



Falcon Flyer

Spring 2021

Published by the students of Stetson Middle School



Meet Mrs. Puchalla: Born to Be an Educator

Learn about our new head principal!

By Sophia Pirone, eighth grade

Why did you decide to become an educator?

“This is my 24th year with students and I think I always wanted to be a teacher when I was a kid. I used to play school at home with the chalkboard and I was always inspired by my second grade teacher who thought I had good leadership qualities even

in second grade, which is kind of crazy! I've always wanted to help kids. I taught, I coached, and now I'm a principal. I just love kids and I want to make a difference in their lives.”

Did you ever expect to go into administration?

“I think at one point in my career I decided that since teachers only have about 120 students, I wanted to go into administration because I get to see all the students in the school. For example there's 900 here, and I may not know all 900, but I'm available to help all 900. A teacher would only see a small group of kids. So that's why I wanted to become an administrator; I wanted to do more.”

What was your first job experience as an educator?

“My first job experience was when I taught in Delaware County for the Marple Newtown School District. I was a seventh grade Communications teacher, which was part of the English Language Arts Department. I taught them reading skills, writing skills, listening skills, and

speaking skills. So, it was a combination of a course and students learned how to write a research paper. That was my first experience with seventh graders; I loved it.”

What inspired you to become a math teacher?

“I was an English teacher for a couple of years, and then I had my first son. When I was on maternity leave, the principal approached me and said, ‘I have a math opening,’ and I had my math certificate at the time. So, I was an Elementary Teacher first, then I became an English middle level teacher, and then I had math just to try and broaden my horizons. You never know where you want to go, or if you will want to try different things and take on new challenges. I jumped on it. I guess the research papers were more difficult to grade, whereas math you get the right answer or you don’t, so I went for it and I never looked back. I loved it.”

I think the advice I would give is just to be patient with yourself. You’re going to make mistakes and it’s okay, as long as we learn from those mistakes and we grow from those mistakes to move forward.

How has the Stetson community impacted you?

“The Stetson community, I think, when I first became an administrator in 2013, always embraced me because I live in the community (I live in the Fugett community but I came over to Stetson). I see a lot of people all the time. I think the community is very welcoming, very supportive as an administrator and as a parent. I think it’s nice that I do live in the area so they get to see me as a person as well as an administrator.”

What are your interests outside of school?

“You know I’m a mom, I’m very busy as a mom outside of school. I have two sons and they play different sports. They go to East High School (one is in college now) so I’m often leaving here quickly. If I’m not at a basketball game here I’m leaving and going to a basketball game there. I like to play golf in my spare time, but haven’t done it lately because I’ve been a little busy but I like to play golf and I’m a huge beach person. I could just sit and stare at the ocean. Someday I hope to have a beach house down South with a nice porch, and I would love to play golf and be on the beach everyday. Wouldn’t that be nice? Many years later, hopefully, that’s my dream.”

Who is the biggest influence or role model that you look up to?

“Biggest influence...well I think it changes as you progress in your life. When I was a kid it was my parents, especially my dad. His thing was always you have to believe in yourself to be the best person you can be. And I was a big sports person. I was a student-athlete, and he was always pushing me in school to do the best I can and always in sports as well, which paid off because I went to college on a sports scholarship and then I became an administrator. In life you’re always looking ahead at somebody else that inspires you so I think there’s different people that inspire you in different parts of your life. A little bit of this person, a little bit of that person, but I think family is always a big one as well.”

Why did you leave Stetson’s faculty team three years ago?

“Well it wasn’t a choice that I had. My boss who’s above me in the district came and said that they needed my leadership at another middle school. It was very sad leaving because I built a bond with the faculty and the kids and the community, but now you know, I look back on it and I’m back! One door closes in life and another one opens. I kind of showed that I could lead here at Stetson for five years and then lead at a different school for two years and now I’m back in a different role. So I think that there’s always a plan in life for you. And the more experience I get, the better leader I’m going to be, at least I hope.

Between the two middle schools you administered for, which dynamic did you prefer?

“Well I’d say here because I’m back right! I think I like it better here because I have a stronger bond and I was here longer. Plus I like the point of my kids are another feeder pattern and I’m in this feeder pattern. The best part is when we play each other, and it’s hard for me because I can’t decide who to root for, my students or my family. I mean it’s kind of funny you know, I’m on both sides cheering for both sides. But I do like having that separation because it was difficult for my son and for me when I had to do my job and might have had to discipline one of his friends. So I like being separate. I would have to say I like Stetson better because I’m back! Don’t tell them!”

If you were not an administrator, what would be your job?

“I’m not sure what I would do. This is everything I’ve always wanted. My husband always tells me that I’m a great public speaker. I think I would do something on the news. I think I would be a news reporter, like an anchor reporting the news. I don’t know.”

What is a piece of advice you have to offer the middle schoolers of today?

“I think middle school is a challenging time. Nobody ever really likes middle school because we’re changing so often. It’s our adolescent years. A lot of things change, our bodies change, our minds change, our friends change. I think the advice I would give is just to be patient with yourself. You’re going to make mistakes and it’s okay, as long as we learn from those mistakes and we grow from those mistakes to move forward. And I think a lot of kids in high school come back and say, ‘Wow if only I would have done this in middle school, maybe I’d be a little bit different in high school.’ And I say, ‘Well you were growing; you didn’t really know. You were experiencing those growing pains.’ I think middle school is hard because your parents give you advice and teachers give you advice, but you can’t think long-term. You have to know that we’ve been there long-term. So we just have to be patient. It’s okay to make a mistake, learn from the mistake, and grow with it and you’re going to be okay.”

What advice would you give to your younger self?



“Have more fun. I don't think I had as much fun as I would have liked to. I think I learned now that I laugh a lot more and I think that's important in life, especially now during the pandemic. Also, be flexible and roll with the punches.”

How do you feel about working remotely? Is there anything you prefer? Anything you dislike?

“I don't like Zoom. I'm a people person. I like to have face-to-face interaction. I like to have conversations with kids in the lunchroom, in the hallway, and in the classroom. Zooms are awkward and sometimes you don't get the same reaction or body language that you do face-to-face. I prefer no Zoom and I'm excited to get back in the classrooms. I also think that Zoom is tiring! I'm exhausted by the end of the day. So I'd like to get rid of Zoom.”

Now that you are the official new principal for Stetson, do you have new ideas that you would like to bring to the school?

“Yes, sure! Right now we've been sidetracked with trying to do everything with COVID. Everything is kind of shifted. But I'd like to do more of a positive behavioral incentive. Do you remember in elementary school, they would have some kind of reward system for different things? I'd like to bring the student body back in to try and get the pride back in the building. I think some of us are there, I don't think all of us are. I want people to leave here after three years proud of being a Stetson Falcon, and I think we need to bring it back together a little bit more. We need to do some more community type events, supporting one another. A lot more positive things will come as soon as we get past the whole mask thing. Hopefully we can get back to that kind of normalcy and start to bring the kids back to some new and fun activities because it's not all about business. Sometimes it's about growing with each other and building a bond.”

WCASD and Stetson pay tribute to Dr. Cognato, long-time Stetson Principal

On May 7, the West Chester Area School District held a ceremony to honor former Stetson Principal Dr. Charles “Chas” Cognato. The event was held for teachers and staff near one of the scoreboards that Dr. C had worked tirelessly to have installed. A plaque will honor Dr. C's memory in the front hallway, and the 2020-21 Stetson Yearbook also features a dedication to him. Dr. C passed away suddenly on June 1, 2020.



New Spanish teacher Señor Rehrig -

Inspiring students with language, storytelling and community

BY SOPHIA PIRONE, Eighth Grade

You're new to Stetson this year. Could you give us some background information about yourself, such as interests and hobbies?

"I went to Pitt for undergrad. I graduated with a degree in Spanish, and then I did a one-year master's degree at Pitt as well to get my masters in foreign language education. This is my first year teaching, so I love it. I teach Spanish 1 to seventh and eighth grade. I grew up in Birdsboro, PA, which is about an hour away from here, and I still live there now. Some interests of mine...I play piano, I love learning languages, I speak Spanish fluently and I learned Portugese in college. I'm trying to learn a little bit of French now. I love hiking and I love going outdoors."

Your room creates such a welcoming environment and we love the decorations, what was the inspiration behind it?

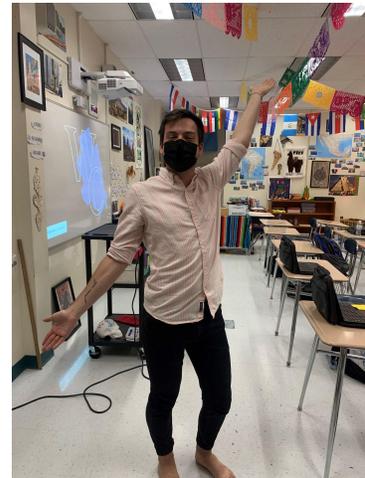
"I've always dreamed of being a teacher, ever since I can remember, it's always been my dream job and it still is my dream job. I absolutely love it and I just feel like creating that inclusive space to make it feel like home truly creates a better learning environment. I've always dreamed about decorating spaces out the wazoo! I love hanging everything I got from all my international trips everywhere so that everything is authentic, everything is something I bought abroad. It starts with storytelling, which I think is really important in our learning. Telling stories from our culture and our backgrounds was my inspiration for the decorations. We can be inspired by an item, by an artifact, and have a conversation and a dialogue about it."

What Spanish speaking countries have you visited, if any?

"I lived in three of them for a long period of time. I lived in Mexico for two months, I lived in Spain for 4 months, I lived in Peru for 5 months and then I was in Colombia for three weeks. So I've lived in Mexico, Spain, Peru and Colombia. I've also been to Ecuador, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, and Costa Rica."

What made you want to become a teacher?

"Going back to what I said earlier, I've always dreamed of being a teacher. I think my teachers inspired me so much in middle to high school. I knew in 8th grade that I wanted to be a Spanish teacher and that kept going throughout all of college. I was dead set on that. I absolutely love inspiring students, I want everyone to learn not just Spanish, but



any world language. I think that it's the most important skill that anyone can have, just opening up a conversation with someone who prays differently than you, or looks differently than you, or has a different skin color, or comes from a different background. We are human beings, we are social beings, and just opening up that conversation with someone who has completely different values than you is the most important thing in this entire world. Everything we learn in the classroom carries out. You can immediately use this information outside, especially in West Chester. There's a huge Hispanic population here. I love inspiring kids to get outside and speak with someone new."

If you weren't a teacher what would your job be?

"Honestly I would be a flight attendant because I love traveling. I think being on planes is so cool. People always say 'I hate planes' or 'I just wanna get there. I hate the plane ride,' and I say 'that's my favorite part!' I love getting on the plane. I think you can have great conversations with a lot of new people sitting next to you, people you've never seen or had a conversation with before. The thrill of the journey truly is the fun part in my opinion."

What was your overall educational experience? Did you enjoy school when you were younger? What college did you go to?

"I really loved school. I've always been super academic, I have that more academic brain. I like reading books, reading articles and newspapers. But I do recognize that not everything is in books, you have to get outside. University and school are little bubbles; you have to get outside to really apply all that knowledge that you've gained. So I think that one of my jobs, being a teacher, is connecting the community to the school. They are one in the same; they're not just these separate bubbles."

How has the Stetson community influenced you so far?

"I love Stetson so much because of our school, community. I think that we come together on similar interests, specifically in terms of human rights. Our Black Lives Matter and Black History Month presentation was awesome to celebrate our diversity in our schools. I think we do a really good job of that. We can keep going though. Definitely moving forward I would love to be a part of the GSA. I want to get involved in the Gay-Straight Alliance at our school. But I think we do a really good job of bringing everyone of different cultures together."

Is your teaching method similar or different from other teachers, would you say?

"I would definitely say different. Very different. The first thing my kids do when they get in my classroom is stand on their desks and we scream. I love making noise, I love being loud, I love just being crazy. Spanish class is a fiesta so we have to celebrate it!"

What advice would you give to your middle school self?

"I was a completely different person in middle school. I was quiet, I was reserved, I never asked for help. I think the most important thing that anyone, of any age can do is ask for help and be vulnerable. I think I would tell myself 'hey why don't you speak to someone you've never spoken to before' or 'work with a partner instead of working by yourself' or go up to your teacher and ask for help and don't be so scared of failing because failing is part of the journey."

Who is your biggest role model?

"My biggest role model...other than teachers, who will always be number 1, I think Michelle Obama is so inspirational. I also love the Queen of England and the Royal Family. I think they're so inspiring and they do a lot of good things that people don't know about."

You started teaching at Stetson during the COVID-19 pandemic. Has teaching remotely been difficult for you?

"Yes without a doubt. This is my first year teaching. I'm coming from student teaching so we got about 3/4 of a year in person and then 1/4 virtual. I'm glad I had that experience of having the support of a mentor teacher last year so she could help me with classroom management and our curriculum, but I think that this year on my own has been very difficult. I'm not even super into technology myself so I'm learning as we build this bridge. It's a day by day thing for all of us but I think it's really worth it when we see kids turning on their cameras and smiling and having a good time. We are still trying to recreate our in person experience over Zoom."

Is there anything you wish you could have done this school year that we unfortunately cannot do due to COVID?

"A big part of our curriculum was having assemblies, having dances, learning to Salsa dance, and having taco Tuesdays, where we bring in food, has to be modified. We are not completely putting it to the side but just altering it a little bit. I look forward to the day where we can all be without masks and have some tacos with each other!"

Dr. Scanlon - Thoughts on past, present and future experiences

By Jillian Silver, Seventh Grade, and Liz Flood, Sixth Grade



Retiring Superintendent Dr. Jim Scanlon joined the Falcon Flyer staff recently for a visit and interview. We wish him the best in retirement.

Why did you choose to be an educator and a superintendent?

I went to college as an economics major. In my second year of college, I was a volunteer in a special education program. I saw that they needed a better way to educate kids with special needs. Being in the program changed my major to helping kids. Having the experience volunteering for kids with special needs showed me that this was my passion. I was also a teacher for eight years. I taught seventh and eighth grade English, and I taught everything for fifth and sixth graders at an elementary school, but I did a lot of writing with my students.

What has been your favorite part of being a superintendent?

There were two things that just warmed my heart. First was, greeting all kindergarten kids and parents, and bringing them into the first year of a thirteen-year journey. Getting the kids excited to learn and the parents calmed down was nice.

The second was the graduation for the high school seniors. I got to give out diplomas as a superintendent, get hugs, and get to know kids. It became a measure of success in the school district

What are your plans during retirement?

I want to spend more time with my kids. I have a 12-year-old and a 10-year-old, and I don't get to see them very much. I also want to teach classes at West Chester University to people who would like to become superintendents in the future.

Dr. Sokolowski reflects on pandemic year

In January, Dr. Bob Sokolowski, Assistant Superintendent, met with the Falcon Flyer Newspaper Club. Sixth grader, Dylan Kaczynski, interviewed Dr. Sokolowski about his experiences as an administrator during the pandemic. Dr. Sokolowski will become the new superintendent of WCASD after Dr. Scanlon's retirement this summer.

Dylan: *What was the first thing you thought about or did in terms of academics when you first heard about the shutdown in March 2020?*

Dr. Sokolowski: The very first thing I did for academics was spend the weekend getting ready to hand out school work for elementary students. We thought this was not going to last for a very long time, and we needed to get work out to elementary students first.



It was incredulous to me that we stayed closed as long as we did. I never would have predicted that. As we got further into the spring we prepared for graduations, senior assemblies and car parades. I worked on a car parade at East High School where we had a storm - almost a tornado - sweep through. I was holding a tent with a metal pole to keep it from blowing away.

Dr. Scanlon said to me, “Bob, I don’t think it’s a good idea to hold anything metal in the middle of a storm!” It was just unbelievable!

Mrs. Claffey: *What do you think it’s important for students to write about at this time?*

Dr. Sokolowski: I am very focused on studying the lessons we are learning from the pandemic. In what ways will the world be a better place after this is over? What will we take with us?

Falcon Flyer writer receives regional and national awards

Contributed by Dr. Edmondson



Congratulations to Leah Ambrosine for receiving special recognition in the 2021 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, presented by the Philadelphia Writing Project. Leah earned the Silver Key award for her novel, *Goose Creek*, and the Gold Key award for her humorous piece, “Oh Cupid!” Gold Key winners

automatically advanced to the national level of competition in New York City, where Leah’s “Oh Cupid!” piece subsequently earned a Silver Medal at the national level! Securing this title is an incredible literary accomplishment - well done, Leah!



Leah’s “Oh, Cupid” piece first appeared in the Falcon Flyer Winter 2020 edition. Leah’s English and Reading & Writing for Life teacher, Dr. Edmondson, supported her through the writing and application process for the awards.

Explore the region on Outdoor Trails

By Jane Goodwin and Aine Harner, Seventh grade

Summer is almost here, and we know you'll be enjoying the outdoors, so here are some great parks and trails to visit in the warming months!

1. Martin Park

The first one is Martin Park. This small park is perfect for walking dogs. There are trails that run along creeks and small streams. They allow fishing, wading and other activities and in the summer they host fishing derbies for all ages!



2. Ridley Creek State Park



Ridley Creek State Park is great for many outdoor activities. It has deep woods, rolling hills, and clear, running streams. There's a hiking trail, and an amazing path that goes on for miles. You'll be able to enjoy walking, biking, and hiking!

3. Stroud Preserve

Stroud Preserve is an amazing place for dog walking and other leserly activities. It has trickling streams and lush rolling hills that are great for picnics. This park has many different trails that show off the different aspects of its natural beauty.



4. East Goshen Township Park

East Goshen Township park is a large park with several paths and trails. It is great for kids, and features additional trails all over. East Goshen Township Park is dog friendly, and perfect for any day!



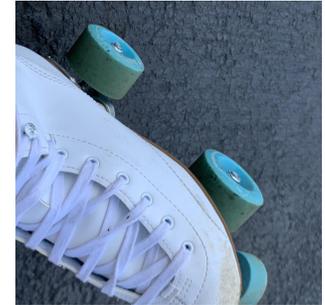
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Ready Set, Roll - Roller Skating sees a comeback!

By Haylee Arabia, Seventh Grade

If you ask your parents about things they liked to do when they were your age, they might say roller skating. Why? Because roller skating was a super popular activity in the 80's. So let's bring rollerskating back!



First of all, it's great exercise. Roller skating has most of the positive effects that you would get running, with 50% less joint pain. This makes it a simpler, more fun way to get exercise. Why else should we bring back rollerskating? It's better for the environment! When you roller skate, you're not spending money on gas, or polluting the earth. It's not a full time solution, but skating around your neighborhood instead of driving to a gym could also save you a bit of money and gas overtime. Lastly, it's super fun, and pretty easy to learn. It's great to roller skate with friends because it's outdoors, and COVID safe.



Once I knew I wanted roller skates, the bigger question was where to get a pair. Obviously no one wants cheap skates that will break quickly, but also don't want to pay over \$100. Roller Derby is a great brand because they sell high quality skates for around 50-70 bucks. You can get them from places like Amazon and Kohls. [Here's an example pair from Amazon!](#) There are plenty of other options as well. For younger kids, Target sells super cheap roller skates. [Like this pair!](#) I used to have a pair myself, and my sister still uses them!

Finally, we need places to go rollerskating. One place I highly recommend is Cheney Park. It's a trail that has flat paving, and also hills that are large, but small enough to learn to skate down. Thornbury Park also has a trail that's perfect for beginners!

Now that you have all the information you need, let's bring roller skating back. Ready? Set, ROLL!

Funny jokes and memes

By Cooper Moritsch, Sixth Grade

Falcon Flyer reporter Cooper Moritsch pulled together some great jokes and memes to keep us all laughing.

1. Time flies like an arrow, fruit flies like a banana.
2. Why do we tell actors to break a leg? Because every play has a cast!
3. I saw a guy spill his Scrabble letters onto the street. I asked him, "What's the word on the street?"
4. What rhymes with orange... **No it doesn't!**



5. What did the shark say when he ate the clownfish? "This tastes a little funny!"



6. What did one DNA say to the other DNA? "Do these genes make me **look fat?**"

7. A dove comes and pecks a toucan. Then the toucan says, "Toucan play that game." and pecks him back.



Me: *Cough one time*

The people around me:



To Binge or Not to Binge? Episode 2

Community

By Angelo Mesolongitis, 7th Grade

Community is regarded as one of the greatest sitcoms of all time, but does its ending hold a candle to the rest of the show. No it really, really doesn't but keep reading like I didn't say anything.



The Beginning

Community's first season is usually thought of as the point in the show where everyone's personality was being figured out. Jeff was self-centered, Troy was the jock, Pierce was racist (not going into detail about that), and everyone else had fairly simple personalities that would be expanded on later as well. Anyway, the next few seasons (1-3) were all about throwing the characters into insane situations and allowing them to develop. There were a few stand-out episodes such as "Remedial Chaos Theory" or "Competitive Ecology," but it was mainly season three that had the most hilarious episodes.

The Middle

Oh boy! Who would have thought that changing directors for a season, and trying to revive a broken franchise was a bad idea. ME, I thought that. As you can tell I don't particularly "like" seasons 4 and 5. Season 4 is even regarded as the "gas leak year" later on in the series because of how the characters act so out of place, and, oddly enough, season 5 isn't much better. There aren't any really notable episodes in the season, and I don't want to list the bad ones because then we'd be here all day. Season 5 IS slightly better, aside from the fact that the characters are at their worst and many of them are removed from the show completely.



The End

The ending, oh, the ending, what can I say... Season 6 isn't great. Although it was definitely superior to 4 & 5, it was not able to capture the charm that 1 - 3 had. Episodes such as "Lawnmower Maintenance & Postnatal Care" as well as "Basic Crisis Room Decorum" were at least slightly better than the rest. However, the "formula" of the show had completely changed from when it first started and half of the original cast was even removed by this point! The ending was also HORRENDOUS, not tying up any loose threads or even attempting to. The characters just kinda... leave. To put it simply, the characters exit the show to pursue goals never mentioned in the series and then it ends.

So is it binge-worthy? Yes! Kinda...I would suggest binging the show up to season three and stopping there. It may seem unprecedented but it ends on a good note, and doesn't overstay its welcome.

How Has COVID Impacted My Theatre?

By Haylee Arabia, seventh grade

As a student at Knauer Uptown Performing Arts theatre¹, I can truthfully say that COVID hasn't made performing easy. Singing is one of the highest germ-spreading factors of COVID. Fortunately, we found other ways to keep theatre going!

At the very beginning, when COVID was new, we had cancelled our upcoming productions. During the summer, we stayed completely masked up, and had a group of us wiping down doors, railings, and more, to keep germs away.

The biggest challenge was our winter play. With the help of our amazing producers, we were able to put on a wonderful, COVID-friendly show. Here's how we did it.

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Face shields became a necessity on stage. Masks were worn to all practices, for the best possible safety result, and face shields were worn only on

stage for the recording. The face shields showed our faces, but blocked germs while singing.

All music was pre-recorded and played on a track, as to limit spit and germs while onstage.

Costumes were not touched by anyone except yourself, and hand sanitizer was used very often. Before rehearsal, breaktimes, etc.

Microphones were disinfected after each use, even if we wore our masks while singing.

The biggest change for this show however was the fact that we recorded and live streamed the show, rather than having a live audience. This kept us separated and lowered the amount

Broadway Shutdown

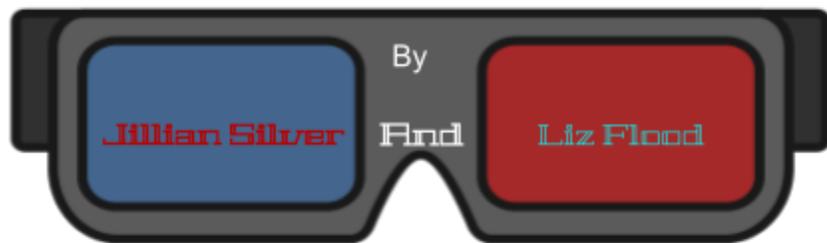
One of the most heart-crushing, disappointing impacts of covid on theatre was definitely the closing of Broadway, the main heart of theatre. Many shows were closed, and said not to perform on Broadway again. Including fan favorites "Mean Girls," "Beetlejuice," and more. Fortunately, Broadway is scheduled to reopen on May 19th, 2021, with most performances coming in the fall.

¹ [Knauer Performing Arts Website](#)

of people in the theatre immensely. We brought in camera techs who recorded multiple takes of each scene, and our technical producer who took the best footage and compiled it into what was seen by our family and friends in the comfort of their own homes.

It isn't always easy to change the way something is done, after doing it one way for so long. But sometimes life throws challenges at us. Fun and safety are the number one priorities during theatre, so it's important to follow all the safety guidelines and restrictions. Hopefully we can return to our normal ways soon, but it's always nice to have new experiences.

Movies and TV Shows Coming in 2021 Spring and Summer Edition



As spring is in full force, there are many things to look forward to! Currently, we have been curious about what movies and TV shows are coming this spring. Many TV providers have been getting some interesting things to watch, and so have the movie theaters, too.

What can we look forward to watching this season?

[Nailed it Season 5](#): The 5th season of "Nailed It!" came to Netflix at the end of March! The new season is called Double Trouble



because this time it's in teams two! For those who have not watched Nailed It! Before, it is hilarious TV show about amateur bakers who try to on the role of winning the baking competition.

[Black Widow Movie](#): Fortunately, this season our



of
a
take

Marvel fans have another movie to look forward to: the Black Widow Movie. This movie will be making its way to the theaters Friday, May 7th, 2021. The Black Widow movie is a prequel, and it is about Natasha Romanoff meeting with old allies of hers to stop a conspiracy that connects her to her past.

F9 Movie: Another movie coming in this season is the F9: The Fast Saga movie. This movie will be released on May 28th, 2021. In F9, Domonic Toretto and his crew will start to join forces and battle one of the best-skilled assassins and highest-performance drivers that they've faced -- Toretto's forsaken brother.



Loki Series: This season Marvel fans have yet another mini-series. On June 11th, Disney + is getting another Marvel fan favorite: the Loki Mini-Series. In the original timeline of the MCU, Loki was killed at the beginning of Avengers: Infinity War, now Avengers decided to travel through time, Loki is not only alive but in possession of the Space Stone (aka the Tesseract), allowing him to make a getaway, and giving the ability to visit events throughout human history and cause trouble.



The top video games that you should play

By Cooper Moritsch, Sixth grade

Call of Duty Black Ops: Cold war

When this game came out it was a big hit. Developed by Treyarch and Raven software, it has 3.8 million players currently and was released in 2020. This first person shooter game is based in the 1980's with the Cold war going on. You can play solo or multiplayer on one of two teams of 6 or 12. You can also play the new game mode, called "Fireteam," where there are 2 teams of 40! You can play it on PS4, PS5, Xbox, and PC. (Rated M - Mature - for violence and language)



Minecraft

This game, developed by Mojang and released on November 18, 2011, is one of the most popular video games in the world. With more than 125 Million players worldwide, it is safe to say this game will always be popular. It received a huge amount of players back



July 18, 2018 when the aquatic update came out. Featuring more realistic water bodies, such as adding fish and dolphins, seaweed, coral, and underwater ruins and shiprecks. Another huge update was the nether update. When the nether came out it was cool, but kinda boring when you explored it all. The nether update added more biomes and mobs into the nether. You can

play it on PC, mobile (Phone,iPad, tablet etc.), PS3, PS4, PS5, Xbox, Nintendo Switch and Wii U. (Rated E-10+)

Battlefront

Conquer the battle field in Battlefront! Battlefront is a third person shooter game based on Star Wars. It has incredible graphics, and they look very real! There are many different Iconic Star Wars characters you can be, such as Yoda, Luke Skywalker and Han Solo. You can also be characters from the dark side, such as Darth Maul, Sheev Palpatine and General Greivous. There are also many



Star Wars vehicles you can drive or fly, such as X-wings, AATs, Vulture Droids and MTTs.

(Rated T - Teen - for violence)

Python vs JavaScript - Programming 101



By Jugad Singh, Sixth grade

Have you ever logged in to a webpage? Or clicked a button? Logging in is processed by **Python** databases. Clicking buttons is processed in **JavaScript**. In this article, we will be comparing the two languages.

First off, please make a decision. It will be essential to the rest of the article:

What is easier to understand: `console.log("hello!")`, or `print("hello!")`?

All of the programmers out there, you've probably heard of **Python**. It's a programming language with capabilities and **syntax** like none other. For example, **JavaScript**(Another language that powers the web's interactivity) has `console.log(your text)`. This is a **console object**. The object means it is kind of like a folder, with different files in it. For example in:

```

class console() {
  function log(text) {
    `` `whatever stuff it does to make it appear on the screen` ``
  }
  function clear() {
    `` `whatever it does to clear the console` ``
  }
}

```

Now, I'm not an expert on JS, but I have some experience with it. (Never worked with classes, however) JS is an **object-oriented** language, meaning that everything in it is a class. So, to print *Stetson!* You would do this:

```
console.log("Stetson!")
```

The same code, but in Python:

```
print("Stetson!")
```

If you want to try this by yourself, you can open <https://repl.it/~>.

Chances are, you don't have an account. Click sign up, and use whatever credentials you like. Click 'new repl' and create a new JS repl.

If you code JS, I'm not saying it's bad language; just that it has unnecessary lines and parts of code.

So, we're going to create a Python vs. JS competition. Open two tabs of repl.it and open a JS project and a Python one. Follow after me.

We're going to create a program that asks for your name and displays it, then check the character count and speed. Let's get started.

The Python code:

```

name = input("What is your name?\n")
#the \n stands for 'new line'. It prints a new line. This is a comment. It
will be skipped in when the processor reads the code.
print(f"Hello, {name}!")

```

The JS code:

```

var name = prompt("What is your name?\n");
console.log("Hello,", name);

```

The Python output:

What is your name?

Jugad Singh

Hello, Jugad Singh!

The JS output:

****Popup Window**:**

What is your name?

|Jugad Singh |

(I did my best to imitate a box)

Hello, Jugad!

I just ran the Python one, and the small script took 0.72 seconds to run. That's fast.

The JS one took 2.57.

Normally, Python is a bit slower when it comes to bigger scripts, but Python: 1, JS: 0

Ok, readability test. Remember what I asked you to do in the beginning? Whatever you answered, give that language a point.

Now the tiebreaker: The popularity test. Google Python users in one tab and javascript users in the other.

According to Google search results, "Featured. According to SlashData, there are now 8.2 million developers in the world who code using Python and that population is now larger than those who build in Java, who number 7.6 million. Last September, there were seven million Python developers and 7.1 million Java developers. Apr 15, 2019"

Java is yet another language: print() = System.out.println() in Java. I don't like it.

However a lot of your favorite games are in Java, so it *is* important.

Now for JS.

Is JavaScript more popular than Python?

In 2018, its survey revealed that Python was the language that the **most** number of developers (25.1%) wanted to learn, while JavaScript was a close second at 19%. In the past few years, **most** experts acknowledge Python and JavaScript to be the **most** rapidly growing programming languages.

Count up the tallies and see who won! If you would like to share your results, vote here:

<https://repl.it/@JugadSingh1/The-vote-of-JS-vs-Python>

The Legend of La Llorona

BY SOPHIA PIRONE AND MOLLY MCCOY, eighth grade



La Llorona is a demon of your darkest nightmares. She haunts the minds of young children at night, terrified for their lives. This tale from Mexican folklore is not to be taken lightly. The legend has never been debunked, and La Llorona is still a terrifying presence in Mexican culture. Many have gone to seek out La Llorona, and many have not returned. Her spirit is still tethered to this earth seeking out children to steal as her own.

Appearance

She is said to float across bodies of water calling out for her children in a white dress. Though it may be hard to believe after

viewing the pictures, her ghost was once a very beautiful woman.

Legend

The legend of La Llorona originates from Mexican Folklore. It centers around a once beautiful woman, Maria. One day, Maria finds her husband with another woman. Overcome with anger, she drowns their two children. Immediately, she drowns herself as well, out of guilt. When she reaches the gates of the afterlife, she is turned away. She was forbidden to enter unaccompanied by her children. Now, she floats across bodies of water searching for her children's souls, haunting other kids, and harming cheating husbands. Maria was given the nickname "La Llorona" as it translates to "weeping woman". The legend of La Llorona has been made into horror films many times.



Now that we have presented you with the facts, you should be sure to remember who La Llorona is and why you should stay away. You wouldn't want to be her next victim...

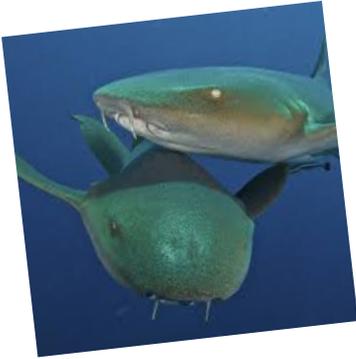
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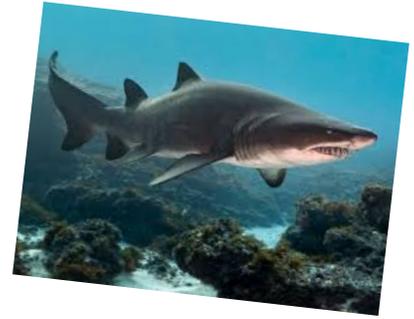
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Creatures of the Deep

Vol. 2

By Jane Goodwin, Seventh grade



Today's Topic - Sharks

When most people think of sharks they think of viscous, scary, manslaughtering creatures. In reality they're fascinating animals who play important roles in the ocean's ecosystem.

According to National

Geographic there are around 520 species of sharks but today I'm only going to touch on three very interesting ones you probably have never heard of.



Viper Dogfish

The Viper Dogfish is a very rare shark that lurks at the bottom of Pacific Ocean. Little is known about this small shark but scientists have conducted experiments. They found that in addition to its sharp bite it also has an extendable jaw making it easier to reach out and snatch prey. Viper Dogfish can weigh up to 1.7lb and reach 21" in length. They mainly eat bony fish and crustaceans like lantern fish and crabs. With their large mouths they are able to swallow most of their prey whole. They were first discovered in 1986 and last captured off the coast of Taiwan in 2018.

Nurse shark



The Nurse shark lives in the shallow waters of the western Atlantic and eastern Pacific oceans. A full grown nurse shark can grow to 9.75 ft long and weigh up to 330 pounds. This shark roams the oceans eating a variety of sea creatures from octopi to sea urchins and coral. Nurse sharks often hunt by sucking the seafloor and consuming whatever it comes in contact to.

Sand Tiger Sharks

 Sand Tiger sharks may look scary but they are one of the least aggressive sharks to encounter. These sharks are also the only sharks that can come to the surface and gulp air into their stomachs. This allows them to float motionless and watch for prey. Sand Tiger sharks can grow up to 10.5 ft long and weigh anywhere from 200 to 350lbs! Sand Tiger sharks mostly hunt at night near the shores hence the sand in their name. They have a huge appetite that mostly consists of bony fish like herring. But they also like to feed on rays, crab, lobster and squid.



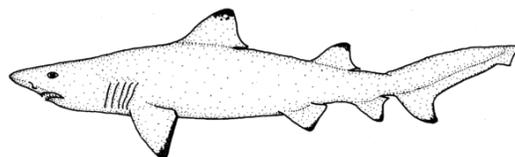
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<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/alien-shark-deep-sea-viper-dogfish-spd>

Nurse shark: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/fish/facts/nurse-shark>

Sand Tiger shark: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/fish/facts/sand-tiger-shark>



Seasons change - and they reflect our differences

By Emily Krawczyk, Eighth grade

What's your favorite season of the year? What does it say about you? Let's find out.

First people love spring because the flowers bloom. The flowers always smell so good because they are freshly bloomed. Second, there are holidays that many people like to celebrate and they are Easter, Passover, Ramadan, and Eid. When it is warm outside they want to go see animals, especially the baby animals. Kids and even adults love to see baby animals grow up.



Another season is fall. There are always those types of people that like to see leaves change color and love to do art. So when the season changes the leaves change as well. Some people love to watch the leaves fall off the tree, as well as do art. They get to paint pumpkins and draw or paint on it whatever they want. Some people are more of a turkey fan, and Thanksgiving is right around the corner.

Other people are more winter people. When it's winter, people can go in the snow. Snowflakes are so pretty to watch fall. Most people love to get bundled up and play in the snow because, but not all people love winter. There is ice, and when the snow goes on their car it is very hard to get it off. Most people just love playing in the snow and then getting hot cocoa and sitting by the fire while watching a movie. That's the fun part about it, getting cozy in your pjs and blankets. Not everyone shares the same winter traditions. Some celebrate Hanukkah, and others Christmas, Kwanza or the New Year.



Last but not least there is summer. First off summer is super-hot and fun. You can go to the beach and put your feet in the sand. You can go into the waves and tan on the beach. Or you might go to the pool. Some people don't like the summer because it's too hot, but most people like the summer. Some people travel to see family and friends, while others just stay home. Most people stay home for Fourth of July then leave for vacation. They can dress in red white and blue, or they just put decorations on their car or bike. Also a big thing is school is out by then so you don't have to worry about missing



work and you can just relax. **These different seasons bring out the best in all of us.**

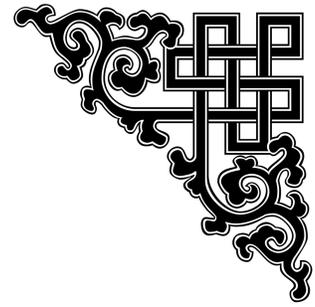
Fiction and Poetry Corner

An Introduction to Regio Stirpibus

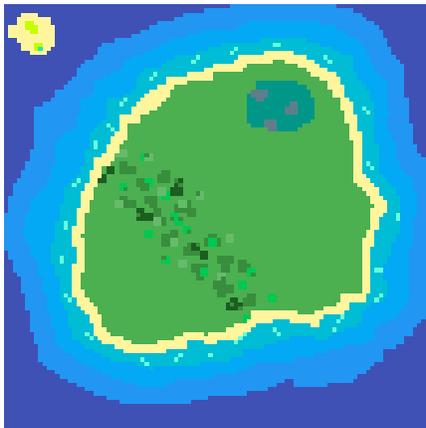
WRITTEN AND EDITED BY JUGAD SINGH

PLOTWORK AND CHARACTERS BY ALEXANDER ABRAMOV

IDEA BY JUGAD SINGH



In the summer of the peculiar year 1300 C.E, the human race lived peacefully and



quietly. They lived Western to all countries; the Orcs, Goblins, Dragons, Fairies, and Elves. The Elvelands, known as Duomandadoras, was a long rectangle near the center of Regio Stirpibus, next to the Forest of Annuens. The land is split into two parts, the Northern Elvelands and the Southern Elvelands, at war for millennia. The fairies, located in the land of Mysticara, were calm and the wisest. They would also help others. Lake Pelagus was a large lake, home to the secrets of life and death. Some say it is filled with

Sirens and sea serpents. Ships came and got swallowed by the water. There was one place that no creature dared to visit, though. This was Solutalore Ignis, more commonly known as Ignis. It was a volcano known for doing strange things; over a hundred or so vessels had sunk because they had come close to Lake Pelagus. This is a simple idea of what the land of Regio Stirpibus looks like.

Our story starts in a village called Homosapanesia. It was in the Humanum Terram (Land of Humans), dubbed by the Orcs in the Orc Attack on Humanum Terram 300 years ago. In a small shack on the Border [of Humanum and Norturn], a boy pondered one question: could he have saved them? His parents had died right after the night he had a lucid dream about it happening. Should he have told them? What could he have done? Sometimes the door would open and somebody would ask, 'Can I come in?' He would always respond the same: 'No.' He stole food from wherever he could. He was given gold coins from passing people sometimes.

As he woke up and went out, he noticed that Norturn was seeming especially dark. The forest that separated Norturn and Humanum Terram was constantly shifting. One moment a tree could be on the border and the next minute it would be in the center. And then, chaos came. Ignis erupted, throwing ice shards into the air, crossing Duomandadoras, and raining down on Tyke's village. As people fell around him, Tyke knew he had to investigate. But first, he had to get to his shack! He ran, dodging rogue food carts and people. He ran into his shack, only to find another boy standing there. He was holding a sword - two of them - and nodded. 'Hello, Tyke. Come with me.' He smiled and shoved Tyke out of the door.

They walked out, to a shop Tyke had never been to before. Somehow the ice rain had stopped. The Forest was shaking and shifting as usual. People were still running around. The boy led Tyke to a table and explained, 'I am Sir Jeffry Ratched, of the Knights of Terra Perierunt.'

'Terra Perierunt...isn't that the Lost Land?'

'Yes. It's real.'

Tyke laughed.

'And?'

'I want you to come with me.'

'Where?'

'Norturn, of course. You must have noticed that I'm carrying two swords.'

'Yes, of course, but why are we going to Norturn?'

'I'll tell you on the journey'

So Tyke and Jeffry went to pack. Tyke got the extra sword, a couple of clothes, food, and water. Jeffry already had everything.

Both went off, walking through the bushes and eventually stopping near Duomandadoras for lunch. They'd stopped in an open terrain known as the Rocky Plain because the ground was marble rocks and there was no grass for miles around. Tyke found a large rock and sat to eat.

'So, you must have noticed the eruption this morning,' Jeffry said.

'Yes.'

'Volcanoes don't usually erupt ice.'

'Good point.'

'And villages all over, in Duomandadoras and Humanum Terram have been invaded and frozen. The Knights have been monitoring Norturn, and something's not right. We need a team - of mortals - to find out what's happening.'

'Why me?' Tyke questioned.

'You'll see'

'I do wish you would give me a real answer for once!' Tyke complained,

'All will be explained. You must simply wait. And be careful. The Dragons and Elves of Norturn are on the lookout. They have been paid to look for enemies of the land, and the Orcs will do anything for anyone if you give them food and shelter.'

'Everyone seems to be against us,' observed Tyke.

'Yes, they do.'

And then, they got up and started to cross the Rocky Plains.

'The way we're going, we'll be in Duomandadoras by nightfall.'

'Is that good?'

'Yes. the elves are kind, at least the Northern ones.'

'Well, then shall we go?'

'We are, my friend, we are.'

They walked until they saw an elven house. They stopped there, asking the owner to take care of them for the night. The owner, Maximus, decided to let them sleep in the guest rooms and they quickly fell asleep, dreaming of Norturn.

REFERENCES AND APPENDIX

Duomandadoras: the Land of the Elves

Humanum Terram: The Land of Humans

Norturn: the land of Evil where Tyke and Jeffry are headed

The Knights of Terra Perierunt: mysterious, sword-bearing, horse-riding men of the Lost Land.

Mysticara: The Land of Fairies

A preview of the next part:

As morning snuck up on Duomandadoras, Jeffry and Tyke were wide awake. They planned to cross the Orc Lands and Mysticara before the end of the week. Then they would have to sneakily cross all of Norturn, and beware of migrating Dragons. Then, they would reach Ignis, where they would have to risk their lives to find out what was happening. All was well.

Door of Future

Poem and speech by Alena Sinton, seventh grade.

Inspired by Amanda Gorman's "The Hill We Climb", Christian Rossetti's "Spring" and the book, "Red, white, and royal blue" by Casey McQuiston

As the flowers grew, we grew with it
As the snow melted away
We faded with it
As we smiled upon our untroubled days
We cried in the pain
"Oh please wash away this rain"
We shall forget our past, and proceed in our lives
Continue the journey
That may just still lay.
We are washed away by the hulking waters,
To stand and tie as one together
As the un-resolved conflict fades across us,
"When will this end?"
"When am I going to **just be enough?**"
The unsettled settlement lingers in the air
Not allowing us to see, touch, or hear
This settlement overcomes our fear, barging through the door of our future.
We hold that door tightly, grasping every inch of air we get
We still don't seem to make it,
But there is something far ahead.
We have our eyes towards the past,
As our eyes are looking back
The history we create everyday,
As I say,
"People will know your name"
Rejoicing this country, as we have smiled through the pain
Learned our weaknesses
But most importantly,
Never stayed the same.
We changed in our years
Our young, our old
Our grief that befalls right before us,
Melts into a shimmering gold
Our faces, expressions fuming through the people amongst us-
The door to our future
Is pounded with locks

Discreetly hiding
The suffering, and truth that lay
before us
Before us, I say,
“Is the **forbidden validity** deep, deep
beneath our hearts”
Somewhere elsewhere, our door shall
lay
Sadness and pain, will be within reach
every day
We were put through a state of
torchure, and disbelief
Our hopes soon started to fade
Causing us great, great grief
But as we stand now, yelling at the
top of our lungs
We hold that door tightly
With all our might-
As I say,
“What we believe in is our power to
that door”
Our **own** doors,
Holding our deepest-darkest secrets
Holding our happiness that seemed to wash away
Holding the tools that will become us
Day
By
Day
As the un-resolved conflict fades across us,
“When will this end?”
“When am I going to **just be enough?**”
To just be is the feeling of all feelings
To sit, stand, jump with pride and leap
Leap into our future
Stretch out our lives
To cling onto this feeling of feelings,
To just be enough... in the lies.
You are enough every day, that strength we hold
The potential we have, the smiles that are sold
Will continue its way.
The times worsen, but reinforce
As it comes to the end,
As I say,
“I wish you the best of best, and have a day.”



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Falcon Flyer Newspaper Club meets on Wednesdays from 3-4 p.m. for writing, editing, photography and design. New members are always welcome. Contact Mrs. Claffey for more information. Newspaper Club will begin again in mid-September 2021

