

Home of the Braves



Miscoe Hill Middle School

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Steps For Being You

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By: Kaitlyn Allington, Grade 5

Being yourself is hard, especially in middle school. People are looking, judging, and could even be controlling you. In this article you'll learn how to be you, and only you!

Step one: Breaking Away

"Breaking away from others can be hard. Some kids may even feel like it's too risky," said Mrs. Allen, the 5th and 6th grade guidance counselor.

When a person is controlling your style, personality, and everything in between, it is healthy to break off the relationship or position in that group. If the person is controlling you to the point where you're no longer you, you need to get away.

"People can only be themselves around other people who surround themselves with kindness and respect," said Mrs. Higgins, the health teacher here at Miscoe. People that judge you, or are rude, aren't the kind of people you need around you in your life.

Going your own way may seem hard. However, if you do it at a time when your confidence is high, it may seem easier. All you have to do is tell that person/people that you don't like how they treat you, and tell them you want to pave your own path. If they really are a good friend, they may apologize and have a change in heart. If not, just remember, being yourself is better than being someone else's minion.

This also counts for social media.

"Kids these days are so obsessed with how many

people follow them on social media, or how many likes they get. Kids, and sometimes adults, are constantly comparing themselves to others. I think it is more common than most people are willing to admit," said Mrs. Higgins. She went on to say that it's good to follow encouraging and positive people.



Step two: Explore and Experiment

One of the most important, and for some the most fun, parts of branching out is exploring and experimenting with your style.

"If you feel you don't have style you can always look for inspiration in all different places. Try new styles and old styles and see what works best for you. You want to make sure you feel comfortable and confident, even if you are wearing sweats! Personality traits have to do with how you interact with everyone around you. It also depends on what personality traits you want. Once you figure that out you can work towards improving those things," says Mrs. Higgins.

Once you've found your style you'll feel much better about making the move away from people that

control you.

Step three: New Friends

After you've left that group that controls you and found the style you like, you may be thinking "How do I find some kinder kids to be my friend?"

Finding a good friend can be as simple as sitting down at a new table and starting a conversation. Sometimes, you may need to observe a bit longer. Depending on your personality, there could be some challenges. I myself am a bit shy when it comes to talking to new people. What you really need to do is be brave and put yourself out there! Wave, smile, or say hello to someone in the hall. Play a game with a group of kids you've seen around school. If they don't accept you for who you are, you know what to do. Don't let their words hurt you or bring you down. Just know that soon you're going to find a great friend that will always be by your side.

Step four: Originality!

One last thing you should remember is to be original! Maybe a style that everyone has these days isn't the best. Don't get me wrong, new styles can still be great. But what I'm really trying to say is to be your own person! You want to be known as an individual person, right?

Don't forget to follow your dreams. You might even be able to incorporate that into your style.

"You're always with yourself. You might as well enjoy the company."

- Diane Von Furstenberg

What's happening around Miscoe

Oh No, Middle School!

By Allie Martin, Grade 7

Middle school is a maze of fake friends, too much homework, and jokes that may or may not be funny. There's no way to avoid any of these things, so the best way to make it through fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade is to get advice from people who have survived it themselves. Trouble with friends? Trouble with school? The guidance counselors are all here to help.

Mrs. Beauregard, the seventh and eighth grade guidance counselor said, "It's very normal for friendships to change and grow in the middle school years." She also mentioned that most friend related problems are caused when people spread rumors or talk about others behind their backs. "A lot of times it's because false information gets spread." Mrs. Beauregard also had some great advice for fixing friendships. "Sometimes students need to give each other space, and sometimes they need to ask them in private what's bothering them. It's always a good idea to check in with friends, to apologize, and to forgive." She also said that the most important thing is to be yourself.

Students who have had friend problems also chimed in with a different perspective. "The best quality to find in a friend is kindness," Anna Flaherty, a seventh grader, said. "You want to have a friend that you can laugh with and that you can always count on."

Another part of middle school that's challenging is all the schoolwork and the stress associated with it. "The most important thing for students to do is to recognize their strengths and the areas they need to work on. After they pinpoint what they need to work on, they should reach out and communicate with their teachers, parents, and peers," Mrs. Beauregard advised. She said that sometimes the stress is caused by keeping your problems inside and not sharing why you're struggling. She reported that any problem can be solved easily with help.

Students are probably the ones who know homework best. A seventh grader shared her perspective. "Just reward yourself at the end. When you're looking forward to finishing something, you get it done a lot quicker," Anna said when asked how she dealt with stress.

A last problem that students face is when schoolwork is too hard. "The first step is simply to address the problem and tell your teacher, parents, and counselors that you're struggling. Once you do that, they can set up a parent teacher meeting or a list of tutors." Mrs. Beauregard said when asked.

Everyone around you understands what you're going through, and middle school is always a tough time. And even though one of the important things is simply having a spot to sit at lunch, remember that the thing that matters most is having a good friend and people who understand you.

Life of a Lonely School Librarian

By Aisling Scott, Grade 5

Mrs. Arnold is a beloved librarian at Miscoe Hill Middle School, but do you ever wonder what Mrs. Arnold's life is like? When I asked Mrs. Arnold what it was like when she was interviewed. She said in her own words that it was "Intimidating, because there were four other teachers plus the principal and the vice principal." You would think her life is easy being a librarian, but it isn't. She is the sole librarian to 800 students and about 100 teachers, it's just her. When you think about it, when Mrs. Arnold was hired four years ago, her job was even harder. No one had used the library in over five years, so all the books were old and everything was disorganized and she had to clean it all up.

When Mrs. Arnold was younger she didn't start out wanting to be a librarian. When she was a kid she wanted to become an archeologist so that's what she did. Then she became a travel agent until 9/11. After that, she studied to become an archivist and became a public librarian but she wanted to work more with kids so she became a school librarian.

If Mrs. Arnold could make a wish for the Miscoe Hill library it would be to get lots more books, including a greater selection and a variety of media such as play-away. She would also make the library more accessible with more seating and add lots more color. Favorite pastimes of Mrs. Arnold include cooking and traveling. "I love to cook and travel, and get ideas for cooking from traveling. I am currently working on making cheese," Mrs. Arnold said.

Miscoe's Lost and Found is gigantic! Please come by to reclaim your things.



This year Miscoe Hill Middle School is participating in the annual One Mission Buzz off For Kids With Cancer!

We are hoping to exceed our goal from last year which was \$7,000 to help kids and families with cancer.

When: June 2, 2019

Where: Gillette Stadium

For more information you can visit:
www.buzzforkids.org



What's happening around Miscoe

Art Speaks

By: Kayla Vallecillo, Grade 6

Miscoe Hill's Art Engage program is an extremely wonderful experience. Mrs. Gentili (5th and 6th grade art teacher) and Mr. Hansen (7th and 8th grade art teacher) are both amazing people to know and are both extremely knowledgeable teachers at Miscoe. Both teachers love to "Find what's within you and bring that into your art," as Mrs. Gentili says, and they allow you to express creativity in any way, shape or form. These wonderful people have so much to share and teach with students at Miscoe Hill, so I interviewed them both to get the insight of how teaching art is at Miscoe Hill.

In 5th and 6th grade art, students learn the foundations of 7th and 8th grade art, and are able to create their own sketchbooks and make many different creations that look amazing! Mrs. Gentili does an amazing job pulling the creativity and talent out of a student and expressing their amazing abilities into art, which I find absolutely fantastic!

Mrs. Gentili has the students to come up with ideas to create art out of. In 5th grade, students will work with clay, create handmade sketchbooks including designed covers, which are a stand alone project because they are used every class pretty consistently. Mrs. Gentili believes that creativity can be taught, for instance, moving the sun from the corner of your artwork to something exciting, like a sunset. 5th graders also participate in a product redesign project, which requires cooperative learning. Today artists are collaborating all over the world, and cooperation and group projects help prepare kids to do that in their life, whether it's at work, or if it's a certain event or stressful situation. In 6th grade, the artists are able to design board games and 3D print their game pieces. Also, they are able to work with clay, ceramics, painting, drawing, digital art- including rotocopying, sketch noting, Photoshop, 3D modeling, and photography. Mrs. Gentili says, "It's pretty busy in the 5-6 art room!" I asked Mrs. Gentili what the most challenging aspect of 5-6th grade art is, and she said, "5th graders are being bombarded with new things." From iPads to an entirely new environment, 5th graders are able to access things that they were not able to access in Elementary School. 5-6th grade art is full of fun, amazing things to do, and it is guaranteed that you will learn many new things!

Mr. Hansen is a wonderful teacher who has been teaching for 16 years. His dimmed and neon classroom attracts any artist at Miscoe. I asked Mr. Hansen about what you do in 7th and 8th grade art, and he replied with, "7th and 8th grade art is a grab-bag of different projects. I like to give kids access to a lot of different materials throughout the year." After half of the year, an entirely new class is able to participate in completely different activities, so if you had art the first half of the year you wouldn't be doing the same things as if you had participated in art the second half of the year. This also includes the same with 5th and 6th grade art, resulting in all students who are taking art throughout the entire year have variety in their projects and materials. "7th and 8th graders will be able to do fine arts projects, illustration projects, and graphic design, those are the big three categories. Within that, you might do graffiti lettering, clay pockets for wall-hanging planters, cereal box designs, figure drawings, mostly just to get the basics of all these materials." I asked Mr. Hansen about what he likes to teach the most, and he replied with, "Oh boy, creativity is something that you can't teach, you have to learn that yourself, you have to bring it out of kids. I think that's what I like to see is, no matter what the project is, how kids can be creative and get different outcomes for each lesson. It's not like math where you have an answer that your trying to get to, everyone is getting the same answer. It's the exact opposite, where you can have 28 kids in a class and everyone gets different answers for the same project."

In 7th and 8th grade, the expectations are that you are present in class, to be mindful, and to focus on your work. Mr. Hansen does allow chatting and music can be listened to, as well as played by Mr. Hansen. He likes students to, "Tap into their own creativity and explore the art making process through the different techniques and skills that they'll learn." Mr. Hansen also has a fun, exciting grading system called "Class Realm." This allows students to track their progress using highlighter points, meaning you get points per projects that you have completed. Students try to rank up to "Legendary", and they start off as "Noob." It goes from noob, to silver, to gold, to master, to legendary. Every time you rank up, you get an award, for example, trivia cards, or game you have to play, etc. This allows students to have fun with grading in 7th and 8th grade art. Mr. Hansen's room is full of fun, allowing you to explore and create anything on your mind.

As I have explained, 5-8th grade art is an amazing, fun experience for artists at Miscoe. From sketchbook-making to designing cereal boxes, Art is full of many projects and designs that haven't been explored yet, so teachers like Mrs. Gentili and Mr. Hansen will allow you to explore the world of art.

Madagascar Jr.

Time and date: Friday, March 22 7:00 pm & Saturday,
March 23 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Snow date: Friday, April 5 7:00 pm & Saturday, April 6
4:00 pm, 7:00 pm

Behind the Classroom

What is a Friend?

By: William Cudmore, Grade 5

I sat down with fifth grade teacher Mrs. Webster last week to talk with her about what a good friend is.

My first question was, "How do you make friends with someone?" She said, "I like to observe people and start a conversation based on where we are."

During the interview I also asked Mrs. Webster how she knows a good friend from a bad friend. "I think it takes time to figure out someone. At first, everyone seems like a good friend and over time you can figure out if someone is a true friend or a not so good friend. A good friend will always stick up for you and support you. A good friend will never make you feel uncomfortable and will always be honest with you."

Another thing that I asked Mrs. Webster was, "How you can tell if someone is using you?"

She responded with, "Well, a friend will never expect anything from you. A real friend won't ask you for things or be around when you have something they want. A real friend will be there for you in the good times and the bad times. A true friend is supportive every day!"

In Mrs. Webster's life, she has made many different friends for different reasons. Mrs. Webster is still friends with some people from her high school, and she has teacher friends. She's also friends with some of her old students and their parents. Mrs. Webster has many friends that she has met from camping with her family every summer.



Photo by William Cudmore

Mrs. Webster told me that it is important to keep all of your friends and to learn how to balance your friendships. You need different people at different times in your life!

Mrs. Webster is extremely popular! It's not surprising that she has so many friends. I hope that one day Mrs. Webster and I can be good friends too, even when we all are in a different school!

Envy: The Drink

By: Donnacha Lambert, Grade 5

In the cafeteria, there is a new drink that came out this year, Envy. They have three main flavors: Fuji Apple, Fruit Punch, and Strawberry Kiwi. One eight oz. bottle is 1/10 of a daily kid's intake of calories. Envy is not a juice, it is actually a soda. The difference between juice and soda is that juice has some nutritional value, but soda has no nutritional value. When I was speaking with Mrs. Higgins, she said that, "One can equals two servings of fruit," Mrs. Higgins suggested one Envy per student.

Envy has way too much sugar; a little under 30 grams, which is way too high for a middle school student's sugar intake per day (an average middle schooler's sugar intake should be about 25 grams). This may affect the school work of the students if they consume too much. It may affect your heart rate as well. I talked to 18 students and two teachers, asking them on a scale of one to ten how much they like Envy. Most girls rated it lower than boys. Most boys would say a six to nine. There are waters available for only one dollar per bottle, so maybe once and a while buy a water or a different drink.



Contributed photo.

Class Pets

By: Patrick Kelliher, Grade 5

I interviewed Mr. Marshall for information on the acceptance of class pets in school. I asked him if class pets are allowed in school and Mr. Marshall said, "They are technically allowed, but the teacher has to check with the parents first before the teacher gets the pet." Mr. Marshall also stated, "Anything is possible, but the pets would have to be kept in enclosures and supervised. Students would take care of the pets on the weekends and holidays." Lastly, I asked Mr. Marshall how he felt about class pets. Mr. Marshall said, "I think class pets teach us responsibility and I like the idea of a class pet, but the pets need to be treated correctly."

Class pets can be fun to play with. Pets can be a good way to make kids work quietly, as to not scare the animals due to loud noises. As a reward, if kids finished all of their work they could

play with the pet. The pets could become different and more advanced the higher the grade level. A 5th grade pet

could be a gecko, a 6th grade pet could be a frog, a 7th grade pet could be a snake, and an 8th grade pet could be a water dragon.



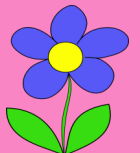
April Vacation is Near!

April 15th - April 19th

Stay safe and have fun!

"When all else fails, take a vacation."

— Betty Williams



Behind the Classroom

Stop Bullying

By: Carlos Brito, Grade 6

What is the number one thing that has to stop in Miscoe? BULLYING!!! It is an endless cycle that kids need to end now. Students are constantly picking on other students, and it is not right. Bullying is when you get picked on constantly, not just once or twice. Don't let bullies take advantage of you, and try to help stop them. It is not that students don't know how to stop bullying each other or don't try to stop it, it's that kids only bully when a teacher or adult is not around.



"Try standing up to bullies, if it does not work, get help from an adult immediately," Mrs. Allen, the Miscoe Hill guidance counselor said. Kids are always trying to find a way to make fun of other students. A lot of the time, bullying is seen happening outside at recess, where there are bigger crowds and teachers cannot always see what is happening. It happens rarely, but it does happen.

If you are being bullied by someone, here's what to do:

Step 1: Tell the bully to stop and leave you alone.

Step 2: If the bully continues, get a teacher.

Step 3: If the bully is still continuing after that, talk to a parent (they always know what to do) or you can see someone in the office, such as Mr. Marshall.

I know that a lot of people that read this are not going to give it much attention, but I really encourage all of you to take this message. If you are experiencing bullying but you are afraid to tell a teacher, I want you to know that you're not alone, and getting a teacher involved does help. Don't let bullies get away with teasing you! Teachers will take action because they care about your safety and feelings.

Speak up if you or a friend is being bullied. Let's stop bullying so we can make Miscoe better!

Hey! Do you want to know how people from hundreds of years ago changed our lives for the better? Come to the **8th Grade Renaissance Fair** to see inventions made during that time!

The fair will be coming in April!

Help us tell the Miscoe news! Join the Newspaper Club, we meet on Thursdays in the library. Everyone is welcomed to tell their story!



Nurses Need Snacks for Students!

Some students forget snacks or water and don't have food to eat. It would be very helpful if you could donate the following:

Only baked 100 calorie snacks:

- Gold Fish
- Pretzels
- Breakfast bars
- Peanut Butter or cheese crackers



Also needed:

- Pudding
- Water Bottles
- Apple sauce

Thank You!

Extracurricular Activities

Miscoe Hill Ice Hockey Team

By: Ava Lozeau, Grade 7

Have you ever heard of Miscoe Hill's Ice Hockey Team? The ice hockey team started just this year. I interviewed three people; Finn Lozeau, Scott Arthur, and Mrs. Consigli about this new club. Finn is a fifth grader and he plays goalie. Scott is an eighth grader. His current position is defense, but sometimes he plays forward. I also asked Mrs. Consigli, "Who is eligible to play for this team?" She told me that, "This year we put teams in with any players interested from grades 5-8." In order to have a hockey team someone must speak up. For the reason mentioned above, Mrs. Consigli decided to form an ice hockey team with the help of other parents. According to Mrs. Consigli, "For the past four years there have been many conversations between parents about getting a middle school team together. Facebook helped the cause by linking those willing to really dig in and get the work done. Anthony Chiaradonna, David Gagin, Christine LoSchiavo, and Brad Miller worked as a team from January 2018 until now to get the three current teams off the ground."



The Miscoe Hill Ice Hockey Team
2018–2019. Contributed photo

Miscoe has 52 players in total! Mrs. Consigli told me, "All of the Middle School games take place at New England Sports Center in Marlborough. There are 47 teams all together who play in the New England Sports Center Middle School league. Nipmuc has 3 teams. Scott told me, "Our record is 5-5-0 but I think some of the games we lost, could've been wins." When Scott says, "Our record is 5-5-0" that means he has 5 wins, 5 losses, and 0 ties. Scott's hockey coach is Mr. Consigli, and Finn's coach is Mr. Gagin.

If you are interested in the tryouts, next season's are held in the spring. Both Finn and Scott enjoy playing for the Miscoe Hill Ice Hockey Team. Mrs. Consigli said, "The kids love to finally play with their classmates and with school colors." Since Scott is in eighth grade he cannot play for the Miscoe league. Scott is deciding what high school he would like to attend to. He told me, "I'm not sure if I will play next year for the Northbridge co-op if I go to Nipmuc or the Grafton BVT co-op, but my ideal situation would be to play for Saint John's high school team. However, I will continue to play." Finn and Scott play other sports besides ice hockey. Scott also plays lacrosse and used to play baseball. Finn plays hockey all year round, but he does take a break in the summer, playing baseball. The Miscoe Hill Ice Hockey Team has brought kids together from Memorial and Clough. So far, this year has been a success for the Miscoe Hill Ice Hockey Team. We look forward to next season!

Ski Club

By: Sarah Flynn, Grade 8

Every January at Miscoe Hill Middle School, ski club begins. Ski club is a chance for students between fifth and eighth grade to learn how to or improve their skiing and snowboarding skills. Every Thursday after school for six weeks the ski club takes two coach buses up to Wachusett Mountain to ski for the evening. The buses typically arrive at the mountain around four thirty. Students participating in ski club have the option to sign up for lessons that last one hour at the beginning of the night. Participants can choose to bring their own equipment or rent for the night at the mountain. Students renting can use their pass with the rental plan on it to rent for the night. Participants that chose to bring their own equipment can drop it off at school in the small room next to the cafeteria on Thursday morning, or the night before. Before everyone boards, the bus students that are bringing equipment will have a chance to place it in a storage compartment. Wachusett has a variety of trails and terrain to accommodate every-

one's individual skill set. A little after eight o'clock the buses arrive at the mountain to pick everyone up. On the way home from Wachusett students can finish the homework they began on the way there, as well as watching the movie that's playing on the bus. When asked about ski club, Jessica Powers responded by saying, "Ski club is a lot of fun, and it gives students an opportunity to be independent." Ski club is a great way for students in all grades to improve their skiing and snowboarding skills.



Skiers ready to go.
Photo by Sarah Flynn.

Creative Corner

Private Detective Phil and the Stolen iPhone

By: Cillian Scott, Grade 5

It was a regular day in the office in Florida, when suddenly, Private Detective Phil got a phone call.

"Ring, Ring!" The phone rang.

"Hello, this is Private Detective Phil," he said.

"Help, help! Someone stole one of Best Buy's iPhones, please come to Mendon, Massachusetts A.S.A.P!" they screamed into the phone.

"Okay I'll come by," he replied. Private Detective Phil jumped into his private jet, flew to Mendon, jumped into his fancy race car, and drove to the robbed Best Buy. He quickly inspected the area for evidence, and interviewed a Best Buy employee.

"Do you have Security cameras?" Private Detective Phil asked.

The employee replied, "Yes, they're stationed in the surveillance room," Phil looked on the security cameras. The security cameras showed a man in a ski mask wrecking the place and grasping his hands upon the iPhones that are currently stolen. But then man's mask fell off. This revealed a bald guy with a big beard.

"Aha!" said Phil, "We have a culprit!" After this discovery, Phil went around asking people if they had seen the man, but most said no. Finally, a prisoner at the local jail said he knew the culprit. He had been in the same college as the robber. He told Phil that the robber's name was Larry Jones. He also got word that the robber was going to rob another Best Buy nearby, so Phil got ready to catch Larry. The next day, Private Detective Phil and the police were ready to catch Larry, hidden near a crate of phone cases and iPhones. When midnight came, they saw Larry break in and he broke the case open. Suddenly, Private Detective Phil and the police jumped out.

"Freeze!" Phil yelled. Larry put his hands up, they handcuffed him and brought him to jail. However, before Larry went to jail he told the court he needed the money for this sickness he had. The court replied saying that they would help him with the sickness. Finally, the iPhones were returned to Best Buy and Private Detective Phil went to work on another mystery.

Broken

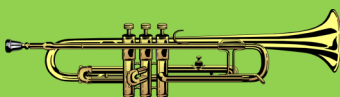
By: Liz DeJesus, Grade 8

I gave you my heart
And then you broke it
But you had your receipts
And you got it back
Teased and teased me
My heart was disintegrating in your hands
Then you found your new biggest fan
But I won't forget
I gave you my heart
And you broke it
Twice.



UPCOMING CONCERTS

- 5th grade: June 11th in the lower gym at 7 p.m.
- 6th grade: June 12th in the lower gym at 7 p.m.
- 7th grade: March 20th at 7 p.m. and May 15th at 7 p.m. in the Nipmuc auditorium.
- 8th grade: March 20th, at Nipmuc at 7 p.m. and April 5th, at King Phillip School at 4 p.m., and May 15th, at Nipmuc at 7 p.m.



By: Mirabella Romano, Grade 6



Miscoe Hill is wishing Team Amazon 2019 a terrific trip to Ecuador.



Creative Corner

Whisper

By: Kaitlyn Allington, Grade 5

Part two –from fall edition

Jaqueline hadn't noticed she'd been here all day. In the real world, the sun was setting on a warm orange sky. Jaqueline came inside and her parents looked like they had been stressing out. "Jaqueline!? Is that you!?" screamed her mom.

"Uh...yeah. Why?" she said, confused. "You've been gone all day!" her mom exclaimed. "Where on Earth have you been?" "Oh. Yeah. I was...uh...at school and uh...then I went to hang with Paisley." Her mom's look said "No you weren't!" all over it. And sure enough, that was exactly what she said next. "Where were you really?" she said bitterly. "It's hard to explain." Jaqueline started, "It was magical. Shades of purple and blue. Oh! And fireflies! And a bear! I named her Whisper! She had something that looked like a half moon in her chest, and..."

"Honey, are you ok? Are you feeling alright?" Her mom interrupted, looking concerned. "You can't even comprehend what you don't know." said Jaqueline, smiling. Mr. and Mrs. Rivers were extremely confused. They were worried about Jaqueline. Jaqueline hurried to her

room and looked at the moon. It was so small compared to the huge sparkling moon at that magic place. Jaqueline knew she couldn't live without that place. She knew that it was magic, and she knew Whisper was one of a kind.

Jaqueline got up in the middle of the night, stomach swirling with excitement. It was only 2:00 in the morning, and Jaqueline was anxious to go back. She wondered if Whisper would be up at this hour. Jaqueline rushed outside, her blue flannel pajamas blowing in the wind. Leaves were flying, and rain poured down. It was quite the stormy night. She stepped behind the willow tree, and saw the beautiful colors flashing. A firefly landed on her shoulder, it's abdomen glowing an electric green that beat the bland yellow most fireflies have. The fog was light tonight, showing a great deal more of the moon, the size of a small pond. The stars shone a hot pink. They were odd, but beautiful. A winding path went through a blue forest, growing just a couple feet away from the cliff's edge. Jaqueline decided to follow it.

The forest held many wonders. Animals Jaqueline could never imagine. Things that almost looked like chinchillas, but were

light pink, lived in the rainbow trunked trees.

Horses in odd, yet beautiful, patterns feasted on the grass, which when it waves, looked like a hallucination. You could see every frame of movement, and every frame was a different color, beautiful and light. She came out to a cliff, where the moon looked as if you could touch it, and the stars floated just above Jaqueline's head. She reached up and grabbed one. It felt warm, and it's pink glow made her smile. She heard a whisper, and looked up. There was Whisper, beautiful and adorable, sitting there and smiling. A cloud, that came out of nowhere, floated towards Whisper. She whispered and smiled as she got on. The cloud drifted towards Jaqueline. It paused, and Whisper smiled. Jaqueline got on, and was amazed by what happened. She was carried up towards the moon, but went up from there. As they floated upwards, Jaqueline could see a whole world of beauty. She had so much to explore. Whisper put her hand on Jaqueline's shoulder and smiled. Jaqueline nodded and got ready for the best adventures of her life. She would never forget this moment when she finally became free.

The Niche In The Wall

By: Patrick Connolly, Grade 5

Amais walked down the hall to his next class, which happened to be math. He absolutely hated math, it was where he received the majority of his bullying.

"Hey Amais, see you next period," said Jack, Amais's only friend.

"Yeah, see you then," Amais called back as he reached the wall that he loved dragging his hand along. It was so smooth. Wait, was that a niche? He had never saw it there before. He decided to check it out after math class. He got into the class and sat at the desk, took out his notebook, and waited for the period to end. "Hi Amooooois how is your mooing coming along?" said James, the leader of the gang of bullies. He had small beady eyes and a thin mouth, almost like a rat, which is how Amais came up with his favorite nickname for him. "Rat-face," Amais said, and he immediately knew he was in trouble. James wound up his fist and was about to punch Amais when the bell rang. "Finally." Amais ran out and heard James as he growled, "Next time, cow, next time." Amais studied the niche and reached in it. "Hmm. What does this do?" He felt a lever-like contraption was cold to the touch. He flicked it and nothing happened at first, but then suddenly, a doorway appeared in the wall. Amais hesitated before he jumped down, he thought of Jack and wondered what he would think if Amais just disappeared. He thought of his mom, and how she would feel if he did that, if he just never came home today. But then he thought about James and jumped through the hole. He plunged into the darkness. Amais landed on a lab-like place and he looked all around and breathed, "Wow." "Hello Amais," voiced an unseen speaker. Amais whipped around at the sound of his name and opened his mouth to scream but no sound came out, for what he saw he could only dreamed of.

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The PTO puts on events and raises money for our school. By donating to them you support Miscoe Hill.

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Creative Corner

Criminal Carl

By: Patrick Scott, Grade 6

"FREEZE!" yelled the Sheriff. "Yeah sure," I muttered. I was robbing a local bank, but suddenly I was spotted. I took off, but I was quickly surrounded. I was then handcuffed and brought to court, where I was sentenced to ten years at the most horrible prison in the world, Chicago County Jail! My partner, Larry, paid me a visit a few days later. As we talked, we planned my escape. "Bring your boat," I had told Larry.

During the two weeks locked up in prison I had to wash dirty, sweaty laundry, used a pickaxe to break rocks in the scorching hot sun, and I got in a couple of fights, but finally it was escape day. I was excited. At around 9 P.M. I was ready. "Here's your food, Carl," said the guard. He had given me week old chili again. Here at the county jail, the cooks made sure they were giving me food that I hated. After the guard walked away I turned over the bowl, put it on the toilet seat, stood on the bowl, reached up, opened the vent, and crawled through. After

about an hour of crawling around, I thought I had the right vent. I opened it and looked through. Then I realized that it was the office of the warden, Michael Jennings. I panicked and the vent fell, crashing on the floor! "What the..." suddenly he looked up. "Hey, get back here!" I scrambled and ran to the correct vent, the one leading to freedom. "Larry, are you there?" Right on time, there was my partner, Larry. I ran to the boat, hopped in, and we blasted off.

Helicopters and boats were chasing us. "STEP ON IT!" I yelled. We took off at 100 miles per hour. We made it to the Canadian side of Lake Michigan, and Larry threw some smoke grenades. Then as we ran to Larry's sports car I heard Michael Jennings yell to us. "You won't get away with this," said Michael Jennings. "I already have!" I yelled back. I hopped in the car, and as we drove off I was already plotting my next heist.

One More Month

By: Ishani Saha, Grade 7

Four weeks. A month until her thirteenth birthday, and a month until tragedy — or at least it was in her eyes. Eva knew that she would eventually be separated from her best friend, Kelly, but she hadn't expected for it to be soon. It wasn't that she hadn't had friends move away before, just like Kelly was now. Plenty had gone away, and she had never heard from them again. Eva hated the notion of her friends moving away, so she barely thought about it, and pushed it aside as an unlikely possibility. She couldn't believe that she had been foolish enough to think that the one person she could actually relate to would stay.

It was almost as if she was cursed. The first time was when she was around four years old, and even before she moved away, her friend hadn't paid much atten-

tion to her, because of her friend's other friend. (Strangely, Eva met the same person eight years later, the same person that had made her life so miserable when she was smaller, but now they were pretty good friends. It's weird how life worked out that way.) The second moved away at six, and though they hadn't been as close, it still hurt. There were more she could list, and other friends she had lost to reasons other than moving, but it was too painful to think about them.

Maybe that was her destiny, to live her life with friends that stayed for only a few years before leaving her lonely. She bitterly laughed at the cruel irony of it all, her destiny being her worst fear, her friends leaving her. Not only that, but it was literally a nightmare come true! She couldn't count how many times she'd dreamed variations of this situation, even if some delved into the supernatural. But, in a way, the reality

was much worse. For her to slowly get closer to the friend in question before they were ripped away? To actually believe that they wouldn't leave — before they did just that? But of course, before she had been blissfully unaware of her curse, her destiny. Now, Eva wasn't, and she now knew that to avoid such tragedies, she couldn't make any more friends.

That couldn't possibly be the solution, could it? Eva shuddered at how much she sounded like she was trying to convince herself. She had to make more friends to keep her mental health from going downhill. Well, to at least keep it from going even more downhill, because if she believed in curses and destiny she couldn't be completely sane. In all honesty, that was who she was: a cursed and insane girl who believed in her own warped destiny.

MCAS is Near!



The MCAS test is near and you should be ready to take it. To get ready to take the test, make sure to study and you will be able to pass the test!



—Dates—

- ELA: April 23 - 24
- Math: May 15 - 16
- Science (5th and 8th grade only): May 20 - 21

Interesting Topics

Should We Bring School Uniforms to Miscoe?

By: Maggie Lewinsky, Grade 6

Many people struggle with what to wear in the mornings, but what if that choice was taken away? No more trying to match with your friends, or showing off your new shirt from the trip you just took. No more having the latest brands or styles like Nike, Uggs, or Adidas. That seems like the end of the world, right? Or would it mean not having to feel like you're competing with the other kids about clothes, or feeling like you don't fit in just because you don't have clothes from a popular brand. Everyone seems to have an opinion on school uniforms, but what is yours?

Personally, I'm in the middle when it comes to school uniforms. On one side I like to be able to pick out my own clothes and be able to choose comfort over style. But, on the other hand, we all have experienced the peer pressure to wear the 'right' clothes, such as clothes from a popular brand or certain style. So I can imagine that it would be nice to not have any other outfits to compare to yours.

As always, I was interested in what other people thought. Out of the twenty-four students I interviewed, from grades five through eight, twelve didn't want school uniforms, eight wanted school uniforms, and four were in the middle. These results surprised me, as I didn't think that a lot of the students that I interviewed would want school uniforms.

One of the reasons why I think so many people wanted them is if the students had more voice in what they looked like, and they weren't as formal and a more casual. As Mrs. Manser said in our interview, "When I think of school uniforms (and I have to get this picture out of my head) I think about the same shoes, the same skirt, the same pants, and the same blazer. That concept I don't think is a good idea, but I think we could have a sweatshirt, or a t-shirt, and everyone wore that, but with some guidance."

Other students seemed to have similar ideas as to what the school uniforms should look like. "Honestly I would just have it be sort of simple. Maybe a plain collared shirt and some regular pants," says Mirabella Romano, a sixth grader. Elizabeth Dejesus, an eighth grader, seems to agree. "Just a Miscoe shirt and some shorts. It should be the same with girls and guys."

Wondering why our school doesn't have uniforms? It turns out that it's because we aren't a private school, according to Mrs. Mannion. Personally, I think that we don't have them because it's just not as common in the northern states. Mrs. Mannion also said that a lot of the stakeholders in Miscoe don't believe in school uniforms.

After reading this, what are your thoughts? Has your opinion changed? Will you hurriedly write off an email to Mrs. Mannion, begging to instate school uniforms, or did you decide that you're happy with the way it is right now?



Abusing Technology

By: Popia Greenwald, and Liz DeJesus, Grade 8

Many people are well aware that our society is developing and changing constantly. Whether that change is good or bad, we are forced to deal with it. Technology has come a long way. We have access to technologies such as smartphones, tablets, and high-tech computers.

Nowadays, technology is being used by people all around the globe. Schools are starting to involve technological devices into students' day to day learning. This brings us to Miscoe Hill. Students are given iPads at the beginning of the school year but, some do bring their own to use for school. Although this idea may seem like unicorns and rainbows, there are ways students are misusing this privilege. We interviewed our principal, Mrs. Mannion, about her thoughts on this issue. "I do believe that students misuse this privilege." A survey went around the 8th grade student body and anonymously, 31 out of 40 students said they have misused social media/technology by either sending explicit photos, or saying mean things to another individual.

We interviewed an 8th grade girl, whose name we are keeping anonymous for privacy reasons, who informed us of her experience with sending very provocative pictures. "There are a lot of types of addiction,

whether it's drug addiction or alcohol addiction. Mine was the addiction of needing attention. I didn't care if it was negative or positive attention, as long as someone was showing attention to me it was fine. I can't even remember every person that I have sent pictures to, but I do remember how I felt when I did. During that time I was suffering from depression and anxiety. I thought that by doing what

I was doing I would feel happier, but it only made me feel worse. Most people knew what I was doing, but what hurt the most was when my peers would start calling me names like wench, doxy, or scarlet. The reason why this hurt so much was because I wanted to be seen as pretty or beautiful, but I wasn't. I was just a kid trying to be someone that I wasn't".

Kids nowadays get stuck in positions like this quite often. It's like a trap in which you cannot escape. In the past, parents have been able to see what their child does on his/her devices which caused issues like this to become less common. Since technology has evolved so greatly, adults can't even keep up with managing this stuff. Social media is being taken for granted or misused by teenagers and adults. If you use technology, I recommend using it wisely. Overall, technology should be used in a responsible way, whether you want to or not.



Interesting Topics

Teen Pregnancy

By: Kate Watchmaker, and Luke Venable, Grade 8

For our article, we decided to write about a more controversial topic that some are a bit too hesitant to talk about. At our age in life, a lot of people don't think we have the maturity to talk about these kinds of things, so we decided to talk about some of the more debated topics and complications of teen pregnancy. In terms of teens, we argued the age range of 13-19, and the viewpoints are anonymous for the sake of neutrality of the readers. None of the perspectives are to encourage you by any means.

TOPIC: Are you throwing your life away if you decide to have a baby at such a young age?

Viewpoint A:

"Throwing your life away" is not something that should even be brought up in terms of teen pregnancy. Everyone experiences life in a different way, with or without a child. Though a child may make your life harder, it is an experience like no other, that most teens don't get to experience until they're much older, and from what I have heard, the moment the parent first sees their child they are never the same in the best way possible. Parenthood can mean a lot of responsibilities and a lot of sacrifices, especially in terms of becoming a parent in your teenage years, but your life isn't over, it's a new beginning. A beginning of a new path in life that can be positive or negative.

Viewpoint B:

Everyone has dreams when they are young. The term "Throwing your life away" refers to that. When you have a child so young there's a large chance that these plans will be temporarily, or permanently, derailed. The time investment required to take care of a child to the same level that an older parent could, could easily create conflict, as that

time has to be taken from the time you would have spent on other things. This question really depends on the capabilities of the person in question. If they are able to balance all of their work as well as the child, still get their high school GPA, and, depending on what they decide, get a good job and go to college, then the child could very well be a benefit to their lives. But if they can't due to the child, it is a possibility that it could be a hindrance to the person's future.

TOPIC: Should standards be higher for pregnant job applicants?

Viewpoint A:

No, I think the standards shouldn't be raised. Having the standards raised is a form of discrimination, the standards shouldn't be higher or lower for a person with a mental or physical disability and neither should they be in terms of pregnancy. That's like not giving someone a job just because they're disabled. A person's opportunity for getting a job should be based on jobs, previous performance, and recommendation, like any other person. When bringing up the issue of maternity leave and payment, that's when the real problems for companies start. Companies may lose money for a little while, while the person is on maternity leave, but that doesn't mean the person can't make the sum of money up. People and companies can work around this matter, so, therefore, why should these standards be raised?

Viewpoint B:

I think that every company should be able to decide for themselves whether or not to raise the standard for pregnant job applicants. It isn't a form of discrimination, it is simply more practical. It is very much like not giving someone a job because they're disabled. I believe that that should be optional as well. A person's opportunity for a job should be determined based on previous performance. But previous performance is not always relevant. If the disabled person or the pregnant job applicant is not in the same physical or mental condition as when the previous performance was established, then that previous performance has been rendered invalid. For example, in a construction job a person that is

paralyzed from the waist down, which is a form of a disability, would probably not be the best person to work at the top of a Hydralada. There are jobs that show equivalencies with that example for pregnant people, in which they could be endangering themselves or the child.

TOPIC: Can teens be good parents?

Viewpoint A:

Of course teens can be good parents. It is true that as a teenager you are still finding yourself, but that does not necessarily create a hindrance to the child. The basic argument behind teenage inadequacies is that they can not guide the child in learning the core aspects of life, such as morality. In some occasions this is true, but due to the wide range of ages that are considered teenagers it is not necessarily. When you are from the ages of 15-19, by the time a child would start to learn actual things, this being around the age of 5, the teen would no longer be a teen. Obviously, this does not apply for thirteen-year-olds.

As far as caring for the child goes, as long as the teen is in a place where they are both mentally and physically capable of balancing all of these duties there is no reason why they would not be able to support the child.

Viewpoint B:

In terms of parenthood, the parent is forming the child's future self, this includes discipline and patience. One of the most important ways to raise a child is to help teach your child good morals, providing support all day, every day. Most teenagers are still figuring out their ideas of what is right and wrong, so how will they be able to guide a child and help for their morals? The obvious argument presented here is the maturity of a teenager and is a valid one. When people usually have children they are typically in their late twenties or thirties, so an age range of 13-19 years isn't the age/position where parenthood will be good. I'm not saying that all teens don't have the capability of being good parents, but usually good parents have maturity, don't have to attend school, have financial support, a job, and more. Now, unless you have a complete education in your teens, or don't need to go to school, are mostly matured, and have job and financial support, then being a parent in your teens, perhaps good parenting is possible.

Autism Awareness

April is autism

awareness month, so
wear blue in support!

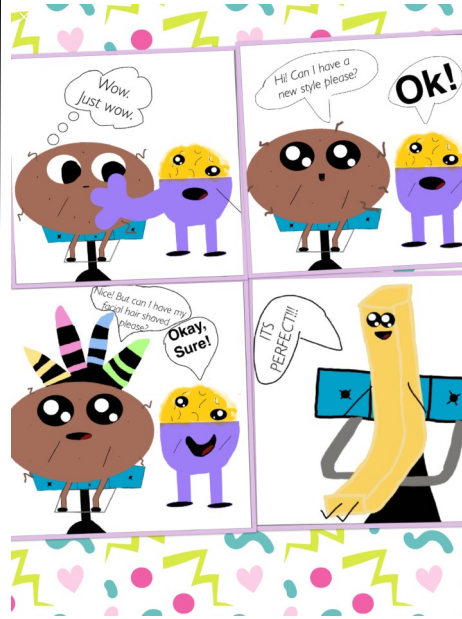


Comic Corner

By: Ava Thibault, Grade 5



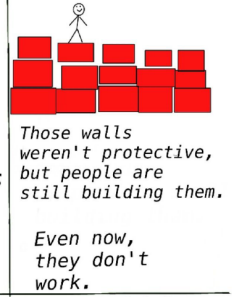
By: Alexa Ladd, Grade 5



By: Jack Oleskyk, Grade 5

History Lesson

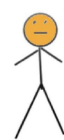
Once upon a time, there were many leaders who thought walls were a good idea.



Present Day
That reminds
me of something



But I
can't put
my finger
on it



Home of the Braves

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

<http://miscoehillschoollibrary.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.

By: Rachel DePetrillo, Grade 6



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