

Home of the Braves

Miscoe Hill Middle School

Fall 2018 | Vol. 4, Issue 1

Miscoe Welcomes Ms. Clarke

By Luke Venable—Grade 8

At the end of last year, we had to say goodbye to our beloved 7th and 8th grade band teacher Mr. Amitrano. We only hoped that his replacement would be just as good. I went to talk with Ms. Clarke so we could get to know her a little better. Traditionally speaking, when we interview new teachers or retiring teachers we generally like to learn what they do outside of school. But as Ms. Clarke put it, "Right now all I do is work and sleep."

Ms. Clarke grew up in Vermont. When she went to college she wasn't sure what she wanted to do as her profession. In her own words she says, "I wasn't really sure that I wanted to be a music teacher until I got to college. I really fell in love with the music community while I was there." She went to college in Utah. When she graduated she stayed in Utah, taking up a position as a Junior High music teacher, encompassing grades seven through nine.

Ms. Clarke's main instrument is the trumpet, although she says she thinks it would be fun to learn more. She regularly plays parts of the music with us in band to show us what it is supposed to sound like. As she is only one person and can't play every part by herself, she has also played every song for us as an ensemble over the speakers.

For now, despite the change in music teachers, the majority of the musical events such as concerts will not be changing. Ms. Clarke says that she wants to get a feel of things first, and maybe in future years, she can alter things a bit after she gets to know things better. Jazz band will also stay mostly the same as it was under Mr. Amitrano's tenureship.

So far this year, Ms. Clarke has shown a unique teaching style. She regularly sends us out of class to work on specific parts to maximize time. So far it looks like she will be a great teacher. We wish her luck in the coming years and hope she will be as great a teacher as she appears to be. Make sure to give her a warm welcome to our school.



Contributed photo

Home of the Braves

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Officer Sinko

By: Popia Greenwald—Grade 8

School safety is very important to not only our students, but for our parents and teachers as well. Our old school resource officer, Officer Pokerniki, retired last year. Many have probably noticed that there's a new guy in town. His name is Steven Sinko, but out of respect, we call him Officer Sinko. Officer Sinko is a part of the Mendon police department. Before working in Mendon, he used to work as a police officer in Millville. Previously, he spent eight years as a Navy Intelligence Specialist.

Officer Sinko started working with us at the end of last school year. The Chief offered the position of being a school resource officer to everyone on the force. Officer Sinko was interested in the following, and volunteered. He wanted to make a difference and in his words, "You can make a real difference working with eleven or twelve hundred kids in the elementary and middle schools, and that was something I wanted to do." Every day, Officer Sinko goes back and forth between working at Miscoe and working at our town's elementary school, Clough. In the morning he might be working at our school, making sure everyone gets on and off of their buses. After lunchtime, we might be able to spot him guarding those at Clough. Being a father himself and working around hun-

dreds of kids, we can safely assume that Officer Sinko is a kid-friendly guy. Our students shouldn't have any problems with coming to him to talk about anything.

Aside from his job as our school resource officer, Officer Sinko is an instructor for the Mendon Police Explorers group, which allows students to get a first-hand experience about what police officers must do in their day to day lives. For one, students got to learn about drinking laws in Massachusetts. They also got to learn about firearms safety, domestic violence, and how officers deal with those cases.

If anyone were to pass Officer Sinko in the hallways, on the sidewalk, or anytime at all, please remember to thank him for being at our school and making sure our students have a safe learning environment.

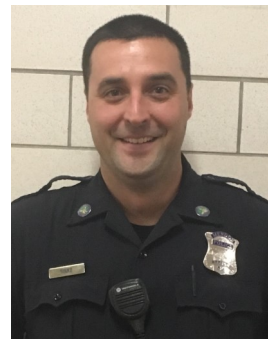


Photo by Popia Greenwald

New Teachers

Welcome Mrs. Webster!

By: Susan Barrows—Grade 6

The once third-grade teacher came to Miscoe and has been impacting all fifth-grade lives. If you don't know who I'm talking about it's the well known Mrs. Webster. "I was in third grade for maybe 10 years or so in a row, and then last year I was in fourth grade. There was an opportunity to go up to fourth grade because the class sizes were going down. I felt as though this was a nice next step," she said. So, the amazing Mrs. Webster decided to take on middle school alongside her new fifth graders. Lucky for Mrs. Webster, Nature's Classroom was right around the corner creating a perfect chance to get to know her students outside of school. "I love seeing the students in a different atmosphere. I love seeing the excitement about learning and I feel as though I know my students a little bit better as people, so for me it was a great experience." Mrs. Webster said. Clearly, the rain didn't dampen their fun!

Another good thing for Mrs. Webster is that the building wasn't completely new to her since just like all the students, she went to Miscoe. When I asked her what it was like to roam the halls that she once walked in as a child she said, "It is still fun to think about where the rooms were. The room I'm in now used to be my typing room, I learned how to type on the typewriter in this classroom." When I was interviewing Mrs. Webster I also asked her what the hardest thing to get used to here at Miscoe and she said, "The biggest adjustment is learning how to fit everything in a 15 minute time block and then have the new group facing me two minutes later." It seems it's hard getting used to Miscoe but it gets better as you go on. Make sure to give a friendly hello to Mrs. Webster if you see her in the halls!



Contributed photo

MRS. SHILALE'S PAST AND FUTURE

By: Patrick Connolly—Grade 5

Bonjour et bienvenue Mrs. Shilale! I interviewed Mrs. Shilale, our new French teacher, on September 27th. I asked her some questions about her past, and where she taught before Miscoe Hill. She said, "Yes, I have taught in quite a lot of schools before Miscoe, eleven years at Brockton public schools, two years at Douglas public schools, three years at Northbridge public schools, a year at Blackstone-Millville regional schools, and two years at Braintree public schools." Finally, she landed here at Miscoe, where she has been teaching happily for three years. She came here because she lived in Mendon, and her kids came to school here. She wanted to give back to her community. She had a job elsewhere but from her parent perspective she'd just rather just work here. In her words. "Working at the school with my kids was great! I got to be here in the building to see them in the halls, to attend their activities, and be a part of their education outside of what we do at home."

Mrs. Shilale grew up in Braintree, Massachusetts. She went to Fitchburg State College where she studied elementary education. When she started teaching she did not teach French. She became a French teacher, changing from her

prior occupation, because, "I just love the language, and after spending some time in France when I was in my twenties, I wanted to share my love of the language and culture with students."

She loves teaching French and when she was younger she played soccer, softball, basketball, and was a cheerleader. I asked her if she had to teach any other subject besides French what would it be? and Mrs. Shilale said, "I love my job here as a French teacher and if I had to teach another class besides French I would have to pick math, because it's my favorite subject." I really enjoyed my talk with Mrs. Shilale our new French teacher, and we hope she stays with us for many more years.



Photo by Patrick Connolly

Why do cows have hooves?



Because they lactose

Home Of The Braves

Are you tired of your voice not being heard?
Well then join us! Sign up for the winter
edition of the newspaper! Ask Mrs.



Arnold for more details at
karnold@mursd.org

New Teachers

Welcome Miss Rhodes!

By: Alexa Ladd—Grade 5

Recently I was able to interview the new 8th grade science teacher, Ms. Rhodes. I asked her a few questions and found out some interesting facts about her teaching experiences, as well as how she is enjoying Miscoe so far. I also found out that she used to be a student here! I hope that this article will help you learn more about Ms. Rhodes.

The first question I asked her was, what made her interested in becoming a science teacher. Because there were so many reasons, her response was, "I wanted to become a science teacher to make science fun for other children".

She has been a teacher for two years now, and last year she taught in the

Grafton schools, this is her first year teaching at Miscoe.

I also asked her what her favorite science topic was to teach, since there are so many to choose from. She told me that her favorite topic is Physics. I was curious about how her experience has been at Miscoe so far, and she said, "It's been awesome! I love the people I work with and my

Finally, I asked Ms. Rhodes on how it feels to be a new teacher. She responded to me with, "it feels awesome, I've always wanted to teach here, so I'm really excited to be here!" I really enjoyed talking with Ms. Rhodes, and if you see her you should stop and say "Hello!"



Photo by Alexa Ladd

New World Language and Culture Teacher

By: Irelyn Bradley—Grade 5

Hola! ¿Cómo estás? For those of you who don't know who Mrs. Fermín is, she recently became a world language and culture teacher at our school and teaches all grades. She happens to be one of my elective teachers, so I thought it would be interesting to sit down and interview her. I went to Mrs. Fermín's classroom for my elective and asked her a few questions after class.

I asked how she felt about working at Miscoe. "I was excited and nervous," reports Mrs. Fermín "I was ready for well behaved and engaged students, and I received that." I think it's nice to hear that she has well-behaved students. "I've been a teacher for five years. My favorite part is connecting with students and keeping that bond strong through high school and college."

Mrs. Fermín was very happy to give information about her history, and it was very interesting to learn about what she was like before teaching Miscoe students. "I spent half of my life in Venezuela, but when I was a teenager, I moved to Massachusetts. I lived in Southbridge for three months and moved to Worcester after that. Once having my kids, I decided to be a teacher at the Worces-

ter schools." Mrs. Fermín replied. I finally asked if she wanted to add on any extra information.

She talked to me about other holidays she celebrates.

"We celebrate Christmas from December twenty-fourth to January seventh. Also, we celebrate 'Three Kings Day' on January sixth, during Christmas time."

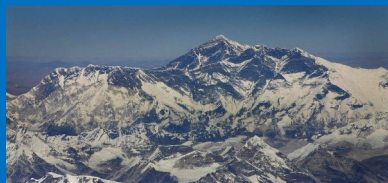
Learning more than one language can be very helpful when you are in a foreign country. Mrs. Fermín says you should learn at least one more language during your lifetime, as it can be very useful. It definitely affects people because they can learn a new language and culture. If you put your mind to it, you can do it!



Photo by Mrs. Fermín

Miscoe's Lost and Found has turned into a pile as big as Mount Everest! Please pick up anything that is yours ASAP.

Thank You! :)



Mount Everest

Important Issues

Is Vaping Good or Bad?

By: Elizabeth DeJesus—Grade 8

One thing every parent doesn't want to hear is that their child got suspended for vaping in a bathroom at school. Children all over America are using tobacco products in and out of school. These products should not be able to be accessed so easily by children. There are laws out there that are enforced to keep children away from vaping, but is it really helping? I asked 65 eighth graders if they have ever experienced vaping. 25 said no and 40 said yes.

I then asked them if they think that kids should be allowed to vape. 11 said yes and 54 said no. Statistics show that 1 in 14 middle school students have used tobacco products, but what is even more shocking is that one in four high school students have used tobacco products. A school in Maine had a teen who told his vice principal that he couldn't stop vaping after he got caught in the bathroom. The vice principal told the school nurse to give him a patch of nicotine gum to get through the day. Teens who vape and do every day are more likely to be addicted, and if they are it's so much harder to stop. Personally, I thought what this school did was a perfect idea. They gave him something that would still give him nicotine but it won't harm him as much.

I interviewed our principal Mrs. Mannion and asked her a few questions about vaping in her perspective. I asked her what her opinion is on kids vaping in the bathroom and she said, "If a teenager is tempted to smoke in the bathroom they should ask themselves if it's smoking they would do with their parents." A lot of adults think that kids use these products to seem cool or get people's attention, but in reality these products have been shown to us for years now, on television, signs, and when you're crossing the street. Our whole entire world is advertising all of these products to us.

Back in the 1940s to 1950s, doctors were used to advertise cigarette tobacco companies, these companies would promote their cigarettes and make them seem more legitimate by having doctors approval on them. Children or adults

smoking cigarettes and other tobacco products have been provided in movies since 1950 every generation has seen some type of smoking in movies or in life. They've switched movies with smoking from R-rated movies to PG-13, I know it seems ridiculous but 13-year-olds are teenagers and teenagers are the ones who are making these decisions to vape, so instead of advertising smoking they could tone it down a notch.

Many people say that cigarettes are a thing from the past, but in reality vaping is ten times more unhealthy. A Juul, which is one of the most common vapes that teenagers have been using is extremely addictive. One pod can make up for one pack of cigarettes, and a pack of cigarettes has 20 cigarettes inside. If you smoke a pod a day you would be smoking a pack a day. Although parents may not know, if they're smoking around their child at a young age the child is most likely to start smoking as well. They may not be influencing the child's behaviors to smoke, but they are showing them that it's okay for them to do it because they're doing it themselves.

In reality, teenagers are impulsive and can't always make the best decisions going to have to make their decisions for themselves one day. One of the best advice that I have always kept in mind is to learn from your mistakes if you ever messed up on something utilize that information and don't let it happen again. Middle school is the time for kids to want to experience things, immaturity is big right now at this time you just have to realize that you're going to overcome it. Overall maybe them making bad decisions will prove to them that everything you do has a consequence, because in reality that's what growing up is.



Contributed photo

NJHS Makes a Change!

By: Kate Watchmaker—Grade 8

The National Junior Honor Society has been around for many years at Miscoe Hill, but changes with the structure have recently occurred. These new changes will be affecting the incoming eighth graders, in a way that can either be perceived as good, you decide! As some of the students may know, NJHS is a program that recognizes hard-working students in the school, and is based off your grades. Originally the program was based off if the student had at least a 90 average for each class in sixth grade and seventh grade, and the student was eventually invited in the organization leading to, if they wanted to participate, compose an essay. In the essay the student would have to answer the question, "How have my accomplishments prepared me to participate in the Miscoe Hill Middle School National Junior Honor Society?"

Once in the society, the students must complete at least five hours of community service. The head of this organization for Miscoe Hill, Mr. Labarre, a seventh-grade math teacher, has been running this program for 3 years. During an in-

terview with him he described to me, "Mrs. Morrison and I reflected last spring on how we felt NJHS was going and areas where we felt it could be revamped." The new structure of this organization has changed to an overall grade of 95 based on the students sixth and seventh-grade year, but this time electives are included. As always, after submitting the paper, members will have to demonstrate their community service, and will meet in the auditorium once or twice a month for their annual meetings.

Being a part of this program takes a lot of hard work, but this program highlights the students who are willing to put in the extra effort, which makes it all worth it. During the interview, Mr. Labarre went on to describe his favorite change to me, "Our biggest and most beneficial change has been breaking up NJHS into subgroups. By doing that, we were able to meet as a subgroup once a week throughout the school year and create a community service project. That has been my favorite experience in running the NJHS!" This all shows that a bit of hard work pays off, and is all worth it in the end.

Important Issues

Honors Classes and its Disappearing Act

By: Ishani Saha—Grade 7

For the last three years, we have had honors classes that provided an accelerated course for children who with a certain grade point average. Last year it was removed by our principal, but why? What prompted its removal? What is being done to ensure that students don't get bored in class?

I'm sure you want to know, as did I. So I interviewed Mrs. Mannion, who was very enthusiastic about it all. I was surprised to learn that Mrs. Mannion has actually been thinking about this change since the summer of 2017- her very first summer here! When I asked her what her reasoning was, she told me that honors in middle school was not considered best practice anymore. Its curriculum was the same, and not necessarily beneficial to the middle school mind.

She showed me a website that had the results of a survey by John Hattie which ordered the impact of teaching methods and programs on schools from highest to lowest. It was titled "Visible Learning", and its purpose was to determine what works best in education. When I looked at it, I realized that most aspects introduced by honors classes were ranked relatively low on the list, despite popular belief.

I also was curious whether or not someone encouraged

this decision. She told me that, "The school advisory council, made up of teachers, parents, and community members, who looked at the survey data." The council did extensive research on what would be best for students at Miscoe.

After that, the idea was presented to the school committee. Mrs. Mannion explained to me that "They felt good about it because it aligned with the direction of the strategic plan for the next five years." This strategic plan is available on the school's website.

The next step, of course, was to execute the plan and release their decision to the public. Not everybody was happy, however. This was expected, and they set up information nights. Of course, some parents are still against it, but that's what comes with making a large decision, in Mrs. Mannion's words.

Mr. Marshall, who was also in the room at the time of the interview, informed me of their goal: to bring minds that think differently together. But with honors, this goal was hard to reach, seeing that students were separated primarily on grades.

After learning the reasoning for the removal of honors, I reflected on what I had thought before about this situation, and I realized I agreed with it. I hope you know what to think of it now as well.

New Year, New Changes

By: Michael Byrne—Grade 7

August 29, 2018, the day students and staff members alike walked in to start the new school year at Miscoe Hill Middle School. But this wasn't a normal beginning day, far from that. As soon as kids got onto Miscoe's campus they knew that something was different. For the new 5th graders they may have been confused and scared, like most new kids, but for everyone else it was complicated, to say the least. One major change was the change of schedule and classes.

The schedule and class changes may not seem as big as a deal to, well, anybody, as some other revisions, but I can say that the changes they've made to it is actually pretty important for the school and there's some pretty good reasons behind them. Last year, some things that the schedule included was split block, a block that the 7th grade would have where one block was cut in half due to the scheduling of lunch & recess for them. For this topic, I've decided to interview vice principal Mr. Marshall, and ask him about why the committee decided upon this change. Here's what he had to say, "The way that classes were put didn't make sense, and the way it was, the 7th grade would have a class cut in half because of lunch and recess, which was bothering for the teachers and confusing. It also was unfair for kids who did better in the afternoon, because if a kid who wasn't a morning person

had math in the morning everyday would they succeed in math? Most likely not, so the new way the schedule is can work somehow for everyone." He also added that he and the committee of teachers, nurses, custodians, and others are trying to let the students be more active and have more opportunities to be closer in school activities like student government, and while the student government was and still is important, they felt like there was more the student government could do. What the committee wants to do is let the students have more of a true voice in the school since, as Mr. Marshall says, "Frankly, there's no reason to be here if you guys aren't here." The committee had also been coming together and talking about the impact multiple things, like the old schedule, had on the academics and students' learning, and they would take those ideas and put them together to see what would be best for the students, and they plan to have more meetings in the future. Both Mr. Marshall and the school committee hope that this new scheduling can work for this school year and the years to come, and that students can have more of a voice in the school.

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
Period 1	6:00-6:45 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	6:00-6:45 Math Mrs. Mannion	6:00-6:45 Social Studies Mrs. Mannion	6:00-6:45 Science Mrs. Mannion	6:00-6:45 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	6:00-6:45 Math Mrs. Mannion
Period 2	6:45-7:30 Math Mrs. Mannion	6:45-7:30 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	6:45-7:30 Social Studies Mrs. Mannion	6:45-7:30 Science Mrs. Mannion	6:45-7:30 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	6:45-7:30 Math Mrs. Mannion
Period 3	7:30-8:15 Math Mrs. Mannion	7:30-8:15 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	7:30-8:15 Social Studies Mrs. Mannion	7:30-8:15 Science Mrs. Mannion	7:30-8:15 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	7:30-8:15 Math Mrs. Mannion
Period 4	8:15-9:00 Math Mrs. Mannion	8:15-9:00 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	8:15-9:00 Social Studies Mrs. Mannion	8:15-9:00 Science Mrs. Mannion	8:15-9:00 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	8:15-9:00 Math Mrs. Mannion
Period 5	9:00-9:45 Math Mrs. Mannion	9:00-9:45 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	9:00-9:45 Social Studies Mrs. Mannion	9:00-9:45 Science Mrs. Mannion	9:00-9:45 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	9:00-9:45 Math Mrs. Mannion
Period 6	9:45-10:30 Math Mrs. Mannion	9:45-10:30 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	9:45-10:30 Social Studies Mrs. Mannion	9:45-10:30 Science Mrs. Mannion	9:45-10:30 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	9:45-10:30 Math Mrs. Mannion
Period 7	10:30-11:15 Math Mrs. Mannion	10:30-11:15 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	10:30-11:15 Social Studies Mrs. Mannion	10:30-11:15 Science Mrs. Mannion	10:30-11:15 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	10:30-11:15 Math Mrs. Mannion
Period 8	11:15-12:00 Math Mrs. Mannion	11:15-12:00 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	11:15-12:00 Social Studies Mrs. Mannion	11:15-12:00 Science Mrs. Mannion	11:15-12:00 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	11:15-12:00 Math Mrs. Mannion
Period 9	12:00-12:45 Math Mrs. Mannion	12:00-12:45 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	12:00-12:45 Social Studies Mrs. Mannion	12:00-12:45 Science Mrs. Mannion	12:00-12:45 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	12:00-12:45 Math Mrs. Mannion
Period 10	12:45-1:30 Math Mrs. Mannion	12:45-1:30 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	12:45-1:30 Social Studies Mrs. Mannion	12:45-1:30 Science Mrs. Mannion	12:45-1:30 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	12:45-1:30 Math Mrs. Mannion
Period 11	1:30-2:15 Math Mrs. Mannion	1:30-2:15 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	1:30-2:15 Social Studies Mrs. Mannion	1:30-2:15 Science Mrs. Mannion	1:30-2:15 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	1:30-2:15 Math Mrs. Mannion
Period 12	2:15-3:00 Math Mrs. Mannion	2:15-3:00 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	2:15-3:00 Social Studies Mrs. Mannion	2:15-3:00 Science Mrs. Mannion	2:15-3:00 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	2:15-3:00 Math Mrs. Mannion
Period 13	3:00-3:45 Math Mrs. Mannion	3:00-3:45 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	3:00-3:45 Social Studies Mrs. Mannion	3:00-3:45 Science Mrs. Mannion	3:00-3:45 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	3:00-3:45 Math Mrs. Mannion
Period 14	3:45-4:30 Math Mrs. Mannion	3:45-4:30 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	3:45-4:30 Social Studies Mrs. Mannion	3:45-4:30 Science Mrs. Mannion	3:45-4:30 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	3:45-4:30 Math Mrs. Mannion
Period 15	4:30-5:15 Math Mrs. Mannion	4:30-5:15 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	4:30-5:15 Social Studies Mrs. Mannion	4:30-5:15 Science Mrs. Mannion	4:30-5:15 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	4:30-5:15 Math Mrs. Mannion
Period 16	5:15-6:00 Math Mrs. Mannion	5:15-6:00 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	5:15-6:00 Social Studies Mrs. Mannion	5:15-6:00 Science Mrs. Mannion	5:15-6:00 English Language Arts Mrs. Mannion	5:15-6:00 Math Mrs. Mannion

Random Fun Fact!

Miscoe Hill is the only school in our district to use solar panels!



A Normal 5th Grade Schedule

Creative Writing at Miscoe

The Cliff of Whispers

By: Kaitlyn Allington—Grade 5

Jaqueline sighed as she sat down on the bench next to Paisley. "School gettin' you down?" asked Paisley. "Yeah," she said. "I mean, that test yesterday was..pretty hard." Jaqueline said with hesitation. Paisley was very smart, so she knew Paisley would be shocked. "Really!? For me it was SOOOOOO easy! Since I'm the top of class..."

"Yeah, I know, Pais." Jaqueline said gloomily.

"Jaqs, I didn't mean..."

"It's fine. Don't worry about it." Jaqueline said sharply. The two shuffled their feet, the very distant sound of the bus' squeaky brakes echoing through the valley.

"Hey, can I sketch you?" questioned Paisley.

"Sure, whatever," said Jaqueline. But she didn't lift her head. For something was whispering through her mind. But it was real. It wasn't imagination. Jaqueline shut her eyes and listened. A hiss, a whisper, a howl. Jaqueline was curious. She didn't need school. She needed to know what was making that noise.

"Paisley, I...forgot something. I'll be right back," Jaqueline said.

"Ok, the bus will be here soon though, be back quick," she responded. Jaqueline rushed off towards the sound. She went down the road, rocks flying behind her heels. She found it was coming from behind her willow tree in her backyard. She pulled back the soft green leaves and found something astonishing. There was a misty waterfall flowing across a eroded cliff. To her amazement, it was the middle of the night now. She swept forward and backed

up repeatedly. Day, night. Day, night. Jaqueline heard the bus stop for Paisley, and heard her shout "Jaqs!!" But she ignored it. She didn't need school, like she said. She needed to see the adventures this treasure held. She needed..whatever this place was. Magic, was the word. Magic.

A silhouette of what looked to be a bear moved in the moonlight. Jaqueline didn't even notice. She sat on the edge of the ridged cliff and stared down at the sparkling purpleish water. The sky was a deep navy blue, the moon a tranquil periwinkle. Everything was sparkling. Fireflies hovered and fluttered in the mist. A paw stamped behind Jaqueline. She was still clueless. The bear approached her and... it sat down next to her. Jaqueline looked over and shrieked. But the bear smiled and waved. Wait..what? Yep. The bear smiled and waved. Jaqueline found this...surprisingly funny. She giggled. The bear had the weirdest patterns all over it. They may have been odd, but they were truly beautiful. Suddenly, the bear made a noise that sounded like someone whispering "la, la, la!" Jaqueline laughed. "Silly bear!" she said. "Wait, that's Winnie the Pooh's line. Darn it," she muttered. But she then came to a realization.

"That sounded like a... whisper?" she gasped. "Whisper! It's perfect!" The bear smiled and made a whispering noise again. Than it started to make a laughing sounding noise. This made Jaqueline laugh too. Jaqueline knew she belonged here. She needed this place. But she needed to keep it a secret too. Whisper and this fine, fine world she had discovered was hers. Hers ONLY.

The Missing Phone

By: Samantha Caroli—Grade 6

Kaylee and her friends walked down the hall of their school to her math class. She walked with her friends Amelia and Emily. "I can't wait for the social tonight," Kaylee said. "I know," Emily said. "I heard that they are going to have popcorn and cotton candy!"

"I wish I could go for the whole time," said Amelia disappointedly. "I have a family reunion."

"Don't worry, we'll tell you all about it on Monday. Well, off to math," Kaylee said. "Bye Kaylee!" Amelia and Emily said as they sauntered off to their French class together.

When Kaylee got in math her bright pink rhinestone iPhone buzzed. She picked it up and noticed that Emily had sent her a pic of a poster sponsoring the social. It had the date (Friday, October 28) on it and where it would be (the gym). She smiled and put away her phone before her teacher noticed that it was out. Before school ended Kaylee caught up with Amelia. She got another text from Emily and pulled out her phone to check it.

"I wish I had a phone," Amelia said. "My parents won't let me have one until I'm 15!" She sighed.

"Hey, you'll get one soon." She said with a smile. Later, back home she put on her black cat costume and her mom drove her to the social. It was crazy there. There were lots of people dressed up as witches, Soccer players, werewolves, vampires, and a whole lot of other different costumes. She saw Amelia and Emily over by the gym doors. "There you are!" Said Amelia who was dressed as a pink witch enthusiastically.

"Yeah, we were starting to worry what may have happened to you," said Emily who was dressed as a vampire.

"Sorry I'm late," Said Kaylee. "Now let's go party before Amelia has to leave!" The girls partied, ate popcorn, had cotton candy, and played some dodgeball for over an hour.

Suddenly Amelia checked the time on her watch and

gasped. "I have to leave! My mom said she would be outside to pick me up right around now!" The girls said their goodbyes and waved to Amelia as her mom drove her away.

"Oh it's seven thirty. I promised that I would text my mom at this time," She said. She reached into her pocket and felt around for her phone. It wasn't in there. She tried her other pocket. It wasn't there either. A look of horror started to spread across her face. "Where is my PHONE?!" She yelled.

Who took Kaylee's phone?

Try and find out who took Kaylee's phone before reading the answer!

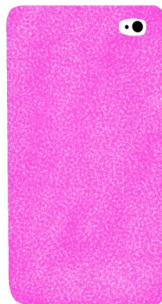
Figure it out:

Who took Kaylee's phone?

Well, Emily was with Kaylee when her phone went missing. Has Emily swiped it while Kaylee wasn't looking? Could Kaylee have dropped it while playing basketball? Also, earlier Amelia kept ranting and raving about not having a phone. And she also did seem in a hurry to get home right before Kaylee noticed her phone was gone. Did Amelia take it to find out what owning a phone was like?

Answer:

See page 12.



Drawing by Peyton Parrino



Student Council Presents:

A Holiday Carnival

For 5th and 6th graders

Friday, December 7th

From 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the lower gym and café.

Admission fee is \$7

There will be games (\$1 to play), a DJ, photo booth, face painting, and much more FUN!



One-Acts: Advice From a Director

By: Cecelia Van Norman—Grade 8

As the fall play concludes, One Act Play Competition directors are doing everything they can to prepare for rehearsals. If you are unaware, the One Act Play Competition is a competition where four eighth graders direct a short play with one other person. They cast, create props, and make the set by themselves. This year, I was lucky enough to be chosen as a director. And let me tell you, hoping to be director next year.

First of all, make sure you have an assistant in mind well in advance. And make sure that you and your partner know the commitment. You don't want to end up directing a play by yourself. Also If you and your assistant both take the test, you'll have a higher chance of becoming a director.

Regarding casting, be prepared. I would say at least have your top three people for each role ready. I can assure you that you won't get everyone you it's very stressful. So here are some quick tips for any seventh graders want. But don't be afraid to take a chance on the shy kid or the kid that can't read lines well. A good director will be able to see potential in anyone and will be able to help them to become a great actor. Also, sometimes you won't have enough people for your cast. Some people might have to play multiple parts. You may also need to change some roles. You won't always have enough males or females for specific roles, so you might need to switch genders and accommodate for that.

I would also recommend having a good idea of what props you may need, what costumes you'll use, and what kind of set you want. Especially if you have a longer more elaborate play. You're going to really need to study your play so you know exactly when you need set changes, costume changes, etc. It will help you in the long run.

And everyone has a different directing method. Some people give out candy, some people play games, some people make the most of rehearsals and practice till the very end of the day. I interviewed the other directors to see how they were going to go about directing.

Mallory Chace, who will be directing "Voice and Countervoice: The Blind Date" alongside Josie Delongchamp, said that they want to "make it a fun experience," for both them and their cast. But they say that it won't be all fun and games. "It will take hard work, dedication, and determination," she says. "But it should also be a memorable experience where we can all bond."

Danielle Jolie will be directing "Mere Mirror" with Sarah Ludwigson. She says that she wants to make sure it's an all around fun experience. "What's the point of being there if you don't have fun?" She says.

Sam Mayo, who is assisting Brian Dubowik in "Seasonal Weather," says that even though their play is kind of cheesy, they want to really to just have fun with it. "(We want) to make it seem funnier than it might seem on the outside. And of course, we're going to incorporate games into a few (rehearsals) and give our cast a little bit of freedom."

I myself will be directing "Louise" with my friend Eva Sanders. We want to make sure it's fun and enjoyable so our cast will look forward to rehearsals rather than dread them. Theater is about having fun!

THEATRE AT MISCOE

This Winter, Miscoe will be putting on five winter plays, including *Seasonal Weather*, *Mere Mirror*, *Louis*, *Voice and Counter Voice*, and *The Blind Date*.

These plays are a one night only event, so make sure to come on Jan 11, 2019

at 3:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. in the Miscoe Hill Auditorium.



Imagine Dragons Evolve Review!

By Jack Oleksyk—5th Grade

Do you know Imagine Dragons? They are a pop band formed in Las Vegas. They have released 4 studio albums, including the Origins One, which was released on November 9th. On top of that, the band has released 9 EP's (shorter albums).

Mrs. Amitrano, band teacher at Miscoe Hill Middle School answered some questions about her thoughts on Imagine Dragons new album, Evolve. According to her, these are her thoughts:

"I am familiar with Imagine Dragons, but do not own any of their albums. I like to use Amazon Music or Spotify to listen to various stations, including ones based on Imagine Dragons songs. I don't really have a favorite song. I like to listen to music based on my mood, and generally like to listen to things that are upbeat and fun. If a song sounds too harsh or clashing, I don't really enjoy it very much. I think playing an Imagine Dragons song or a medley of their songs would be a good idea for the 7th and 8th grade pops concert."

If you are interested in listening to their new album, down-

load the Spotify app and sign up for free, or visit your nearest music store, because the songs are catchy, and it even made Number 1 on the billboard charts! Plus, there are lots of stations that play them, including 93.3 FM, 92.9 FM, and more!

Here are some facts about Imagine Dragons. Their leader, Dan Reynolds' ex-wife, Aja Volkman, is a musician too. She's in a band called Nico Vega. Dan did not attend Berklee College of Music, even though the other members did. They are the 15th most streamed artist of all time on Spotify, as of November 2018.

Imagine Dragons' new album, Origins, came out November 9, 2018, as I mentioned above. It contains the songs Natural, Zero, and more hits. A deluxe edition, with three bonus tracks, was released as well.

Here are some of the songs from Evolve, which was released on June 23, 2017: Whatever It Takes, Believer, and Thunder.

If you like Imagine Dragons, visit your local music store!



The Miscoe Hill Robotics Club is looking for newcomers to join next spring. It is a great experience!

Contact taylor2112@aol.com

New Ideas

Letter to Seventh Grade

By: Brian Dubowik—Grade 8

The seventh grade is an enjoyable, yet challenging year. Although the harder work and big projects make 7th grade seem overwhelming, this really isn't the case. There are many great things about the year.

In English, you get to do a lot of writing. Students go on a field trip to see *A Christmas Carol* at the Trinity Repertory Theater in Providence. You also write a 3 to 5-minute speech about anything and present it to the class. The class votes on which speech they think is the best, and the person who gets the most votes in each class reads it to the entire grade. Finally, you get to create multiple videos for projects, such as a trailer for a fake movie based off a book you will read.

Geography replaces social studies when you enter the 7th grade. In geography, you learn more about maps, locations, and physical features instead of history. You spend most of the time working on maps and doing worksheets, but there are many projects throughout the year. In late fall, you get to make a news story video about problems in the Amazon Rainforest, and in May to June, there is a big event called the Parade of Countries. Each group of about 10 is assigned a country, most of which are not major ones like Mexico and Russia. Students then have to make a museum-type exhibit that is set up on the track on the day of the presentations. This is similar to the World Showcase at Disney World, but on a much smaller scale. There is food and music from the countries, and classes from each grade, along with family members, comes around to see the projects.

In science, you learn a lot about how the human body works, although it is just the basics, such as bones and the digestive sys-

tem. You get to make a few models, such as a plant or animal cell made out of cake and a mouse skeleton. You also get a chance to go to S.T.E.M events at Tufts University or Dell Technologies in Franklin. Finally, there are plenty of experiments and labs to do in class.

In math, you learn about some more advanced topics such as the basics of algebra. This puts you into position to succeed in the future- if you listen in class. Also, the teachers do a great job of keeping the class interesting. They run Kahoot reviews and have the students save up fake money by participating and completing assignments so they can "buy" things at class auctions that happen once a term.

Of course, there are plenty of new opportunities when it comes to electives. Most of the elective teachers are different in 7th and 8th grade than they were in 5th and 6th grade. For example, you have Mr. Schwab for technology instead of Mrs. Gervais, and Mr. Hansen for art instead of Mrs. Gentili. If you're in band or chorus, you get to go on the Lake Compounce field trip in June.

Of course, our school has had many adjustments over the years, and each grade level should be no different. The 7th grade is undergoing several changes, some of which will be incorporated this year. I asked geography teacher Mr. Clark about these changes. He said that they will be adding social-emotional learning to the curriculum, and will be working on projects between multiple classes. He also mentioned that students will be expected to take creative risks and be open to feedback from their peers. Finally, the geography teachers will be moving towards the new Massachusetts learning frameworks that will be added in 2019.

Hope you enjoy 7th grade!

MUEF helps this school by offering grants to teachers for fun educational programs to improve our education! Grants must be submitted by January 2, 2019!

RANDOM FUN FACT!

Did you know that potatoes were the first food to be grown in space and avocados are actually berries?



Miscoe Hill Winter Concert

This Winter Miscoe will be performing four concerts they will be performed on, January 15th, 16th, 18th, and the 19th at 7:00p.m. The concerts on the 15th and 16th will be in the Miscoe Lower Gym. The concerts on the 18th and 19th will be in the Nipmuc Auditorium. Be sure to come.



New Ideas

School of the Future

By Andrew Adams—Grade 7

Every year, technology advances further. This is a fact that changes how people spend their time at home, but it can also change how people work and learn at many schools, including our own. In a rather recent article on Apple's website, it showed that test scores went up in over 30 schools that use iPads. This shows that education improves when technology is implemented. The students who use iPads have a much larger selection of ways to learn. They have a much bigger choice of books to read because libraries cannot contain as many books as an online app could. They can explore thousands of educational apps and websites, and they have the ability to research anything at any given time. But this raises the question, how will technology change and advance in the future, and how will this affect schools? In order to find an answer, I interviewed Mr. Quinn, the head of technology in our school district.

One way technology is advancing is with communication. Mr. Quinn said that as technology becomes more elaborate, there will be more ways to communicate with others. Some examples of communication in technology existing right now are apps like FaceTime and Skype, which allow you to talk "face to face" with others far easier than with previous versions.

Online classes are another great example of technology

making learning easier. Mr. Quinn has stated that taking courses online allows people of any age to pursue anything they want, without having to leave their homes. This is a miracle for people who live without money to pay for college and all that comes with it. When asked if more technology-based jobs would be popping up in the future, he said that major jobs will change, including many things that require human work right now becoming automated. Many people will be able to sell things from their own houses, and new systems and services will be available.

One type of technology he said would be useful in education is video games. This might sound odd, but online video games can allow kids to work together, which is something schools have been trying to get to happen. He said that there is great potential with VR and online gaming in general, and could likely be used well in a school environment.

With all these different forms of technology being added to schools, education will become far different in the next ten years than it has ever been before.



Photo by Andrew Adams

Dismissal and Arrival, What Do You Think?

By: Maggie Lewinsky—Grade 6

What were you doing over the summer? I know what Mrs. Mannion and Mr. Marshall were doing. They were trying to figure out what the solution is to the arrival and dismissal problem. "What's the issue with the old system?" you might ask. The issue with the old arrival/dismissal system is that a lot of students were missing their buses because they couldn't hear the announcements. Also they changed it because Mr. Marshall and Mrs. Mannion felt that it was safer to have all of the buses in the front and sides of the school.

The changes made to Miscoe have already improved the whole arrival and dismissal system. It is much easier to hear my bus now, and I like getting dismissed all at once. What do other students think? I interviewed two students, one from 5th grade and one from 6th. Kailey Dibbern, a current sixth grader says, "I don't like the new dismissal system because it's really crowded in the main hallway, and you get to the buses slower. I also don't like it because my bus is always there once I go down to the gym, and I almost miss my bus a lot." I also interviewed Sean Lewinsky. "I

don't like the new arrival and dismissal system because when I'm coming down to the gym I almost miss my bus a lot because there is a huge crowd moving to their buses, and when I get there my bus is already called, so I have to run to my bus," he said.

Differing opinions set aside, the new arrival and dismissal system does make it so we have a longer learning period at the end of the day. It used to be that dismissal would start at 2:25, and the last Mendon bus was dismissed at as late as 2:45. Now, with the new system, walkers get dismissed at 2:32 and then a few minutes later all buses are called. This makes more sense to me because now instead of all of the students getting dismissed over twenty minutes, where the teachers couldn't teach anymore because half of their students were missing, all of the students get dismissed in a very quick process.

As I was researching how the new arrival/dismissal system came to be, I was wondering what the process was of making the decision. When I asked Mr. Marshall he said, "We met with teachers, police, fire, and the bus company to take a look at all aspects of dismissal. We tried to do dismissal all in the front of the school at the start of the school year and after four days, it was clear this would not work for the Mendon buses. We adjusted our process based on observation and moved the Mendon students into the lower gym and this has been a great solution to what we originally thought." I think that this was a great solution to figure out what the new system should be. It is good to always get everyone's opinions when your making a big change to a system. Overall I think that here were some benefits to the new system and some benefits to the old system, but what do you think?



Miscoe's Opportunities

Cross Country from the Inside

By: Rachel DePetrillo—Grade 6

Sports are some of the best ways to make friends and a great way to stay fit, and one of the best sports that Miscoe has to offer is cross country.

As a member of the Miscoe cross country team myself, I can personally say that cross country is one of the best sports programs that you could possibly sign up for here at Miscoe, but I thought that I would get a few other opinions, just to prove to you how amazing it really is. "I love that it gives everyone the opportunity to exercise in a fun way, and to make new friends," says Kylie French, a second-year runner. Ava Rousseau says "I really like running through the woods and the exploratory element that it brings." Sounds like we've gotten some pretty positive reviews and comments on this super sport, but we've only heard from runners. So, I went to Mrs. Pike, one of the coaches of the cross country team to get another angle on this.

"How do you think you would describe the cross country team?" I asked.

"I would say that they are a large group of young athletes, many of whom have never run before joining the team. Others are seasoned veterans, but we are all learning together how to love to run" says Mrs. Pike.

"Now, what importance does cross country hold to you?"

"Personally it's important to me because I have always loved running since I was very young. Running has enriched my life tremendously, and I want to help others to enjoy the same experiences."

"When did you start coaching cross country?"

"I started coaching cross country the first year that it started, being about ten years ago." And for a final question, I asked this expert runner how long she has been running. "I've been running since the seventh grade." You read it here folks, she's been running since the seventh grade! A very impressive amount of time to have kept running!

Now, aside from being a fun thing to do after school, it has its benefits. It can help with stress. Just that feeling of accomplishment after running can really take your mind off of things that may be bothering you. It can also strengthen your lungs, and it can strengthen your immune system! Pretty cool right?

Sports are some of the greatest ways to make friends and an amazing way to stay fit. I hope that I've convinced you that one of the best sports that Miscoe has to offer, is cross country.

Electives: Are They Just as Important?

By Justin Fransen-Grade 5

For the past few years here, Miscoe Hill has given the kids some fun electives. But why do the kids think that electives are so great? They like doing sports in PE, but they do more than just that! They like playing with friends and teamwork. They also like reading in Media, again you do more than just read all 50 minutes of course! You learn 19 different genres, oral speaking skills, and more. There is also typing in Technology, along with making many cool projects online. Did you know learning new languages helps your brain? It's a good thing that Miscoe offers many different languages to learn while the kids are enjoying themselves.

Playing an instrument helps you learn to use your brain while reading the music and following out on the keys, valves, and positions, it's a ton of fun! In chorus, you get to sing and practice songs for your wonderful parents. You do more than just drawing in Art, you use clay, your iPad to do various things, and you learn about past, artists. It also allows kids to get

out of those academic classes like Science, Math, Social Studies, and ELA.

Electives can introduce you to subjects that you might not have ever thought you would enjoy. Electives provide a valuable learning experience for students to have a well rounded education. With the diversity of electives in our school kids are given a unique opportunity to explore education outside of academics.

There are many electives and they are all great!



Photo by Justin Fransen

Money for Miscoe is an annual fundraiser for adults willing to raise money for the PTO instead of participating in different activities throughout the year. 100% of the money raised goes to the PTO. Every donation, no matter the size, can make a difference. If you have any questions, you can email miscoehillpto@gmail.com. Checks should be made out to Miscoe Hill PTO.



COMIC CORNER

By: Amanda Bertuglia — Grade 6

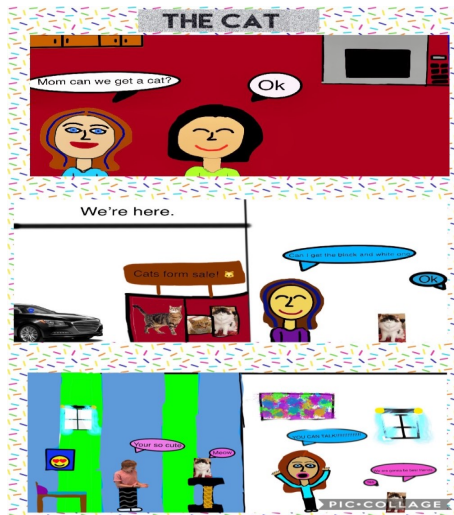
Welcome to New England

Sixth Grade

By Amanda Bertuglia



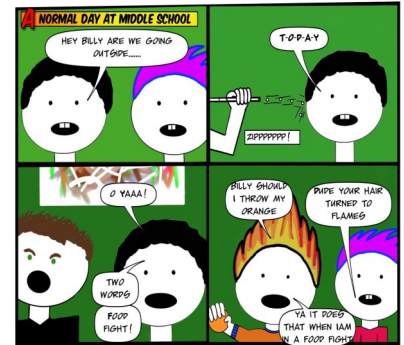
By: Brynn DiAnni — Grade 5



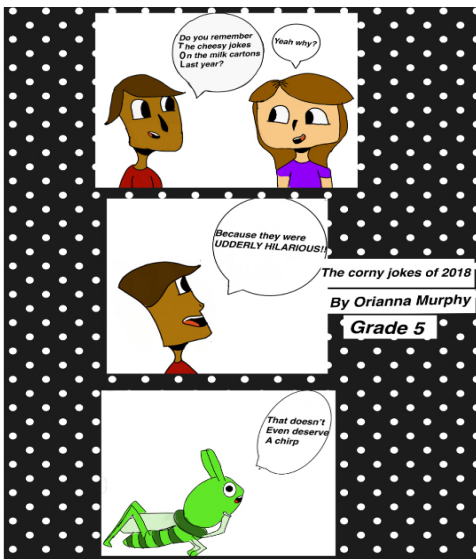
By: Poula Fahmy — Grade 7

The Unfunny comic

By Poula Fahmy



By: Orianna Murphy — Grade 5



By: Hayden Terrell — Grade 5



6 steps to make friends:

By: AFT



Step 1. Find a person

Step 2. Be Respectful

Step 3. Make eye contact

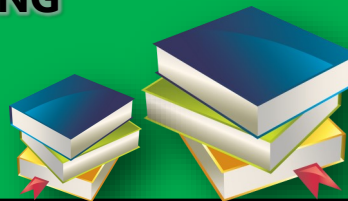
Step 4. Share interests

Step 5. Ask if they want to be friends

Step 6. Wait for them to answer



Hey there! Did you know that we are going to have a book fair with **DOZENS** of **AMAZING** books!? It's going to be here March 2019! We'll also have an Open Mic, see Mrs. Arnold for details.



Photos by Elizabeth DeJesus

Pictures from October 24th Open Mic and Book Fair



Important Issues

Not just yet

By: Elizabeth DeJesus—Grade 8

I'm not ashamed of who I am
I'm just ashamed of who I have become
you don't deserve this pain
I know that I can be really fake
but I'm trying to care
even when I'm not there
and I know I may not always be there
but I'll try to stand by your side
Until the day that I die
I won't give up so quickly my desperation to make you feel happy
makes me wish that everything would move fastly
but I'll stand by your side through thick and thin
we'll always find each other in the moonlight
because no matter what our feelings can never fall apart
if they tried I would have to leave your side

5 Tips to Prepare for a Test



- Study when you can
- Stay calm, don't worry
- Ask questions
- Pay attention in class
- Get a good amount of sleep

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>



Printing: This program is supported in part by a grant from the Upton and Mendon Cultural Councils, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Smartfish Group, Waltham

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.

From page 6

Answer:

The answer is that Amelia took it. She kept saying that she wanted a phone and she could have easily taken it out of Kaylee's pocket while saying goodbye to her. Also on Monday at school Amelia admitted that she took Kaylee's phone and returned it to her in the same condition as it was before it was stolen. Luckily, for Amelia, Kaylee decided to forgive her and still be her friend. But she also lost the bond of trust between the two of them.

Brilliant Banana Bread Recipe

By: Peyton Parrino, Grade 7

This banana bread recipe is simple and easy to make! You don't need a fancy mixer to make this banana bread. This recipe is also very flexible, you could make it less sweet or more sweet by adding different amounts of sugar, you can also add nuts or chocolate chips if you would like.

INGREDIENTS:

2 to 3 ripe bananas, peeled
1/3 cup of unsalted, melted butter
1 teaspoon of baking soda
A pinch of salt
3/4 cups of sugar (1/2 cup if you want it less sweet, 1 cup if more sweet)
1 large egg, beaten
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 1/2 cups of all-purpose flour
1/2 cup of nuts or chocolate chips (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

Step 1: Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C), and grease a 4x8-inch loaf pan with butter.

Step 2: In a medium-sized mixing bowl, mash the ripe bananas with a fork until smooth. Stir the melted butter into the mashed bananas.

Step 3: Mix in the baking soda and salt into the banana mixture. Then stir in the sugar, beaten egg, and vanilla extract. After that fold in the flour (and nuts or chocolate chips carefully if you wish.)

Step 4: Pour the batter into the greased loaf pan. Bake for 50 minutes to 1 hour, or until a toothpick/knife inserted into the center comes out clean. If the toothpick/knife comes out with residue on it, put the loaf back in the oven for 5-minute intervals until fully cooked.

Step 5: Remove from the oven and let the bread cool in the pan for about 10 minutes. Then remove the banana bread from the pan and let it cool completely before serving.



Photo by Peyton Parrino

