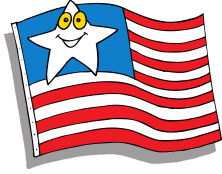


Paw Prints

May 2020



Harrington
Middle School



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Advisor-Mrs. Poulton

Teacher Appreciation Week

Even though Teacher Appreciation week was May 4-8th, it is never too late to show them that you care. These past months have been difficult for us all, but your teachers have never stopped caring about you or your welfare. Here are some easy ways to show your teachers that even though you are not together face to face, your thoughts and appreciation are with them all.

1. Send your teachers an email sharing positive thoughts and appreciation
2. Make a fun video to send to your teachers showing them that you are well and thriving
3. Write your teacher a poem (haiku, acrostic, free verse, etc.) that will make them smile
4. Make a funny meme for your favorite teacher to remember you by
5. Dedicate a video clip to your teachers sharing a special thought or thank you
6. Visit them on Meet to just talk...your teachers miss you and any contact with them will mean the world

Knowing that we won't be back together this year is hard on us all. Show your teachers that you will miss them...just reach out. A simple gesture will mean a lot to the educators who love you!

Better than a
thousand days of
diligent study is one
day with a great
teacher....

Japanese Proverb

Ten Binge-Worthy Dystopian Reads



Since we are all currently living during a unprecedented pandemic, what better to read than a good ol' fashion dystopian novel. Nothing beats the feeling of being a part on an imaginary world where the author allows you to experience all the crazy events right alongside the characters.

We all could use an escape right about now, and the books listed below will give you just what you need to find yourself lost in a world that is WAY worse off than we could ever imagine. Happy Reading!!

1. ***The Unwind Dystology (5 Books)*** Trust me, you'll want to binge this one if only to learn more about this scary-believable world. You'll find yourself thinking about how real this is and how this society could exist one day soon.
2. ***The Hunger Games Trilogy*** You've probably seen the movies, but this is one of those cases where the books are even better. You'll find that many "main" themes from the books were missed in the movie adaptation.
3. ***Divergent Trilogy*** This is another book series where you may have seen the movie(s), but the books are significantly better. In this series, you learn the differences in these factions, the issues that arise because of factioned living, and a deep secret within the government.
4. ***The Maze Runner Series (5 books)*** This is a thrilling series, full of energy and action. The pace keeps you reading, and the twists and turns in the series are unlike any other.
5. ***The Uglies Series (4 books)*** Westerfeld was one of the pioneers of young-adult dystopian books, and this series won't disappoint. It makes you think, but it is also captivating and a fun read.

Endangered Species Awareness

By: Caitlyn S

There are so many endangered species across the world. Many species you know and love are endangered or threatened. On the 3rd Friday of May, we celebrate National Endangered Species Day. This day brings awareness to the endangered species of the world, and it highlights how important wildlife conservation is. This year on May 17, We should all think about the animals we love, and how we can help to protect them.

"Animals should not require our permission to live on Earth. Animals were given the right to be here long before we arrived." -Anthony Douglas Williams

Do you know of the Bornean Orangutan? It is a kind of orangutan native to Sumatra and Borneo, which are islands in Southeast Asia. The Bornean Orangutan is critically endangered. The population of all of them is just over 100,000. That is 1/4 of the population of Burlington County. They live in forest habitats, and those habitats are shrinking. The habitat of the Bornean Orangutan is rapidly decreasing. It has decreased more than 55% in the past 20 years.

The Sunda Tiger is native to Southern Asia. The population of this kind of tiger is less than 400. This type of tiger used to be spread across the Sunda islands of Indonesia. The tigers that used to live in Java and Bali are now extinct. This type of tiger is only found in Sumatra now. The population size of the Sunda Tiger is less than the amount of the 8th grade class, and it is declining.

The Javan Rhino is a rhinoceros native to Indonesia. This kind of rhino is the most endangered of all the kinds of rhino. The numbers are terrible. There are only around 60-70 Javan Rhinos left. This type of rhino used to live in northeast India and Southeast Asia. The last Javan Rhino in Vietnam was sadly poached in 2010. The Javan Rhino is critically endangered, and hopefully the species will stay consistent because they are living in a National Park in Java, Indonesia.

These are only three species that are endangered, but there are more than 40,000 of them. It is vital to keep these species on Earth, because they are all important in their own way. On National Endangered Species Day, just remember that we have to try and help to stop the terrible decline in species population.

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3-Ingredient Sugar Cookies

1 stick plus 2 tbsp. salted butter, softened
 1/3 c. granulated sugar
 1 c. all-purpose flour
 Sprinkles (optional)

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 325°. In a large bowl using a hand mixer, beat butter and sugar together until light and fluffy, then stir in flour.
 Form the cookies into 1" balls, placing them about 2 inches apart on a baking sheet. If using sprinkles, flatten cookies into a disc shape and top with sprinkles.
 Bake for 15 to 17 minutes, or until the edges of the cookies are lightly golden.

What is Cinco de Mayo?

By Vish J.



One of the major holidays in the month of May, celebrated in parts of Mexico and the United States is "Cinco de Mayo." This simply translates to "fifth of May." May 5th is a time of year where we acknowledge and honor a military triumph, called the Battle of Puebla, in the year 1862. The war was between Mexico and France, and the conflict had started in 1861, when Benito Juarez, then the president of Mexico, stopped paying interest on the money he owed several countries, including France. An angry Napoleon III, who was the ruler of the country at the time and the last monarch of France, went to war with Juarez and his forces. Although the Mexican armies were way smaller than the French armies, the Mexican troops still attained victory at the Battle of Puebla! This success had become a symbol of opposition to foreign authority!

Obviously, this day is commemorated mostly in the state of Puebla, but it is also celebrated in other parts of North America. In Puebla, parades, speeches and dramas/reenactments of the war. People wear festive clothes and there is so much food! People get confused with Mexican Independence Day and Day of the Dead, but this is just a day to celebrate the victory of the battle, honor the soldiers, show pride for the Mexican heritage and symbolize courage and persistence.

Will There Be A Coronavirus Cure Anytime Soon?

By: Kate M.

The coronavirus has affected everyone. We're staying home, discovering new hobbies, and learning or working remotely. So I'm going to try to answer the question we all have in the back of our minds. Is there any way to get a cure?

According to [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com), there are three types of drugs that could work to stop Covid-19:

- 1) Antiviral. To my understanding, this affects the virus's ability to work inside us.
- 2) Antibodies. These can be made in a lab, or be found in a survivor's blood.
- 3) Immunities system calmers. This makes sure your immune system doesn't attack your own body. Our immune systems aren't the smartest system in the body... I think that might be the nervous system.

Why do we need a vaccine? Okay, I get that this is kind of a stupid question. But there's more that will come with a vaccine.

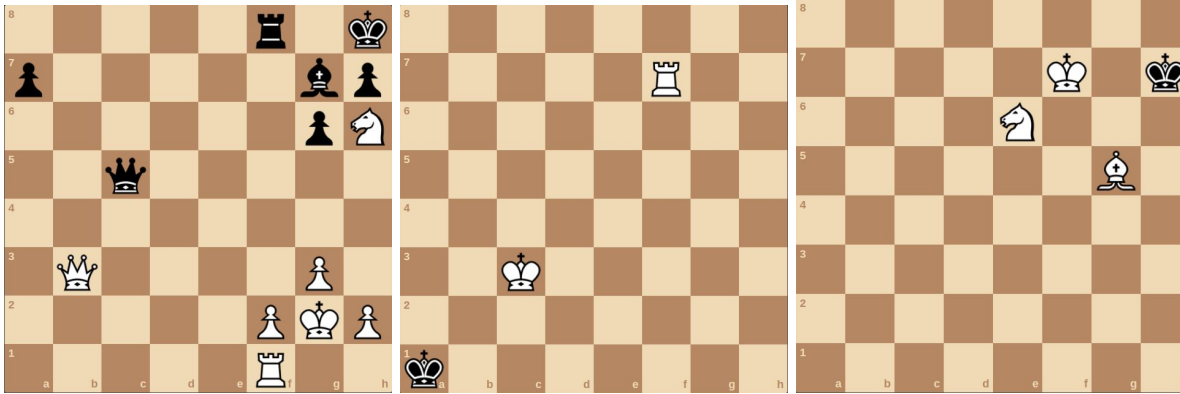
- 1) Keep people from dying. (duh.)
- 2) Hospitals wouldn't be so overwhelmed. This also would hugely help doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers.
- 3) It will make coronavirus less dangerous.

When will we get this vaccine? Supposedly, the second wave of virus in the winter will be worse, so hopefully by then. It's really too soon to tell if we will have it, but we can cross our fingers that a cure or a vaccine is found.

I hope you learned a bit more about a coronavirus cure. Stay safe and remember--we are all in this together.

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Theme: Mate in 2 (EMAIL YOUR ANSWERS TO hmspawprints@mtlaurelschools.org)

Where Do You Stand?The Great 8th Grade Graduation Debate

By Ilana S.

Eighth-grade graduation is a milestone and accomplishment that many middle schoolers look forward to. A ceremony may be accompanied by a dance or a trip. Although eighth-grade graduation will not look so extravagant for our Harrington eighth-graders this year, it is a perfect time to ask if it is too much to pay this kind of attention to an accomplishment that should be an expectation for most students. Some say that not too big of a deal should be made out of middle school graduation, while others say that it is a milestone worth the big celebrations. It's time to review both sides and decide: **Where do you stand?**

Eighth Grade Graduation Should Be Celebrated:

Graduation is a big deal to many eighth-graders. It is something they look forward to from the moment they start middle school. Graduating from middle school shows a preview of what the child can feel like if they continue their studies and make it to high school graduation. It shows the good that can come from working hard in school. If a child gets a reward in eighth grade for being in school, they would want to experience that again in high school by working hard and graduating. For many students, school is difficult, so by giving them a fun graduation they can see that it was worth it and that it is possible for them to make it to the end of high school as well. Some students need all of the encouragement they can get to not give up, so it is important for them to have a graduation to give them that extra push toward their decision to focus on their studies. Eighth-grade graduation serves as a tangible reminder that there is a reason for learning and that working hard at school can pay off in the long run. Most importantly, it marks the end of an important part of a student's schooling, and that should be recognized with respect to how the students feel about graduating. Downplaying the challenge of middle school will only make children feel bad and actually discourage studying in high school.

Eighth Grade Graduation Should Not Be Celebrated:

Throughout the years, eighth-grade graduations have become so widely celebrated that the parties have become almost indistinguishable from high school graduation. This leaves nothing left to the imagination for stubborn kids who may think, "Well, I already had a graduation. No need to work hard in high school just to have another one." High school is the graduation that needs to be worked toward and is the celebration that shows the determined individuals who made it through those four stressful years. Not everybody makes it to the end of high school, which is why it is so special. Almost all students make it through middle school. Eighth-grade graduation is not so much of an accomplishment as it is an expectation. Students do not need a reward for every part of their life. If we celebrate the work of middle schoolers before they get to high school, many students may see it as an end to their schooling. To encourage students to stay in school, the less of a fuss you make out of their graduation, the better. That way, they realize that leaving middle school does not end their learning, but rather marks the beginning of another era of their studies.

