

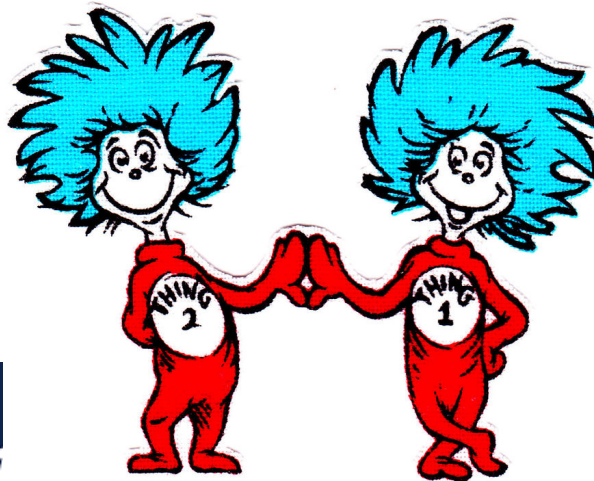
Hillside HERALD

MARCH MADNESS

BY JUSTIN MUTURI

Do you enjoy the Patriots, or the Red Sox, even the Yankees? Well, on Friday March 3, 2017, LMS dressed up as our favorite sports teams for the entire school day! That's not all! One day every week, there were different activities, for example we wore PJ's, dressed as our favorite superheroes or villains,

wore all of the green we could find in honor of St. Patrick's Day and dressed up with a partner for Twin Day! It was extremely fun and generated lots of school spirit!



LMS Pride Day

Pride Day was at the Middle school, on Saturday the 13th. It was a fun, awesome and exciting event! Thank you to those that came and helped us clean and plant flowers in the the courtyard and entrance. There was a special surprise at the end... PIZZA!! I hope next year you come and help out our school!



Read Across America

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By Tyler Herron

Thursday, March 2 was Dr. Seuss' birthday! It was also Read Across America Day! Schools all around the world celebrate this day, though it is not an official holiday. The

Leicester Middle School CommuniTeen hosted this event, where you could bring your younger siblings to read them a story and much more. There were arts and crafts, and snacks.

Read Across America was amazing! CommuniTeen did an awesome job! This event was a tremendous success and the kids were so thrilled! The parents enjoyed it too! Read Across America was created for Dr. Seuss. There also is a Read Across America store! This is the 20th anniversary for Read Across America, a celebration all around! Athletes, musicians, actors and many celebrities joined in on Read Across America! I hope you enjoyed it, too!



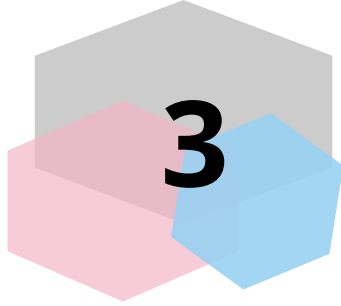
Fine Arts Night

By Abigail Gahagan

The Leicester Public School's Evening With the Arts was on Tuesday, March 28th at the Leicester High School. We are proud to say that the show was an extremely successful one. It featured art, music, and drama performances from all four town schools. A great amount of students of all ages attended, bringing along with them their families and friends, that made for a very large crowd. The bands from both the Memorial and Middle Schools performed in the High School Gymnasium, surrounded by walls sheathed in amazing pieces of art. Both bands put on an excellent performance featuring amazing songs for all to enjoy. Meanwhile, in the auditorium, the Middle School Drama Club put on a play for everyone to attend. The performance was called "The Great American Talent Show," and featured lots of fantastic actors and actresses. The show got a great response from the audience, who enjoyed it very much. Congratulations to the Band and Drama Clubs for those two great performances! The students who took part should be very proud of themselves. While these shows were happening, visitors to the Evening With the Arts could also head into the cafeteria and browse the artwork created by Leicester's High School students. The pieces in there were awe-inspiring; each unique and different in their own way. Entering that room, it was plain to see that Leicester has some amazingly talented artists. Overall, Fine Arts Night was a huge success for everyone who took part in it or simply came to look on, and nobody who went regretted it for a second. The show wouldn't be so successful if it weren't for all those who attended!

Yearbooks

This year's Leicester Middle School yearbooks are coming soon and you need to be excited! To those who've ordered them: you are super lucky! This year's yearbooks are going to be amazing! Ms. Ferdella, Mr. Socha and the yearbook staff worked really hard to get this completed so if you haven't ordered yours yet, I'd definitely recommend it!



GIRLS BASKETBALL

BY ABIGAIL GAHAGAN

This year, Leicester Middle School had an unforgettable girl's basketball team. I asked their coach, Mr. Socha, a few interview questions about the team and the players and he kindly answered them. The first of these questions was, "Which team is your biggest challenge to play?" He answered me: *"Auburn and Tantasqua are very good every year; they are both much larger schools and so have more student athletes who try-out for their basketball teams."* During the interview, I also asked Mr. Socha what aspect of the game he felt that his team was best at. He told me that the team excelled at fast-breaking, along with the fact that they had come a long way since the start of the year by embracing the "fifth gear" that's needed to play quickly. Contrary to this, an aspect Mr. Socha feels the team could improve upon is talking and communication. This is a vital part of the game, he says, and the players are always able to improve upon it. I also asked him if he thought that his team was successful and if he was happy with their performance when playing games and during practices. He answered: *"I have never been more proud of a team than I am of this team this year. For many of them it is my third year*

coaching them in basketball and 6th season coaching them overall. They are an extremely coachable group and I have learned a lot from them!" The final question I asked

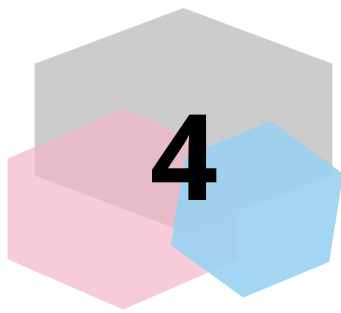
"Our mantra this year has been 'together'"

Mr. Socha was which player he thought was the strongest on the team. His answer was this - *"Basketball is a beautiful game because it is a team sport; everyone on the team is important and has a role to play. Our mantra this year has been 'together.' We know that we will succeed together and come up short together. Our 'team' is the strongest thing about us."* The Leicester Middle School Girl's Basketball Team seems like an enjoyable and challenging experience for all who participate. When the next season rolls around, maybe you will consider trying out!

An Interview With Mr. Socha



"I have never been more proud of a team than I am of this team this year."



The Leicester Middle School Talent Show

By Abigail Gahagan

The Leicester Middle School talent show was a huge success. The production took place on February 28th, the last day before the start of March. It featured singing, skits, comedy acts, and much more. We are very thankful to have such talented actors at our own school to take part in it! Admission to the show was five dollars

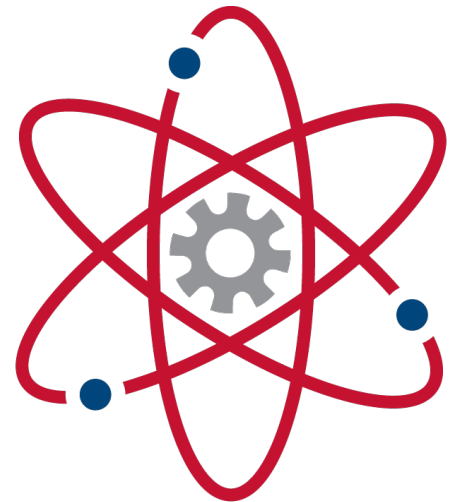


at the entrance, and the memories and laughs that members of the audience took away by the end of the night were well worth the price that they payed to get in. Some of the acts included - sixth grader Sofia, who bravely took the stage and sang *We Don't Believe What's On TV* by the popular band Twenty One Pilots, an absolutely hilarious comedy act by seventh graders Jada and Sydney, and a fantastic dance to the song *Bless the Broken Road* by sixth graders Meg and Joely. Those are only a small portion of the amazing acts that were witnessed night. Ask anyone who attended, and you are guaranteed to get a positive response because the Leicester Middle School talent show truly was full of talent.

Leicester Middle School STEM Team

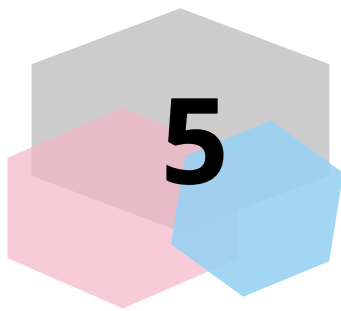
By Justin Muturi

On June 1st, the LMS STEM Team is going to start. The LMS STEM Team is a group of kids accompanied by Mr.DePace who will compete in the field of robotics and engineering. They will be competing against other schools around the state. We look forward to the competition!



PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

PLTW



MR. VAUGHAN'S ANNUAL RED SOX PREDICTIONS

BY LINDSEY SALEK

On March 30, I had the privilege of interviewing Mr. Vaughan, Leicester Middle School's guidance counselor about his annual Red Sox predictions for their upcoming season. To open our interview, I prompted Mr. Vaughan by asking him "how do you think the Red Sox are going to do this season, overall?" Mr. Vaughan replied by telling me that he thinks "it's going to be a fun season to watch the Red Sox." Though, he thinks that it is hard to say whether or not the Sox will have quite the season they had last year, he thinks "they're going to be a good team". "It will be a good summer, not necessarily saying they will get into the playoffs, but it will be like the playoffs, they will be right down to the wire contending for a playoffs spot... I think they might get the Wildcard and lose the Wildcard game. I predicted that last year, but last year, the difference was David Ortiz, who they don't have this year because he retired."

Mr. Vaughan also pointed out that some of his predictions from last year are happening now, in the beginning of this year. "For example, I said last year David Price would have an injury, and he didn't go on the disabled list and did not have an actual injury. But now, this season is starting and he is starting on the disabled list. He has an injury. So maybe, part of the difficulties he had last year were around an injury he may have already had."

"They have a couple of pitchers that are going

to do a great job for them, it's going to be Porcello and Sale and pray for hail." (as in Spahn and Sain and pray for rain from the 1948 Boston Braves.)

"Rick Porcello won the Cy Young for the Red Sox last year and...I think he's going to continue doing well, he might not have a Cy Young year like he did last year, but I think he's a really legitimate ace for us. We just acquired Chris Sale from the White Sox who is going to be our ace, he's going to be fantastic. After that, unfortunately, I'm worried about the Red Sox pitching... the rest of them [the pitchers] are coming back from injuries and are unproven. You have Steven Wright coming back from an injury, he had a great first half of the season last year, then got injured. Hopefully he can get back to the level he was pitching at last year. Eduardo Rodriguez has a ton of talent, but continues to get injuries throughout his career. Then you have [Drew] Pomeranz who's their fifth starter, at present and he has been injury prone." "There are a lot of question marks around those three."

An Interview With Mr. Vaughan

Chris Sale pitching



"Chris Sale from the White Sox... he's going to be fantastic"

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Mr. Vaughan believes that the Bullpen is going to

be an issue: "Kimbrel had a lot of saves last year, but he had some problems with tie games. We'll see if he can be an ace closer or a heart attack closer like he has been."

Mr. Vaughan thinks that Andrew Benintendi will be a "great surprise" this year. "He's going to remind older folks of Fred Lynn" in the way that he's going to contend for rookie of the year and MVP.

On the topic of MVP, I asked Mr. Vaughan who he thought would be the MVP for the Red Sox and then for the League. Mr. Vaughan said that he is "going boldly and predicting that Andrew Benintendi wins Rookie of the

"We are going to miss Big Papi, that's going to be a real tough spot to fill in the lineup."

"I think the Cubs will go back-to-back. I think they're going to do it again."



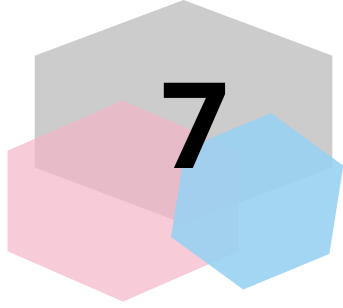
Year and will be best player for the Red Sox this season. I believe he will be in the running for MVP for the American

League." Unfortunately, Mr. Vaughan thinks that it's going to continue to be Mike Trout, the center fielder for the Angels, who he correctly predicted would be the MVP last year, also.

To conclude the interview, I asked Mr. Vaughan the most important question: "Who do you think will win the World Series?" He had a very interesting answer; "I think the Cubs will go back-to-back. I think they're going to do it again. It will be the Cubs playing against the Kansas City Royals", who he incorrectly predicted would win last year. Wish them luck!



"Andrew Benintendi wins
Rookie of the Year"



Student Council Interview

With Abby Doku

Article and Interview By Tyler Herron

Here is a quick Student Council interview with, Abby Doku. "Why did you want to run for Student Council?" Abby Doku responded by saying, "I wanted to run for Student Council because I tried for a while and this year I finally got in and I thought I had a good chance and I was really happy to work with other students. So I could help the school and make it a better place."

I then questioned, "How long has it taken you to get into Student Council?" Abby stated, "I tried for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade." Tyler asked, "What are some of the ideas Student Council is working on?" Abby Doku said "I'm not going to say anything so no one gets their hopes up, but we've been thinking about a lot of clubs, and talking about dances and such."

I then inquired, "What have you been trying to do on your time on the Council?" Doku replied "I will try to help the school as much as possibly can." "What is Student Council working on?" I asked. Abby said, "We're working on getting cool clubs happening, and other than that we have a suggestion box and are taking suggestions."

Tyler then asked, "What is your favorite animal?" Abby Doku said that

hers was an elephant. But she thinks that baby tigers are cute.

Tyler then inquired, "Who will you be when you grow up?" Abby required "I don't know yet, I haven't figured it out." Ty then asked, "What are some of your favorite things like movies TV and sports?" Abby said, "Dance on Wednesdays, and I do gymnastics on

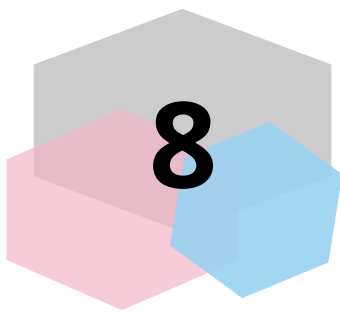
Thursdays. And yeah I like watching movies I guess."

Tyler then inquired what's your favorite movie." Abby Doku said, *National Treasure*. Tyler Herron then asked, "How would you say you are doing grade-wise?" Abby Doku said, "I'm doing well I have straight A's." Tyler blurted, "That's student council worthy!"

Ty then questioned, "Who is your best friend?" Doku answered, "I have to pick one?" Tyler answered, "No, Cole didn't pick one so you don't either." Abby said, "Ok, yeah Annalisa Hair, Haley Soden, Lily Peterson, Nakita Grammatic etc." Tyler then questioned his last, "Do you have a favorite book?" Abby Doku required "Yes, It's by Joanne Bower it's called *Home* it's really important."

Well that's our last question, I hope you all enjoyed this article. Learned a little about student council and Abby Doku.

"I will try to help the school as much as possibly can."



OLYMPIC FOOLERY

By Tyler Herron



Whoop, whoop! Sixth grade enters with a fine run! Then the seventh sprints in, and the first thing that comes into sight is a boy running in with a blue afro, skirt, and blue clown makeup all over his face. Seventh grade slows and sits down in their section of the bleachers. The 7th and 6th grades start stomping and clapping to the song, "We Will Rock You." Eighth

grade runs in like a herd of buffalo. Once everyone is seated, we all stand for the National Anthem.

After that, we see which grade is the most excited. Sixth grade screams and stomps as loud as possible and Mr. Stickney, the Excitement Meter, goes up. Then 7th grade screams rivaling all of the others, getting the highest rating on the Meter! Then 8th goes and gets a rating almost as



high as the seventh grade's. Now, the games begin!

The first event is Gaga Ball. As the event begins, intensity fills the room. 6th wins in two octagons and 7th in one! Brett Carroll wins for the 7th grade in Octagon One! In Octagon Two, Haley Sodan wins for the 6th grade! In Octagon Three, Ellie Hills wins for the 6th grade, also! This is a great start for 6th grade.



Next up is Sharp Shooter! Who shall win this? This event is one of the funniest to watch with all the kids running around trying to shoot the cups down. 7th wins with 5 points and 6th and 8th tie for 2nd place each getting 3 points.

Quicksand is up next. 7th wins, clearly thrilled. 6th comes in 2nd, roaring with delight and 8th is last, clearly not too happy. At that point, we moved onto Building Blocks. 8th and 7th grade tie in first, and 6th is last place. Now 8th and 7th face off in a two block grab, to stack as high as they can, in one minute. Both teams are focusing intently on winning. 8th grades is wobbly at the end, 7th has 14 and 8th has... 15!! 8th wins, but it seems that 7th had a miscount and they actually had 16, so 7th wins.



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Now we move onto Lion King. The first part of this event is an obstacle course and the second part was Extinction! The 7th grade has a couple small violations so they are

eliminated. Eighth grade wins and 6th grade gets second place.



Next up is Foul Shooting. 6th grade did an amazing job. 6th grade won against 7th and now they face 8th. The winner is 6th grade! 7th comes in second, and 8th in third.

We now move onto Minute To Win It. This is a hard game. Overall, 6th grade gets third place, 8th gets second, and 7th gets first.



State of Mind is next up: 8th won, 7th came in 2nd, and 6th in last.

After State of Mind, we moved on to Tug of War. The first round is 6th vs. 7th. The winner will compete against 8th. It was a good match, but 7th came out victorious. Now 7th vs. 8th. 8th grade won, 7th came in second place, and 6th in last place.

At this point, Olympic Foolery is over and Mr. Stickney talks about how each grade did an amazing job. Once he says that, the 7th grade explodes out of the bleachers! They scream ear splittingly loud because they knew they had won and therefore, beat the 8th grade. 7th grade takes a team picture and celebrates in hugs and screams. Eighth grade takes a team photo, and Ms. Ferdella says some very nice words about their performance and their academic achievements. After the 8th grade, the



6th grade takes a team photo, too. I'd like to give a special thanks to Mr. Stickney for making this happen, and Mr. Fontaine and Mrs. Nelson for allowing this to happen!