Remembering Kobe

By Julian Miles and Aaron Rochman

On Sunday, January 26th, 2020 at 9:47 A.M., a helicopter on course to Los Angeles crashed in the mountains. At first, the passengers were unknown, but at 12:06 P.M., the news broke that Kobe Bryant, his daughter Gianna and 7 other people were on the aircraft. All of the passengers were killed by the crash that also started a one-mile-wide brush fire. Kobe Bryant, a five-time NBA champion and two-time Finals MVP, is considered to be one of the greatest to ever play basketball. Many mourn his death, not just for his achievements on the court, but also off of it. He was so respected that most teams playing after his death paid tribute to Kobe by taking either a 24-second violation or an eight-second violation; at the start of the game to honor him because he wore the numbers 24 and 8. He was not only a great player, but also a great person. Kobe played his entire 20-year NBA career on the LA Lakers and was named an All-Star 18 of those years. Kobe Bryant also scored the 3rd most points all-time over his career. Bryant holds the record of second-highest points ever scored in a game with 81, and also dropped 60 points in his final game. A Look at Kobe Bryant’s Achievements

- Bryant was named the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player in 2009 and 2010.
- Bryant was named the NBA Most Valuable Player in 2008.
- Bryant was an 18-time NBA All-Star (1998, 2000-2016)
- Bryant was named the NBA All-Star Game MVP Four times (2002, 2007, 2009, 2011)
- Bryant was named to the All-NBA First Team 11 times (2002-2004, 2006-2013)
- Bryant was named to the All-NBA Second Team twice (2000-2001)
- Bryant was named to the All-NBA Third Team twice (1999, 2005)
- Bryant was named to the NBA All-Defensive First Team nine times (2000, 2003-2004, 2006-2011)
- Bryant was named to the NBA All-Defensive Second Team three times (2001-2002, 2012)
- Bryant was the NBA Scoring Champion in 2006 and 2007.
- Bryant was a two-time United States Olympic Gold Medalist in 2008 and 2012.
- Bryant won the NBA Slam Dunk Contest in 1997
- Bryant is the All-Time Lakers leading scorer with 33,643 points and fourth in the NBA all-time.
- Bryant won an Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film in 2018.

The Effects Kobe Had on Other People

1. He inspired James Harden, Steph Curry, and other NBA greats to play. James Harden said that he would rush home every day to watch Kobe play.
2. Joel Embiid said he had never picked up a basketball before watching Kobe play. He inspired Embiid to start playing.
3. Kobe showed everyone that hard work makes a champion. He said, “If you do the work, dreams come true.” He always worked hard - his daily routine was to make at least 1000 lay-ups a day. He showed that he worked hard by winning 5 NBA championships.
4. Kobe brought many kids to the world of sports. The Kobe and Vanessa Bryant Foundation provides funding for youth basketball and soccer camps as well as programs to help fight youth homelessness and provide healthcare to vulnerable youth. He inspired many young kids to practice and work hard.
5. Kobe also inspired people to play by saying it can be used to strengthen youth mentality and emotionally. Kobe said playing sports is a way to deal with anxiety, pressure, and to quit the ego.

How Much Did We Spend?

By: Joseph Pautienus and Ianes Malin

Every year there are ‘deal days’ such as Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday. These days are days that Americans rejoice, and use to prepare for Christmas. In this article, we will mostly be focusing on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. This year, shoppers spent $81 billion dollars through the five-day shopping spree with the most popular items being L.O.L Surprise Dolls, Frozen 2 Toys, and Sports games like Fifa 20 and Madden 20. This Black Friday, spending was at an all-time high - with shoppers spending $7.4 billion online alone. These special shopping events aren’t just giving opportunities to the customers, but stores like Amazon, Nike, eBay, and Target saw a 52% sales boost this season.

These shopping events can determine how a company’s stock will rise or fall. For example, companies who meet or exceed their Black Friday sales quota saw their stocks rise in value; and companies that didn’t meet their quota saw their stock value fall. For example, on November 21st, Amazon’s stock was worth $1,745. Then, after a successful Black Friday, their stock grew to $1,818. However, companies like Kmart saw their stock fall after a poor Black Friday performance.

The real question to be asked is, “How do profit margins actually change during Black Friday?” The way retailers lure Black Friday shoppers is with their good deals and advertisements, but do companies still make a profit off these heavily reduced prices? According to Forbes, the way retailers like Walmart and Target make money is they market their products and prices to make you psychologically want to spend more money. For example, when you buy a heavily discounted TV you feel good about saving money so people treat themselves to other items in the store that are barelty discounted or not even discounted at all. So using their heavy discounts like TV’s as advertisements, they draw customers into their store where customers will buy things just because of the sale sign, even if the sale is as little as $5. Also with these sales, stores generally drag in more people than their average amount of customers. So even with discounted prices, they still make more money.

With all this commotion and rush on Black Friday, what is it like for the workers? With large crowds and lines of people around every corner in shopping centers, is it stressful? At stores like Target, employees would get paid the exact same amount for working busy and stressful shifts on Black Friday, versus an average weekday. Workers are treated poorly during the Thanksgiving break and for the most part, retail workers aren’t able or even allowed to take Thanksgiving off.

No matter what you say, the holidays are a time where everyone can rejoice and spend time with their families. We hope you enjoyed yours!
Sneaker Collecting
By Brendan Syпе and Hunter Wertheim

Sneaker collectors, or ‘sneakerheads’, are now becoming very popular. Kids and adults have been spending hundreds, or maybe even thousands, of dollars on a new pair of kicks. Websites like Goat, StockX, and Stadium Goods, have become go-to Sites for sneakerheads who are willing to spend a lot of money. There is also the new and upcoming SneakerCon, a giant sneaker convention. This is where many collectors can show off or potentially sell their highly sought after sneakers.

SneakerCon: SneakerCon was founded in 2009 off of an idea by a group of sneaker collectors. After a couple of years spent gathering a community of sneaker fanatics, they started the SneakerCon website. This is a website where collectors can buy, sell, or trade, their pricey kicks. It has helped many sneakerheads who can’t travel to the cities where the events are held. SneakerCon customers can browse through thousands of rare sneakers, and when they make their decision, their shoes get authenticated by using the “SneakerCon legitimizer.” Then, the shoes get shipped to the buyer. SneakerCon has fun and exciting events all year long, so if you have the time, we would recommend stopping by.

Sneaker Websites: New, popular, and largely growing sneaker websites have cropped up recently. Some websites like StockX, Goat, and Stadium Goods have set up cool price systems to find the right price at the right size. Many people may think buying expensive sneakers off of a website you’ve never heard of could possibly be a very bad idea, so these websites have set up legitimators to make sure the shoes that were bought are both legit and not a scam. (Some of the websites put special ‘verified’ tags on the shoes to prove their real). On some of the websites, people can sign up and then post their own shoe deals. That’s where the term sneaker reselling gets its name from. People can buy shoes for retail, and then sell them for a couple hundred dollars more. Also, many shoes’ value increases over a couple of months. So, you could buy a cheap shoe and decide not to resell it because the value is low, but then, a couple of months later, you could resell the shoe for hundreds or maybe even thousands of dollars! All in all, we think sneaker websites are the next big thing, so investing money on them could end up making you lots of money.

Top 3 Technological Advances
By Aaron Ruchman and Julian Mills

Waverly Ambassador Translator
Many people face the challenge of being monolingual, but now there is a solution. Most kids do not know another language. But for those who want to travel regardless of language boundaries, or communicate easily with people who speak different languages in their own neighborhood, Waverly Labs invented an audio device that translates on the spot. There are many situations in which to use it, but perhaps the most useful setup is to attach one to your ear, hand the other to someone who doesn’t speak the same language to strap onto their own head and talk away. The correct translation will play in both of your ears. The technology is still in the beta stages, but it might be worth it to get your hands on an early version.

Solar Roadways
Solar Roadways is exactly what you’re thinking after reading the name. These are solar panels that can be used to pave roads, driveways, sidewalks, or any surface meant for walking or driving. Solar spirits, the power intakings, are protected under thick layers of shatter-proof Gorilla Glass and can be used to generate electricity from any surface. These panels come in hexagonal panels which makes replacement super easy. Additionally, Solar Roadways panels can be programmed electronically to show specific markings on the road. The panels can generate enough heat to melt the snow and thaws, ensure safe walking or driving over these roads during snowstorms. All of this can occur while saving the Earth by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Hovercars
We’re close to seeing flying cars and other levitating transport vehicles, but Hovercars is transforming personal transport while keeping it super cool. Hovercar’s S3 is a quadcopter bike that can not only take off and land on any concrete surface, but also hovers above the ground and can fly at 60 miles per hour. The body of the flying bike is made of carbon fiber which makes it super light and agile, giving it a weight of only 250 pounds. The vehicle has already been adopted as part of Dubai’s police fleet of “supercars” and “superbikes” which criminals cannot evade very easily. Riders are recommended to fly the hoverbike at a height of 5 feet, which can also be adjusted for personal requirements. While this is an early concept we’re seeing, you can expect to see an evolution into actually flying bikes in the future.

The History Behind Valentine’s Day
By Sophia Butterfield and Elizabeth Collins

Seemingly, everyone knows about the holiday called Valentine’s Day. It seems like a simple holiday where you give your loved one a special gift and you celebrate being with them. But do you really know the history of Valentine’s day?

Valentine’s day is in a very old tradition that originated from a Roman festival called Lupercalia. The tradition of Lupercalia involved different activities such as men sacrificing a goat or dog, and then whipping women with the hides of those animals… and that’s how they would flirt with each other. Another example would be, a lottery of women would have their names in a jar and men would pick one of those names out of a jar, which meant to them that they would be a couple for the remaining time of the festival.

Lupercalia was celebrated on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of February. We celebrate Valentine’s day on the 14th because, with the introduction of Christianity, the holiday moved to the 14 of February in honor of the Feast of the Purification of Saint Valentine, who was the patron saint of lovers.

Now, Valentine’s day is a day where you celebrate being with your significant other. Valentine’s day is celebrated differently from each other. Many couples celebrate with each other. Many couples give their significant other letters, flowers and presents. Nowadays people ask “will you be my valentine?” in cards.

In the 14th and 17th-century, cupid was just a piece of art, until people realized that cupid was more. Cupid was cupids baby angel that came from Venus the god of love. Because of Cupid coming from a god of love people finally picked up the fact 200 years later that Cupid could be known for the ability to change people’s hearts by shooting gold-tipped arrows at people that are meant to be together. When people are meant to be together it involves love and that’s how cupid is now known as a symbol of Valentine’s Day.

Here are the jokes that you’re BEN waiting
By Ben Amato and Ben Tuttling
What did ice cream cone say to his girlfriend? You make my heart melt?
Did you hear about the man who promised his girlfriend a diamond for Valentine’s day? He took her to a baseball park?
Why did Joe get in trouble at the orange juice factory? He couldn’t concentrate! He ended up getting canned too?
Why did the bananas go to the doctor? He wasn’t peeling well?
What kind of shorts do clouds wear? Thunderwear?
What did the coffee say to his girlfriend? I love u a latte?
Did you hear about that new shoe prototype? I hear it’s groundbreaking?
What did the mother mirror say to her son? I can really see myself in you?
I used to be a train conductor but I derailed too many trains.
How many?
It’s hard to keep track?
What did the math teacher say to his students? You shouldn’t let math intimidate you, it’s as easy as 1 2 3?
Winning the Nomination Part 1: Health Care

By: Audrey Miracle

Right now, twelve Democrats are running for the position of the Democratic presidential nominee, but only one will win. But who to choose? Most people choose their candidate based on their party and their plans on issues like health care and education. They also base it on their experience and how they handle current problems facing the country.

We are going to take a closer look at the top five Democratic candidates, and their plans for healthcare. First up is former Vice President Joe Biden. Biden wants to build on the Affordable Care Act and expand Obamacare by reducing healthcare costs, making our healthcare system less complex, and giving Americans more choice. Joe Biden’s “Biden Plan” works on giving Americans a public health insurance option, like Medicare. For people with or without coverage, the Biden Plan will give you the choice to purchase a public health insurance option, like Medicare. The Biden Plan would also work on expanding coverage to low-income Americans and could help Americans save hundreds of dollars on insurance each month.

Next up is Elizabeth Warren. Warren’s plan would be to first reduce the cost of prescription drugs, lowering the eligibility for Medicare. This would mean people who want to leave private insurance or don’t have insurance can get on to Medicare. Warren’s Affordable Drug Manufacturing Act would have the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) fix the problems the market hasn’t. Warren’s Behavioral Health Coverage Transparency Act would make sure Americans with mental health issues have sufficient coverage, and receive the protections they are guaranteed by the law.

Next is Vermont’s Governor, Bernie Sanders. Sanders wants to give Americans Medicare for all plans to make sure people won’t have to pay out of pocket to go see a doctor. His Medicare For All Act is more generous than single-payer countries, such as Canada. Sanders wants to expand Medicare for All by designing a single-payer healthcare system for every American. Medicare coverage would be expanded to include dental, vision and, hearing long term care, in- and outpatient services, prescription drugs, mental health, and more.

Mayor Pete Buttigieg is taking a spin on Medicare For All. He wants to do Medicare for All Who Want It instead. Unlike Medicare For All having everyone get the same public plan, Medicare For All Who Want It will let people choose. If you want a public plan like Medicare, you can get it, but if you want to stay with your private insurance, you can. Buttigieg’s plan will let families choose a type of healthcare that makes sense for their family.

Last but not least, is Amy Klobuchar. Klobuchar released a plan for improving mental health care, and fighting drug and alcohol addiction. While she hasn’t signed onto Medicare For All, Klobuchar does support universal health care, starting with a public option for people to opt into government-run plans. Klobuchar also supports lowering drug prices and expanding Medicaid and Medicare. In an interview with CNBC, Klobuchar said: “There, I’m not actually on the bill because I support a public option, and improving the Affordable Care Act.”

In part 2 of this article, we will be looking at the top 5 Democratic candidates’ views and plans for education.

Take Time For Your Valentine

By: Rachel Frazier and Karla Mendez Lopez

Let’s be completely honest: Valentine’s Day isn’t everyone’s cup of tea. But don’t worry. We have figured out that the trick is to celebrate the holiday in your own way, whether that’s with traditional flowers, greeting cards, chocolates, a nice dinner, or even something a little less typical.

Some ideas of things to do with your partner on Valentine’s Day are:

- Gather your cooking supplies and bake some goodies!
- Have a girls, or boys night and simply enjoy the time!
- Watch a movie with friends or family.

An idea to bake on Valentine’s day:

The ingredients you will need to make this dish are:

- Baking spray, for baking custard
- 1 stick butter
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 1/2 cups semi-sweet chocolate
- 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 2 whole eggs
- 3 egg yolks
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- Vanilla ice cream, for serving

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees F. Spray four custard cups with baking spray and place on a baking sheet.

Microwave the butter, brown sugar, and semi-sweet chocolate in a large bowl on high until the butter is melted, about 2 minutes. Whisk until the chocolate is also melted. Stir in the sugar until well blended. Whisk in the eggs and egg yolks, then add the vanilla. Stir in the flour. Divide the mixture among the custard cups.

Bake until the sides and firm and the centers are soft, about 13 minutes. Let stand 1 minute. Invert on individual plates while warm and serve with vanilla ice cream.

Fun facts about Valentine’s:

- While we know Valentine’s Day is the most romantic day of the year, there is plenty more to the holiday than just the love aspect. Here are some fun facts to know about Valentine’s Day!
- Every year, more than 36 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolates are sold across the country.
- February 14th is the second-longest card giving day of the year, just after Christmas.
- 65% of men do not make plans in advance for Valentine’s Day.
- Teachers receive the most Valentine’s Day cards, followed by kids, mothers, wives, and girlfriends.
- Who says you can’t be your own Valentine? In 2015, 18% of women send themselves flowers.
- And the most likely flower to be purchased? Red roses, of course!
- Of the 124.6 million households in the U.S., it’s predicted that 43 million of them will purchase flowers.
- The only other day that beats Valentine’s Day in floral sales is Mother’s Day.
- It’s estimated that the U.S. alone is going to spend $3.3 billion on
# Valentine Shout Outs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To: Coiller</th>
<th>To: Cate</th>
<th>To: All of my peeps</th>
<th>To: Natalie</th>
<th>To: Addie</th>
<th>To: Ollie</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From: Theo</td>
<td>From: Addie</td>
<td>From: Ollie</td>
<td>From: Josh</td>
<td>From: Cate</td>
<td>From: Audrey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“You’re a good friend.”</td>
<td>“Happy Valentine’s Day!”</td>
<td>“Hi, guys! This shout out is to all of my friends. Super shout out to the Crazy Crew. You know who you are.”</td>
<td>“Hi”</td>
<td>“Happy Valentine’s Day!”</td>
<td>“Hey, Ollie. You’re a great human/actress and one of my best friends.”</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To: Theo</th>
<th>To: Cousin Jim</th>
<th>To: Claire</th>
<th>To: Ava</th>
<th>To: Riley the Smiley</th>
<th>To: Annie</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From: Nathan</td>
<td>From: Annie</td>
<td>From: Jacob</td>
<td>From: Harper</td>
<td>From: Audrey</td>
<td>From: Emma &amp; Addy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“You’re a good friend.”</td>
<td>“Happy Valentine’s Day!”</td>
<td>“Happy Valentine’s Day!”</td>
<td>“Hi, you’re cool, bye.”</td>
<td>“Thanks for being an amazing friend and I really enjoy helping you with your duck research.”</td>
<td>“Yass, Annie. Get it girl! #Ballerz”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>To: Reese</th>
<th>To: Samuel</th>
<th>To: Emily</th>
<th>To: Mr. Timmons</th>
<th>To: Kaylie</th>
<th>To: Mr. Timmons</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From: Kayleigh</td>
<td>From: Claire</td>
<td>From: Peter</td>
<td>From: Kate &amp; Julia</td>
<td>From: Archer</td>
<td>From: The class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Rawr!”</td>
<td>“Samuel, my twin brother, you’re stuck with me for life. Happy V-Day!”</td>
<td>“I got a gift.”</td>
<td>“#youareverycool”</td>
<td>“Have a great day.”</td>
<td>“You are the best teacher ever and you are so funny. Thank you for being so awesome and cool. We hope that one day we can bring our jar of coins to Tijuana. #MrTimmonsclassgoestojimenezwiththejar”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To: Mary</th>
<th>To: Cousin Jim</th>
<th>To: Dio</th>
<th>To: Mr. Evancho</th>
<th>To: Ella, Cole, &amp; Cal</th>
<th>To: Brandon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From: Dylan</td>
<td>From: Evan</td>
<td>From: Evan</td>
<td>From: From:</td>
<td>From: From:</td>
<td>From: From:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Have an awesome day. I miss you.”</td>
<td>“Happy Valentine’s Day!”</td>
<td>“You thought this would be a Valentine shout out, but it was I, Dio.”</td>
<td>“Thanks for being an awesome teacher!”</td>
<td>“Have a great day!”</td>
<td>“I miss you.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Valentine Shout Outs

| To: Logan From: | "I hope you have a great day and I love you lots." |
| To: Dan From: JK Rowling | "If Dan wrote a book, I would read it. As long as the book is about Dan. Because Dan is awesome." |
| To: Uncle Jim From: Annabelle | "Happy Valentine's Day!" |
| To: Noah From: The ladies | "Noah is definitely boyfriend material." |
| To: Cousin Jim From: | "Happy Valentine's Day!" |
| To: Cousin Jim From: Faithful Jimson | "Happy Valentine's Day!" |

| To: Dan From: | "Dan is the coolest kid in school." |
| To: Dan From: President Obama | "I learned everything from Dan." |
| To: Dan From: Everyone | "Dan is so cool. We wish we were Dan. What a legend." |
| To: The Squad No Cap From: | "One Direction forever minus Liam. Noodles" |
| To: Caroline From: Harper | "Hi. You’re cool. Dylan McCaffrey.” |
| To: Whitney From: Victoria | "Happy Valentine’s Day!" |
| To: Kayliegh From: Whitney | "Happy Valentine’s Day!" |
| To: Victoria From: Whitney | "Happy Valentine’s Day!" |
| To: Reid From: Victoria | "Happy Valentine’s Day!" |
| To: Bodhi From: | "Happy Valentine’s Day!" |
| To: Jacob From: Brandon | "Happy Valentine’s Day!" |

| To: Mia From: Whitney | "Happy Valentine’s Day!" |
| To: Summer From: Whitney | "Happy Valentine’s Day!" |
| To: Mo From: Whitney | "Happy Valentine’s Day!" |
| To: Ava From: Whitney | "Happy Valentine’s Day!" |
| To: Kate From: | "Happy Valentine’s Day!" |
| To: Chucky From: | "Happy Valentine’s Day!" |
Based on the Facts

CLIMATE IN CRISIS: IS IT TOO LATE TO SAVE OUR PLANET?

By: Benjamin Tieting & AbeMaybee

Every day, the Earth changes in many ways. From the constant flux of the world population to the slowly rising threat of climate change, it’s a fact that climate change is more urgent now than ever before. Every year a new report comes out about the issue and how it has grown. We no longer have the luxury to put off fixing climate change because the crisis is already here. There are so many consequences that have occurred and it may be too late to reverse them.

Scientists believe that climate change began in the early 1800s when the Industrialization Era began. Back then, it had little effect on Earth’s atmosphere and wildlife and would only raise about one degree every 15 years. However, as the situation began to heat up, the Earth did too. In the last 20-30 years, climate change has become a lot scarier.

According to an article by The Economist, CO2 emissions have risen extensively to a point where the effects could be deadly if left unchecked. These deadly effects have already reached the animal population. In the last 40 years, Earth’s wildlife has decreased by 60% and if we leave climate change alone, over 1 million species are at risk of extinction. Animals also face habitat destruction. Over 40 kilometers of tropical habitats were destroyed in 2018 and more will be lost to come.

Because of this deforestation in rainforests and other tropical areas, it is estimated that 135 species of plants, animals, and insects go extinct every single day. Animals aren’t the only ones at risk of extinction.

The Amazon rainforest is nicknamed the lungs of the planet for a reason. It produces over 20% of the Earth’s precious oxygen. Rainforests covered 14% of the world in the past, but now it only covers 6%. One and a half acres of rainforest are lost every second. A 22-acre plot of land in Borneo, Indonesia may have more than 700 species of trees. That’s equal to all the species of trees in North America but it could all be gone in less than 30 years. Not only that, but the massive changes to the planet could cause jungles to turn into deserts. For instance, Science Daily said that about 6,000 years ago, the Sahara Desert was a jungle. Coral reefs are also in danger of climate change. Over 90% of them will have perished by 2050. Clearly, climate change is much more of a threat to the planet than it is to humans. Henny Widgett happens to have an environmental club that is trying to make a change against climate change. To learn more about what happens in the club, we interviewed Riley Evans. Riley is a seventh-grader who has been participating in the Environmental Club for two years. She explained that during STING on Monday she goes to Mrs. Shultz’s room and signs up to gather recycling from a certain place in the school. Then she walks down the hall filling up the recycling bin as she goes from room to room.

The first question we asked her was why she decided to join the club. She said, “I think it’s a really great cause and if we can help the environment, that would be really great.” When we asked Riley whether the club actually makes a difference, she replied, “I think it has an impact by inspiring people around the community to do more.” She went on to say that it is a step in the right direction, no matter how small it is. If you would like to be a part of the Environmental Club, then you must meet with Mrs. Shultz at the beginning of the next year. Luckily, Henny Widgett has a surplus of students participating in the club.

Climate change may seem overwhelming, but there is still hope! A new light has been shined on the crisis through activism, political debates, and inventions. One good thing is that the world energy system has changed. All around the world, renewable energy is becoming the primary source of energy, with 26% of the world turning away from fossil fuels. People have started coming up with bold, carbon capture ideas that prevent CO2 from entering the atmosphere, stopping it from doing any damage. There are new plans to clean up the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, and recycling is no longer a crazy idea, but a reality, and it is the first step to the solution of climate change. Past generations may have caused climate change, but it is our generation that must stop it, as it isn’t our choice but it is our responsibility to fix it.
**Dungeons & Dragons**

By Aidan Moore and Ivan Mussner

Dungeons & Dragons, also known as D&D, is a game where you can be whoever you want to be. To play D&D you need dice, creativity, and fellow comrades who will fight at your side to complete quests and slay monsters. You will also need a Dungeon Master (the person that creates the scenarios in your world).

The rules of D&D are very simple. The Dungeon Master has to create a world, as each player creates a character sheet, in which they have the freedom to be as creative as they wish. The people have to roll a d20 to determine how well you did on a certain task. For example, you would have to roll a strength check for climbing a tree. Let’s say you rolled a 18, in that case, the Dungeon Master would most likely say that you were able to climb the tree.

To create your character, I would recommend a website called D&D Beyond, which is a fantastic website for beginners. In a situation where the Dungeon Master can’t think of a world, you can use a premade template.

If you want to hear a peer opinion, or are unsure about playing D&D, read our reviews below:

I think D&D is an amazing game that everyone should play at least once in their life. The combination of imagination and creativity makes this game outstanding. I love the freedom of trying out different characters, a choice you are given in very few games. My favorite character is a warrior named Aliya Milestone who carries his great sword along his back with might. You don’t have to spend a penny on this intriguing use off time, and I always have a fun time. - Aidan Moore

We went around the school asking teachers and students what they thought about Dungeons and Dragons. Mr. West (A HUGE D&D FAN) said, “I love this game mostly because of the fun of being able to do whatever you want whenever you want to do it. And also you can create a universe of your own and make as many creatures as you want.” And I completely agree.

This game has so many possibilities that just trying to peak them all into one game would take forever! I love this game because it’s fun and it inspires creativity in its players. We would rate this game a 10/10! No cons whatsoever.

**Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker**

By Willa Simmons

The Star Wars movie series has been being made since before we were born. There are many games, books, and standalone movies inspired by Star Wars. The series started with three original movies, episodes four, five, and six, but now contains nine movies. The newest, Star Wars: The Rise Of Skywalker, hit the theaters on December 15th, 2019.

Not only have Star Wars movies been shown for over forty years, but they contain generations of favorite characters, from Padmé and Anakin; to Luke, Leia, and Han; to Rey, Kylo Ren/Ben Solo, Poe, and Finn; and of course the droids, R2-D2, C-3PO, and BB-8.

I would rate Star Wars: The Rise Of Skywalker a four out of five stars. I think that the movie does an excellent job of showing internal conflicts in Rey and in Kylo Ren/Ben Solo. I saw the film in 3D, which was a fun experience, but was sometimes a little jarring. The special effects are amazing! It’s pretty crazy to watch the first Star Wars movie and compare the special effects to the newest one. I felt like some things were unclear towards the end of the movie, but otherwise I would definitely recommend this movie. Sometimes after watching a movie that is a part of a series, one might have some questions at the end, and I was able to answer my questions by watching all the other Star Wars movies. Star Wars: The Rise Of Skywalker sends a great message to never give up hope.

**Pokémon Sword and Shield**

By Casey Leone

The new Pokémon Sword and Shield games have just come out, and frankly, they’re looking pretty awesome. With all new Pokémon, characters, and power-ups for fan favorites, this edition should be a great new addition to the Pokémon franchise.

But first, let’s take a look at the beginnings of this expensive universe. If you haven’t heard of Pokémon, it’s a game about a young kid going on an adventure through a world full of mystical monsters, each with their own unique power. The point of the game is to level up your pokémon and beat all the Elite Four in their respective region. Pokémon Red and Green for the Nintendo Gameboy came out in 1996, but the video games weren’t very popular until the trading card game, with its own set of rules, was introduced later in the year, and the video game sales increased. The Pokémon anime came out a year later and the game’s popularity increased. While all this was happening in Japan, Pokémon was introduced to the United States in 2000 and 2001, and we received there as well as it was in Japan.

Since then, Pokémon has become a source of nostalgia for people who grew up in the late 90s and early 2000s, as many enjoyed playing the Nintendo games, trading cards, and settling down to watch the anime ever Saturday morning. Nobody knows when the last Pokémon game will finally be released, but let’s hope that the new Sword and Shield game will live up to the franchise’s legacy.

Book Reviews

**Little Women**

By Willa Simmons & Hayden Rowe

Little Women is a classic tale by Louisa May Alcott. The famous and well loved novel has been made into a movie more than once. The most recent film version hit the theaters on December 25, 2019. The empowering female roles in this story inspired generations of women, from my grandmother to me. Louisa May Alcott shares with us the remarkable happenings of the difficult transition into adulthood in which she and her sisters partake.

The newest movie stars Emma Watson as Meg March, Saoirse Ronan as Jo March, Eliza Scanlen as Beth March, and Florence Pugh as Amy March. These four sisters have different interests and talents, but they stick together through tough times. While their father is away at war, they discover who they really are as they enter “the real world.”

We would rate Little Women a five out of five and would definitely recommend this movie. One confusing aspect of this movie was that sometimes it could be hard to tell whether a scene was a flashback or not. The setting was beautiful, and the costumes were impeccable. It sends a great message to women and girls and includes some great female role models.

I would say this movie is appropriate for children and adults alike. For a younger child it may be slightly confusing, but the message has a bigger impact. Little Women is rated PG, it contains some old fashioned vocabulary and mature subject matter.
Did You Know?
By Audrey Miracle & Jonah Campbell

Did you know some of these facts?
- An average person spends six months of their life waiting for red lights to turn green.
- One lightning bolt contains enough energy to toast 100,000 pieces of bread.
- Almost 30,000 rubber ducks were lost to the sea and are still being found today.
- The world’s largest pyramid is actually not in Egypt, the Great Pyramid of Cholula is actually located in Puebla Mexico.
- Pineapples were named after pine cones.
- The human nose can recognize 50,000 scents.
- Bumblebees can fly higher than Mount Everest.
- Movie trailers were originally shown after the movie.
- The electric chair was invented by a dentist.
- At least one of the colors of the Olympic flag appears on all national flags.
- The tea bag was an accidental invention.

Hooked: Part Two (A Fish Story) By Haden James & Blake Bibb

In the last issue, we left off here:

...All of a sudden, Jaws tugged on my line so hard that she pulled my boat all around the lake. I couldn’t believe how strong she was, and I silently prayed this was a battle I would win. After 30 minutes of Jaws in the lead, she did something unexpected. Instead of swimming away from me, she swam down with incredible force. I started to get nervous, as the boat rocked up and down. Before I could evaluate my situation, water started trickling into my boat. The trickle turned into a stream and my boat went under, bringing me down with it. My immediate instinct was to save myself and swim to shore, but I couldn’t leave Jaws! I held on to the rod with all my might and started kicking my feet to stay afloat. Jaws continued her journey to the deep abyss below her, and she continued to pull me with her. I had no choice but to drop the rod. I swam back up to the surface and went to shore. Tired, soaked, and upset, I climbed into my truck to go home. I was extremely angry that I had lost a fish of a lifetime, all my fishing tackle, and my boat.

The next day, I worked up the courage to search for my lost belongings. Conveniently, my friend was a professional scuba diver. He lent me some of his gear so I could find my lures and boat. After putting the gear on, I jumped into the water and began to swim down. The lake was much deeper than I expected, but after a few minutes, the boat appeared in my vision. The boat was so heavy that I figured it would be nearly impossible to retrieve it. I quickly discarded the idea and searched for my lures. I found them in my tackle box, but they had rusted overnight, making them unusable. Buried in the mud, I found my pole. I got a spark of excitement, as I hoped Jaws was still on the other end, but I was not in luck. The line had snapped, meaning Jaws had taken my lure, and it was still in her lip.

After picking up my belongings, I went home and immediately bought a new boat. I was filled with determination, and I knew that I had to catch Jaws if it was the last thing I did. I figured Jaws would not be in the mood to bite for a while, so I gave her a few weeks before fishing for her again. I fished hours upon hours for her, wishing she would bite once more. Hours turned into days, and I was starting to think either Jaws was dead, or she was just refusing to bite. I tried every tactic to catch her, and finally, one strategy worked. I threw a huge rainbow trout swimbait into the water and retrieved it slowly. BANG! Jaws hit my lure. I set the hook, but she was already off. I cast again, and she bit once more, and this time she was on. Before swimming away with the power I knew she had, she leaped out of the water, showing me it was her. The crankbait was still in her mouth and I leaped with excitement that she was back on my line. This time I wasn’t going to make any mistakes.

You can choose what happens next! Circle an option, and turn your newspaper into Mr. Evans’ room 314.

A. He rushes and reels Jaws in, as fast as he can and the lure comes out of Jaws’ mouth.
B. He catches Jaws after a long fight, but she is one ounce under the world record!
C. Jaws pulls him in the water and the line snaps.