





# Rusty's Ramblings

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## Editor-In-Chief's Note

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first ever edition of our very own student-led newspaper- Rusty's Ramblings!. I had a lot of fun seeing everyone's creativity and working with the editors. We hope you all enjoy it as much as we did!!



- Siona Talekar

# Let's Talk Touchdowns

## The 4th grade Turkey Bowl

By: Lauren Montague  
News Editor

On December 2nd, the entire school came outside to the field to watch the Turkey Bowl.

The Turkey Bowl is a 4th Grade football game in which all the 4th Graders get to participate in.

For Steelers captain, Zack Fiumara, it was an experience he wouldn't forget anytime soon. "It was really fun skipping science and just practicing," said Zack. The Turkey Bowl was also a really great and fun experience for not just players but cheerleaders, spectators, artists, announcers, and coaches. "It was fun rooting for the team and seeing who would win," said Megan Golden, a Steelers cheerleader.

All athletes appreciated the support from everyone. "It's nice having people cheering you on and knowing even if you mess up they're still there for you," said Eagles player Will Muller.

The game ended in a tie, with the final score being 28-28. Despite no team truly winning, the Eagles were satisfied with their performance. "I'm really happy with how our team played because if they didn't, we probably would've lost the game 28 nothing," said Eagles Captain Brooks Tharan.

4th grader Christian Lorch explains his advice for the 3rd graders that plan on participating next year. "Don't pressure yourself and do your best effort," he said.

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# Help Protect the Fields

By Lucas Kelly and Jacob Knaub

The fields have opened back up. A group of 9 Fifth Graders helped make this possible. They set up a time with Dr. Savage himself to talk over the situation. We talked with Dr. Savage, and he said in order to keep the fields open, we need to protect them. So, if we want to play on the fields and enjoy them, we have to make adjustments. He told us that the fields were closed because students weren't taking care of it, and then it got too muddy and gross to play on.

One reason why it got all muddy was because when it rained, the next day students would play on them and the fields would still be wet. That meant that the fields wouldn't be able to grow, which meant the grass wouldn't have time to absorb the water to keep it alive. The small field will be closed for a longer time because of its dreadful condition. Here are some ways you can help protect the field so it doesn't get closed as often:

## Ways to protect the field:

1. When it rains, it can't be played on for the next 2 days.
2. Don't wear cleats on the field
3. When playing on the field, don't dig up mud holes and grass
4. Only use the fields when told it is open. Don't use the fields when told closed

These are many ways you can help to protect the fields so they can be open when not raining. We (a group of 9 students in fifth grade) are helping to protect the fields so we can play on them as much as possible. But, we are only 9 students, so we need your help so everyone can enjoy the space. The only way to enjoy the fields is by playing on them, and the only way to play on them is by protecting the fields. So, when it rains, no one can play on the fields for the next 2 days, please don't wear cleats on the fields and don't dig up holes. If everyone does these things, everyone will be able to enjoy and play on the fields.

P.S. Thank you Dr. Savage for encouraging these actions.

# Literature



## WES CAN BE KIND!

By: Adrianna Ho

Literature Editor

Have you ever helped someone out or comforted someone-opened the door for them, brought their lunch outside when they're in the bathroom, or complimented someone? Well, this is the perfect story for you.

Libby's shoes clacked and echoed in the cold winter night. She grunted with each step as she carried a large beige colored sack with sharp edges which were colorful boxes filled with toys and books. She stopped by each house and gently tossed the boxes to each front step. Sometimes, people would be out on their porches admiring the snow and call out, "Thanks, Libby!" and she would smile and run to the next house. When she came home, every day she was covered

in snow, and her toes would be almost purple by the holes in her shoes, but her happiness kept her warm. Her mother and father embraced her as soon as she entered the house, and made her heart feel warm and fuzzy like a perfect teddy bear. She would tell them everything that had happened before, and tell them how school was, and how all the kids at school were very nice to her, and her parents were very happy. Libby was a kind little girl with a big heart. What we can take from this story is to be nice to other people! Even if you are sad, someone else will be there to cheer you up. Here at WES, we can be kind to each other like Libby!

**FUN FACT ABOUT KINDNESS: BEING KIND RELEASES ENDORPHINS-LIKE A PAINKILLER FOR YOUR MIND! KIND PEOPLE HAVE LESS CORTISOL, A STRESS HORMONE, AND THEN AGE TWO TIMES SLOWER THAN EVERYONE ELSE! KINDNESS MAKES YOU HAPPY AND HEALTHY! WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT?**

About the pictures on the top-#1 is someone giving someone else a nice flower, making them happy! #2 is a funny raccoon like Rusty! #3 are two otters holding hands so they don't drift away from each other. So cute!



# Elephants



By Norah Carrigan and Madeline Fried

Did you know that elephants are the world's largest land animal? There are three different species of elephants, such as: the African Bush Elephant, the African Forest Elephant, and the Asian Elephant. You can tell each elephant apart by their different ear shapes.

## Elephant Life Cycle

Elephants are very unique animals, for instance, African Bush Elephants and African Forest Elephants can live as long as some humans live in their lifetime, they can live from 70-80 years old. On the other hand, Asian Elephants can only live till they are around 48 years old. Male elephants can only start mating when they reach 20 years of age. The usual age of elephants that live in the wild is 60-70 years old, but elephants that are kept captive in zoos don't even live past their 40th birthday. The oldest elephant ever recorded was an Asian Elephant named Changalloor Dakshayani and it lived to be 89 years old.

## Elephant Anatomy

African Elephants are larger than Asian Elephants. African Elephants are 10ft. tall, 8ft. long (across their body), and its ears are 5ft. across. Asian Elephants are 9ft. tall, 7ft. long (across their body), and its ears are 2ft. across. Asian Elephants have rounded backs and shorter legs than the African Elephant. African Elephants have four or five toes on their front feet depending on the elephant, but they always have three toes on their hind feet. Asian Elephants always have five toes on their front feet, and four toes on their hind feet. African Elephants have two lobes of flesh on their trunks, but Asian Elephants only have one. Both elephants use their trunks to pick up objects, trumpet warnings, or suck up water for drinking or bathing.

## Elephant Habitats

Elephants can be found in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. They live in savannas, grasslands, and sometimes even forests. They don't always stay in the same spot, but they always stay in a place that has accessible water. During dry seasons in Africa, elephants migrate over 100km (62mi). An elephant's habitat must have food, water, and lots of space for them to roam around.

## African Elephants Vs. Asian Elephants

Both male and female African Elephants have ivory tusks but, only male Asian Elephants have ivory tusks. While female Asian Elephants do not have any type of tusks. African Elephants have ears in the shape of Africa. While Asian Elephants are smaller and not shaped like anything specific. African Elephants can weigh up to 15,400 pounds while Asian Elephants can only weigh 13,200. Do you have a favorite elephant?

## Elephant's Diet

Elephants are big vegetarians, meaning they don't eat any meat. An elephant's diet consists of lots of different varieties of shrubs. For example, they eat silver maple, Norway maple, sugar maple, and willow leaves. Elephants also chew off the bark, from medium sized branches, but if there is a big log, elephants will use their tusks to scrape off the bark. They also eat savannah grasses, herbs, and fruit.



# The Hunger Games: Books vs Movies

By: Olivia Zajac

\*Spoilers\*

Are you wondering if you should read or watch *The Hunger Games*? Read this article to find out!

First of all, what is *The Hunger Games*? Well, *The Hunger Games* is where one girl and one boy from each of the 12 districts of Panem that are 12-18 years old are chosen and go into an arena and fight to the death and the last person alive is the victor.

One thing I like about the books is that they give you more details. But that doesn't mean they are necessarily better. Suzanne Collins (the author) gave more details about Prim's death. Since Prim was my favorite character, this was nice and also it was sad.

Something I like about the Movies is how you can see characters other than

Katniss since it isn't Katniss's point of view. This is nice because you can see what Snow is doing, which makes the movies make more sense.

Another thing I like about the books is that you can read Katniss's mind. In the movies you can't do that.

The final thing I like about the movies is that it doesn't take forever to finish since you're not reading an almost 400 page book.

But the real question is which do I do first? That is for you to decide. But if you really don't know, I'd say the book but that is only my opinion.

THE  
HUNGER  
GAMES





## Teacher's Tools

By: Siona Talekar

Editor-in-Chief



Have you noticed how almost every teacher has special tools they use with their students? Like maybe a chime, or a bell, or even a hat? If you have no idea what I'm talking about, I'll give you some cool ones I know of.

First up, one of the most common tools, *The Chime*. The chime is an attention-grabbing bell that's usually used to focus or silence the room. Maybe for an announcement, but sometimes if the class is getting too loud, it's kind of a warning.

Another tool (less common) is a singing bowl. More formally known as a *Tibetan Singing Bowl*. It is uncommon, but I know a few teachers that use it. The main use is to calm the class. It comes with a wooden carved stick. You are supposed to strike the bowl with the wooden stick and it makes a loud echoing noise that fades away over the span of a few minutes. If your teacher uses the singing bowl, it's really fun to close your eyes and just keep listening to the sound until it fades.

A minor tool that I think everyone should know by now is the

popsicle sticks. They're basically sticks with each student's name on them. Their usual home is a cup or bowl on the teacher's desk. The teacher pulls a stick if they can't decide who to call on or if nobody is participating.

Lastly, we have a very rare tool, *The Crab Hat*. I only know of one teacher that uses this tool, but it is fairly helpful. The only use I have seen in action is for sharing emotions. All you have to do is put it on your head and it shows that you're saying "I'm upset." without saying it. If a teacher is wearing it, you should be extra nice to them until they decide to take it off when they feel better.

I know there are many more unique tools teachers use, these are just a few that I wanted to share.

# Popular Brands

By:Khanell lester

## NIKE

On January 25, 1964, Nike was made a brand for shoes and clothes. They're mostly shoes for sports. Nikes are known for their clothes, that's why they're so popular. I like Nikes because of their design and their custom shoes. They're popular from Kyrie Irving, he makes lots of designs.

## UNDER ARMOR

On September 25, 1996, Kevin Plank made Under Armour. Stephen Curry signed a deal with Under Armour and made his own shoes. Today, everyone who likes Under Armour can buy Stephen Curry's shoes. Under Armour has clothes too. I like Under Armour because Kevin Plank makes his own designs.

## JORDAN

On April 1st, 1985, Jordans were made. Jordan is a famous shoe and clothing brand because of Micheal Jordan and his air jump. If you play basketball, Jordans are good for you. I like Jordans because they're good for me when I play basketball.

## ADIDAS

On August 18, 1949, Adolf Dassler created Adidas. The name Adidas came from Adolf because his nickname was Adi. After World War I, the Dassler family started making shoes at the Berlin Olympics in 1936. In 2015, James Harden signed a deal with Adidas for 200 million. I like Adidas because of their sweatsuits.



# The Stick System!

By: Carlie Millard

If you have been at WES for at least 3 to 4 years (or more), you have probably seen your teacher pull a popsicle stick from a cup or mug. As the title says I call it the **STICK SYSTEM!** For the newbies here, let me explain, the stick system is a system that involves popsicle sticks and a cup or mug. You have to have seen your teacher at least once done the **STICK SYSTEM** move. It's pretty common to see, so don't be surprised if you hear the

hand of your teacher rummaging around, and grasping a stick with a name. You mutter to yourself please be me or please don't be me. You can practically hear that child's name slip off their tongue and into the ears of you and your classmates. You all are waiting to hear what that child has to say! Do they know the answer? Do they have it right? Do they have it wrong? We may never know! But that's the joy or not so joyful, stick system.

# WES Rules

BY ARIYA BISHOP

Being safe, respectful, and responsible is the Wes rules. There are many ways you can be safe, respectful, and responsible and some kids even get golden paws for them!

Some ways you can be safe is by not running in the hallway and always keeping your hands to yourself, and also by treating others how they want to be treated. A way you can be respectful is by not talking back to any adults and not talking in the halls or while your line. A way you can be Responsible is by getting your grade's playground balls back,

another way you can be responsible is by cleaning up your lunch area when you are done so other grades can eat lunch at a clean table too.

Always make sure you're doing the right thing even when no one is watching, because you can be rewarded for it.



# The School for Good and Evil

The popular book series has been adapted to a Netflix movie.

By Genny Johnson

The book series by Soman Chainani was published in 2013. Netflix adapted the first book to a two hour movie in 2022, directed by Paul Feig.

The story is about two girls who live in a fictional country that has a problem of children going missing. Every few years, under a red night sky, a few kids go missing and years later some people discover the children appear as characters in storybooks.

Sofie and Agatha are best friends despite their differences. Sofie longs to be taken and put into a storybook, where Agatha doesn't want to

lose her only friend in the village. Sofie gets taken, Agatha follows and a creature carries them to the School for Good and Evil. Sofie is mistakenly placed in the school for Evil and Agatha is put separately into the School for Good.

These two girls have to learn more about themselves and how they were not placed in the wrong schools after all. Will they discover that true friendship is stronger than the fight between good and evil? You'll have to watch it to find out.

# What is a First Grade Helper?

By Lyla Huss and Addy Reach

Have you ever heard of buddies? Probably. But have you ever heard of first-grade helpers? Maybe not. Well, there is such a thing as first-grade helpers in case you didn't know. We've been working with Ms. Ireys first-grade class since the beginning of the year. Most IE times at 2:20 we will pack up our bags and head downstairs to Ms. Ireys first-grade classroom. You may be wondering if anyone can be a first-grade helper and the answer is no. It is only fifth graders and your teacher has to ask you if you want to be one. In our case, our teacher, Mrs. McGaffin asked Lyla if she wanted to help out in Ms. Ireys class. Lyla said yes and Mrs. McGaffin asked her who she wanted to bring with her to help. Lyla decided to pick Addy and they started the next week. You can also help out second graders too. It can be any second-grade or first-grade class, as long as the teacher agrees with your teacher.

While we are downstairs you might be wondering what we do or how we help. First, we always say hi to everyone as they greet us with their warm smiles as we walk into their classroom. Ms. Ireys will leave a sticky note by the back for us so we know what to

do. First, one of us always checks names on a piece of paper that has the kids' names on it if they did their reading homework while the other checks their math morning work and corrects it. Then, it will depend on what Mrs. Ireys wants us to do. Sometimes, we will plug in their ipads once they're done using them. Other times, Mrs. Ireys asks us to grab a pen and start to walk around and check workbook pages. She may also ask us to do something else if the kids are still working. Finally, we will help them pack up their bags if they need us to. We grab our bags and walk them to their dismissal lines. Addy usually takes front buses and back buses while Lyla takes out the parent pick-up and walkers. Then, we will go straight home from there for the day.

But none of that is anywhere near the best part of first-grade helpers. The very best part of the first-grade helpers are that after you see all the kids you will start to bond with them. Every time you see them in the hallway they will smile their cute little smile and you'll just feel like the world is melting away. The best part and I mean the best part of first-grade helpers is just seeing the kids and being with them.

# Poetry



## The Givers Life

By: Carlie P. Millard  
Poetry Editor

"Hello!" A kind voice said.  
I lean up on my warm, cozy bed  
The voice is nice and mellow,  
calm like the rain,  
calm like the water.



Why is there sorrow?

But then the voice brings hope.

"Today 12,000 people have made donations for the homeless,  
and the local dog shelter."

"12,000?"

I mutter.

"Time to wash the plates".

And I turn on something else that greets me. I look at the snow that falls in that  
cold glass ball.

And I drift to the kitchen to finally clean.

So I turned on the TV once more and the news man said "if you want to donate,  
donate to this site!" And shows a photo of the website code and what to do so I  
pick up my device and send money.

And the news man said, "A young person donated \$2!"

I smile as I walk out of the TV room and walk into the new life of a giver. I  
forgot to wash the plates, but I wash them even at 12:00 at night and think  
about what I did. The long way.

# Sun on Snow

By Lauren Montague

As I walk outside,  
Into the cold,  
My breath fogs up,  
Crisp and bold.

Just after dawn,  
The snow's still fresh,  
The morning sun's glinting,  
Off the snow's crest.

It's bright as the moon,  
Beautiful to behold,  
It shines like a diamond,  
Without any folds.

As I take it all in,  
I let out a breath,  
It's a new beauty,  
Different from the rest.

It's hard to believe,  
It all melts away,  
Better get out there,  
It's time to play!



# Art



*untitled*

By: Isabella Neri

Art Editor



*Martin Luther King Jr.*

Marker Drawing by Siona Talekar  
Editor-In-Chief

*Sunrise*  
Painting by Henry Burch



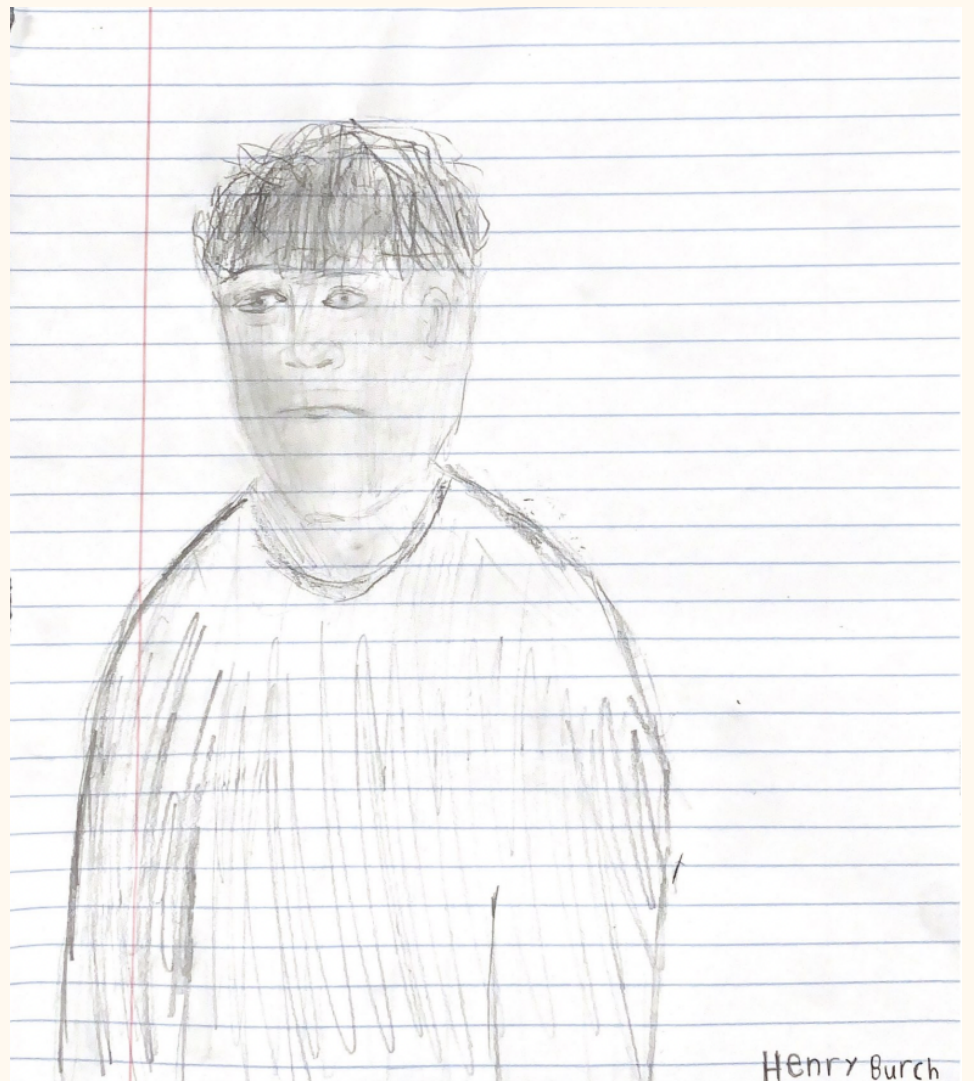


*Middle of the Day*

Painting by Henry Burch

*Person*

Pencil Drawing by Henry Burch



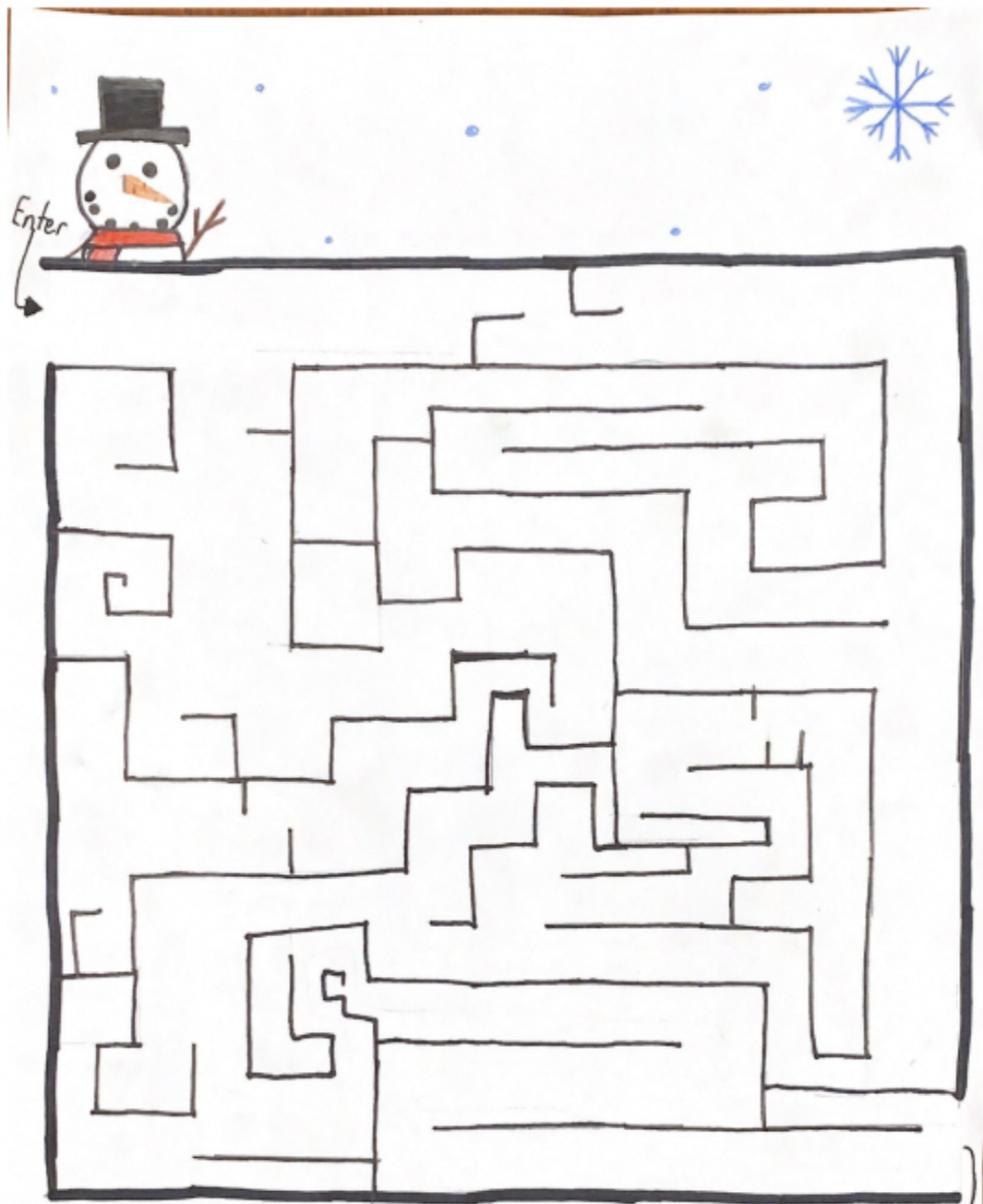
Henry Burch



## *Sunflowers*

(Inspired by Sunflowers, Vincent  
Van Gogh)

By: Siona Talekar  
Editor-in-Chief

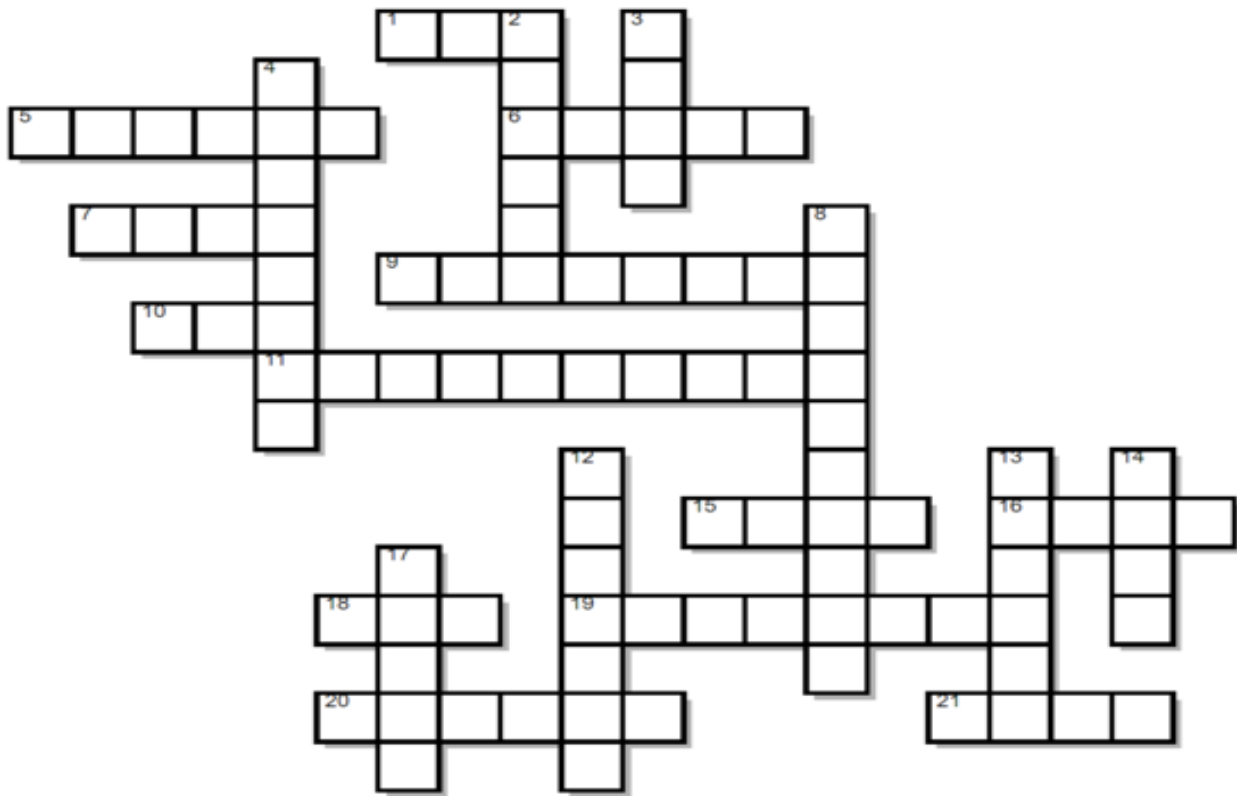


Help the Snowman  
find his Courage!



By Olivia Zajac

"Help the snowman find his courage!" By: Olivia Zajac



ACROSS

- 1, What \_\_\_ heck !?!
- 5, The fire \_\_\_\_\_ the entire house down
- 6, GAMER, subtract the R, add an S where it was
- 7, There are fruit skittles, original skittles, and \_\_\_\_\_ skittles
- 9, A game played where you hit the ball as far as you can with a bat
- 10, A \_\_\_ is a place where there are many animals including Tigers, Flamingos, and Zebras are
- 11, A group of 4 or more people
- 15, I will trade this for that, \_\_\_\_\_
- 16, Lets go to the science \_\_\_\_\_
- 18, When you go into your phone or I-pad you open an \_\_\_
- 19, There are many \_\_\_\_\_ in the school
- 20, He \_\_\_\_\_ me for something that I didn't do
- 21, He \_\_\_\_\_ for a skateboard every day

DOWN

- 2, The philadelphia \_\_\_\_\_ lost to the saints
- 3, FAMOUS subtract the OUS, and add a E
- 4, That is one \_\_\_\_\_ predator
- 8, If you are working on a rug you may want to use a \_\_\_\_\_
- 12, When you go to ocean city there are many \_\_\_\_\_ to choose from
- 13, The loose bolt \_\_\_\_\_ through the rubble
- 14, Yes you are \_\_\_\_\_ to use your chromebook
- 17, When I took a bite of the \_\_\_\_\_ my tooth fell out

# The Rusty's Ramblings Crew



## The Crew:

Siona Talekar- Editor-In-Chief

Carlie Millard- Poetry Editor

Adrianna Ho- Literature Editor

Lauren Montague- News Editor

Isabella Neri- Art Editor

Mrs. McGaffin- Teacher Sponsor

*A note from Mrs. McGaffin- It was a pleasure working with this group of editors! They all applied for their positions and followed through with their ideas. They were hard-working, supportive, open-minded, and had a lot of fun together. I want to thank Siona for dedication and perseverance to make the idea of a WES Newspaper come to fruition. She was an excellent Editor-in-Chief! Happy Reading!*