



The Eagle Exclusive



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THE WATER BOTTLE CRAZE

By Lida Carroll

Every year there is a new water bottle everyone becomes obsessed with. Right now, most people are trying to choose between a Stanley or a Hydro Flask. It's too hard to choose!

In past years, people have mainly used Hydro Flasks and most liked them. They said they liked them because they were easy to decorate with cute stickers. People also like them because they are easy to carry around and are lead free. However, some people have complained that after a couple months of using them, they didn't keep water cold enough.

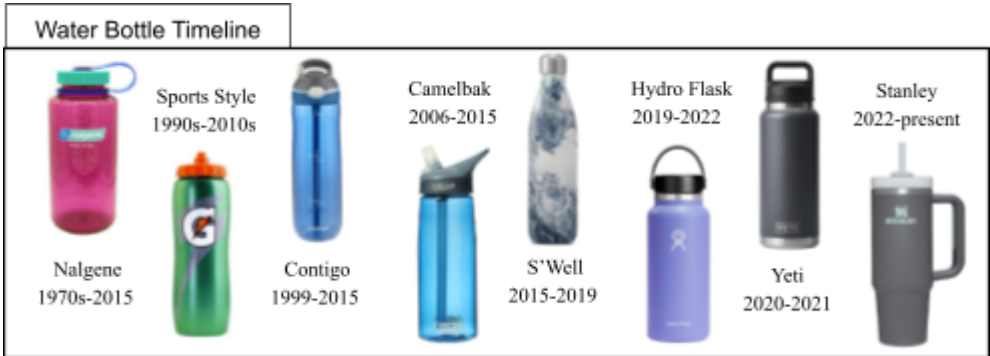
People have recently started obsessing over the Stanley cup.

They have come to like it because it's fashionable and has a variety of different styles to choose from. People also like how it keeps drinks cold and you can decorate it with cute straw caps. However, some people despise these because of recent reports of how they may contain lead, which can cause health problems.

After hearing about both the pros and cons of each water bottle, what do you think is better? Stanley cups or Hydro Flasks?






How often should you clean your water bottle?

Most people aren't cleaning their water bottles often enough. Most people clean it every couple days to a week, which is reasonable, but some things can change that. If it has a sugary drink stored in it, it should be cleaned more often. Studies show that those types of drinks help mold grow. So - the answer is you should clean it daily!



March Fun Facts

By Sadie Dorbat

-  People wear green on St. Patrick's day in order to not get attacked by a leprechaun.
-  St. Patrick's original name was Maewyn Succat (someone tell me how to pronounce this).
-  St. Patrick wasn't actually Irish; he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave.
-  The largest Easter egg is 31 feet tall and 5000 pounds.
-  Cadbury Creme Eggs originally had a different name - Fry's Creme Eggs. It was changed in 1971.



Meet The Team

By Kol Greene and
Adam Miller

Did you know that the SMS *Eagle Exclusive* used to be called *SMS News Flash*? The oldest newspaper that we found dated back to October 1982! Let's see what five members from the current newspaper club think about what we do.

Lida Carroll joined the Newspaper Club because she enjoys writing and wanted to learn how to write in many different styles.

Abi Morneault said, "I chose to join because it is very fun and gives me something to do in my free time." Mia Blais joined because she wanted to share her writing with the whole school.



Next, we asked what they think the best part of the club is. Skye Matthews thinks the best part is getting to write about all of the different topics.

Carol Frazier said the best part for her is, "being able to be creative and make your own articles for others to see." Sarah Morse responded, "I think getting to work with friends and meeting new people is the best part of being in the club."

Finally, Adam said, "The best part is getting to interview people because you get to learn

much more about them that can be surprising, and then you can share that information to the whole school through your writing."

The final question we asked the group was what part of every newspaper was their favorite. Adam replied, "My favorite part is the parts about the holidays because you can learn so much that could change how you think about them and make it much more fun."

Lida said, "My favorite part is watching it all come together and reading through the final draft."

These are multiple responses from a spread of students in the club, and now you might be convinced to join yourself!

Q&A With Mrs. Irwin

By Sage Salois

Ever wondered what Mrs. Irwin does as our front office secretary? I asked her a few questions about her job, and here are her answers.

Q: What made you want to do what you do?

A: I wanted a change from my other job, a paraprofessional.

Q: How long have you been doing this?

A: Two years. I also did 6 years as a paraprofessional.

Q: What do you do each day?

A: Take attendance, greet visitors, answer the phone, make sure the late bus is set up, direct calls to who they need to go to, take notes, file student records, register new students, and send student files to a student's new school if they change schools.

Q: What would you say are your biggest responsibilities in the front office?

A: Scheduling meetings, checking visitors in, and handling phone calls from concerned parents.

Q: What is your favorite part of this job?

A: My favorite part is that I get to do a lot of different things. I keep track of 297 kids, and also keep track of teacher attendance, but the main part is it's busy, and there's always something happening here!



The Backpack Project

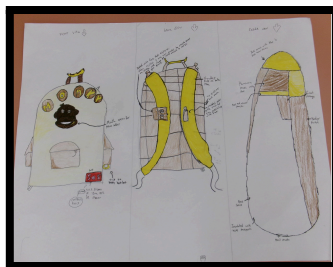
By: Jovanni Miranda

Shoulder pads, computer pockets, and solar powered chargers are some of many features that students have included in their backpack project. Mrs. DeSocio once again gave the 6th graders an opportunity to design a unique backpack. When asked about the project, Mrs. DeSocio responded, "I assigned the backpack project because I thought it would be something engaging and relevant for middle school students, and also because it still makes students think about ways to incorporate their learning into the assignment, even though it is a different topic than what they are used to."

Mrs. DeSocio also explained the purpose behind the assignment. "Throughout the project, students are learning to work in a group. They are learning steps to complete a task. In this case, it is leading them to design a backpack. Also, students are re-learning certain vocabulary words from the beginning of the year." She added, "Students are able to define a real-world problem and design a model to determine how well they can meet the criteria and needs of the problem."

Some of the 7th and 8th graders might remember the process that went into designing a backpack. The first step is to research by looking at videos and images on a variety of different backpack designs. The second step is to brainstorm using ideas and sketches. The third step is to create/design your backpack onto a poster. At this point, you create a logo and company name. The final step is to present a sales pitch using Google slides to inform and then sell your project to your audience.

After the presentations, Mrs. DeSocio confirmed that there would be a vote for the best backpack design, and the winning design would be determined by 7th and 8th grade students! After all the hard work the 6th graders put in, it was finally time for the others to vote! In the end the winner was the Monkey Pack. Some special features of the pack were an SOS indicator, a solar power charger, a lunchbox holder, and banana shaped straps.



The Monkey Pack

New Stafford Shop

By: Caitlin Corpus and Kayleanne Dombrowik

Domino's

Have you ordered from Domino's yet? There are many mixed opinions on our town's new pizza place. This author thinks Domino's shouldn't be in this location because it's not a popular area. The bank seemed fine there. Stafford only has one bank in town now, and it was too much work remodeling this building!

Sixth grader Jovanni Miranda says, "The pizza is really nice, but the first time I got it, they missed my house." This shows that their delivery could use a bit of work. Jovanni rates Domino's 3.5 stars out of 5. Reading teacher Mrs. Corpus says, "It was at an affordable price, ready on time, and easy to order online." She rates it a 3.75 out of 5. Domino's is located at 2 Middle River Dr. Make sure to check it out if you want to form your own opinion!



Love the Gum?

By Abi M. and Carol F.

Are you a person who chews gum in class even though it's against the rules? Do you hate it when you get caught and told to spit the gum in the trash? Or do you agree with this rule and think it should stay this way?

No Gum!



Gum should not be (and is not) allowed in school. Many kids chew gum and leave it around the school: under tables, desks, and chairs. While some students may not do this, plenty of students do. When students leave gum around, it puts a lot of stress on the janitors to clean it. Also there are too few janitors in this school to scrape it off!

Phones in School?!

By Savannah Dreisch & Kailyn Yurczak

We all know about the rule of no phones in school, and if you get caught three times, you get it taken away. Then your parents have to come to the school to get it back. But what if it could be different? What would happen if phones were allowed? How would you really act? Would you behave?

Phones could be a good idea for students. They can write down

Another reason gum is and should stay banned is because of the choking hazards. It is very easy for a child to choke on gum, and schools put kids' safety first. By not allowing gum in schools, they are making sure that their students are safe.



Yes Gum!

Whenever the topic of gum is brought up in class, teachers will immediately tell you it's against the rules. But is gum really all that bad? A lot of students try to sneak gum because of the strict rules, which seems to be a reason why gum gets a bad rep. There are many benefits to students chewing gum, like improving

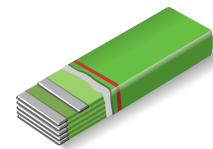
their homework on their phone, use calculators, and contact parents to see if they have a ride home after school.

However, some students could abuse the power of having a phone in school. In that case, there could be set boundaries for the phones. For example, if you are caught playing games in class, it's taken for the day. Kids like to listen to music on the bus or in the car on the way to school. Kids often walk into school with their headphones still on and get told to put it away. If phones are allowed, kids

concentration, which many students struggle with. Gum doesn't only have mental benefits, but it can also help with your teeth and breath.

Students also complain about how hungry they are and yummy tasting gum can help with that. For example, they have flavors like bubble gum, cinnamon, and mint. There is a wide variety for students to choose from and it can be beneficial to not just the students, but also the teachers who may benefit from this tasty treat!

Source: <https://www.saveourschoolsmarch.org/why-do-schools-not-allow-gum/>



may be just a bit happier to come to school knowing they won't get yelled at for having a phone out.

Adults may not agree that we should have phones in school and that's okay, but if they're not allowed in class, at least let them be allowed in lunch. At lunch, people are always talking very loudly, but if we have headphones and our phones during lunch, that will reduce sounds and give us a little break from classes to eat and watch videos or play games.

Continued on page



In study hall, we should be able to use our phones, but only when teachers make sure everything that needs to be done is done.

Teachers will most likely be more to agree with not having phones in school. The constant notifications might be disruptive to the class. Also, having phones in school may help students cheat on tests or may distract students in general.

Unified Sports

By Mia Blais

If you have gym or health, then you know Ms. Zadrozny. But did you know that she also runs the Unified Sports team?

According to SpecialOlympics. Org, “Unified Sports joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding.” With the help of Mr. Trowbridge and Mr. Shea, she helps bring together students with and without disabilities to play together on a sports team. We thought it would be valuable to ask her a few questions about being a gym teacher and working with Unified Sports.

A few solutions could be:

- ★ Make a phone lock/jail in every room during tests.
- ★ All phones need to be on silent.
- ★ All phones need to be kept under the desk or in a binder.

What do you think, should phones be allowed in school?

Q: How long have you been working at the school?

A: This is my 5th year working here.

Q: Why did you choose gym as your subject?

A: Because I think it is fun! I played basketball, softball and volleyball in college and high school. Being active has always been a part of my life.

Q: What do you coach outside of SMS?

A: I coach volleyball and softball in Tolland.

Q: What does Unified Sports mean to you?

A: It's a way for students with disabilities to join a sports team and to band together with people that don't. They can make friendships and be active.

Student Survey!

**Which phone is better:
Apple or Android?**

**Vote for your favorite by
going to your grade level
Google classroom.**



Q: What is it like teaching Unified Sports and going to the tournaments?

A: It's so fun! Everyone is kind and all of the teams are supportive. It's not that competitive.



We also asked some students in Unified about their opinions on the team.

Faith M. said that it was awesome! She really enjoyed putting the balls through the baskets.

Zach D. also said he enjoyed playing on the team!

History Corner

Is Cleopatra going to be found?

By A.P.



Dr. Martinez with one of the tunnels behind her.

Many people know about the last Pharaoh of Egypt, Cleopatra. Archaeologists have followed many leads, but they always turn out to be a time wasting dig where nothing turns up. But archaeologist Kathleen Martinez suspects that she is hidden under The Temple of Isis at Taposiris Magna, because Cleopatra projected herself to her people as Isis, goddess of healing and magic. So far, Kathleen and her team have found multiple mummies (one with a gold tongue!) and more than 1,500 objects.

Other archaeologists have thought Cleopatra lay in the watery remains of Alexandria. Many have searched there, but nothing was found. A system of tunnels has recently been found at Taposiris Magna Temple, a temple dedicated to Osiris, the god of death. When Cleopatra is found, the archeologist that finds her will also find the remains of Marc Antony, a Roman politician and general linked to Cleopatra. This would truly be an intriguing find!

For more about this story, visit *The Smithsonian Magazine* online or watch *Cleopatra, Egypt's Last Pharaoh*, on Disney+

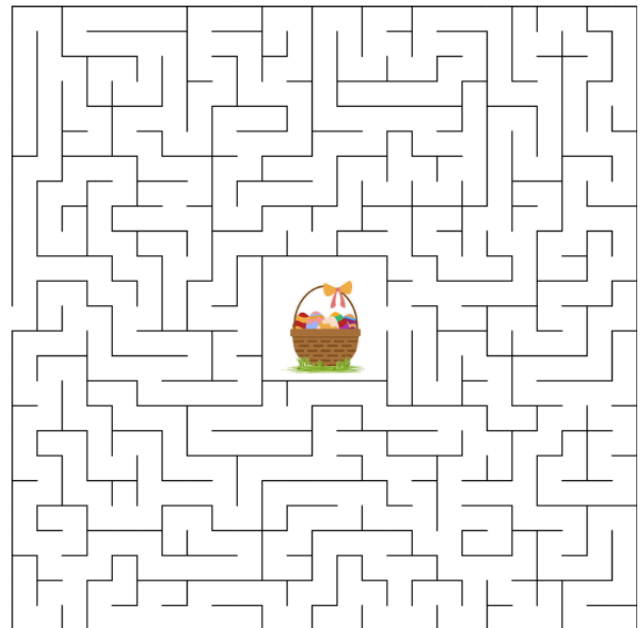
Dollar Stores

By Caitlyn Corpus and Kayleanne Dombrowik



By now you have noticed that there are now two Dollar Generals and a Family Dollar/Dollar Tree in town. Is there a reason for so many different dollar stores? Seventh graders Sarah Morse and Kol Greene think that one store is enough! Kol said, "I feel like two were good." And that's what a lot of people think right now, but what's your opinion on this subject? Tell us by answering the survey question on your grade level Google classroom.

Get to the basket!



Happy Spring!