



Advisor: Mrs Poulton

January 2023

hmspawprints@mtlaurelschools.org

What You Can Do To Support Your Community On Martin Luther King Jr. Day

By Kai D.

This year on January 16th, millions of Americans will remember the efforts and strides of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the civil rights fight for equality between Black and white people. AmeriCorps is an official government group dedicated to making community service an integral part of America, and they continue to spread awareness on what we can do on MLK day. They write "MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a National Day of Service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. During the last quarter-century, the MLK Day of Service has grown, and its impact increased as more Americans embraced the idea that citizenship involves taking an active role in improving communities." So what are some things we can do to help? Just some of the efforts we can make are listed below, but don't limit yourself to these. If you can think of something that can support your community, do it! You can make the first step.

- Donate school supplies or money to local schools to support our children's right to an equal education.
- Donate hygiene supplies to domestic violence shelters, including tampons.
- Donate unwanted clothes to a local thrift store.
- Volunteer at a veterans homeless shelter.
- Clean up cigarette buds off the sidewalk.
- Encourage anyone older than 17 to donate blood.
- Contact our politicians about issues you see in our community.
 - (D) District 7 Senator Troy Singleton: <https://www.troysingleton.com/contact>
 - (D) Rep. Andy Kim: <https://kim.house.gov/contact/email-me>
- Plow snow for your neighbors.
- Help with your neighbors homework.

New Years Traditions Around The World

By: Aarav S.

USA

- ★ Singing Auld Lang Syne
- ★ kissing at midnight
- ★ In the south people eat black eyed peas

Japan

- ★ Cleaning your house
- ★ handing money in envelopes to children
- ★ Many people in Japan during New Year's sell surprise goodie bags. Customers buy them without knowing what's inside
- ★ Many people go to a shrine during New Year's, January 1st or January 2nd
- ★ Watching the first sunrise of the year

China

- ★ Cleaning your house,
- ★ Decorating your house with red things,
- ★ Offering sacrifices to ancestors,
- ★ Handing money or gifts in red envelopes to children or seniors,
- ★ Setting off fireworks and firecrackers
- ★ Watching lion and dragon dances

Australia

- ★ Get a pan or pot along with a spoon and walk around the street and make as much noise as possible
- ★ Watch fireworks

Belgium

- ★ Kids save money to make cards for close adult relatives
- ★ Kissing at midnight
- ★ Drinking champagne
- ★ Go on a cold, freezing swim

Denmark

- ★ Jumping off a chair or sofa when it becomes 12 and then eating a traditional food named Kransekage specially cooked on New Years along with champagne
- ★ Decorating the room with table bombs or christmas crackers which release glitter and confetti
- ★ Buying funny hats
- ★ Listening to Queen, Margrethe II's speech
- ★ Watching the comedy sketch "Dinner for One" on TV
- ★ Watch fireworks
- ★ Watching ski jumps

Hungary

- ★ Eat lentils, roasted pork or pork aspic, retes and korbely soup which is a thick cabbage and sausage broth,
- ★ Don't eat chicken or fish
- ★ Bake a cake with a coin and the person who finds the coin will have luck in the following year
- ★ In the east people create a garlic calendar with a clove of garlic on each month with salt in it. If the clove of garlic is moist by the morning the month would be rainy,
- ★ Girls make dumplings and put them in water with a name of a boy in each dumpling. The dumpling which rises to the top of the water would be their soulmate
- ★ Don't clean or do household chores. Don't wash or sew clothes
- ★ Bury or put in water a straw doll
- ★ Make loud noises including having a costume party and loud singing

Country of the Month

By: Nitya. R

The lucky country of this month is Yemen!

Fun Facts:

1. The Dar-Al Hajar is an iconic building in Yemen carved out of one massive rock.
2. Chewing the narcotic khat plant is a part of Yemeni culture.
3. Yemen is the home of the oldest skyscraper, Shibam.
4. The country's capital and most populated city are Sanaa.
5. Yemen's official language is Arabic, and the currency is the Yemeni Rial.



🌟 New Year = New Goals! 🌟

By: Sanchita S.

We all know what January 1st means: The New Year! There is no better time to set goals for yourself than the beginning of the year, when you can start your life over again fresh and with a clear, open mind. While everyone dreams to have the perfect life, plan, and all their dreams to come true, This won't happen overnight. You need a solid understanding of what you're about to do, and you need to go **step-by-step**.

→ Define **S.M.A.R.T.**

- ◆ S: Specific
- ◆ M: Measurable
- ◆ A: Attainable
- ◆ R: Relevant
- ◆ T: Time-based

1. **Specific: State your Goal *Clearly*.** Make your goals specific and as narrow as possible for more effective planning.
 - a. Ask yourself:
 - i. What do I want to accomplish?

- ii. Why do I want to achieve this goal?
 - iii. Why is it important?
 - iv. What are some requirements and constraints that I have to consider?
- 2. **Measurable: Make Sure you can Measure Success.** Define what evidence will prove you're making progress and reevaluate when necessary.
 - a. Ask yourself:
 - i. How will I measure my progress?
 - ii. How will I know if and when my goal has been reached?
- 3. **Attainable: Set Goals you know you can Achieve.** Make sure you can reasonably accomplish your goal within a certain timeframe.
 - a. Ask yourself:
 - i. How can I accomplish my goal?
 - ii. Is this goal realistic?
 - iii. Is it within my abilities?
- 4. **Relevant: Set Goals that Relate to your Career or Education.** Your goals should align with your values and long-term objectives.
 - a. Ask yourself:
 - i. Is this the right time to work on this goal?
 - ii. Is this worth the time?
 - iii. Does it make sense?
- 5. **Time-based: Set a Deadline for Completion.** Set a realistic end-date for task prioritization and motivation.
 - a. Ask yourself:
 - i. How long do I have?
 - ii. What can I do today?
 - iii. Where should I be one month from now? Three months from now? One year from now?

→ This is a recommended technique that has been proven by experts and professionals to help you plan and achieve your goals; not just for the New Year, but all year long! Put these simple tricks into use and achieve your goals!

New Year's Resolutions No One Ever Keeps

By: Aarav S

Every New Year people sit back and reflect about the past year. Many people make a plan to set new goals for themselves in hopes of creating a better life. These goals are called Resolutions and sometimes these resolutions are hard to keep. In fact, only 9% of people actually stick to their resolutions and change their ways.

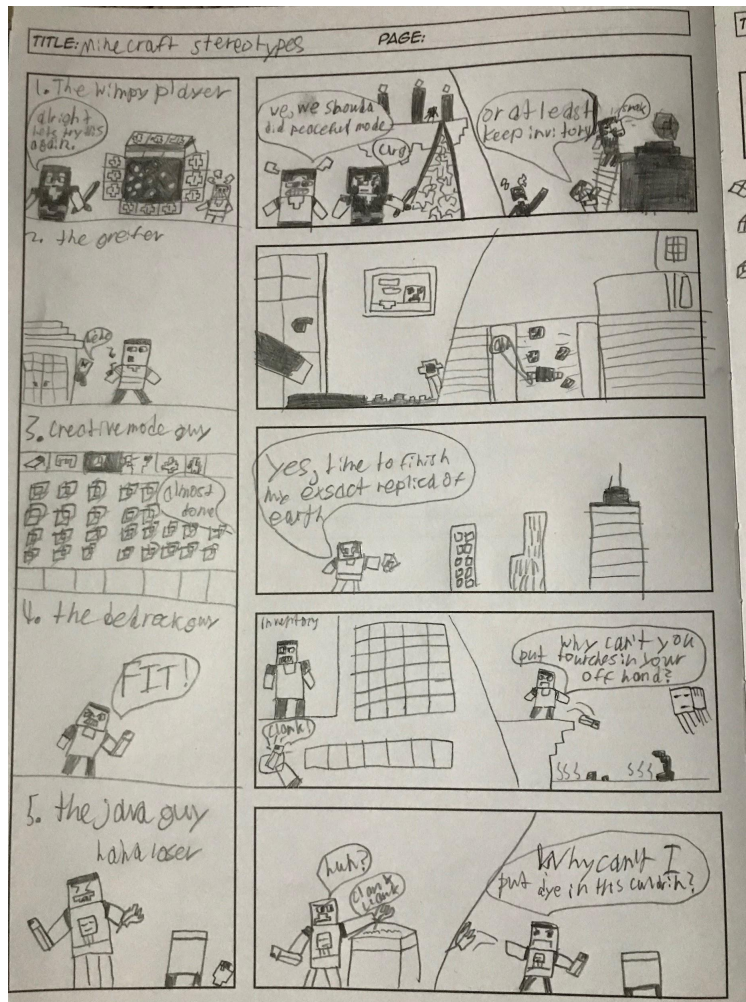
Here are some of the New Year resolutions very few people find success with:

1. Exercising and going to the gym
2. Eating healthy
3. Saving Money
4. Getting more sleep
5. Getting rid of bad habits
6. Cutting out soda or some other junk food
7. Getting organized

Even though most people do not manage to follow through with their resolutions, it is still a good idea to make one. Thinking about the things that you want to see change in your life and initiating that change is the first step leading you in the right direction.

Monthly Comic

By Jayden C.



That's so Funny!

By Aarov S.

- I'm afraid of the calendar. Its days are numbered.
- My wife said I should do lunges to stay in shape. That would be a big step forward.
- Why do fathers take an extra pair of socks when they go golfing? In case they get a hole in one!
- Singing in the shower is fun until you get soap in your mouth. Then it's a soap opera.
- Q. What do you call a fish wearing a bowtie?
A. An offishinal sofishicated profishional!
- Q. If April showers bring May flowers, what do Mayflowers bring?
A. Pilgrims.
- Q. What do you call a factory that makes okay products?
A. A satisfactory.
- Dear Math, grow up and solve your own problems.
- Q. What did the custodian say when he jumped out of the closet? Supplies!!!!

January Happenings

By: Yashmitha B.

You may wake up one January morning, and think it's a typical day. But, little do you know, every day has a holiday!!! Here are all the holidays that come up in January!

Jan 1st- Global Family Day	Jan 12th-National Hot Tea Day
Jan 2nd-National Buffet Day	Jan 13th-Korean American Day
Jan 3rd-J.R.R. Tolkien Day	Jan 14th-Ratification Day
Jan 4th-Netherlands, England, and France sign a Triple Alliance	Jan 15th- National Hat Day
Jan 5th-National Whipped Cream Day	Jan 16th- MLK Day
Jan 6th- Epiphany, a major feast	Jan 17th-Ben Franklin's Birthday
Jan 7th-International Programmers Day	Jan 18th-National Gourmet Coffee Day
Jan 8th- national JoyGerm Day	Jan 19th-National Gun Appreciation Day
Jan 9th-National Carter Day	Jan 20th-National Cheese Lover's Day, National Penguin Day
Jan 10th-Houseplant Appreciation Day	Jan 21st-National Hugging Day
Jan 11th-Hot Toddy Day	Jan 22nd-Celebration Of Life Day

Books That Will Alter Your Brain Chemistry

(in a good way)

By: Joanna L.

BABEL: An Arcane History by R.F. Kuang

"An act of translation is always an act of betrayal."

1828. Orphaned by cholera in China, Robin Swift is brought to London by Professor Lovell. He undergoes training in Latin, Greek, and Cantonese, all in preparation for the day he goes study at Oxford University's Royal Institute of Translation, or Babel. Babel is the center for silver working, the translation manifestation magic that acts as the backbone for Britain. When Britain wages an unjust war against China for silver and opium, Robin is conflicted between his homeland and the nation that gave him more prospects than he'd ever dreamed.

ALL MY RAGE by Sabaa Tahir

"Rage can fuel you. But grief gnaws at you slow, a termite nibbling at your soul until you're a whisper of what you used to be."

Salahudin and Noor are more than best friends; they are family. Growing up as outcasts in the small town of Juniper, California, they understand each other better than anyone. Until The

Fight destroys their bond. Now, Sal scrambles to save the family motel as his mother's health fails and his father loses himself to alcoholism. Noor, meanwhile, is desperate to escape her wrathful uncle, and his liquor store, forever. She applies to colleges in secret, praying for even one acceptance letter. But everything is spiraling out of control. Sal's attempts are futile, and Noor is receiving rejection after rejection. They must experience for themselves, as Muslim immigrants, the high cost of the American dream.

EVERYTHING I NEVER TOLD YOU by Celeste Ng

"The things that go unsaid are often the things that eat at you."

Lydia is dead. But they don't know this yet. So begins this novel about a Chinese American family living in 1970s small-town Ohio. Lydia is the favorite child of Marilyn and James Lee, and her parents are determined that she will fulfill the dreams they were unable to pursue. But when they discover Lydia's body in the local lake, the delicate balancing act that has kept the Lee family together is destroyed, leaving them scrambling to pick up the pieces.

This Month in Science

By: Sanchita S.

NASA's new astronauts...

January 16, 1978: NASA introduced its first team of female astronauts.

In total, 35 astronaut candidates had been chosen to begin astronaut training, and six of the 35 were female.

In the past, other than a handful of scientist astronauts, NASA had only opened up astronaut candidate positions to men with military jet pilot experience. In 1978, NASA began to open up positions to women as well, and other people with a broader range of skills and experience, such as scientists, engineers, and even teachers.

Opening up positions to women was a new thing just 45 years ago-that's a crazy thing to think about! When those six women joined the astronaut corps in 1978, they made up nearly 10% of the active people there. Over the next 40 years, NASA eventually selected

its first astronaut candidate class made up of an equal number of men and women, with women now comprising 34% of the active astronauts at NASA.

Look forward to more of *This Month in Science!* If you have any suggestions, please email SSubramaniam414@mtlaurelschools.org

Back row, left to right:

Kathryn Sullivan, Shannon W. Lucid, Anna L. Fischer,
Judith Resnik

Seated left to right:

Sally K. Ride and M. Rhea Seddon



The Colts' Midnight Move

Written by Jules G.

When the Colts moved to Indianapolis they left overnight. Without any sort of public announcement, their owner Bob Irsay hired movers to pack up the team's offices in Maryland, in the middle of the night, while the city of Baltimore slept. Fans were stunned. Many people wondered why they had moved. The real reason is shocking.

The Baltimore Colts were one of the dominant teams back in the late 1950s and continued to thrive until the 1970s. Bob Irsay gained control of the Colts in 1972, right after they won Super Bowl V. That's when the franchise started going downhill. They had a few winning seasons but the team was so bad that when Hall of Famer QB, John Elway was drafted number 1 by the Colts in 1983, he refused to report to the team, saying he would play baseball instead. The Colts were forced to trade him to the Broncos.

On top of that, Bob Irsay dug himself even deeper into this hole in 1984, when he asked the city of Baltimore to renovate the stadium. Bob Irsay was known for having a short temper so when Baltimore said no, Irsay had let it get to him. Although the two sides told different stories of what went on in the negotiations, it did not go well by any account, and on March 28, the Maryland state legislature passed a law allowing the city of Baltimore to seize the Colts from Irsay. Rather than give up his team, Irsay quickly took a deal offered by the city of Indianapolis and moved the Colts before anyone knew what had happened.

A Year In 2022

By Anika V.

We're on the first chapter of the book 2023, so let's take some time to reflect on the past year we've had. 2022 was very hopeful and exciting, but also very somber and unjust. Let's take a trip back to 2022.

January had held quite a lot of misfortune and was not a very cheerful way to start the year. January 1st was the day multiple countries met a milestone of Covid-19 cases. England reported a new record of 162,570 cases in just 24 hours, France's cases passed the 10 million mark, and the entirety of Europe surpassed 100 million cases of Covid-19. Though many think covid ceased being a problem in 2022, it was very present and a huge problem early on in the year. This month was also the month we returned to virtual learning for a week. Covid-19 cases surged up and staying safe at home was the best thing anyone could do then. January however had some better news later on. January 26th was when The National Assembly of France voted to make conversion therapy for LGBTQ+ a crime, the bill was then sent to President Emmanuel Macron to become a law. Perhaps January wasn't the smoothest start to 2022, but February brought much better news.

The month of February just like January had its ups and downs. There were nearly 250,000 monarch butterflies found in California, which is the highest it's been in 5 years, and much higher than the 2,000 in 2020. The population still shows a 5% decrease since the 1980s, however, it's on the right track to growing back stronger than ever. More good news, the U.S. relocated animals from overcrowded states and shelters to other vacant places which saved millions of animals from being put down. February 24th was a sad day for Ukraine. That was the day Ukraine was invaded by Russia.

March was a month when our faces were exposed for all to see. The mask mandate at Harrington Middle School was lifted. This allowed us all to finally see who was a mask fisher and who was not. Besides this, March was not a very eventful month for us at Harrington Middle school. However, the Russo-Ukrainian war raged on. A holocaust memorial in Ukraine was damaged by Russian shelling.

April was one of the most amazing months of the year. We had spring break! Free from the pressure and anxiety that school brought. That is truly the best news one could hear and the most important news of April for our school. April is also the beginning of the infamous Johnny Depp and Amber Heard trial. Johnny had sued Amber for wrongful defamation and had won 15 million. Amber Heard earned 2 million for her counterclaim.

May however have some worse news than April. Russian forces bombed a school in Ukraine, and about 60 were believed to be dead. More news involving politics, The Swedish Social Democratic Party announced that they will be joining NATO(The North Atlantic Treaty Organization).

Injustice raged on during June. Roe v Wade was overturned, this allowed each state to decide if abortion could be legal or not, which led to 13 states banning most abortions and limiting if you can get one.

July and August were months full of freedom for us. Summer break was full of fun and relaxation. No work, school, or studying, just hanging out with friends and family. Summer break is a time everyone looks forward to, however, the more break we get the closer we are to school. July was when New York declared monkeypox a health emergency and during August updated Pfizer and Moderna Covid-19 boosters were authorized.

September is the start of the school year, the month we were all dreading had finally arrived. A new school year and a fresh start. This year started with no mandatory masks and the restrictions due to Covid-19 were removed. The first truly normal year since the pandemic had begun. Onto some more somber news, the beloved Queen Elizabeth died at the age of 96.

October is one of the most important months of the year! You may be wondering why, and that is simply because there is a day that we all dress up and take free candy from strangers. However, Halloween can't overshadow the tragic events that have occurred throughout the world. In Palestine, an 18-year-old man was killed by an Israeli soldier, making him the 100th Palestinian that was killed by the West Bank in 2022. That's the most deaths caused by Israeli raids since 2015. In an Indonesian city, Malang, one of the world's deadliest sports events occurred. Around 125 were killed in a football stadium due to a stampede. Onto some more exciting news, Taylor Swift's 12th album, *Midnights*, was released on the 21st! News of her upcoming eras tour was also released.

November was filled with inspiring news. The Senate passed a bill to protect same-sex marriage. Kim Kardashian and Kanye West finalized their divorce settlement. The population of our world has reached new heights! On November 15th, the world's population reached 8 billion.

December brought huge excitement from Qatar. As the world cup wrapped up on December 18th, Argentina came out victorious! Not only do they win the glory of beating the other countries, but they won a whopping 42 million dollars! Despite Mbappe scoring a hat trick (three goals in one game), the France team lost during penalty kicks. They may have just come short in the battle, but they still earned 38 million bucks. But most importantly, Messi, arguably the greatest soccer player of all time, won the world cup for the first and last time in his life.

How You Can Help Others On MLK Day!

By Siena S.

Most people think Dr. Martin Luther King Jr day is just a day off of school. But, it is really supposed to be a day to volunteer and help others. Here are some things you can do on MLK day instead of staying home all day.

1. Pick Up Trash At A Local Park

One of the most common volunteer projects is to pick up trash at a local park. Laurel Acres is a good place to pick up trash. You could get together with friends or family

and do it with them. It might be a little weird or gross, but it will be worth it in the end.

2. Baby-sit

Another common volunteer service idea is to baby-sit. Some people still have to work on MLK day. For example, some people are doctors or nurses with kids, who still have to work on MLK day. They might not have anyone to watch their kids. You could ask for money, but that would defeat the whole purpose of volunteering, and helping or making life easier for others.

3. Volunteer At Small Things

Small things is an organization that works with local partners and leaders that help people who don't have enough money to buy food. They have a few locations where you can volunteer. Usually what you do when you volunteer is package up food for a few hours. After you do that, they will take the packaged up food and send it out to people in need.



Instead of staying home on MLK day, consider doing these things this year. It won't only benefit others, but it will also benefit you.

How Every NFL Team Got Their Name (Part 2: AFC)

Written by Jules G.

Hi! Welcome back for part 2 of this series where I explain how every NFL team got their name! In the last issue, I walked through all the NFC teams, so now it's time for the AFC teams.

AFC East Teams:

-  **Bills:** The Buffalo Bills were founded back in 1946 as part of the All-America Football Conference. At that time they were called the Bisons. But after only one year, owner James Breuil held a contest to rename the team for the 1947 season. The winning entry was an essay comparing the team to a band of "Buffalo Bills." It was a reference to William "Buffalo Bill" Cody, who performed shows in the 1880s across the country called "Buffalo Bill's Wild West". Carrying the "frontier" theme further, the winning contestant further offered that the team was being supported by Frontier Oil and was "opening a new frontier in sports in Western New York." Later, when Buffalo joined the new American Football League in 1960, the name was adopted.
-  **Dolphins:** Team founders were searching for a name for their new AFL franchise when they started a contest back in 1965. The contest was widely popular with nearly 20,000 entries, and more than 1,000 names were submitted -- with Dolphins earning more than 600 votes. The founders were enamored by the name, saying when he announced the winner, "the dolphin is one of the fastest and smartest creatures of the sea."

- 🏈 **Patriots:** In 1959, after owner Billy Sullivan bought rights to an AFL team in Boston, he asked the public for suggestions for a nickname for his team. Around 75 different people suggested Patriots and the name was considered a good fit as a way to honor Boston's role in the founding of the nation. They were called the Boston Patriots up until 1971, when Sullivan changed the name after moving the team to Foxborough, Massachusetts. "New England" was actually his second choice though; Sullivan's first request to rename them the Bay State Patriots was rejected by the NFL.
- 🏈 **Jets:** Originally known as the Titans, the franchise changed its name to Jets in 1963 because its home at the time (Shea Stadium) was located near LaGuardia Airport in Queens, New York. The Jets' ownership group also liked Jets because it rhymed with the team name of the MLB team that played at Shea, the New York Mets.



AFC West Teams:

- 🏈 **Broncos:** When a contest was held to name the new Broncos franchise, 162 entries were submitted. But the winner ended up being Ward M. Vining who had written a 25-word paragraph on why Broncos should be the team's nickname. After searching through the internet, this paragraph is unknown but according his daughter, "He wrote that broncos were tough and typified the West."
- 🏈 **Chiefs:** In 1963, the Dallas Texans moved to Kansas City and were given the nickname of the Chiefs. They were named after their mayor at the time, H. Roe Bartle who was known as "the Chief." Bartle was a key figure in helping Kansas City lure the team from franchise founder Lamar Hunt's hometown of Dallas.
- 🏈 **Raiders:** Back when the Las Vegas Raiders started out in 1960 they were called the Senors. The Senors were picked out of a name-the-team contest in the Oakland Tribune. But, after the franchise received lots of fan and media backlash, a new contest was held in the paper and Raiders won out.
- 🏈 **Chargers:** Owner/founder Barron Hilton held a naming contest for his new AFL franchise in Los Angeles. The winner of the contest, Gerald Courtney, got a trip to Mexico City and Acapulco for submitting Chargers. Hilton liked the name because USC fans would shout "Charge!" during games at the Coliseum. The team moved to San Diego after one season.



AFC North Teams

- 🏈 **Ravens:** On March 29, 1996, the fans determined the new name of the relocated Browns and chose "Ravens" which is a nod to a poem written by writer Edgar Allen Poe, whose grave sits a short drive away from where the team now plays. In a telephone poll conducted by The Baltimore Sun, the Ravens received 21,108 votes which were 63% of all the vote gathered and beat out the Americans (5,597) and the Marauders (5,583). The timing of the nickname announcement stood for a rebirth of the NFL in Baltimore since it had been 12 years to the day that the Colts had relocated from Baltimore to Indianapolis.
- 🏈 **Bengals:** Although there were many other suggestions that came from fans, the team's founder picked the "Bengals" as an homage to another Bengals football team that had played



in Cincinnati from 1937 to 1942. There had been other, more popular, suggestions including "Buckeyes," but it was rejected because of its usage at Ohio State.

-  **Browns:** In 1945, Cleveland's football franchise held a fan contest to determine the team's nickname. "Browns" was the winning submission, in honor of the franchise's first coach, Paul Brown but Paul Brown initially vetoed the choice. But, since Paul vetoed their first choice on the name, the team was going to select "Panthers" from the contest instead. Later, after a local businessman told the team he owned the rights to the Cleveland Panthers name, Brown relented on the original choice. Paul Brown, being of the game's pioneers, was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1967.
-  **Steelers:** The Pittsburgh Steelers were originally named the Pirates after the city's baseball team up until 1940 when they put out a naming contest in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Out of thousands of submissions, the team's owner, Art Rooney Sr. selected "Steelers" from Joe Santoni, who worked in the Pittsburgh steel mills. Santoni was one of several who suggested the team name to honor the region's long history of steel production.

AFC South Teams

-  **Texans:** After the franchise was awarded to Houston, the organization used focus group committees to come up with name ideas and got down to five options: Bobcats, Stallions, Wildcatters, Apollos, and Texans. Owner Bob McNair made the final decision on the name, saying, "I'm proud to be a Houstonian, and I'm proud to be a Texan."
-  **Colts:** The Colts originally started out as the Miami Seahawks up until 1946 when the franchise was bought and relocated to Baltimore. Since they had moved to Baltimore, they decided to search for a new, more fitting nickname. The team held a contest and the Colts were the winners. The name was a nod to the area's history of horse breeding. This version of the Baltimore Colts didn't last long though since it only spent two years in the AAFC and one season in the NFL before folding. During their few years as a team, the Colts were one of the more least successful teams, winning only 11 out of the 54 games they played. Luckily, Baltimore was given a second chance in 1953 when they were given an expansion team of the same name. In 1984 they moved to Indianapolis.

If you want to hear more about this very crazy move from Baltimore to Indianapolis go scroll around for the article titled "The Colts' Midnight Move"

-  **Jaguars:** In 1993, the name was given through, once again, another fan contest. Other finalists for the nickname included Sharks, Stingrays, and Panthers..
-  **Titans:** In 1999, after two seasons as the "Tennessee Oilers," the team owner was looking to rename the team. The first choice was going to be the "Pioneers" but after getting criticism on the name by their fans, they decided to go with a name that has closer ties with Nashville. An advisory committee was assigned to come up with a new name. They wanted the new name to reflect power, strength, leadership, and other heroic qualities. The team owner liked the Titans' name, which served as a nod to Nashville's nickname, "Athens of the South" because of the abundance of colleges, classical architecture, and its full-scale replica of the Parthenon.

Thanks for reading!

Pop Culture - A 2022 Review

By: Rose N.

2022 is surely a year of ups and downs. We had some exciting events for the year, and also some that weren't so enjoyable. But, pop culture stands out among the crowd as a year to remember. Let's take a look back at some chart toppers and biggest hits.

The top song of 2022 is *As It Was* by Harry Styles. Some think the song could be about childhood trauma because of his parents' divorce. Another possibility for the song's meaning is that Harry remarks about how the pandemic took its toll on life, and how things will never be the same as before.

The top movie of 2022 is *Top Gun: Maverick*. Pete "Maverick" Mitchell is a courageous pilot and becomes a Top Gun teacher for a big mission. He must overcome his deepest fears to get past the mission that demands sacrifice from those who choose to fly it. Forgiveness, closure, and love are all found by him throughout the course of the movie.

Now here's a fun one! The top Starbucks drink of the year is the iced brown sugar oat milk shaken espresso. That's a long one to say! The drink consists of oatmilk (proven to be the healthiest non-dairy milk), 3 shots of blonde espresso, cinnamon, and brown sugar syrup. It's available all year in all U.S. stores.

The top clothing brand in 2022 is Nike. Nike is known for its footwear, equipment, and various clothing styles. The brand employs over 76,000 people around the world, making it one of the most valuable sports brands. Nike's net worth is more than 33 billion dollars, which is approximately 3 billion dollars more than it was in 2021.

The most searched thing on Google is *Wordle!* *Wordle* is a New York Times website where every day there is a new word you must guess. You only have six word guesses, so you have to use clues from what letters you've already gotten right. It's a fun, challenging, and entertaining game you can play on any device every day of the year!

The most popular sport in 2022 is soccer. 3.5 billion people around the world are fans of soccer. 250 million people play soccer in a total of 200 different countries. In 2022, the country that plays soccer the most is Brazil. Soccer was also popular because the World Cup took place. Argentina won the 2022 World Cup.

The most popular baby girl name in 2022 is Olivia. Olivia is a feminine name derived from the Latin word olive which means peace and freedom. Both Oliva and Olivia are Latin names used in English speaking countries. Olivia is the feminine alternative to the boy name Oliver.

The most popular baby boy name in 2022 is Liam. Liam is a name that originated in Ireland. Liam means desire, guardian, protector, and boss. The Hebrew meaning of "Liam" is determined guardian. Its Celtic-Gaelic meaning is unwavering protector. Finally, the name's Irish meaning is resolute protector.

One of the most trendy activities of 2022 is scrap cooking. This is when you make a quick meal that would later be kitchen waste. This could range from anything like scrap veggie stock to broccoli stem fried rice to candied citrus peels. Food that is still edible but would soon be thrown out is saved. It's as simple as sprinkling your roasted spaghetti-squash seeds on a pan and roasting them for a tasty snack the next day, or keeping those apple skin peels for a yummy cinnamon apple oatmeal.

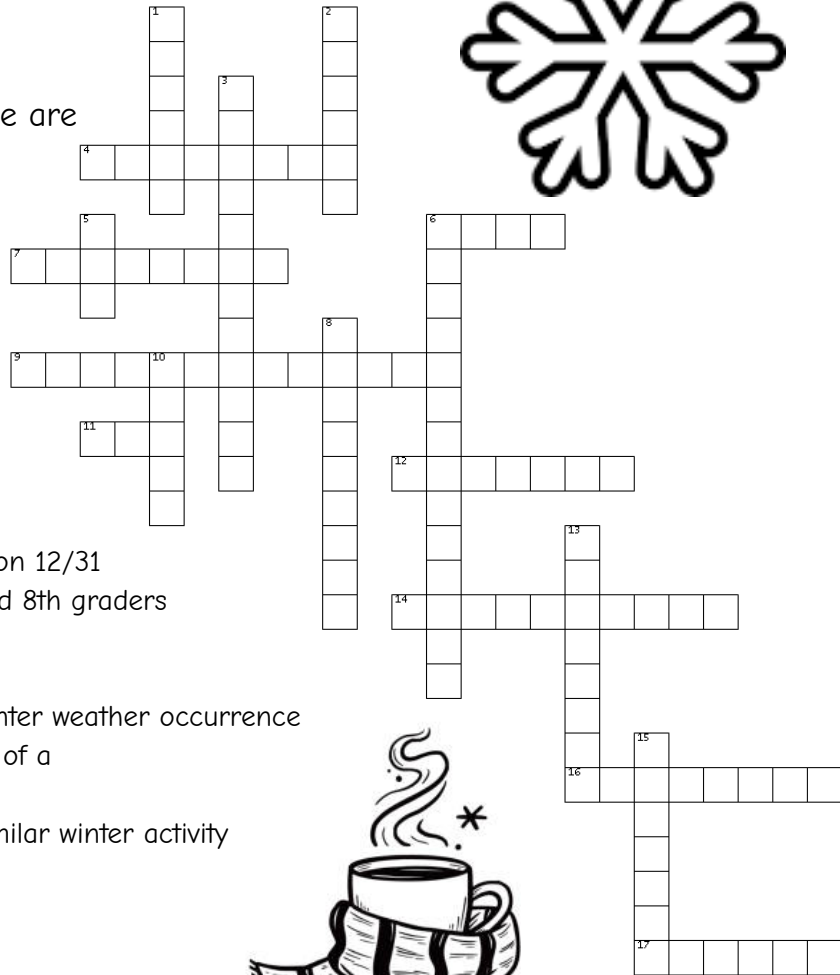
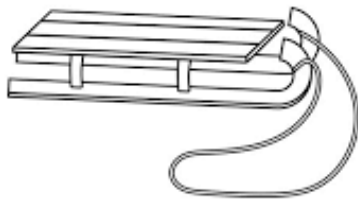
Finally, when it comes to technology, Apple is #1 in the technology ranking. Apple sells all sorts of technology products, such as iPhones, iPads, Apple Watches, and MacBook Pros. Apple's net worth is \$2.389 trillion dollars as of November 2022. Over the course of 2022, Apple's most-sold product was the iPhone. The iPhone accounts for 47.3% of the company's income.

Looking back at 2022, it seems like it was a year that created many icons and favorites. Now it's up to the year 2023 to decide if these pop culture hits are here to stay or if they'll be history just like 2022.

PAW PRINTS January Puzzles

By: Liv A.

The answers to the CROSSWORD puzzle are the words are hidden in the WORD SEARCH! Color in the pictures!



ACROSS

4. not an equinox
6. hot & ____
7. times square hosts this annual celebration on 12/31
9. the upcoming winter dance for both 7th and 8th graders
11. we cover the roads with salt to prevent this from forming on top of it
12. we get an unexpected day off from this winter weather occurrence
14. a list of goals that we set at the beginning of a new year that no one actually follows
16. tobogganing is often confused with this similar winter activity
17. 2023 is the year of the ____ (animal)

DOWN

1. pronounced like chili; means cold
2. this season; guess you have a 1/4 chance if you're stuck
3. WARM HEAVENLY CHOCOLATE BEVERAGE :D
5. federal holiday celebrated on the 16th of January (____ day)
6. this holiday is also called Lunar New Year
8. zodiac from December 22 to about January 19
10. winter _____ this year was about 10 days; 6 business days
13. zodiac from January 20 to about February 18
15. we watch the news at midnight on this holiday

P S K S S B I G A I G S E E C
 B O O L N U R U R D B O Y C H
 H D R L M O I E I K V W W N I
 E P G D S O W R A Z O T P A N
 Y F W Q L T G D A K O Z S D E
 I I P Y X L I S A U U L R L S
 D C F Z H J A C Q Y Q R Y L E
 Q K R I C E K B E F E A H A N
 N R O C I R P A C T C T D B E
 S L E D D I N G N I H I D W W
 R A E Y W E N I R K I B L O Y
 I U H M B W W G C E L B O N E
 N O I T U L O S E R L A C S A
 Y B Y C R X L Z T D Y R M F R

The AnyThing Article

By Aiden, The Writer

Find Chapter One in [December's](#) Paper.

(Email ideas to pawprints@mtlaurelschools.org)

Who's a Good Boy?

Chapter Two

Not Like Those Stories

Bingo was bouncing in his seat. There were some looks from other people. A boy that was actually excited about school was just unbelievable. Emily held her dog whistle *juuuuust* in case. After a few minutes, the bus stopped, and everyone hopped off. Bingo raced in through the doorway. Emily chased after him, not letting him get out of her sight. They both got into homeroom and found a room full of chatter. "Woof! Is it always this loud!?" Bingo asked while covering his ears with his hands. This was the only thing he hated, his hearing was extra sensitive. Even in human form, he still could hear what normal humans couldn't hear.

"It's fine!" Emily said, trying to calm her brother down, "It's only a few minutes." They found their seats and sat down.

A few minutes of later, Mrs. Fox, the homeroom teacher, clapped. Everyone got quiet. "Alright class, here are some announcements for people in my class. The math test for periods 5 and..."

Emily took some deep breaths. *It's fine. Bingo can't screw up if I'm around. It'll be like the stories. Where the main character has something magical to hide from everyone, some hijinx in the middle, and at the ends, some big reveal at the climax. But I'll be there! I'll stop him, so there is no "big reveal," and we'll live happily ever after!*

"We have a new student joining the class. His name is Bingo Sleeper." The teacher announced, "Bingo, please come up here and introduce yourself." Bingo gets up and stands right next to the teacher.

"Hi, I'm Bingo. I have a sister named Emily. She's even in this class! We like walks during the weekends, and I can..."

In a split second, Emily pulled out her dog whistle. She gave it some twirls around her finger. Bingo eyed it and growled. He continued, "be a *great* person to be around." He sat in his seat and gave Emily a look. Bingo dreaded that whistle, and the noise it made. He thought to himself, "if other people could hear that awful, *awful*, awful sound that waste of metal makes, they would **burn and destroy** them all!" As the announcements spilled out from the school's speaker. Emily realized that Bingo didn't want people to not know about the magic inside him. This is going to be a long, long school day.

How to Make Good Resolutions

Cosmo & Sparky

Welcome to all. Here is our lovely article on good resolutions and not-so-good resolutions. Of course, it's the new year and many will make new resolutions and those will often be ruined resolutions. Most people don't know how to create a real lasting resolution, You'll probably make one like, "I'll go on a diet for the whole year!" Then most would just forget about it. For many, resolutions DO NOT WORK. Here are the steps for making a resolution:

Numero uno. To make a true, long-lasting resolution you need to think. Yes, most people don't do this step. It's very annoying if you think about it, because you instantly just think, "Oh yeah, I know what I want to do. Work out and stuff." That isn't how you do that, goofy. You need to think about what you want to truly do. Make sure you think of a list, like, "I don't really work out, but should I try to?" Or maybe "I want friends, but I don't know how to." This is the most important step because you need to know what to do. Don't push yourself to do something you don't want to do. Think it through first.

Numero dos. Make a wise decision. Yeah, like step one, most people just don't think of this step. "Hm. new year's resolution?? I am always full of ideas but I don't know what to put???" Likewise, again, this is also an important step- don't be indecisive. Remember-always take your time and think strategically.

Numero tres., Narrow it down to something you know you can do. Don't push yourself by saying "Man! I have to do my new year's resolutions and stuff, so I need to go to the gym today!" Don't do that. Instead say something like, "Every week, I might try to go to the gym. If I can't, then I can do it next week." Be realistic. Some people are too busy for that stuff, so they have to put it off. That's alright. Just make sure to do something to make it up, like maybe do it twice next time. Don't force yourself to do something if you can't do it.

Your final step is to be nice to yourself. Don't be a bully and kick yourself in the foot for not doing something. Just give yourself grace if you have to just put a resolution aside. Make yourself feel willing to do something next time, and then really do it. Don't make feel so down about not doing something, because you can do it. Motivate yourself.. Good stuff makes you better and happier.

Now, for your Cosmo Corner that still isn't related to anything. The new zodiac for this year is Rabbit, which is also the zodiac for January. Thank you, zodiac gods. January's Chinese horoscope is the Water rabbit, which lasts until February. This month is about peace and longevity, which are pretty reasonable. Spend your month in peace and live it up to your happiness. Live your life to the fullest. Happy new year to all of the ones who will read this. Well, happy new year in general. But to the ones that don't really care about the new year, this is to your good days. Have a happy, good day, and a Happy New Year!! And for those who don't celebrate, Happy New Year!!

Love, Cosmo, and Sparky!!! <3