

THE Claw

Issue 3
Spring 2022

Calendar of Events

June 17: Schools Closed in Observance of Juneteenth

June 22: 8th Grade Promotion

June 23: Last Day of School

8th Graders Return to Camp Mason After 2+ Years

By Tyler Basak, Amy Lin & Shashank Prasanna

Every year, many 8th graders in UMS look forward to the annual Camp Mason trip. Located near the 70,000-acre Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, students get to spend several days at Camp. They can participate in various outdoor activities and spend time with friends.

Due to the pandemic, last year's 8th graders were unable to go to Camp Mason. However, this year, 8th graders participated in the trip during the week of April 25th. This was made possible with the hard work of Mrs. Juarez and Ms. Moore, the trip's organizers.

The pair was faced with a particularly daunting task as they were responsible for organizing everyone into cabins they felt comfortable in. "It was tricky to make sure we were accommodating all of the student requests, but after a few weeks we

double checked all of the arrangements to make sure everyone ended up in a cabin they would be happy with and comfortable staying in," Ms. Juarez explained.

One of the most memorable parts of every trip is the Camp Mason bonfire tradition, a moment where "students come together and support each other" during a talent show and interactive games. 8th grader Kavin Rupani told us that it was "one of the highlights of the trip" for him.

Along with the bonfire, students got to participate in fun activities, such as axe throwing, boating, hiking, multiple rope obstacle courses, the giant swing, and many more. Rupani shared that boating was his favorite activity because he "could spend time with friends on the open lake."

The food at Camp was great, too. Desserts, such as ice cream and churros, were served after

dinner, and a favorite meal among students was the grilled cheese with tomato soup.

When asked whether she recommended current 7th graders to attend Camp Mason next year, Mrs. Juarez responded, "Absolutely! It is so much fun and you get to spend time with people you know as well as make new friends/connections. There are so many fun activities, and you get to try new things and challenge yourself. I have always had a great time at Camp, and I am sure that the trip next year will also be very memorable."



One of the many activities at Camp Mason is a low ropes course, where students work together to complete the obstacle course. Source: Mrs. Tiú-O'Hara

Science.Inc Hosts Its First In-Person Science EXPO

By Sophia Busch & Ella Sun

On April 22, 2022, UMS hosted its first in person Science EXPO with the Science.Inc club. This club is led by 8th grade science teacher, Mrs. Ferrante, along with students from MHS who are acting as the club's board members. Families of the students presenting were also able to stop by to add to the growing community that Science.Inc Expos have brought together.

Students were given the chance to display their ideas and research on a specific topic they chose. "This is our second Expo," said Mrs. Ferrante. "Last year, it was fully virtual because

of Covid, and this is our first time actually in person having this expo."

This year, the Science EXPO encouraged students to present projects on topics that were relevant to the real world and ask questions about science, rather than answering them.

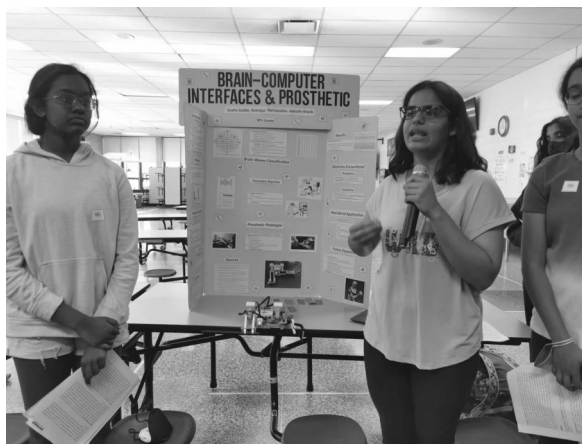
Science.Inc worked to break away from the memorization aspect of science we have in our schools, and instead have students explore their interests within the

vast field of science and show off some amazing experiments and presentations.

The members of Science.Inc had been working since January to prepare for this Expo, and their projects reflected that. From posters that lit up

with lights, intricate models, and even music made from recording of the Juno spacecraft created by NASA, members of the club explored many concepts from the real world in exciting and different ways.

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Multiple groups of students presented their ideas and projects to the judges and audience members. Source: Sophia Busch & Ella Sun



8th Grade Music Students Visit Hershey Park

By Angelina Busch & Lois Oppong

On Friday, May 13, 2022, the 8th grade music students of UMS took a long-awaited trip to Hershey Park to celebrate all of their achievements throughout the year.

This trip was well received by many students. Choir student Abby Johnson said, “The bus ride, performing, and the park itself were all so different from each other, which made the experience striking and distinctive to any other school trips.”

Saxophone student Elaine Liu relayed, “The time I spent at Hershey Park was great. Exploring the park, the rides, and all of the food with my friends was a great experience.”

Before going into the parks, all music students performed a couple of their concert pieces to a

panel of adjudicators. The feedback from the adjudicators is useful. Choir director Ms. Makvana said “[I] believe receiving feedback from adjudicators is helpful for our ensembles.” Band director Mr. Mazurkiewicz also agreed and stated that, “[B]y performing at the festival, we have a chance to get evaluated by music professionals w h o d o n ’ t k n o w u s , g i v i n g u s u n b i - a s e d f e e d - b a c k .”

Continued on page 4.



Students enjoyed their time going on rides at Hershey Park and snacking on sweets in Chocolate World. Source: Lois Oppong

Chorus Students Shine at Spring Concert

By Chloe Doyle & Ashna Dubey

On May 5th, the Choir students at UMS took part in the annual Spring Concert. The show featured the 7th and 8th grade choir elective students, as well as students from Melodies, an auditioned treble ensemble that meets after school every week.

The show was directed by Ms. Makvana and Mr. Woodworth, and it featured many great performances that the audience enjoyed.

“We try to pick music from various genres and cultures. We also strive to have every choir sing at least one song in a different language,” explained Ms. Makvana. “We have not had a Spring Choir Concert since 2019, which was 3 years ago! We were so

thrilled to be back all year with live in-person music.”

The show started with the 7th graders, who performed many great songs, including the spiritual “Didn’t My Lord Deliver Daniel,” as well as “Tres Canciones De Los Elementos,” a three-part song sung entirely in Spanish.

The treble voices from the 7th and 8th grade ensembles then performed “I See The Light” from *Tangled*, which dazzled the audience. Two talented soloists were even on display, Julia Potts and Caitlin Healy.

After that, the baritone voices from the 7th and 8th grade ensembles performed the classic “Take Me Home Country Roads” by John Denver.

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In the

Mr. Lonergan

By Sophia Busch & Ella Sun



Mr. Lonergan is a Social Studies teacher for UMS’s 8th grade Gold Team.

He decided to become a teacher because he wanted to provide a better childhood for the next generation, stating that he “didn’t like the way [his] teachers treated [him] growing up.”

When asked why he wanted to teach Social Studies, Mr. Lonergan tells us that history isn’t just a window to the future, but also to the past. He conveys

this lesson often in his teachings as he connects the past to the present.

Outside of school, he likes to cook and play the guitar, in addition to researching in order to see if he can understand things from BCE times and their meanings.

Mr. Lonergan likes UMS because “Everybody here, not only the kids but the adults, try to create a place where even on your worst days you still want to be here.” He presents this view often to students in his class, and he always makes sure that his classroom is a welcoming place for all of the students at UMS, not just students in his classes.

He likes teaching at UMS, saying that even on your worst days, you always want to be here, and there is always someone with something nice to say.

In addition to being a teacher, he is involved in construction as a side job, which in-

cludes cutting lawns and installing windows, floors, and doors. He has built three houses that are currently standing in Montgomery.

If he did not become a teacher, he would have done something related to space, robotics, or something to do with AI. watch and enjoy.

Mrs. Sheerin

By Claire Yuan



While most teachers have worked only a few jobs, before becoming a teacher, Mrs. Sheerin, UMS’ resident Intro to Coding/Tech Ed teacher has worked many fun jobs, before deciding to teach 7th and 8th graders!

Before becoming a teacher, Mrs. Sheerin had a job in Global Finance, dealing with private equity and the global markets. Even before having a job on the global scale, Mrs. Sheerin worked in the Space Force, stationed on the dark side of the moon. Sources weren’t found to prove Mrs. Sheerin’s claims, however, these are all direct quotes from Mrs. Sheerin herself.

Mrs. Sheerin decided to teach because of her kids. “I just prefer to be around kids rather than adults,” she said.

Mrs. Sheerin realized that Technology holds a central role in the lives of students, and so, she decided to become a coding teacher at LMS. “I have come to appreciate how important technology is to our students so I am happy to do my part,” she stated.

She is fluent in plenty of languages as well, from Latin to English to Pig-Latin and Pig-

UMS Closes Out MP 3 with a Self Care Day

By Siddharth Bellamkonda, Kirtan Chintam, & Priyanshu Dasgupta

To finish off Marking Period three and to give a warm welcome to spring break, students and teachers of UMS were given a self care day on April 4th, the day before Spring Break, with fun activities to refresh our minds from a long, two months.

The self care day had do fun activities such as watching a movie called *Soul Surfer*, talking about ways to relieve stress, and choice activities, such as volleyball, board games, and mindful activities.

Jason Noh, an 8th grader member of Student Council shared that self care is about about “being with friends and taking a break from schoolwork while remaining in a social setting.” Noh was asked about any specific changes which he would make to the self care day. “I suppose more activities that involve a social aspect,” he stated. “I would maybe want to incorporate activities with other classes.”

Ms. Moore, one of the school’s counselors, talked about the origin of Self Care Days, which started during the pandemic. She said, “[These days] originated from a

group of staff members who have been specifically trained in trauma-informed teaching and leading. Through our learning, we began to get a better understanding of the traumatic effects of the pandemic. [Because of this,] we decided we had to be intentional about creating interventions that supported this important cause.”

When asked about why having these special days are held in school instead of having the days off, she stated, “Self Care Days have an intentional learning component to them. Self care is not always about getting extra sleep, taking bubble baths, and having time away from school. Self Care Days are also about developing a stronger sense of self awareness about what you need to be successful in and out of school. This can include time to clean out your locker, get organized, and set reasonable and achievable goals for the new marking period. Once we have a stronger sense of self awareness at our core, the fun part of the self-care day--where students have choices over how they spend



From playing volleyball to making bracelets, students had many options to choose from for their afternoon self-care day activity. Source: Mr. Accardi



their afternoon--ends up being more gratifying and more rejuvenative.”

Spotlight

English. Most remarkable though, is that she speaks for the trees, truly, a human Lorax.

As a teacher, she is able to meet new students and teach them valuable skills both in coding and generally for life, which she finds satisfying.

It is clear that Mrs. Sheerin is passionate about being a good teacher and leaving lasting impressions on her students. She truly is a great teacher, who teaches not only coding, but many valuable life skills.

Mrs. Talbot-Coyle
By Meher Choudhary & Vamsi Jamoriya



Mrs. TC is a staff member here at UMS. Who is she? Let’s find out.

Mrs. TC is the Theater Arts teacher here at UMS and at the high school who shares her room with Ms. Makvana, the Chorus teacher. She started working at UMS in March 2021.

Another role she plays is that she also directs musicals. Some of her favorites ones are *Pajama Game*, *Children of Eden*, and, this year’s school production, *Footloose*.

When discussing our school’s production of *Footloose*, Mrs. TC shared that she was very impressed by the cast and that she was incredibly happy about each of the shows. Every cast and crew member put a lot into *Footloose*, and it was bound to be a success with all the effort from them, and of course, the hard work put in by all the teachers.

When asked what she would like to say to the rising 8th and

9th graders of this school. Mrs. TC told us that we should always go for our dreams and pursue what we’re passionate about.

Mrs. VanHouten
By Aneesha Sarkar & Lauren Tucker



Recently, Mme. VanHouten has become a new teacher here at UMS. She has experience working with Montgomery since she worked at LMS recently. She also has previous experience teaching Spanish and German for the last 22 years. She is now working as the 7th grade French teacher, continuing her

passion in teaching.

After about three weeks of working here, she stated that her time here so far is “Fantastique, absolutely fantastique and [I’m] eager to learn.”

Overall, she seems to enjoy her current job here and UMS overall. She said, “I like UMS better [compared to LMS]. 7th and 8th graders are easier to connect with [for me].”

Mme. VanHouten does claim she has some things she wants to work on when it comes to teaching UMS students. She shared, “I think I would become more strict, although I hate yelling at students. I really do need to work on being strict.”

Many of her students appreciate her light hearted communication and attitude. Mme. VanHouten and her students are having a great time together, socializing and learning together. Students are looking forward to a great rest of the year of French with Mme VanHouten.

Club Spotlight on Pride Alliance Club (PAC)

By Lauren Tucker

Pride Alliance Club, otherwise known as PAC, is an after-school club that anyone can join at anytime, and it is led by co-leaders Ms. Chemris and Ms. Molinaro.

In PAC, students learn more about the LGBTQ+ community and all that consists of it. They also take part in other activities to help educate students and staff about the LGBTQ+ community since one of their goals is to create a safer and more understanding community. One way they do this is by decorating the PAC’s bulletin board right outside of the gym.

Ms. Chemris, one of the PAC’s co-leaders, shared what she hopes her students are able to achieve while being active members in the club. She said, “[One of my future goals is]



PAC members celebrate the history and legacy of the LGBTQ+ community through many activities, and they hope to see you at a future meeting.
Source: Ms. Chemris

for the students [in PAC] to continue to educate the UMS community about LGBTQ+ issues.” It is also important to Ms. Chemris that students have the opportunity to “form a social community where people feel com-

fortable and accepted.” Many students do in fact feel comfortable and accepted in PAC. One student anonymously shared that they enjoyed the club “Because of how [they] felt safe and secure around [their] peers.” Whether it is being able to socialize with friends or working on projects to help others learn more, PAC members truly love their time together.

When it comes to joining PAC, anyone of any sexuality or gender identity can join and participate in the activities. This club gives students a chance to meet new people, express their diversity, and just have fun.

PAC takes place in room B203 every Tuesday. All members of PAC welcome you to join them and have a good time.

Science.Inc’s Science Expo

Continued from page 1.

Mira Sridhar, who worked with Clement Lacroix their project “Tone It Down,” shared how their project came together. She said, “We took some recordings from the Juno spacecraft, which is by NASA, and we took those musical tones and we made them into a familiar song.” They had used recordings of radio waves from celestial bodies to create the all-too famous tune “Never Gonna Give You Up” by Rick Astley.

Board members Anish Dhal, Anshu Cherukumilli, and Devraj Dutta were impressed with this year’s projects. Cherukumilli stated, “The projects this year were really good, and this year they were really applicable to the real world, which is what we wanted to see. A lot of scientific thought went into each and every presentation.”

On top of the amazing projects, board members also spoke about the community that the club and Expo were able to form during these last couple of months. Dhal said, “Everyone is supporting each other. There are not many opportunities to kind of show yourself off, what you want to do, especially in the scientific sense, so we feel what we are doing is allowing people to do that.”

There are so many wonderful things about this year's Expo, but members of the club, as well as Mrs. Ferrante had some favorite moments. “So far, it’s gotta be the actual projects since it’s really fun and really interesting to hear all of

the people just excited about all their passions in science and present them all,” explained Dutta, one of the high school board members.

Cherukumilli followed up by saying “Yeah, it’s not just the projects themselves but how, like [Dutta] said, how they choose the projects; they connect the projects to their passions and things they want to do later in life.”

Mrs. Ferrante also commented her favorite part of the Expo was “seeing all of the kids’ faces and their smiles that they got to present their information.”

If you are thinking about possibly joining the Expo next year, just hear what this year’s members have to say. “I would definitely just say go for it,” said Vibhuv Sharma, “Because there’s no harm in joining and even if you don’t win, it’s a great experience.”

Lacroix shared, “You can all form a group. You can research the things you’ll love, no matter how big or small these always have a little bit of science to it. You can just do topics and stuff you love with people you love.”

Overall, the Science Expo was an exciting event where students were able to showcase their ideas and work together with their peers to present something they were passionate about.

Even if you aren’t really interested in science, it’s still a great chance to get together with your friends and talk about what you are interested in. So why not give it a try? You might end up winning the third annual Science Expo.

Hershey Park Trip

Continued from page 2.

This tradition has been going on for many years, even before some teachers were working at the school. Students and teachers had their favorite memories of the trip this year, with Isha Pandit saying her favorite part was “going on rides with my friends”, and Liu saying she enjoyed “the immersive chocolate factory tour in Hershey’s Chocolate World.”

The teachers enjoyed “seeing the students have fun at [the] park”, as Ms. Makvana said, and Mr. Mazurkiewicz shared his highlight was “being on stage with the band while they had an amazing performance.”

Overall, this year’s Hershey Park trip was a great experience for students and teachers alike, helping them bond with their music community.



After performing their pieces in front of various judges, the 8th grade students were excited relax and enjoy the park. Top Source: Lois Oppong
Bottom Source: Angelina Busch

Encanto Movie Review

By Giselle Azra Ozan

Encanto is an animated, lively musical about family, individuality and generational trauma.

The musical starts with the creation of an enchanted house in which the Madrigal family would come to live and grow in. Each member in the family was blessed with a special ability known as their “gift”. The movie follows Mirabel Madrigal as she navigates life as the only child in her family with no gift.

Encanto is an extremely energetic and emotional musical full of Colombian culture. The music and storyline of *Encanto* were created by Lin-Manuel Miranda, who also worked on *Moana*, *In the Heights* and *Hamilton*, all of which



Source: imdb.com

went on to become beloved hit musicals.

Many people have spoken about how deeply they’ve connected with the characters of the musical and their songs, and they’re not just talking about the

protagonist.

Along with Mirabel, her sisters Luisa and Isabella Madrigal each have their own songs that have worked their way

into the hearts of audience members all over the country.

Luisa, played by Jessica Darrow, sings a favorite of my brother and I entitled, “Surface Pressure” about her feeling under too much stress owning the gift of strength. This song especially stood out because there are times in every one’s lives in which they feel the weight of the world on their shoulders.

Isabella, played by Diana Guerrero, sings “What Else Can I Do,” about feeling over-pressured trying to be perfect. Audiences all around have found themselves deeply connecting with the lyrics and the way this character feels. This song also serves as an interesting turning point for the character. Up until this point, Isabella has been portrayed as an annoying, “perfect” character. This song changed her image in both the minds of her sister and audience members.

And of course there’s no forgetting “We Don’t Talk About Bruno.” This song has become one of the most popular songs of the whole musical and it’s no mystery why. It’s extremely catchy and fun to listen to. On top of that, the dancing is exciting and brings deep curiosity to the character of Bruno and who he may be.

Overall, *Encanto* is an extremely lovable musical about family, forgiveness, generational trauma, individuality and so much more. It’s the perfect musical to watch with family, friends, or even on your own.

The Batman Movie Review

By Jason Lu & Dilan Mehta

The Batman hit theaters on March 4 and has seen massive success since its initial release. As of right now, its worldwide gross is over \$600 million and has received mostly positive reviews from both critics and fans.

This movie is directed by Matt Reeves and stars Robert Pattinson as Bruce Wayne, or Batman. It also features Zoë Kravitz as Catwoman, Paul Dano as The Riddler, Colin Farrell as Penguin, Jeffrey Wright as James Gordon, and Andy Serkis as Alfred Pennyworth. These characters’ personalities complement this particular take on Batman, and the actors have good chemistry on screen.

The Batman has a grittier, darker take on the character, and uses elements similar to that of 70’s crime dramas. In this movie, Batman is a grimmer person, and the movie highlights how the city of Gotham is a terrible place to live. The movie takes place during Batman’s second year of fighting

crime. It centers around how he has to track down a serial killer, the Riddler, who is trying to “unmask the truth” of Gotham.

The Riddler leaves mysterious and cryptic clues for Bruce Wayne, and as Batman unravels the mystery and the Riddler’s plan becomes clear, Batman must face not only the corruption and criminals of Gotham but his internal fears and discoveries he might not be able to handle.

We really liked the soundtrack and musical compositions, as they were well composed and added to the overall thrill



Source: thebatman.com

Continued on page 8.

Uncharted Movie Review

By Stefan Naumoski

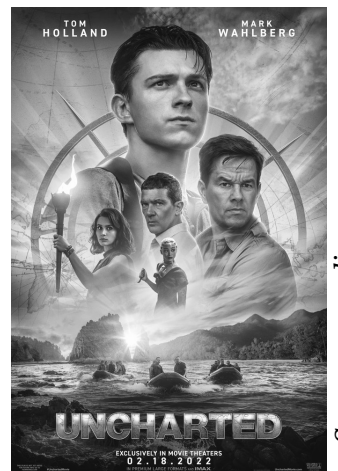
There are many impressive movies coming out these days, and one of them is *Uncharted*. Directed by Ruben Fleischer, it features an all-star cast and amazing plot line. It is based on the video game with the same name, and both are loosely based on the Indiana Jones franchise.

Young Nate Drake, played by Tom Holland, lives the life of a pick-pocketing bartender, until he is approached by professional thief Victor Sullivan, played by Mark Walberg, who knew Nate’s long-lost brother. The two set out on a journey to uncover a 500-year-old treasure dropped by infamous explorer Ferdinand Magellan. They face many betrayals along the way, along with the illustrious Moncada family breathing hot on their tails.

However, the release of this film has not been the best. Rated 6.7/10 on IMDb, and 41% on Rotten Tomatoes, the rating is not as high as more successful movies. However, Google user ratings are significantly higher, at 89%.

This could be because it is based on a video game and has a considerable amount of characters to keep track of, but it is hard to tell. Either way, whether you like it or not, it is a movie worth watching.

I think this is true because while it is filled with Marvel-worthy stunts, it also has sentimental moments that make it easy to relate to the characters. A great blend of action and emotions, this movie will be a great experience.



Source: m.media-amazon.com

Otterbox Commuter Series Phone Case Product Review

By Tyler Basak

Just a few weeks ago, the Otterbox Commuter Series phone case arrived at my door. As soon as I popped it on my phone, I knew it was going to be great.

The Commuter Series case, one of Otterbox’s many cases, is one of the most popular. While it has some mixed opinions, the case does come with many benefits.

On Otterbox’s Amazon page, they promised a case that “keeps your phone safe while you live life on the go.” They did not disappoint.

Whenever I accidentally dropped my phone, there was not a single scratch on the phone or the case itself.

Continued on page 8.

Fresh Rosemary and Lemon Cupcakes

By Bhadra Menon & Rishima Rout

Have you tried these spring-suited cupcakes? This dish can be eaten at any time of day, whether as a side at a picnic or a snack at night, and it goes well as a side/dessert with almost anything else! We only made some mini versions of the cakes, but they were delicious! Lemon is a favorite flavor of ours, and the unrivalled combination of lemon and rosemary is definitely an unexpected, but balanced taste.

Cupcake Ingredients

- 1/2 cup softened butter
- 2 eggs
- 1 3/4 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons chopped rosemary
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder

der

- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons lemon extract
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 2/3 cup milk
- 2 teaspoons shredded lemon peel
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice

Lemon Glaze Ingredients

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 5 teaspoons lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon finely shredded lemon peel

Directions

1. Let butter and eggs stand at room temperature for 30 minutes. Line fifteen 2-1/2-inch muffin cups with paper bake cups; set aside. In medium bowl combine cake flour, rosemary, baking

powder and salt; set aside.

2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. In large mixing bowl beat butter on medium-high for 30 seconds. Add granulated sugar, lemon extract, and vanilla. Beat on medium-high for 2 minutes until light and fluffy, scraping bowl.
3. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Alternately add flour mixture and milk to butter mixture; beat on low after each just until combined. Stir in the lemon peel and lemon juice.
4. Spoon batter in prepared cups to three-fourths full. Bake 22 to 25 minutes, until a wooden pick inserted in centers comes out clean. (Bake 36 mini cakes 15 to 18 minutes; 6 jumbo cakes 25 to 30 minutes.) Cool in muf-



Source: bhg.com

- fin cups on rack 5 minutes. Remove from pan; cool completely.
5. Make lemon glaze combine powdered sugar and enough of the lemon juice to reach spreading consistency in a small bowl. Stir in lemon peel.
 6. Spoon Lemon Glaze on cupcakes. Let stand 10 minutes. Makes 15 (2-1/2-inch) cupcakes.

Moist Lemon Pound Cake

By Deven Malhotra

This lemon cake tasted great, and it was very soft.

Pound Cake Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1 Tbsp lemon zest
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 Tbsp lemon juice, about 1/2 lemon
- 1/2 cup buttermilk

Lemon Syrup Ingredients

- 1/4 cup lemon juice, about 1 lemon
- 3 Tbsp powdered sugar

Lemon Icing Ingredients

- 1 cup powdered sugar, sifted

- 1.5 Tbsp lemon juice
- 1 Tbsp milk

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (177° C). Grease a 9x5-inch (or 8x4-inch) loaf pan.
2. In a medium bowl combine the flour, baking powder, lemon zest, and salt. Set aside.
3. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment (or using an electric mixer), cream the butter and sugar together at medium-high speed until pale and fluffy, about 4-6 minutes. Scrape the sides of the bowl as needed.
4. With the mixer running on low-speed, add the eggs one at a time, then beat in the vanilla extract and lemon juice. Beat on medium-high speed until combined.
5. With the mixer on low, add



Source: platedcravings.com

about one-third of the flour mixture and mix until almost combined, then add half the buttermilk and mix until just combined. Repeat with another third of flour mixture and then the last half of the buttermilk, ending with the last third of the flour. Beat until just incorporated.

6. Scrape the batter into the prepared loaf pan and bake for 45-55 minutes until the cake is golden brown and a

- toothpick comes out mostly clean with only a couple moist crumbs. Baking times vary, so keep an eye on yours.
7. Let the cake cool for about 15 minutes in the pan. Stir together the lemon juice and confectioners' sugar for the lemon syrup. Carefully invert the loaf pan, and transfer the cake to a cooling rack, then brush the syrup on the cake while it's still warm. Allow cake to cool completely.
 8. When the cake is cooled, combine all the icing ingredients, start with 1 tbsp lemon juice and milk and add the remaining lemon juice as needed. The icing should be thick and not runny. Pour icing over cake and let dry before serving.

UMS Themed
Word Search

By Suchir Parikh

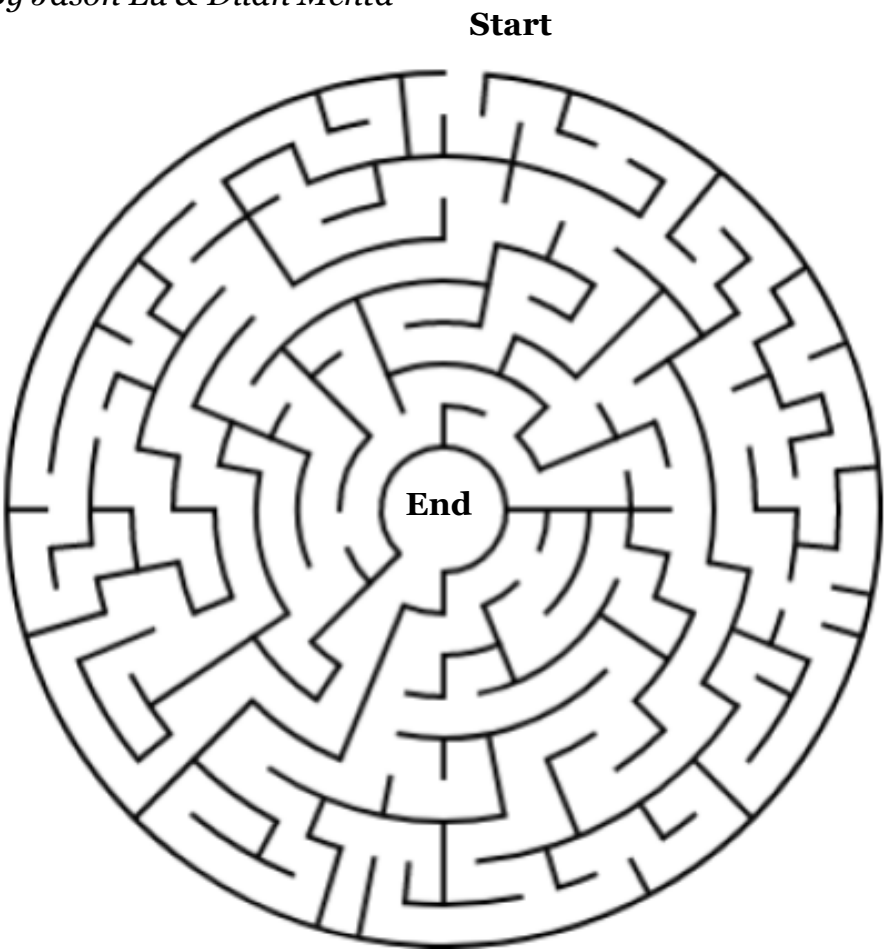
g e x e m r v p v q j y i m x
n l l h s e w p q r x y h g y
o c n u q d p b c m f j k n l
z e g a p a l n t a n g d w a
y e g b h u o o f j r n d h z
k r o w e m o h g a g q f u a
u g v s m s h u d s s w g g t
f n p x v p c e m f w e f d g
a u m c d a s l q t h i n n w
a u w s o l e a r n i z s k y
d x c a p g n a e n d v f i u
o j x i q i m e y a k q x l s
g q k y h s r f q b z i b b l
n h l l z g d i n e d g i y r
q k r f s u j h t p b w f j h

Word List

- Blue
Green
Red
Gold
- School
Homework
Smart
- Grades
Learn
Spirit

Find Your Way Into
This Maze

By Jason Lu & Dilan Mehta



Spot the iDevice Prototype

By Eamon MacDonald



1. What iPhone is this?
- a. iPhone 6s
 - b. iPhone 6
 - c. iPhone 7



2. What iPhone is this?
- a. iPhone 3Gs
 - b. iPhone 4
 - c. iPhone 5



3. What iPhone is this?
- a. iPhone X
 - b. iPhone XS Max
 - c. iPhone 12 Pro

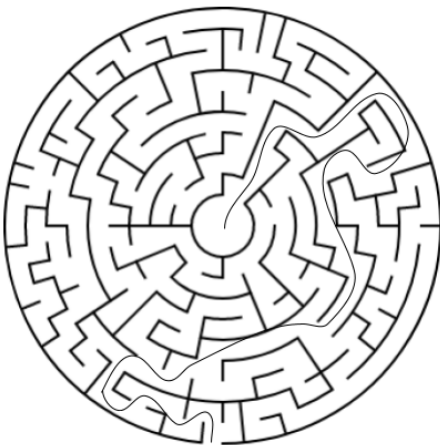


4. What iPhone is this?
- a. iPhone 4
 - b. iPhone 11 Pro Max
 - c. iPhone 12 Pro

Prototype Key

g e x e m r v p v q j y i m x
n l l h s e w p q r x y h g y
o c n u q d p b c m f j k n l
z e g a p a l n t a n g d w a
y e g b h u o o f j r n d h z
k r o w e m o h g a g q f u a
u g v s m s h u d s s w g g t
f n p x v p c e m f w e f d g
a u m c d a s l q t h i n n w
a u w s o l e a r n i z s k y
d x c a p g n a e n d v f i u
o j x i q i m e y a k q x l s
g q k y h s r f q b z i b b l
n h l l z g d i n e d g i y r
q k r f s u j h t p b w f j h

Word Search Key



Maze Key

The Batman Review

Continued from page 5.

and drama of the film.

Another aspect that we thought was done well was the camera work and cinematography. The movie was also able to capture the essence of Batman in great action scenes, in-depth looks at the character and his motives, and his troubling past. The character development was superb and the viewer got to see inside the mind of Bruce Wayne, which added to the psychological factor of the film.

Some other elements that

viewers may enjoy are the unique costumes and design, as well as the reference to another Batman villain, Joker, at the end of the movie.

One thing we didn't like was that the movie was a bit underwhelming and slow-paced in certain areas and scenes. However, *The Batman* was a great movie and even though it may not be a better Batman movie than something like *The Dark Knight*, it was still a breathtaking and amazing film, and we highly recommend it.

Spring Chorus Concert

Continued from page 2.

The audience enjoyed that song, and the performers sounded great.

With only a few weeks of rehearsal, the Melodies students stunned everyone with performances such as *Pocahontas*' "Colors of the Wind," which featured Julia Perry as the wonderful soloist. They also performed "Wau Bulan," a Malaysian folk song that incorporated choreography.

Lastly, the 8th grade ensemble performed. They astounded the audience with songs like the Zambian folk song "Bonse Aba," with Clare Gonzalez and Clement Laroix as the soloists, and "Can You Hear," which featured Yumna Juha, Flora Blodgett, and Hannah Rahman.

Clare Gonzalez said, "I think that the concert was successful. The audience seemed to really like our songs and I liked the songs that I listened to."

Finally, every choir member

joined together to perform the hit "We Don't Talk About Bruno" from *Encanto*. The song featured five wonderful soloists - Henry Hintz, Jack Sentman, Chloe Doyle, Evelyn Gomez, and Giselle Azra Ozan - and each choir member kept the audience enthralled.

Evelyn Gomez, a 7th grader, described performing as "fun and exciting." She said, "I think it went very well, and it seemed like people liked it. It can be stressful [to perform] but [the audience's] reactions are fun to see."

Gonzalez also thought there were moments of stress and shared, "Singing on the risers was really different from singing in the classroom. It was hard to get used to it in time for the concert." Despite this, both Gomez and Gonzalez enjoyed performing and found the concert successful.

Overall, it was a joy to see live music being performed once again at UMS. The choirs astonished the audience and we can't wait to see what the UMS choir program does next year.



The various choirs at UMS put on a fantastic show that dazzled the audience. *Source: Chloe Doyle*

Phone Case Review

Continued from page 5.

Obviously at a higher height, some damage could be done. However, a few low drops here and there will not damage your phone.

Otterbox also promises that your phone is dust-protected using port covers. As I used the case, the covers worked great and I never had an issue with them.

While the Otterbox Commuter case keeps your phone drop, bump, and dust resistant, it does have a few negatives.

While this may seem picky, having to lift the port cover over the charging port can get annoying. However, this would not make a customer not want to buy the case.

As I looked at other customer reviews, many mentioned the build quality, and how it has unfortunately gone down over the years. I have never owned an Otterbox case before this, so I cannot say if this is true or false.

However, judging from the

reviews, I would have to predict that this is indeed true, which is kind of a bummer.

As I read some more



Source: amazon.com

reviews, one really stuck out to me. A customer wanted to buy a new case for their phone, and they knew Otterbox would be the right choice (after using them in the past). However, they were disappointed that the Commuter case did not protect their phone from a fall. While it may be rare for this to happen, it is always a possibility with any phone case.

Overall, the Otterbox Commuter case is great from what I have seen. It will protect your phone from light falls, dust, and bumps here and there. Out of 5 stars, I would give the case around 4.5.

UMS Bands Captivate Audience at Spring Concert

By Lois Oppong

On Wednesday, May 18, band students dressed up and played their pieces for the last time, after months of long practice.

In the auditorium, the 7th Grade Concert preceded the 8th Grade Band, with Jazz Band in between. With amazing performances all around, the audience enjoyed the amazing solos, pieces such as

"Andromeda" and "Blue Ridge Saga," as well as fan favorites, like the encore "Shut Up and Dance."

Both Trevor Johnson and Anya Bansal who performed in the concert said that the songs became better through the use of "Tone, stagger breathing, and being in tune." The Jazz Band was widely enjoyed with

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The UMS bands performed such entreaty pieces that both the band and audience members enjoyed performing and watching. *Source: Lois Oppong*

Softball Team Strengthens Skills and Friendships throughout Spring Season

By Aneesha Sarkar & Lauren Tucker

This softball season was an amazing experience for all the girls on the team. Although they did not have many victories out of their 12 games, their largest victory was forming a strong team of an amazing group of friends.

The team showed so much sportsmanship and friendliness throughout

the season, even making great friends with the Hillsborough team and many others that they played against.

One of the players on the team was Maggie McGlynn, who has been playing softball for seven years, played third and first base for the team. She shared she had “fun because [she got] to play the sport [she] loves with the teammates [she] love.” She continued to elaborate

and said, “The best part about playing as a team is how much we can learn from each other and how our bonds can help us on and off of the field.” This really shows how much the team members appreciate each

other and work well together.

The team experienced a few struggles during the season. One of them related to the other commitments the team members had throughout the season.

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Boys Lacrosse Team Models Adaptation & Flexibility During Season

By Jason Lu & Dilan Mehta

The boys lacrosse team developed strong friendships throughout the season. They finished the season with a record of 2 to 7 this past May.



Source: cliparts.zone

The team, who was led by Coach Nguyen, had fun playing and honing their skills.

After this season, they feel motivated to work harder and get back at it again next season to make UMS proud.

The boys practiced very hard this year and worked on their craft to develop their skills. They had many practices every week, so being on the team required lots of dedication, time, and effort. Their coach used a variety of drills, exercises, preparation games, and team-building practices to prepare them for the season.

During the season, the team developed and strengthened this teamwork. “We were able to cope and adapt to a small team,” said Patrick Petrozzini, an 8th grade member of the team.

Another member of the team, 8th grader Jack Sentman, said that “The season helped [them] to experiences [what it’s like] playing on a small team.”

Friendship was also developed

throughout the season. “The team helped me because I observed [how] my teammates [play on the field], so I got to know them better [as athletes,” said 8th grader Logan Matthews.

Everyone was enthusiastic about the season, especially the games because it helped the team to work better together and apply what they practiced to real games.

Sometimes, the group faced challenges. They had to adapt to a new coach and a new team. But the boys became stronger because of the obstacles. “Sometimes we didn’t have a lot of games, [so instead we would focus on practicing.] We had to run a lot, which helped us in the game by making us more durable,” said Brady Forma, another 8th grader on the team.

The group wants to play lacrosse again next year, whether in high school or again at UMS. “[Playing on such a] small team showed how much we wanted to play because we had new students join the team,” Petrozzini said.

Their passion for lacrosse is why the group was successful; It pulled them through the season and helped them have a blast competing.

Overall, the group’s success as a team is superb. Even though the record wasn’t as good as they would have liked, the team is motivated to try again next year. “The season went very well overall,” summarized Petrozzini, and they’re happy to finish the season on a high note.

Boys Track & Field Team Finishes Third Place in the League

By Siddharth Bellamkonda, Kirtan Chintam, & Priyanshu Dasgupta

May 23rd marked the end of another great season for the boys track and field team. Even though they did not achieve the high end of season record they were hoping to reach, they had a successful season marked by other highlights.

Major records were broken, including Sam Henderson finishing the 800-meter event in 2:12 minutes and Trey McFadden in the long-jump event reaching 19’4”.

Mr. Scarpa, a teacher in LMS and one of the coaches of the track team, shared that enjoyed this season himself. He said, “Coaching this group of runners was a very enjoyable experience over the last four years for it is always en-

couraging to watch the athletes develop from inexperienced, novice runners into a passionate group who wants to improve their skills.”

The team had their ups and downs throughout the season. Mr. Scarpa said that the main challenge they faced were “conflicts with other activities and injuries and trying to create a team-like feel.”

According to Mr. Scarpa, there were certain groups that were a strong pillar for the team overall. together for the most part. “Our distance team, led by Sam Henderson,” Mr. Scarpa said, “was one of the strengths of the team, as well as the long jump.”

The efforts made by all members of the boys track and field team paid off this season because they were able to win third place in the CJSI-AA league.



Source: istockphoto.com

Band Concert

Continued from page 8.

pieces like “By George” and with solos by Eric Sigalov, AJ Baumunk, and many others.

Without being conducted, the Jazz Band showed great talent and musical ability. After the concert, all of the bands were widely praised by their conductors and spectators. All in all, the three bands have achieved great success and everyone should be looking forward to more success in the future.

Softball Team

Continued from page 9.

Although there were a few recommended improvements the team could focus on as they think about next year, Maggie shared, “I feel like my playing has improved this year, and I have learned more skills from [Coach Venetucci] that will help me excel in my playing.”

The softball team’s season ended with a good group of students that ended up be-

coming good friends. Some might even consider it a family.

The coach of the girls softball team, Ms. Venetucci encouraged teamwork on the team. She ended every practice with a team cheer. She helped bring the team closer together and taught the team to get better at softball.



The softball team is proud of all they have accomplished on and off the field this year. Source: Ms. Venetucci

Girls Lacrosse Team Finishes Season 2nd in League

By Bhadra Menon

The girls lacrosse team finished the season as a hardworking team. Their final record was 8-4.

According to their coach, Mr.

Ingraffia, they have had a rough start, “losing to their rival Hillsborough,” but they were flexible throughout the season by shifting their focus on various areas that would help the team become stronger.



The girls lacrosse team’s hard work paid off this year, as they finished second in the league. Source: Mr. Ingraffia

Mr. Ingraffia said, “Early on our focus was on defense given how complex a system we run. Having multiple responsibilities on a fast paced defense can be a lot for a middle school player, but the girls met the

challenge thanks to the leadership of our 8th grade captain Ella DeBruin. However, going forward we [will] need to work on our set offense and play more [in the future].”

There were many successes the team could be proud of and celebrate. They had strong will power, and they were very resilient. According to Mr. Ingraffia, the team was best at midfield, and the people who helped with that were “[the] two top scorers Audrey Shueh and Siena Casale. [They played] consistent minutes from this position, and they drove a lot of our transition plays. [Team members] Ava Moses, Elli Pizzuli, and Sophia Soron were also key contributors

[to the team’s success.]”

Even though their season ended at the end of May, the team can definitely take the lessons they learned on the field to their future teams. Mr. Ingraffia has experience at the varsity level, and he believes this allowed him “to introduce [the] team to concepts and strategies that will help them as they advance to high school and play tougher competition.”

Even though the season is over, Mr. Ingraffia knows his team will do great on the high school level next year. He shared, “The girls worked so hard, and every one of them kept improving each day.”

Baseball Team Perseveres Throughout Season

By Pranav Karthikeyan & Suchir Parikh

The baseball team ended their season with a record of 3-7.

Their team consisted of a combination of 7th and 8th graders. Bringing wins to our school name, they made Montgomery proud.

After the season, Joshua Hoffman, a 7th

grade player, said, “I 100% no question improved in both skill and game sense and [I give] credit to Coach [Huelbig] for this.”

7th grade player, Saiyuj Koblaa, shared that being on the team was a “fun and a great experience.” He also spoke highly of Coach Huelbig’s leadership and said, “Our coach was very helpful and gave lots of good feedback that helped us grow as a team.”



Source: techcrunch.com

Undefeated Season for Girls Track Team

By Raaginisree Anandkumar & Nidhi Soppimath

The girls track team crushed this season beating every team they were against. Although this year was the first year back to normal, the team bounced back and won gold all season.

When asked about the team’s performance, Coach Davis replied, “The girls team is undefeated, so they are doing well.” From the point of view of an 8th grade member of the track team, she said “I think the team’s performance was really good!”

The team had been working hard every practice. According to Coach Davis, the team went through a tough workout every day to get faster and faster. They started off by warming up with plyometric exercises, and after they had specialized drills to improve times.

Bringing home all golds at every meet, they beat all teams they were put against,



The girls track team found much success this year with their undefeated season. Source: Ms. Davis

such as Bridgewater, Franklin, Tewksbury, Readington, and Warren Hills.

At the meet versus Readington, Anna Casciano broke the school record for shot put with a throw of 12.33 meters, a little over 40 feet!

At the Meet of Champions held at Franklin High School on May 25, the girls held back nothing and won the first place once again. They concluded their season with another win.