

Home of the Braves

Miscoe Hill Middle School

Fall 2017 | Vol. 3, Issue 1

Miscoe Welcomes Mrs. Mannion

By: Kate Watchmaker—Grade 7

As we say our farewells, we welcome new people into our lives. Mrs. Mannion, our new principal, has plenty of new ideas for our school and has some interesting facts about her! In the beginning, when Mrs. Mannion was six, she had always wanted to work at the well known ice cream place, Carvel. At a very young age she started helping out her mom around the neighborhood, and as teen she had worked as a swim instructor and taught horseback riding lessons. For a long time she had never really developed a good idea of what she thought she wanted to be when she grew up. Until one day she was sitting in English class in her freshman year. In those moments she thought "That lesson was cool, but if I was the teacher, I would have..." That was the moment that she developed what she wanted to be, a teacher. Mrs. Mannion described to me that, "I never thought I'd want to leave the classroom, but I had wonderful mentors who helped me learn about my strengths and how to be a leader."

Before she came to this school Mrs. Mannion worked many jobs. She worked as a K-12 Curriculum Coordinator for the Humanities, a principal, assistant principal, teacher, a salesperson in a ski shop, graphic design and artist relations for fine arts print company, a "barn manager" (a head horse poop shoveler), life guard, nanny, and last but not least, she worked for a daycare. After all these jobs she's had you might wonder why Mrs. Mannion came to this school. Mrs. Mannion told me in her interview, "As curriculum coordinator, I enjoyed working with faculty on curriculum mapping and coaching faculty around instruction and assessment, but I missed working

directly with kids." What she also described to me was that her main incentive to come here was that she felt a deep connection with middle schoolers and wants to get to know what makes learning fun for kids.

Our new principal has many goals for this school. As Mrs. Mannion described to me, "Teaching is a research based profession. As a building leader, my goal is to support teachers and students in applying what we know about how humans learn best to everything we do at Miscoe. I want to work student voice into the decisions we make after engaging stakeholders (students, staff, parents and guardians, community members)." Her outlook on this school is going to give us a bright future, and hopefully she will make learning much more fun.

When she first came here all the thoughts of her were all about how she looked like a Mrs. Meyer, and was really nice. But recently, we all got a speech from her that influenced good behavior and she described expectations, just like every year, and nothing was out of the ordinary. But recently she started to form new ideas different from Mrs. Meyer. For example, some recent comments were from some fifth graders and they described to me that she would play games with them at the parent teacher conference. She has clearly been interacting with students more and has been making inspirational signs when we get in the school. She's even given kids much more of a voice and allowing things to happen since now we can wear Halloween costumes!

We all welcome Mrs. Mannion to the school and look forward to a bright future!



Photo by Kate Watchmaker

Home of the Braves

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Rachel's Challenge

By Ella Halnon—Grade 5

Rachel's Challenge is a program that Miscoe does to donate school supplies to other schools. The reason we started doing Rachel's Challenge is because we wanted to show our kindness and compassion. The specific goal for Rachel's Challenge is to help other schools. Rachel's Challenge has been at Miscoe Hill for many years, way longer than you would imagine! We actually held a drive at the beginning of the school year to collect school supplies. During the drive we donated a mountain of school supplies! We donated 1563 pencils, over 1000 sheets of paper, and 349 pencil top erasers! This program was inspired by a girl named Rachel Scott. Rachel was a victim of the Columbine High School shooting. Rachel wanted to help people, so her parents decided to make a organization called Rachel's Challenge

to help schools stop bullying. The goal for Rachel's Challenge is to spread kindness and compassion to schools all over Massachusetts and America. One way we can do this is by giving to those in need. Now that it is getting colder we are going to be donating hats and glove to students who need them at Brightwood Elementary school. I recommend donating to Rachel's Challenge to help make a change!!!

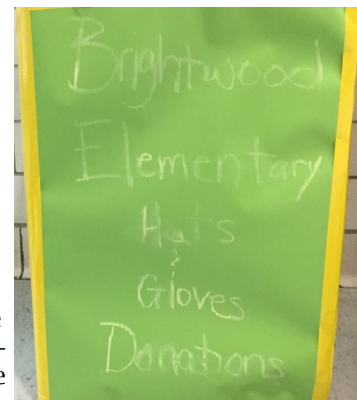


Photo by Ella Halnon

Teacher Interviews

New Kitchen

By: Maggie Lewinsky—Grade 5

The girls locker room used to be just a dirty, old girls locker room, but not anymore. Now it is the new and improved Miscoe Hill Kitchen! Miss. Holloway first had the idea of turning the Girls Locker Room into a new kitchen during the winter of 2016. She said, "We looked at several different places around the building, including the Teacher's Room and a small room off of the Upper Gym." But in the end it was decided that the Girls Locker Room would be the best place for it. It turns out that it took a lot of time and planning to make the kitchen into what it is now. First, they had to plan. Miss. Holloway, when asked what the process was like she said, "We started last winter; first trying to find the right space, and then we had to come up with a plan of what we wanted the space to look like. We then had to get estimates on the cost of the pro-



Photos by Maggie Lewinsky



ject." Over the summer was when this whole demolition took place. With Miss. Holloway at the lead, a group of people completely transformed the space. The effect? You now have the option of taking the cooking class enrichment! So far they have made hummus and pita chips, apple pie bites, chocolate chip cookies, and spaghetti with meat sauce. When I asked Miss. Holloway to take me through a basic day in her cooking class, Miss. Holloway said, "Mrs. Arnold and I are working together to offer cooking classes Monday through Thursday. Each class makes the same thing so it doesn't matter which day you take the class." "...We want everyone to participate as much as possible, so in addition to helping with the cooking there are also chores that go along with cooking like washing dishes. The best part though is when we all get to eat what we make at the end!" You should join the Miscoe Hill cooking class enrichment when the next sign up comes around, and learn all of the basics of cooking!

How to Prevent Common Colds



- Wash your hands with soap and water and try not to touch your face with dirty hands.
- When you wash your hands it helps prevent illnesses and helps prevent certain types of infections.
- Washing with HOT water helps get off all the germs. If there is no soap and water near by, use some sort of a alcohol-based sanitizer. You should ALWAYS wash your hands for at least 20 seconds and rub all around your hands like on top and the palms.
- Try to avoid people who are sick. They can spread viruses to you and people around them.
- Cough and sneeze away from others.

Information taken from the CDC's website:
<https://www.cdc.gov/features/rhinoviruses/index.html>



Ms. Haley Steinberger

By: Aila Francis—Grade 5

In the auditorium at Miscoe Hill Ms. Steinberger is going to be hosting the winter concert. Tuesday, December 12th the seventh graders are performing and on December 13th the eighth grade will be performing. The fifth graders are going to be doing their concert on Tuesday, January 16th and the sixth graders are going to be doing their concert on Wednesday, January 17th. As Ms. Steinberger said to me, "Miscoe Hill's winter concerts are a tradition for the music program involving both band and choral ensembles. Around 150 students will take part in each event, performing a variety of traditional, popular, and holiday repertoire that they have worked very hard to prepare. This year's winter concerts will be held in Miscoe Hill's auditorium and we hope to see a great turnout." We all look forward to see the concert and we wish them good luck!

The Lego Robotics Competition

By: Brian Dubowik - Grade 7

Recently, the Miscoe Robotics Team went to a competition. I asked the coach, Mr. Taylor a few questions about the competition. Here's some information.

General Stuff

There are 4 categories- robot challenges, robot design, project, and core values. Each category is worth 25% of your score. The competition has a different theme each year. This year it is Hydro Dynamics, which refers to the human water cycle, which is how we find, transport, use, and dispose of water. The robot challenges and the project are based off this. There are also three levels of competition (Regionals, States, and World Championships).

Robot Challenges

The robot has to complete different challenges, which earn a certain amount of points. At the competition, you have to score as many points as possible in two minutes and thirty seconds. When I asked Mr. Taylor what the hardest challenge he's seen was, he said, "Each challenge has its difficulties. Last year the robot had to climb up a wall, that was very difficult." When I asked what the easiest challenge he's ever seen was, he replied, "Each year there is a mission that requires a simple action. A push, pull or twist." You get to try 5 or 6 times, and your highest score is what's shown on the leaderboard. In some competitions, they have playoffs, which are just for fun and don't affect your overall score.

Robot Design

Teams are also judged on their robot design. At the competition, you would go into a room and judges would look at your robot. They look for things called "sensors" which can tell the robot where a line is or how far away a wall is. However, the judges don't want you to put sensors on just so you can get extra points. Of all the categories, I found this the easiest last year.

Project

You have to do research and make a project (so technically robotics is educational!) which you present to more judges. You have to find a new solution to a problem that relates to the theme, or improve on an already existing solution (don't worry, you wouldn't have to actually

ally make an app or something ridiculous like that).

Core Values

Core Values are mainly about how well a team works together. You go into a room and complete a teamwork challenge, for example the marshmallow challenge. Then you talk with the judges about how you could have done better and how you worked as a team leading up to the competition. Mr. Taylor said he thinks this is the hardest category.

Awards

Miscoe teams have won many awards, so I asked Mr. Taylor which ones. He said; "We have had 5 teams get 'Golden tickets' to the state tournament, last year we won the core values award, in 2015 we won Best team in the Blackstone Valley (highest score of any team from towns that are in the Valley), and in 2015 won the President's award for the highest average score in all 4 categories." These were from just the last 3 years. One thing none of us have accomplished is reaching the World Festival. In case you were wondering, the highest score by a Miscoe team was 186 in 2015.

The competition is an enjoyable experience, so if you are interested in STEM, robotics might be something you could do.



Photo by Brian Dubowik



The PTO meets the first Wednesday of every month. The next meeting is on December 6th at 7pm (this time is earlier then before). It is a good thing to be part of the PTO because you

can be part your child's education and school life. The PTO members get the opportunity to vote on issues and they have a voice on how the materials are used including Rachel's challenge and the girls locker room.

History of the Miscoe Hill School Newspaper

By: Luke Venable—Grade 7

For the past two years Miscoe Hill has had a newspaper, and since it started it has grown a lot. People have joined and left and a few people stayed throughout the issues. In the past year we have lost many of our greatest writers and editors that we had including Kirsten Dinsmore and Jenna Meleedy.

When we started the newspaper club we had 17 members. We didn't have a huge amount of people but we had enough to get the job done. That was in the fall of 2015. In the fall of 2016 we had 30 people, meaning that in that time we had gone up by 13. Referring to the amount of students joining newspaper club Kate Watchmaker, a seventh grade student who has been with the newspaper since it's second issue says, "The Newspaper, when it's finally printed, isn't that easy to find or see, unless you're in media. I feel like most people don't even pay attention to it even over the announcements, if people knew how great the experience is and that it even goes out to local libraries I think more people would join." Looking at the average people for the fall issues, the winter issues, and the spring issues we can see that the spring issue usually has less people contributing to it because sports and other clubs that happen at that time of year.

When we started the newspaper club everyone had a job. Some people were writers, some were photographers, we had a few ad designers, and the seventh and eighth graders were editors. There was a major issue with that system, people always did the same things. Kate Watchmaker says, "What's really changed is the balance of jobs for each student and the type of job. The whole balance of jobs for each person and the amount of time you have for the job have seems to be more in order than in the beginning." Now everyone either writes or does ad design. The seventh and eighth graders still do editing but they also have to write. If you want your article to be enhanced, or you need a photograph then you take your own the way that you like it.

Another thing that we quickly changed was the way we wrote interviews. When the newspaper club was started many of the writers wrote their articles by writing the question they asked, then they would write the response. In reference to the question-answer style Kate Watchmaker says, "Out of every article type, I would have to say it's my least favorite

because to me it feels like it has no body to the article and seems a bit bland." The question answer style of writing was dull and boring with no feeling, like copying down notes with no explanation. We write many types of articles in the newspaper club. From drama to sports to comics and stories you can find many things in the issues we produce. There is no "best" article. That is all opinion. Some people like to read about upcoming events, and some like to lounge in a nice story. When asked what article she thinks most appeals to readers Kate Watchmaker says, "Definitely comics because it seems more interesting in a kid's point of view, and catches people's attention. Also maybe the stories because everyone loves a good fantasy story or mystery, which is usually the genre." Jenna Meleedy, now a ninth grader at Nipmuc, was with the newspaper since the beginning. Personally, she strongly dislikes comics. Jenna also said, "Easily news articles and upcoming events are the most important to people reading the newspaper. Things about the principal and upcoming plays. The best articles are things that relate to the school."

In newspaper club we never have had a long time to write our articles. But even with the few weeks that we had when the newspaper first started we still published later than we had wanted to. Unfortunately that meant that now we have less time than ever to write and edit our articles. Besides the lack of time, we are also supposed to keep our words to a minimum, though some people can not achieve the goal of only one hundred to two hundred words.

The newspaper club is a great experience that helps improve writing and editing. Jenna Meleedy says, "It is a great starting point for someone that wanted to be a writer or participate in recording the school's history. I think having a newspaper really brings our school to a new level. Having a community that really takes these events so seriously." Not to mention helping other people and discovering new talents and abilities. Kate Watchmaker says, "I really love helping out other people on their articles and recognizing the many talented people that join this club. I also love when we edit as a group or just individually, it's a lot of fun!"

The newspaper club is still in its young stages but we are progressing with every issue. With writers getting better each year, and some always coming back, we are better than ever.

Enrichment

Enrichment is a great way to cool off, learn some new things, and have fun after school!

Ms. Fior is the Miscoe Hill enrichment coordinator. If you have ideas for an enrichment class, you can email her at cfior@mursd.org! There are four sessions a year that last seven weeks, and they change with the seasons! If you want to hang out inside, try the winter enrichments! Ready for some outdoor fun? Come check out the spring enrichment session, which runs into June for some warm weather!

Miscoe Sports

Field Hockey

By: Braeden Belcastro—Grade 5

Field hockey is a new sport at Miscoe Hill and the teams coach is Mrs. Hardcastle. I thought that it would be interesting to interview her to find out a little about it. The first question that I asked her was, "What sparked your interest to become the field hockey coach?" She replied, "I have always loved the sport of Field Hockey. When I found out there was going to be a Miscoe Field Hockey team, I was excited to share my passion for the sport with the girls!" My next question was, "What are some of your goals for the field hockey team?" In response to this question she said, "Some of my goals for the team are learn how to work as a unit and team, because the sport is new to many of the girls. Another goal for me is to make sure the girls know the rules and positions of the game. A goal that will continue through my coaching career is to make sure the girls are enjoying themselves while improving their game." Mrs. Hardcastle sounds like she will be a great dedicated teacher for the students participating in field hockey. Next I asked her this, "What is your favorite thing about being the field hockey coach?" She said, "My favorite part of being a coach is the enthusiasm of the girls! It is really neat to see

them enjoying a sport that I grew up with and was such a nice part of my childhood!" Next I asked, "What's your favorite thing about field hockey?" In her response she answered, "My favorite thing about Field hockey is being a part of a team! I think being on a team is very useful. In my case Field Hockey teaches more than just the sport, it teaches how to work with others for a common goal. Also, many friendships happen when you are part of a team or group!" I really enjoyed interviewing Mrs. Hardcastle!



Miscoe's field hockey team

Cross Country

By: Cameron Roy

I interviewed Mrs. Pike, the coach of the Miscoe Hill cross country team. She told me some interesting facts about her and the team. Mrs. Pike started running in 7th grade and she loved the sport ever since. Being the cross country coach, it is her goal to inspire Miscoe Hill students to fall in love with the sport and become life-long runners. The day before a meet she encourages runners to stretch,

rest, hydrate, and eat healthy foods. She tells the kids to do their best and have fun. "We are a very young team with 52 out of the 74 kids being 5th graders. So while we aren't winning all of our meets, we are improving so much every day" she told me. The Conference Championship was held on October 28th, and the State Championship was on November 4th. Hope you will think about joining the cross country team next year!

Visit The Miscoe Hill Website

Do you want to know about Miscoe Hill Middle School? Check out the Miscoe Hill website! Go to www.mursd.org to get all the answers!



MURSD
Calendar



Lunch
Menus



MURSD
Athletics



MURSD
Alumni



School
Closings



Creative Writing at Miscoe

The Locked Diary

By: Ishani Saha—Grade 6

Jesse didn't want to dust his great-grandfather's attic, who, not to mention, was insane. But, he did wish to move into it. He sighed sadly, knowing his father had always told him to be careful what he wished for, because in his family, that sometimes came true. Of course, he didn't believe it, and ended up in a tiny house in the middle of nowhere. Jesse had always hated his life.

While he was cleaning up cobwebs and shooing away random bugs that popped up through cracks in the floorboards he noticed a lump of dust that had come together in the corner. When he cleared up some of it, he noticed golden print showing through the dust. More swiftly he dusted the book, uncovering a fully-preserved journal with the words "*Andrew Fletcher*" inscribed on the front cover. "Andrew Fletcher," He whispered under his breath, "The crazy grand-daddy." That's what Yohan Fletcher, Jesse's Dad, had always called him in his stories. His odd wishes had become legendary, yet believ-

able in the Fletcher family. However, his wishes eventually cost him his sanity and he ended his life in an assisted living home.

For years, the diary had lay there, just waiting for Jesse to make a wish. Jesse knew it. He knew that when he wished to move, he also wished for an adventure. When he wished for that adventure, he also wished for it to begin with his "crazy great-grand-daddy". This journal would be the start to that adventure, he just knew it.

He was so happy that he clutched the diary and danced around for a while, but immediately stopped when his Dad came up to remind him to dust. He put down the diary and steadied himself. His excitement was overflowing, but suddenly remembered that for an adventure to come he needed to take action! Faintly he could recall his father's words and picked up the duster. It was going to be a long day.

Night fell, and as darkness enveloped the tiny cottage Jesse struck a match to keep the cramped attic that was supposed to be his 'bedroom' lit. He lifted

the diary up from the ground and dragged his fingers over the printed letters. The book was a reddish brown color, and was touched with just the right amount of purple. The golden letters added a touch of sparkle that made it look magical. Jesse tried to open it, but the cover wouldn't budge. He turned it over on it's side and figured out why; there was a simple lock.

He smiled, knowing that whatever challenges the universe threw at him, he'd outsmart it. Especially ones that included locks. He had a friend that lived far away from his old house, but only a ten minute walk away from his new one. This friend was a champion lock solver. Once, he'd unlocked his locker when some kid mixed Jesse's lock up with his.

Thrilled, he made plans for tomorrow, it would be too late to go today. As he lay down for bed, he didn't take much notice of the strange rustling outside his window. Staring up at the ceiling, completely oblivious, he never guessed what his wish would cost him.

To Be Continued....

Nightmare Town: New School, New Life, New Horror

By: Popia Greenwald—Grade 7

"Nooooo!"

Hi, my name is Josh and in one week I am moving to Whisper Gallows which is in Iowa. No joke, I'm really mad because all of my friends are in LA, but most importantly Zoey is here. Zoey is a girl I have been crushing on since we were in 7th grade. Which was 3 years ago. She is one of the prettiest girls I have ever met and I'm moving away from her! Can you believe how miserable is my life? "Stop your whining and come help your father and I get some stuff into the truck!" mom yelled from downstairs. I got to go for now. See ya!

Hello again, right now I'm outside, in the park. While I was helping my parents pack up our stuff, I saw a very strange old man who was burying something. Tomorrow morning, I'm going to go back to where I saw the old man, and see what his deal is. For now, good night.

When I woke up this morning, I went back to where I saw the old man, and saw a bloody hand poking out of the ground. Suddenly, I felt a chill running down my spine and felt like someone was staring at me. Before I saw anything more, I chickened out and

ran back to the house. This morning, I had school. I saw my best friends Eric and John. After school, I stayed to chat and play around with Eric. John had baseball practice and he will meet us back at my house at 5:45. Somehow, Eric encouraged me to talk to Zoey. I walked nervously to where Zoey and her friends were.

Just before I got there, Tim, the new 'High School Bully' stepped right in front of me. "Where do you think your going, Twit?" Bellowed Tim. Tim is the captain of the football team. All of the girls have a crush on him. He and Zoey are dating. Tim has dark brown hair, that gets pushed back. Tim's skin is like tannish brown and he always calls me 'Twit'. He isn't always the nicest person. Although, I can't remember the last he was nice to me. "Hey! Are you deaf, I'm talking to you Twit" said Tim. "I..I'm..s..sorry" I stuttered.

Tim picked me up by the collar of my shirt, and said "don't ever try to flirt with my girlfriend, understand?"

When he put me down, I ran as fast a cheetah trying to get away from a lion all the way back home, leaving Eric behind. The moment I stepped inside my house, I saw the old man sitting in my living room talking to my mom. "Mom?" I yelled. "What are you doing! This man killed someone! "I saw him!"

To be continued...

Arts at Miscoe

Stuart Little

By: **Gabrielle Palmer—Grade 5**

Wow! Did you hear about the new Stuart Little play? It's all the rage here at Miscoe Hill Middle School. I interviewed Mrs. Appleby to get the information that you are going to read about. There is no lesson when it comes to Stuart Little it is all for fun! "Stuart Little is about a little mouse named Stuart who lives with a family of humans. Stuart is helpful, loyal, and adventurous. He sets off on his own question to find his best friend Margalo, the bird." said Mrs. Appleby.

"Some of you might recognize some scenes from the play if you read E.B. White's version of Stuart Little." As Mrs. Appleby described to me. Did you know that they practice six hours a week? That's crazy, everyone knows that it's going to be the best school play you've ever seen. The first show is on Friday, December 8th it is at 7:00 P.M. The second show is on Saturday, December 9th it is at 3:30. Get your tickets before they are all sold out. I'm really excited to see it and I hope know that you guys are excited too!

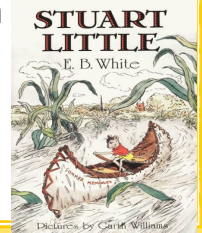
Miscoe Hill Youth Theatre presents.....

Stuart Little

**When: Friday, December 8 at 7:00 P.M
and Saturday, December 9 at 3:30 P.M**

Where: Miscoe Hill Auditorium

Price: \$7



Behind the scenes look at the play, Stuart Little with Mrs. Keeler

By: **Ben Reitz —Grade 5**

The fall play is coming this December! This year it is Stuart Little. It is a great story about overcoming obstacles. Mrs. Keeler is one of the teachers producing the plays. Her role is mainly behind the scenes. She ordered the script, sent correspondence, is setting up concession stands, and ticket sales.

Although she is very busy with rehearsals she told me, "I enjoy seeing the students improve every time we run the play!" She also said, "The play will be really fun!" Her favorite part of working on the play is seeing sides of students you don't necessarily get to see in class! On a scale of one to ten, Mrs. Keeler gives this play a ten out of ten! This will be a play to remember, I assure you!



Holiday Recipes

By: **Daniel Fransen—Grade 7**

Peppermint Bark

Cook time: 10-15 minutes

16 oz. dark chocolate, finely chopped
16 oz. white chocolate, finely chopped
1 candy cane, crushed

Directions:

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper; set aside.

Place the dark chocolate in a medium bowl. Microwave on 50% power in 30-second increments, stirring after each, until completely melted. Using a spatula, spread the melted chocolate in an even thin layer on the prepared baking sheet. (The melted chocolate doesn't need to cover the entire pan.) Place the cookie sheet in the refrigerator while you prepare the white chocolate.

Place the white chocolate in a medium



bowl. Microwave on 50% power in 30-second increments, stirring after each, until completely melted. Remove the cookie sheet from the refrigerator and, using a spatula, spread the melted white chocolate in an even layer on top of the dark chocolate layer. Immediately sprinkle the crushed candy cane on top of the melted white chocolate and gently press into the chocolate to adhere. Refrigerate until completely hard and set, at least 30 minutes. Break into pieces and store the bark in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 1 month.

Cranberry Sauce

Cook time: 15 minutes

1 cup sugar
3/4-cup water
1 tsp grated orange zest
1/4 teaspoon salt

12-oz bag cranberries (about 3 cups).

Pick through cranberries and discard those that are not ripe. Rinse in cold water.

In a medium saucepan set over high heat, bring water, sugar, orange zest, and salt to boil. Stir occasionally while the sugar dissolves.

Stir in cranberries; return to boil. Reduce to medium heat; simmer until about 3/4 of berries have popped open and sauce thickens, about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.

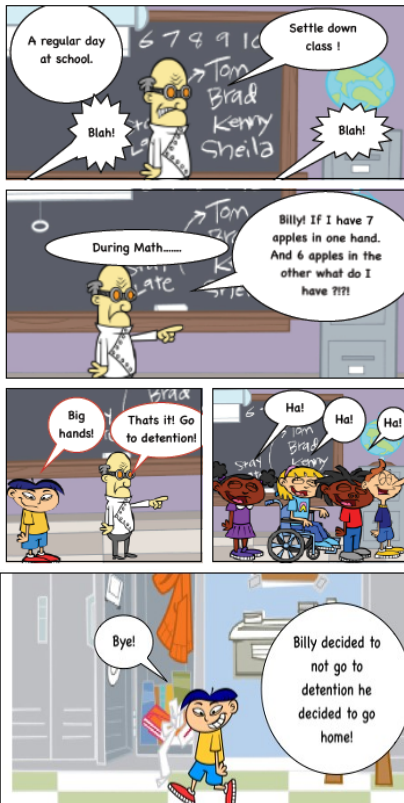
Place in serving bowl and allow to cool to room temperature. Cranberry sauce can be covered and refrigerated up to 7 days; but be sure to allow to stand at room temperature for 30 minutes before serving.



Photos by Daniel Fransen

COMICS

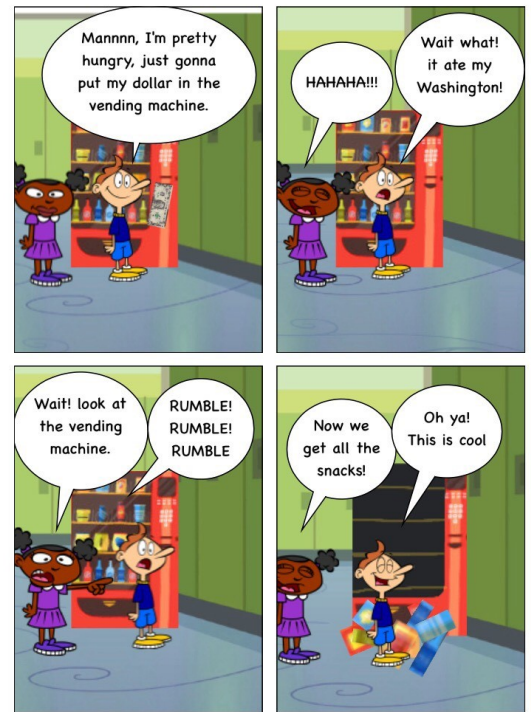
By: Patrick Scott—Grade 5



By: Juliet Alexander - Grade 5



By: Christian Morrice - Grade 7



5th and 6th Grade Halloween Social Friday, October 27th



Home of the Braves

**Check out Home of
The Braves on the
Miscoe Hill website!**

<http://miscoehillsschoollibrary.weebly.com/home-of-the-braves-newspaper.html>



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Questions or comments?

Contact us!
karnold@mursd.org

**Want to be part
of our staff?**

An email will be sent with information about our next issue.

Pictures by STUCO

