economy, but it wouldn't make it much better if we lowered the cost. However, if we continue at this rate college tuition costs will rise. “I went to school in the 80's. Compared to tuition today, the cost would seem very inexpensive. However, it's all relative because to the average income household it would have been considered costly.”, Ms. Bromante said when talking about her college tuition. This argument is still inconclusive, and many are excited to see what will happen.



A chart showing the average cost of college tuition from 1975-2015
This chart is from earnest.com

Hurricanes and Tropical Storms

By Emily Einhorn

This year's hurricane season was quite the record. A combination of warmer oceans, weather patterns triggered by La Nina, and an unusually busy African monsoon season led to the 30 tropical storms and hurricanes that formed in 2020 which is more than double the long-term average. A record 12 hit the U.S., and 10 abruptly exploded in strength and became more deadly as they approached land.

By Shayla De La Cruz and Sophia Espinoza.

"I think that these storms affect everyone in some sort of way, have definitely caused stress due to flooding and power outages." Said Escobar, 7th grade Life Science teacher at IRMS. Ana Escobar has been teaching at IRMS for 14 years now as a Life Science teacher. "Over time, many different locations that have been affected badly such as Puerto Rico, Turkey and many more." Explained Escobar. What are hurricanes and tropical storms, and what's the difference? You may ask? "Hurricanes and tropical storms are both types of cyclones and the main difference is the intensity of the winds." states Escobar. Escobar also said, "Hurricanes evolve when warm moist air rises, the warm air is replaced by cooler air and it grows large clouds and thunderstorms accompanied by high winds and lots of rain." She was asked, "Have you ever seen a storm so destructive? If so, when?" Escobar replied, "Hurricane Wilma in 2005 was destructive, I saw that one occur. I have also heard and seen images from hurricane Andrew in 1992 and saw the effects of other Hurricanes on Puerto Rico as well as other Islands. "Knowing early when the storm is forming and having an idea of a predicted path can help people prepare for the storm." Escobar said as she explains her opinion on how the population around the world can prepare better for these destructive storms.

These hurricanes have affected our community right here in Florida. Hurricane Eta disturbed parts of Florida such as Broward County. Layla Suleiman, 7th grader described how it affected her personally, "There was very murky water at very high levels up to people's garages. The flood water also moved some trash bins and dirt to people's doorstep." When her parent's car entered high waters, it would "get stuck or break down." She could not leave her house for three to four days because of the flooding and her power flickered on and off for a while with a brunch of rain and winds making branches on trees to move. "It got really boring and I had to cancel some exciting plans." People had to put their lives on hold to let the destructive winds and rain pass. However, after it passed Layla illustrated what she did, "I had to do a big clean up after the flooding went down because our tarp on our roof ripped into a bunch of pieces and flew all around our street." Still in December Layla sees "pieces of the tarp around and still have cleaned up. That all happened from the strong winds. " These hurricanes shown their long lasting affects.

By Colby R. Hicks

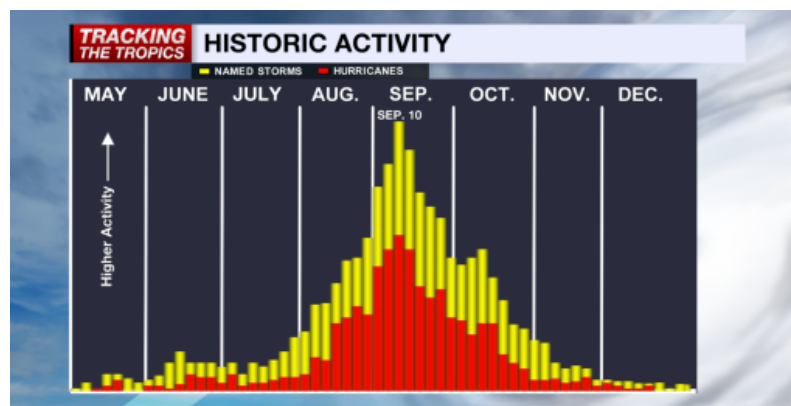
We know the hurricanes are affecting places all over the world, but Florida has an extremely high rate of hurricanes. So, I interviewed Ms. Enders a science teacher for 7th grade at Indian Ridge Middle school in Davie Florida. Ms. Enders began teaching the subject of science in 2011, she started because she knew there was a need for science teachers, and she loves the planet and wants to instruct her students about it. I wanted to get the inside scoop about hurricanes. To prepare for these severe storms she stated” If local authorities advise people to prepare for a hurricane, then it is important to protect all windows, ensure trees have been properly trimmed of old branches/ palm fronds and bring in outdoor furniture or anything else that could become a projectile. Families should make sure they have enough food and water to live off for at least 3 days, as well as enough food for family pets.” Now that we know how to prepare, have you ever wondered what the worst hurricane was in the world? Ms. Enders said” Hurricanes differ with their damage and death toll. Some hurricanes are quite costly but spare lives, while others take many lives while not causing widespread property damage. Some hurricanes are known for their horrific winds and others are known for the flooding that occurred. Hurricane Katrina was a costly storm as well as a storm that took lives [2005]. The deadliest storm is still Galveston Hurricane from the year of 1900.” As we now know the hurricanes can be very dangerous, or even deadly. So, next time there is a hurricane warning take it seriously and be smart with what you do and how you prepare.



A satellite view of a hurricane.
Photo credit: noaa.gov



The flooding aftermath of tropical storm Eta.
Photo credit: thetelegraph.com



A graph of history activity of hurricanes.
Photo credits: NBC2 News.

Holiday Aspects



Holiday Gift Giving

By Yaryna Bednarchyk



Gift giving is a very important tradition no matter what holiday you celebrate but, with covid-19 in store shopping seems very unlikely to happen. This will help bring down some illness rates, but online store shopping rates will be through the roof. I interviewed Ms. Escobar a 7th science teacher about what she thinks will happen this holiday season. “I think there will be a lot more digital gift cards given or a lot more gifts will be ordered online and delivered directly to others.” She also agrees with the millions of other people who believe that online sales this holiday season will be much bigger than last year. This whole year because of the pandemic online shopping rates have spiked so it won’t be hard to believe that during this holiday season rates will be even higher. “Yes, I have already order things online and had them delivered to friends for birthdays.” Ms. Escobar herself has already ordered and gave gifts to her friends and family for different occasions. Because more people will be ordering, mailing systems will be packed with things to ship out. Ms. Escobar also believes they will be over packed with gifts. Even though we are living through a pandemic doesn’t mean you can’t spread so holiday cheer by getting your loved on an online gift.



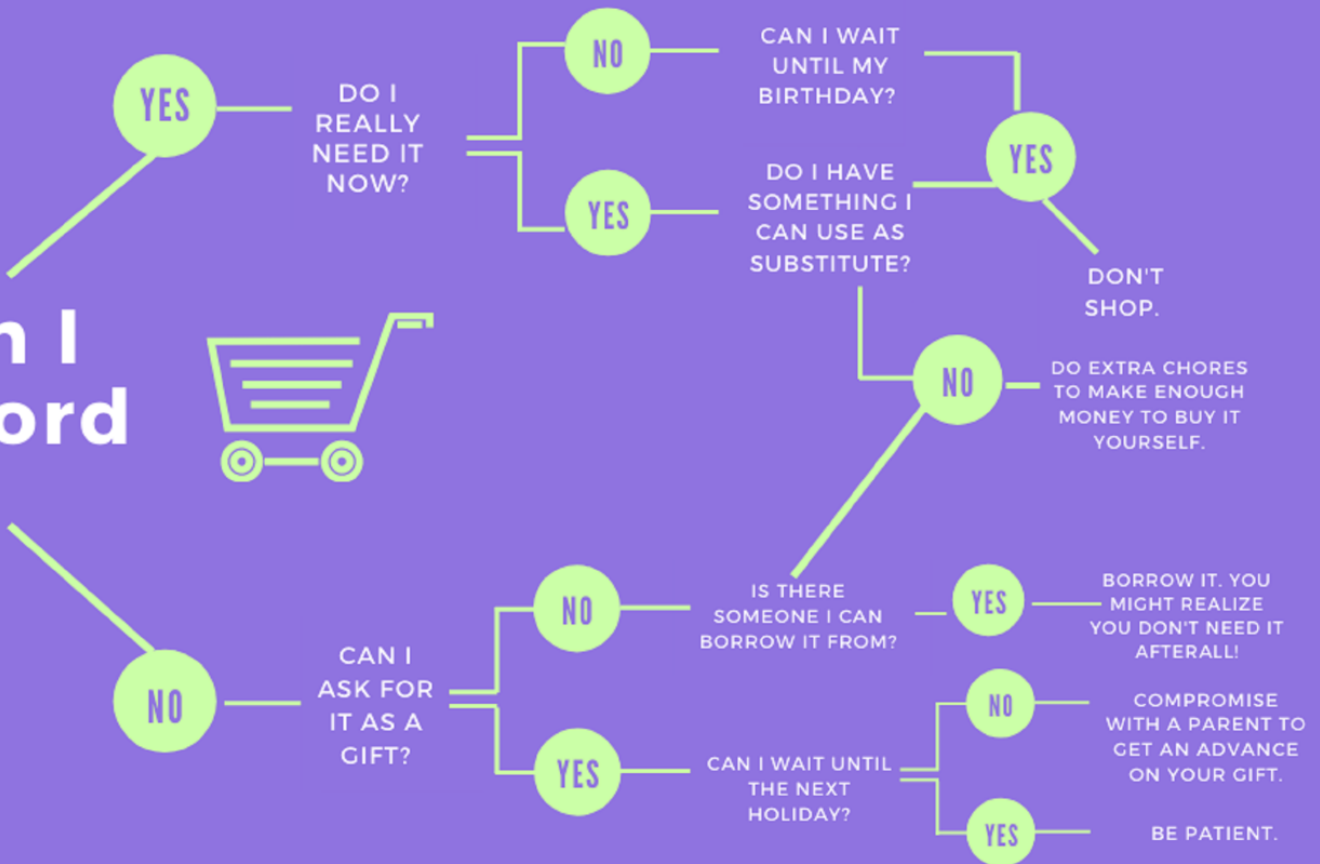
Nora Viles with her granddaughter, Aisha Naveo at the Farmers Market



Ms. Vazquez, a 6th grade language arts teacher

SHOPPING DECISION GUIDE

Can I afford it?



VIRTUAL LEARNING

Bingo

"Your mic is muted."	Spill food or drink on laptop/assignment	Work outside	Submission is blank... oops.
Virtual science experiments	Forgot to mute yourself	Snack break	Multitasking chores and virtual learning
Netflix and School.	Sibling/Pet on camera	Fell asleep	Printer paper jam
iReady/ MobyMax/ Newsela	Teacher called on you unexpectedly	Math lesson using school supplies	Joined a club virtually.
Teacher cancels Teams meeting	Internet goes out	Studying on the dining table	Perfect score on a quiz

Post your finished Bingo sheet and tag @irmsyearbook on Instagram!