

# Paw Prints

Back To School 2021 Issue

## Harrington School Newspaper

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### Welcome Back H.M.S By Naima H.

Kids are back in school, clubs at Harrington are starting up, and we are settling in. We know by now that things are not as they used to be. Even though not all of us are happy to be back (no one wants to see summer come to an end), Paw Prints will give you something to be excited about! Photos, polls, comics, reviews, debates, and way more will be featured in each edition! Let's get back into the flow of Harrington Middle School with our first, *Paw Prints - Back To School*, Issue of the year!



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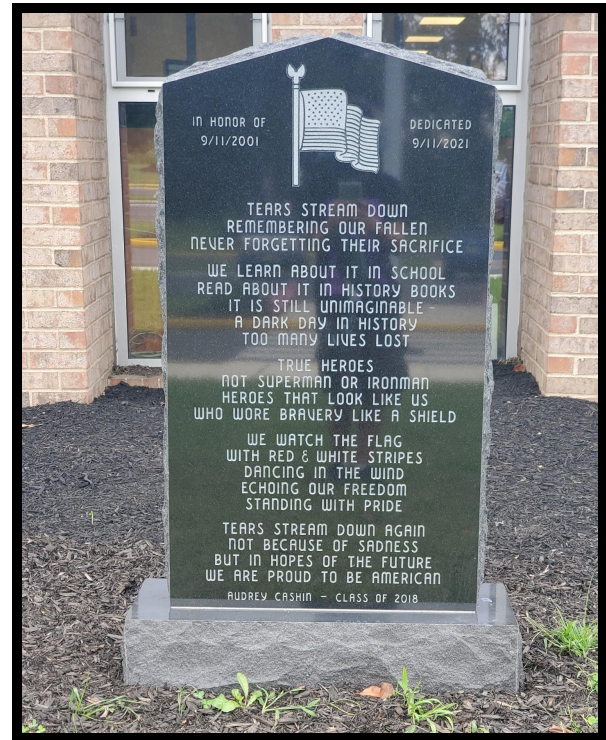
# ***Patriots' Day***

***By Drew M.***

Every month usually has a specific holiday or date set to celebrate something special. October has Halloween, December has Christmas, and April has Easter, plus plenty of others. September's annual holiday is Patriots' Day, a holiday to celebrate our fallen heroes during the 9/11 attacks. Many lives were lost on that day, and we now have time to celebrate our loved one's sacrifice. We have chosen not to fall because of that day, but to grow stronger and better.

First, we have to talk about the origin of Patriots' Day. Patriots' Day was conceived in 2001, however was not officially recognized as a holiday until September 11, 2002. President Bush was still president, and the holiday was created. It is also a showing of some other historical events, but it's almost completely about 9/11. The whole story is a tragedy, and a ton of memorials were built. However, Patriots' Day is not observed everywhere. It's only officially celebrated in a few states. However, a lot of other states do something similar, like build memorials, or just light a candle or something simple.

One of the greatest memorials is in New York City, where the biggest tragedy hit. Two huge holes where the towers were are now in New York City, with the names of everybody lost engraved on them. The pentagon also has several memorials around it representing all of the lost people. Patriots' Day is not a federal holiday, meaning that schools and businesses remain open all throughout the day. However, lots of people volunteer to help at shelters every year for these occasions. Food banks receive extra help, charity work gets a lot more, and a lot of memorial services are held.



(9/11 memorial in front of Harrington Middle School)

In conclusion, Patriots' Day is a day to be remembered. It is all about celebrating our fallen heroes and the sacrifices they made for us. Patriots' Day is also a day to help others. Many people lend a helping hand to others, or volunteer at shelters, or really just about anything. It doesn't even have to be something special, just a time to reflect. About 3,000 victims were lost on that day, and we are still helping each other out in their honor. Even Harrington has a memorial for it! So just try to lend some help to someone who needs it.

# Back to Harrington Middle School

Designed by: Henry N.



alphabet  
classes  
computer  
desk  
harrington  
masks

notebook  
paper  
pen  
principal  
sanitizer  
school

smartboard  
student  
teacher  
whiteboard

## Teacher Talk

By Avery G.

Harrington has so many wonderful teachers that we all appreciate each and every day. In this interview, I talked to 2 veteran teachers that have been here a combined total of 52 years ( Mr. Hoover and Mr. Lubin), and one new teacher that has been here only one and is still learning the ropes, Mrs. Ambrozaitis.

<p><b><u>Question 1- How long have you been teaching? (At Harrington and in general)</u></b></p> <p>Mr .Hoover-26 years total-Also 3 years at Willingboro</p> <p>Mr. Lubin- 26 years total- 21 at Harrington- 5 at Countryside</p> <p>Mrs. Ambrozaitis- 8 years total- This is my first year at Harrington</p>	<p><b><u>Question 2-What's your favorite part of teaching?</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Hoover- “The students keep you young. The teachers are great people to work with”</p> <p>Mr .Lubin- “Forming Positive relationships with so many students and teachers tops the list. I also really enjoy the time off in July and August.”</p> <p>Mrs. Ambrozaitis- “My favorite part of teaching is helping students gain confidence in themselves And see all the amazing things you can create when you take the chance to learn something new. I also love seeing you Grow into awesome young adults throughout the year. But the best part overall is catching a moment when you see someone being a kid.”</p>
<p><b><u>Question 3-What's your Favorite Quote?</u></b></p> <p>Mr. Hoover- “Those who Cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it” ~George Santayana</p> <p>Mr. Lubin- “Instead of worrying about what you cannot control, shift your energy to what you can create.” ~Roy T. Bennett</p> <p>Mrs. Ambrozaitis- “I have found that it is the small everyday deed of ordinary folks that keeps the darkness at bay. Small acts of kindness and love.” ~Gandalf ( J. R. R. Tolkien~ THe Hobbit)</p>	<p><b><u>Question 4- If you had to pick one (Any) Disney character to represent you and your personality which one would it be? and why?</u></b></p> <p>Mr .Hoover- “Simba- Because he just can't wait to be king ( Just Like me)”</p> <p>Mr. Lubin- “Bugs Bunny- I also like carrots, And whenever I see my doctor I always make sure to ask him “What’s Up Doc”.”</p> <p>Mrs. Ambrozaitis- “I feel that I relate to Sabine Wren of Disney’s Star Wars Rebel show. I love that she's an artist!”</p>

**Paw Prints Polls**  
**Back to School Worries**

***“What is your biggest worry being back in school this year?”***

The following chart is a list of things students are worried about this school year. As you may know, many students are anxious or scared for this school year, especially those who were all remote last year or are new to the school. Two PAW PRINTS reporters polled 100 eighth-grade students and asked if they had any concerns or worries about this school year.

Any comments or suggestions can be emailed to [hmspawprints@mtlaurelschools.org](mailto:hmspawprints@mtlaurelschools.org).

Dying	Sports/Clubs	Expectations	Failing	Haunted School BR
Other Kids	Time for Lockers	Covid Spreading	Home/School Work	Kids’ Opinion on Eachother
Adjusting to in-person	Wearing Masks	Fights Breaking Out	Being w/ (ex)friends	Getting Lost
Being Bored	Math	Events/ Socializing	Talking	Crowded Hallways

**Back to School**

**By: Emma S.**

Last year's school year was definitely one for the record books. And many teachers expect us, students, to go back to how things were. Put COVID up on a shelf and forget about it entirely. Watch it grow dust and turn into something merely of our past. But how can we be expected to do so? Sure we are all back in person, but that doesn't change what has already happened, and what continues to happen today.

One hundred of our school's eighth-graders were asked the same question, *what is your biggest worry for this school year?* Sure some students are still worried about grades, homework, and boredom, just as always. However, this school year presents a new set of challenges. A set of challenges that no teacher, nor guardian could have prepared us for.

Many students this year are worried about COVID and its spread; a pertinent issue for most world citizens today. However, the issue of the virus affects students in a much different way as opposed to working adults.

Not only is the stress of COVID high, in terms of one's own safety and health, but it affects other aspects of our lives. For example, many of our school's eighth-graders spent the majority, or all of their seventh-grade year online. And for those who were in person, they got used to a very relaxed sense of discipline. But now, we are all expected to bounce right back. This is virtually impossible for most students who are accustomed to the norm of lax dress codes, lack of rules regarding technology usage, and in many cases, not doing our assignments by ourselves or on time.

I'm sure the entire student body understands why teachers and administrators want to return to our

old schooling habits, but if you ask me, it just feels too soon, too abrupt, and too impetuous.

But why aren't teachers getting it? Perhaps we haven't voiced our concerns enough. Maybe the 25% of eighth-graders who said they wish they still had the ability to be online for their own safety and comfort, isn't a high enough number. Here's what Mr. Stiles had to say about this. "I think we know that having a routine is a big help in getting back to normal. And it may seem tough at first when you go from having school in your own bed without having to get up, to doing all the things that you have to do. Once you set [a] routine, it will be easier for everyone to get back to normal faster."

Even if we were to rewrite the decisions made by our administrators, I still wouldn't say this year would be easy. Another concern that a large

portion of students has is socializing. They are concerned with not only the lack of ability to communicate through masks and attempts at social distancing but their lack of practice. There weren't many new friendships or student-teacher connections built last year, we just maintained what we had. Virtual meetings don't lend well to socializing, at least with new people. And now with our lack of practice, a lot of kids are worried about making new friends.

Though many other concerns were voiced ranging from school shootings to haunted bathrooms, it's clear from most responses that we aren't yet ready to transfer back to "normal" -whatever that word means anymore. And though I may not be able to offer any solution to that pressing issue, I still can wish the Harrington Student Body a happy *Back to School*.

## Middle School Madness

By Moxie

What schools want	What they get	
<p>On time Focused On time Taking notes Awake</p> 	<p><b>Late</b></p> 	<p><b>Asleep</b></p> 
	<p><b>Unprepared</b></p> 	<p><b>Talking during class</b></p> 

## **Harrington Help**

Q: Dear HH

I didn't go to school last year and all of my friends did. They all iced me out and I literally have no idea how to make friends. Legit everyone already has a friend group.

Sincerely,  
Anonymous Student

A: Dear Anonymous Student,

To make friends, you might have to make the first move. I know that sounds cliché, but it's true. Just start a conversation (it can be about anything). Try complimenting someone, or bonding over how confused you are with this school year. And remember, most people are just as nervous about making friends as you are.

Sincerely,  
HH

## **Advice to the 7th Graders**

**By: Anna L**

In my experience 7th grade was weird. Not because it was a new school or because it was the first official year of middle school. It's because it was in the middle of a pandemic. I think the most confusing part was that I wasn't ready for the work. If you get stressed because of lots of work here are some tips-

- Listen to music while doing homework or studying
- Study with friends and find fun ways to study
- isolate yourself from noise

I also want to say how important it is to stay on top of work and assignments. Last year I had a rough start with not turning in work on time or not at all. If you want good grades and a good reputation in high school then you have to stay on top of work. I have come across a lot of kids who don't think their grades will be affected by one bad grade. It will.

Another thing I want to talk about is cheating on tests. When you cheat you don't learn. The point of tests is not to pressure and panic you, they are to help you learn! Cheating on tests and quizzes won't help.

I hope all of you have an amazing month and remember to study, stay focused, and stay on top of work!



## Back-to-School Scramble

By: Tessa S. and Anika T.

1. BTOETXKO
2. CRAENTE
3. CIGENSE
4. TFECRAIAE
5. KCABKAPC
6. SICRSOSS
7. HBDATERWI
8. NAGELAGU TRSA
9. PTROCUMO
10. DRELFO
11. TIAMTAMHESC
12. INREDB
13. CAILOS DUTSESI
14. SREARE
15. CRSEOKL

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## How to Use Superpowers 101

By: G S.

### Chapter 1 - What?

River sighs as they set the last box onto the ground. "Finally, the last one," they say to literally nobody. "Now, time to unpack..." They say, going to open up the boxes. Since they were the first to arrive, they got to pick the first room. They chose the room that wasn't the smallest or biggest room, but it was at the end of the hallway and to the back. As they were unpacking, they were listening to their apple music playlist so they didn't hear when the next person walked in. Of course, as any normal person would, this person knocks on River's door. River jumps about twelve feet into the air before pausing their music and opening the door.

"Oh, hello! You scared me a bit!" River said, clutching their chest. "I'm River by the way," they add.

"Oh sorry for scaring you," the person at the door says. "I'm Mae," they say. "I...uh...use they/them pronouns by the way." They add on.

"Oh me too! Well actually I use any pronouns, but I prefer they/them" River explains.

"Okay I'll keep that in mind," Mae says nodding. "Are you the only other one here?"

"Yeah for right now. I'm not sure when the other person is getting here," River says.

"Well, I better get to unpacking..." Mae says.

"I could help you...I honestly just finished before you knocked on my door." River laughs.

"Yeah, that would be cool! Thanks!" Mae agrees.

They worked on unpacking Mae's stuff, listening to music. The two of them figured out that they have some things in common. Like the fact that



they both like playing Minecraft and watch some of the same Twitch streamers. About an hour later, they finished. “Oh jeez, we’re finally done!” River says, panting a little bit.

They walk out to the kitchen area and sit down at the bar stools. “Do you want to get pizza or something?” Mae asks, looking at the time. It reads 7:43 PM, which automatically means dinner.

“Yeah sure, what kind?” River asks, dialing the number for the nearest Pizza place.

“Just plain is fine,” Mae says, shrugging.

River orders the pizza and the guy on the other end says that it will be there in about 30 minutes. As Mae and River were waiting, the door opened revealing a new person. “Uh, hello I’m Birb,” He says quietly. He has a heavy accent and it sounds like it’s from somewhere in the Middle East.

“Hi I’m Mae, I use they/them pronouns” Mae speaks up first.

“Hello I’m River, I use any pronouns but they/them is preferable, unless we are in public.” River says. “Also, what pronouns do you use?” They add.

“I, uh, use he/him...” Birb replies shyly.

“Okay! Also, are you guys good with swearing? I swear a lot...” Mae asks.

“Yeah, I also swear a lot so it’s all good.” River replies.

“I don’t really swear but it’s okay if you swear, I don’t mind,” Birb assures.

As they waited for the pizza to arrive, they introduced themselves to each other and exchanged numbers. Through that, they learned that River is pan and genderfluid, Mae is pan and non-binary, and Birb is straight.

“Yeah I honestly really love the third book of Harry Pott-” River was cut off by the doorbell, signifying that the pizza had arrived. They got up to answer the door, paying the man on the other side, and gave him a small ‘thank you’ as they shut the door again.

The three of them ate their pizza and continued talking about random subjects. Afterward, they all retreated to their bedrooms for the night.

The next few nights were pretty much the same other than maybe watching a new movie here or there. It’s now Monday morning at 6:29 AM. The clock turns 6:30 and River’s alarm goes off. They have to get up to school today. They groan as they hit the snooze button on the phone. They go back to sleep.

River blinks their eyes open and takes in their surroundings. They are still getting used to the new room. River’s eyes widen as they remember they have school. “Shoot! My alarm didn’t go off again! I must’ve hit the stop button by accident!” They hop out of bed quickly and check their phone. The time on the phone says..... 6:31 AM? What? That doesn’t make any sense! River thinks in confusion. “Maybe I only went to sleep for a minute?--No, I don’t think I could fall asleep and wake up that quickly...” They say out loud to themselves. “Okay River, think about this... this is something straight out of a comic book. Maybe you went back in time?” They think for a little bit with their eyes shut. “No, I think I would remember if I went back in time. What if I... froze time?” They ask themselves.

Okay so, in the comic books, the people with powers have to learn how to use those powers, right? So I should think about the aspects of time. Focus on what time it is and focus on making that time stop. Envision the clock slowing down in your mind. River thinks to themselves.

River first checks the time on the clock then shuts their eyes and pictures a clock in their head. They watch as the hands on the clock get slower, and slower until they eventually stop. They open their eyes and for some reason, everything has a bluish hue. They look out the window to see a fly right outside their window, hovering in mid-air, staying completely still. Did they do it? Did they stop time?

Word Scramble ANSWERS: 1. textbook, 2. Teacher, 3. Science, 4. Cafeteria, 5. Backpack, 6. Scissors, 7. Whiteboard, 8. Language arts, 9. Computer, 10. Folder, 11. Mathematics, 12. Binder, 13. Social studies, 14. Eraser, 15. Locker

# Sugar on Top

By Lindsay B.



*Cupcakes are the biggest craze in the baking world today! Try baking your own using the delicious recipe below,*

## USA Cupcakes

### Cupcake

3/4 cup (94g) all-purpose flour (spoon & leveled)

1/2 cup (41g) unsweetened natural cocoa powder

3/4 teaspoon baking powder

1/2 teaspoon baking soda

1/4 teaspoon salt 2 large eggs, at room temperature\*

1/2 cup (100g) granulated sugar

1/2 cup (100g) packed light brown sugar

1/3 cup (80ml) vegetable or canola oil (or melted coconut oil)

2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract

1/2 cup (120ml) buttermilk, at room temperature\*

### To Bake:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F (177°C). Line a 12-cup muffin pan with cupcake liners. Line a second pan with 2 liners – this recipe makes about 14 cupcakes.
2. Whisk the flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, baking soda, and salt together in a large bowl until thoroughly combined.
3. In a medium bowl, whisk the eggs, granulated sugar, brown sugar, oil, and vanilla together until combined. Pour half of the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients. Then half of the buttermilk. Gently whisk for a few seconds. Repeat with the remaining wet ingredients and buttermilk. Stir until \*just\* combined; do not overmix.
4. The batter will be thin. Pour or spoon the batter into the liners. Fill only halfway (this is imperative! only halfway!) to avoid spilling over the sides or sinking
5. Bake for 18-21 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Allow to cool completely before frosting. I usually let them cool in the pan.

### Buttercream:

1 cup unsalted butter (2 sticks),, softened

4.5 cups powdered sugar

1 Tablespoon pure vanilla extract

4-5 Tablespoons heavy cream or whole milk

Red and blue food coloring

1. Beat the softened butter over medium speed with an electric mixer until soft and creamy. Continue to beat over medium speed as you gradually add the powdered sugar. Stop the mixer and scrape down the sides of the bowl with a spatula as needed to fully incorporate all of the sugar.
2. Once butter and sugar have come together, add the vanilla. Beat in the heavy cream or milk 1 Tablespoon at a time until desired consistency is reached.
3. Split icing into three bowls, add red food coloring to one, blue to another, and keep the third white. Once mixed with COOL cupcakes and ENJOY!

## **All the Feels**

By: Kaley U.

Co-authored by: Aiden C.

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Hi! Welcome. I'm here to reassure you about this new school year. I know as a 7th grader, it can be REALLY hard to adjust. Like many others, I was virtual for the whole 6th grade. Going back to real school was SO confusing, especially going into a new school with new kids and a new schedule. But after a couple of weeks, you'll get used to the schedule, make new friends and overall find it much easier than in the beginning. I know I'm talking about 7th graders, but the 8th graders had it rough too. The 8th graders only had 5 months in 7th grade and still had to go virtual. They had the same struggle as us (7th graders).

We all most likely are pretty stressed, and I can help you overcome it. Here are some ways you can deal with the overwhelming stress.

- Just take a couple of minutes and take a bit to chill
- Maybe try to relax and listen to music in a very quiet place
- Read (if that's something you like)
- Get enough sleep and have a good sleep routine.
- Learn relaxation exercises (like taking deep breaths etc.)
- If you're finding your stress to be coming from assignments here's how you can handle that! Break a large task into smaller, more attainable tasks.

Well, that's all for this month's edition of **All The Feels**, come back in October for another scoop of the feels!

A Monthly Dose of Mind Combustion

By Daniel P.

Humans  
are the  
only  
animals  
whose  
brains  
shrink,  
that  
explains  
a lot

Dolphins sleep with one  
eye open, so I wonder  
why they're so  
paranoid.

You can not lick  
your elbow. Try it.

The Mona Lisa doesn't  
have eyebrows



Elephants can hear with their feet



**IT IS  
IMPOSSIBLE  
TO HUM  
WHILE YOU  
HOLD YOUR  
NOSE**

Lawyers hope you get sued,  
doctors hope you get sick,  
mechanics hope you have car  
trouble, but only a thief wishes you  
prosperity.

THE PRINGLES INNOVATOR WAS BURIED IN A PRINGLES CAN

Pigs don't sweat. So  
if someone says you  
"sweat like a pig" tell  
them( if you're that  
type of person) that  
they are biologically  
inaccurate.



You can't hurt an overthinker,  
they've already seen it coming,  
hence you will only be proving  
them right.

## Dress Codes: Good or Bad?

By: Kai D. and Avery R.

Edited by Lila T.

Dress codes: a taboo topic for some people. But to get down to see if dress codes are as good as teachers make it seem to be, let's compare and contrast the pros and cons. Let's first focus on the opposition. One of the first negatives of the dress code is the sexism that stems from it. Many girls, especially girls of color, get dress coded for things like shorts skirts and tank tops. Just because girls get warm doesn't mean we are trying to distract you. According to an article by The Atlantic titled "The Sexism of School Dress Codes", "The process of defining what's considered 'offensive' and 'inappropriate,' however, can get quite murky. Schools may promote prejudiced policies, even if those biases are unintentional...one of the key concerns is the implication that women should be hyper cognizant about their physical identity and how the world responds to it. The dress code makes girls feel self-conscious, ashamed, and uncomfortable in their own bodies" If you're being distracted by a shoulder strap, that's your problem, not ours.

Another opposition to the dress is that there's an obvious bias to body types. Someone that's "flat" or "thin" won't get dress-coded for wearing a short skirt or a crop top. But, someone curvy or "fat" would be dress coded because it's "inappropriate" or "revealing." Want a valid source of information? Ask my mother about her childhood.

Another opposition is the racism that's clearly rooted in the dress code. Banning bonnets and do-rags while letting white girls wear messy buns to school is a double standard. Just because black people have a different hair type does not mean that they should be punished for it. The bias is clear as day, and schools continue to ignore it.

But hey, maybe it's not as bad as everyone thinks it is. From the same article we mentioned earlier, "While research on dress codes remains inconclusive regarding the correlation between their implementation with students' academic outcomes, many educators agree that they can serve an important purpose: helping ensure a safe and comfortable learning environment, banning T-shirts with offensive racial epithets, for example. When students break the rules by wearing something deemed inappropriate, administrators must, of course, enforce school policies." So while it can benefit a student's safety, it also can jeopardize it.

What do you think? Personally, both of the authors and the editor of the article agree with the opposition, but we would love to hear what others think.

*Dress codes aren't good.*

## Good Luck to all of Harrington Sports Teams!

Field Hockey  
Boy's and girl's Soccer  
Cross Country

# **Reasons The Outdoors Are Worth Your Time**

**By: Abigail S., Olivia A. and Emily J.**

It is so much better to be outside during the nice fall weather than inside playing video games, watching TV, or just being bored. There is so much more to the outdoors than what meets the eye! After reading this article, hopefully, you will consider going outside and enjoying yourself.

## Benefits of the outdoors:

The outdoors offers many awesome landscapes and nice views. Being outdoors gives you...

-Vitamin D (vitamins from the sun)- *It has been clinically proven that exposure of sunlight to a human helps to boost their mood!*

-Exercise-

-Fresh Air-

-And so much more!-

## Things you can do outside:

-Ride a bike

-walk

-run

-hike

-visit parks

-explore your backyard or a place nearby

-chill out in your yard

-visit national parks

-go fishing

-learn an outdoor skill

-go camping

-try something new

-check out the ocean, a lake, pond, river or stream

-If you live by a golf course, search for golf balls

-go on a scavenger hunt-

-birdwatch

-hang out with friends and family

-barbecues/picnics

-make a garden

[What is your Favorite Activity around Fall? Answer poll here:](#)

Have any stories you want us to report? Email us ideas at [hmspawprints@mtlaurelschools.org](mailto:hmspawprints@mtlaurelschools.org)