STUDENT REPORTERS FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

Bianca Bohman
Madeline Book
Dakota Brinkman
Jessie Briones Herrera
Isla Feldman
Luna Flores
Annabelle Her

Anna Larsen
Lily Murphy
Cassinthia Phelps
May Sapletal
Ace
Chloe Willhite

THE LITERATURE SISTERS

by Chloe Willhite, grade 6

Ms. Loveless and Ms. Franus, the downstairs reading and language arts teachers, are both fans of literature. I took time to record interviews of both of them, and turned it into a news article. Each teacher answered each question, and their responses were scarily close to each other!

Q: Were you friends before you joined IGHMS?

Loveless (L): We didn't know each other prior to us getting hired here. We met at the new staff orientation. That's where we became friends.

Franus (F): No. We met each other when we started our teacher training here in the summer.

Q: Would you like to do each others jobs?

L: I like reading more than I like writing, grading-wise. Writing is not as fun to grade I think because you get a lot more hard core grammar and stuff. I don't love grammar. I could do her job, but I like mine more.

F: I would. That would be a good job to do. I like reading and writing. Reading might actually be my favorite.

Q: Are you close friends?

L: I would say so. I would say we're pretty close.

F: I think we're pretty good friends.

Q: What superpowers would you like to have?

L: OOh. Maybe teleportation or reading people's minds.

F: Teleportation because then I could *boom* be in Paris, France for a croissant and the best coffee and then *boom* be back here to teach classes with no travel time.

Q: What are your favorite books?

L: I love mystery books. That's what I read all the time when I was in 6th grade. Paranormal mysteries as well.

F: My favorite right now is mystery stories and fantasy.

Q: Do you think you can guess what the other is thinking?

L: Maybe. I think if you said a word, and we had to say one in response, we'd say something pretty similar.

F: It depends on what is happening. If it's about Taylor Swift, I know she's happy.
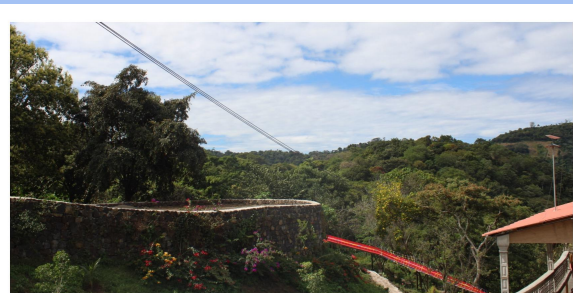
EL SALVADOR

by Cassinthia Phelps, grade 8

El Salvador became an independent republic in 1839. El Salvador is a pretty small country. It's about the size of Massachusetts, in total El Salvador is 21,040 sq km which is 8,124 sq miles.

The currency they use in El Salvador is actually the US dollar. The president of El Salvador is Nayib Bukele. He is married to his wife Gabriela Bukele and they have a daughter named Layla Bukele. Bukele has been president for 5 years now.

El Salvador has 14 states Ahuachapan, Santa Ana, Sonsonate, Chalatenango, La Liberated, San Salvador, Cuscatlan, San Vicente, Cabanas, Usulutan, San Miguel, Morazan, La Union, and La Paz.

El Salvador is known for their mountains - that's why many people call it the mountainous country or the land of volcanoes.

El Salvador has over 1,278 mountains with names such as Izalco, Chi Name A, Usulutan, and Cerritos Verde. Two of the major ranges are the Sierra Madre and the coastal range. El Salvador borders the Pacific Ocean and two countries: Guatemala and Honduras. El Salvador is one of the seven "sisters." The Seven Sisters are: Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

El Salvador is a really cool place to visit. I recommend that you visit sometime.

THE MOST NOTORIOUS SERIAL KILLER

by Isla Feldman, grade 8

There have been many serial killers in history. Some are more deadly and popular than others. This is a list of the most notorious serial killers in history:

Number five is Harold Shipman. He was a doctor and was known for killing his patients. He killed over 250 people between 1972 and 1998, mostly older women. He was also known as Dr. Death. People started to be suspicious of him when they noticed how many death certificates involved him. When police started investigating, they mishandled the investigation, and Shipman continued killing. Eventually, Shipman got greedy and tried to forge a will from one of the patients that he killed. The family of that patient became suspicious and reported Shipman to the police. He was finally convicted in 2000 and died in prison in 2004.

Number four is John Wayne Gacy, also known as the killer clown. He got that nickname because he was a clown at children's birthday parties. Gacy showed up on the radar when a 15-year-old boy went missing after he was last seen with Gacy. Other families pointed fingers at Gacy when they had a missing young boy, but this was the first time authorities took the accusations seriously. Not long after that police got a search warrant for Gacy's house and right away they were hit with a decaying body smell. They found nearly 30 bodies in a 4-foot crawl space. Gacy was convicted of 33 murder counts and additional charges of torture. He was executed by lethal injection in 1994.

Number three is H. H. Holmes. He moved to Chicago to turn a hotel into a torture castle. Holmes built a bunch of mechanisms into his hotel to use criminally including, gas lines, secret passages, trapdoors, hallways to dead ends, chutes to the basement, soundproofed padding, and torture devices strewn throughout a maze. The gas allowed Holmes to knock out his guests before the worst of what was to happen came, often on his surgical tables. He burned the bodies in the building's furnace and sold the skeletons to medical schools. Holmes was also running life insurance scams. In all,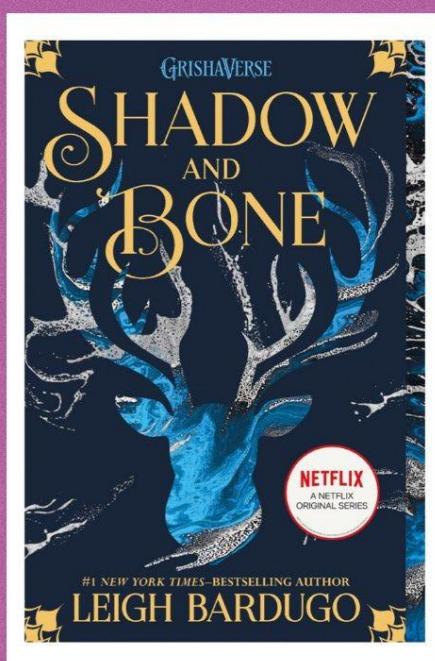 Holmes committed more than 30 murders. His crimes were discovered only after a fellow scammer turned him in for not following through on a financial agreement. Holmes was hanged in 1896.

Number two is Pedro Lopez. Lopez is linked to more than 300 murders in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. After Lopez's arrest in 1980, police found the graves of more than 50 of his preteen victims. He was later convicted of murdering 110 girls in Ecuador and confessed to 240 more murders in Colombia and Peru. The "Monster of the Andes" didn't even spend 20 years in prison, as he was released in 1998 for good behavior. His current whereabouts remain unknown.

Number one is Ted Bundy. You probably already know about him but in case you've lived under a rock, Ted Bundy was a serial killer that targeted college-aged women from Washington and Oregon to Utah and Colorado. Bundy was once arrested in Colorado and convicted of kidnapping, but he escaped custody, moving to Florida where he killed multiple times more. When he was finally caught, his trial caught the attention of a lot of people because he acted as his own lawyer throughout the whole trial. It was the first televised murder trial. He was eventually executed in 1989 by the electric chair.

BOOKS
BOOK REVIEW
by Madeline Book, grade 8

Shadow and bone
By Leigh bardugo

Rating
★★★★★

ALSO A NETFLIX SERIES!

I LOOOVE THIS BOOK SO MUCH ITS SUCH A GOOD STORY AND I COULD NOT PUT IT DOWN! THIS BOOK IS ABOUT AN ORPHAN GIRL NAMED ALINA AND HER BEST FRIEND IN THE MAGICAL WORLD OF RAVKA. BUT ONE DAY SHE AND HER FRIEND ALONG WITH HER FELLOW CARTOGRAPHERS HAVE TO GO INTO THE FOLD. A STRIP OF LAND THAT IS ENCLOSED IN DARKNESS WITH TERRIFYING CREATURES INSIDE. BUT IN THE FOLD THEY ARE ATTACKED! BUT ALINA FINDS OUT SHE MIGHT BE THE MYTHICAL LIGHT BRINGER. WILL SHE SAVE THE DAY? AND LIVE UP TO HER PROMISES?
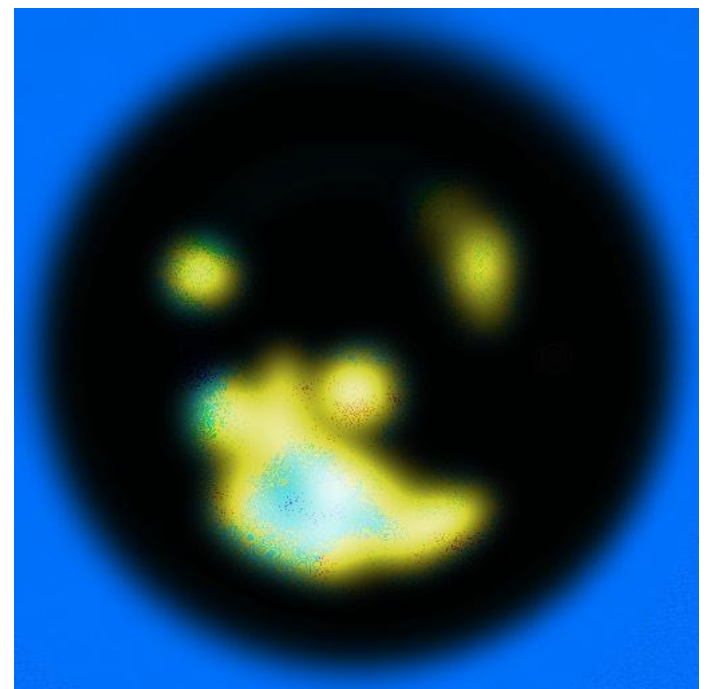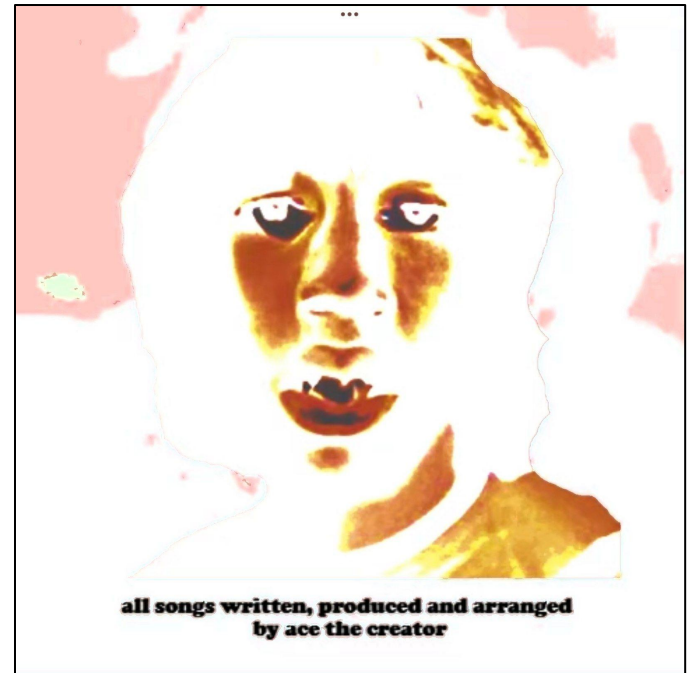
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Spartan
Newsflash

February
2024

DODGEBALL
by Jessie Briones Herrera, grade 8

CLEAN GNAW
by Ace, grade 7

COLOR COMPETITION
by Lily Murphy, Mya Sapletal, & Dakota Brinkman, grade 8

Color Competition!!! By: Dakota Brinkman, Lily Murphy, and Mya Sapletal

Colors:	Votes:
Red	IIIIIIIII
Orange	II
Yellow	I
Green	IIIIIII
Blue	IIIIIIIIIIIIII
Purple	IIIIIIIIIIII
Pink	I
Black	II
White	

The Winner Is: **Blue**

LOSER: **white**

We surveyed 50 people to determine what the favorite color at IGHMS is. Purple was a close second but blue was the overall winner.

THE PROBLEM WITH SOCIAL MEDIA

by Annabelle Her, grade 8

There is a lot of talk about social media being harmful to a teenagers mental health. Usually, cyberbullying or low self-esteem caused by the images on the apps are the identified culprit. What we don't talk about as much is how social media can play with people's emotions.

Every day, you can find "relatable" content on apps like TikTok and Instagram. Before, "relatable" content meant people doing everyday things like going to the store. Nowadays there has been a rise of "sad content." This content has people sharing sad quotes, or saying negative things with popular sad songs in the background. There are even videos for "sad content ideas." Of course, you can relate and even enjoy this type of content but continually scrolling through sad videos may cause more harm than good because it can normalize having a negative focus. It seems like having a sad life has been normalized with teens.

Self-diagnosing is also a problem that has been on the rise due to social media. Self-diagnosing is when you label yourself with something, in this case, a mental illness such as depression. Of course, there is nothing wrong with suspecting you have depression but you should always try to get a professional opinion.

Social media makes mental illness more normalized among teens. It also may make teens think their problems aren't as big as they are, or it can cause people to think their problems are bigger than they are. It can cause people to dismiss other's feelings, telling them that they are fine. Social media makes many teens also become more depressed and feel isolated.

Be careful what you are watching on social media, and how much social media you are watching. Your thoughts and feelings can be influenced in a negative way by what you see. There are a lot of pros and cons to social media, but normalizing asking and getting help should be the focus.
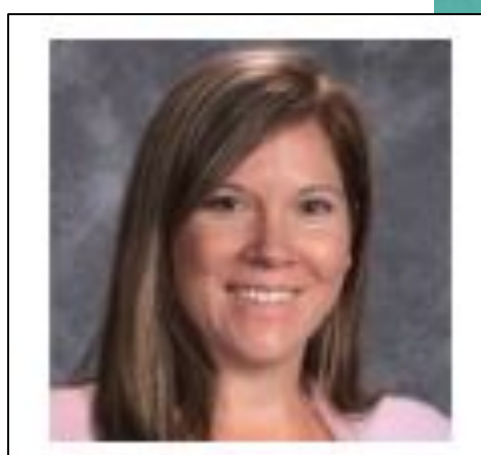
If you are seeking support, please contact a trusted adult, your doctor or you can contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by dialing 988. You can also contact the teen crisis line at 1-800-852-8836 or text 839862 (8 pm-midnight).

VOTE FOR CAT OF THE MONTH & TEACHER OF THE MONTH

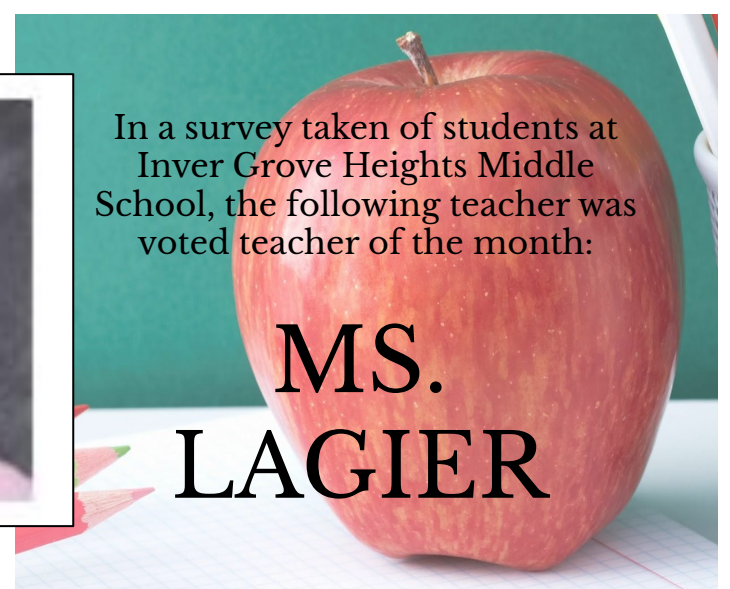**by Luna Flores and Anna Larsen, grade 8**

SCAN ME

ANIMAL OF THE MONTH & TEACHER OF THE MONTH

by Luna Flores and Anna Larsen, grade 8

do u want friez wit dat?

In a survey taken of students at Inver Grove Heights Middle School, the following teacher was voted teacher of the month:

MS. LAGIER

FEBRUARY 2024
by Bianca Bohman, grade 6

				1 National Optimist Day, World Hijab Day, National Get Up Day, National Decorating with Candy Day, National Dark Chocolate Day	**2** World Play Your Ukulele Day, National Bubble Gum Day, National Wear Red Day, National Tater Tot Day	**3** National Carrot Cake Cay, National Ice Cream for Breakfast Day, Take a Cruise Day
4 National Sweater Day, Dump Your Significant Jerk Day, World Cancer Day, National Yorkshire Pudding Day	**5** World Nutella Day, National Primrose Day, National Fart Day, National Chocolate Fondue Day	**6** National Yogurt Day, National Chopsticks Day, Safer Internet Day	**7** National Girls and Women in Sports Day, National Signing Day, National Send a Card to a Friend Day	**8** Opera day, National Molasses Bar Day, Laugh and Get Rich Day	**9** National Pizza Day, Chocolate Day	**10** Teddy Day, National Cream Cheese Brownie Day, Chinese New Year
11 Super Bowl Sunday, National Make a Friend Day, Super Chicken Wing Day, International Day of Women and Girls in Science	**12** National Lost Penny Day, National Clean Out Your Computer Day	**13** World Ratio Day, Black Love Day, Galentine's Day, International Natural Day, Self-Love Day, Get A Different Name Day, Pancake Day	**14** Valentine's Day, National Library Lovers Day	**15** Gumdrop Day, World Hippo Day	**16** National No One Eats Alone Day, Innovation Day, National Tim Tam Day, National TarTar Sauce Day	**17** National Random Acts of Kindness Day, National Public Science Day
18 National Eat Ice Cream For Breakfast Day, World Whale Day	**19** International Tug of War Day, National Family Day, National Chocolate Mint Day	**20** National Muffin Day, National Love Your Pet Day	**21** National Sticky Bun Day	**22** World Thinking Day, National Chili Day, World Yoga Day, Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day	**23** National Play Tennis Day, National Banana Bread Day, National Tootsie Roll Day, International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day	**24** National Tortilla Chip Day, National Trading Card Day, Lantern Festival
25 National Chocolate Covered Nut Day, National Clam Chowder Day	**26** National Pistachio Day, National Tell A Fairytale Day	**27** National Pokémon Day, The Big Breakfast Day, National Strawberry day, No Brainer Day	**28** National Pink Day, National Chocolate Souffle Day	**29**		