



## Holly Ridge Middle School

# HORNET HEADLINES

### Inside this issue:

|                                 |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>News</b>                     | <b>2-7</b>   |
| <b>Hornet News</b>              | <b>8-9</b>   |
| <b>Holiday Features</b>         | <b>10-11</b> |
| <b>Sports</b>                   | <b>12</b>    |
| <b>Hornet Sports</b>            | <b>13</b>    |
| <b>Trending Now</b>             | <b>14</b>    |
| <b>Science &amp; Technology</b> | <b>15</b>    |
| <b>Editorials</b>               | <b>16-18</b> |

## Holiday Creations

By Logan Bonacum

On December 2, 2016 there was an early release at HRMS. Students and teachers learned about multicultural holidays while sharing their favorite family holidays and celebrations with their second period class.

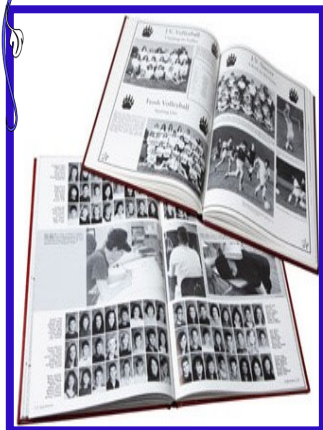
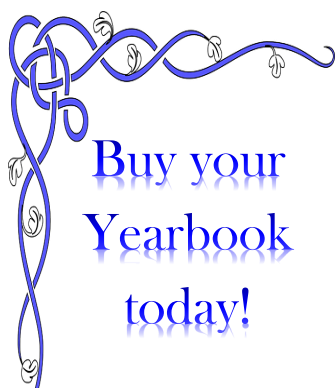
After learning about the different ways other peers celebrate various holidays, the follow-up activity involved brainstorming new holiday celebrations. Students worked in groups planning on a quadrant sheet of paper to identify why the

celebration would be significant, which activities, dances, foods, and even costumes that would be specific to their newly created holiday, after transitioning into their third period class.

There was a lot of freedom as to what holidays you could create. You could make holidays that existed in movies, books, and TV shows or in reality. Some of the ideas that students made were Free Food Day, Gift Day, Meme Fest, The Purge, Friend Day, Superhero Day, Super Bowl no-school Day, among many others.

## Upcoming Multicultural Holidays in the New Year

|                 |                           |  |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--|
| January 1       | New Year's Day            | First day of the new year                              |
| January 6       | Epiphany Feast            | Christian celebration with gifts for children in Italy |
| January 24      | Bodhi Day                 | Buddha attained enlightenment                          |
| February 13     | Mardi Gras                | Fat Tuesday-month-long parades and festivals           |
| February 14     | St. Valentine's Day       | Celebrates love and couples                            |
| March 12-13     | Holi Day                  | Hindu Festival of Colors                               |
| March 17        | St. Patrick's Day         | Irish Celebration                                      |
| April 17        | Sham el Nessim            | Ancient Egyptian holiday                               |
| May 20          | National Swim Day         | Water swimming safety                                  |
| May 26- June 25 | Ramadan                   | Muslim fasting in the ninth month                      |
| July 14         | Bastille Day              | French Independence Day                                |
| September 16    | National Gymnastics       | Promotes sport for young people                        |
| October 19      | Diwali                    | Hindu harvest festival                                 |
| October 31      | Samhain                   | Celebration of the harvest                             |
| December 8      | Day of the Little Candles | Begins the Christmas holidays                          |
| December 12-20  | Hanukah                   | Eight day Jewish celebration                           |
| December 26     | Boxing Day                | English holiday boxing food and gifts for help         |



## Dakota Access Pipeline Debate

By Claire Schumann

Recently, the Native American tribe, the Sioux are protesting plans for a pipeline in North Dakota. This pipeline is called the Dakota Access Pipeline. The Sioux live on a reservation, with a population of about 10,000. The pipeline would have to run under the Missouri River, a primary water source for the Sioux tribe. The pipeline would also have to pass through a sacred burial ground on the reservation. There has been a debate whether they should build the pipeline or not.

The tribe is worried that the pipeline could leak into their water source, the Missouri River. More than 3,300 pipeline leaks have been reported since 2010. The builders say that they are careful and take precautions, but the Sioux and other protestors say that there are still possible chances of leaking. The pipeline company disagrees with the protestors saying that it

would provide more jobs and less dependence on foreign oil.

The Sioux tribe and others have been protesting the pipeline. The tribe has sued the Army Corps of Engineers, accusing them of violating the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act for allowing the pipeline to be built. During the protesting, more than 140 people were arrested. For now, the plans for building the pipeline is on hold. There is a chance they may reroute the pipeline, but nothing has been decided yet. Neither side wants to back down yet on their position.



<http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2016/sep/13/dakota-access-company-committed-finishing-pipe/>

## The Ring of Fire

By Ella Pudhorodsky

The Ring of Fire is a major area in the basin of the Pacific Ocean caused by the result of plate tectonics, or the movement of Earth's crust. More than 75% of Earth's volcanoes are located in the Ring of Fire. The Ring of Fire includes oceanic trenches, volcanic belts, and volcanic arcs. The Ring of Fire is a great place for people looking for adventure and somewhere new.

Did you know that 90% of Earth's earthquakes occur there? Also, 81% of Earth's largest earthquakes were there. Can you imagine what an earthquake would be like there? Or how about experiencing a volcano eruption there? There are more than four hundred and fifty volcanoes in the Ring of Fire.

The Ring of Fire is so big that it extends from the Pacific Ocean to Japan, New Zealand, and in parts of other places around the Pacific Ocean. The Ring of Fire is basically a long continuing line of fire and consists of 42 volcanoes. Sometimes the forty two volcanoes cause damage to other places too. One of

many earthquakes once extended to Japan and New Zealand causing some severe damage. The Ring of Fire may sound fun to some people with a sense of adventure; first there were storm chasers, and now people want to travel to the Ring of Fire to report and write about it. In order to prepare for a trip to the Ring of Fire you will need, some adventurous spirit, a sense of danger, and sanity. Matthew Brace is one of the few people to travel there and report on his experience. In his article he included that his heart, "beats fast as the ground shudders for an eruption." Imagine experiencing an eruption at the Ring of Fire. He also included that the Costa Ricans are extremely proud of their volcano, also known as the Ring of Fire.

The Ring of Fire is an extremely amazing place that includes features that are amazing to even think about and witness. Maybe one day the Ring of Fire will be an open place to travel. Hotels, tours, restaurants, and activities might be in the Ring of Fire's future. Until then though, let's continue to let other explorers, like Matthew Brace go explore and write about their experience at the Ring of Fire.

## US Space War

By Ryan Blazer

Space for the longest time has been a peaceful environment, before the U.S. military decided to deploy weapons. Recently, the U.S. military has announced they have decided to deploy weapons in space and have already started. The military says conflict might arise in space. The military also believes they should put weapons in space, because other countries are, like China and Russia.

The U.S. depends on space more than any other nation. In an unlikely scenario, if another country were to launch a cyberattack on our satellites almost everything that depends on satellites would be off. This would cause a huge problem. Televisions, mobile networks and the Internet itself could completely stop, as well as other items dependent on time stamps, like GPS satellites, stock markets, bank transactions, and traffic lights would freeze. World leaders wouldn't be able to communicate across continents without our said technology. In the military, things like drones, smart bombs, and missiles would be offline. We wouldn't even know if another country were to launch a nuclear bomb on us.



[<http://www.cnn.com/2016/11/28/politics/space-war-us-military-preparations/>]

China and Russia are also deploying weapons that could be a huge threat to the U.S. Russia has deployed anti-satellites called the 'Kosmos 2499' designed to destroy satellites when they are close up. China has developed the 'Shiyan', which is equipped with a grappling arm that could easily take American satellites out of orbit. The military recognizes this and is trying to set up defenses in space. The U.S. is also working on advanced capabilities that could aid us in space and includes the US Navy's Laser Weapons System, or LAWs, the US military's first laser weapon. The X-37b pilotless drone has been tested and the U.S. is wondering if it can be made into a weapon.

It may seem like the U.S. is ready, but Russia and China have made much more rapid advances. The U.S. is preparing for the potential of the next World War III to be battled in space.



## Obama's Meeting

By Caleb Brill

President Obama has served his last term, which means there is a new president of the United States of America. Donald Trump sat down and had a discussion with President Barack Obama. The meeting went so well that it actually went an hour and a half past the expected time to cover the topics they needed to discuss. Obama said, "the meeting was excellent" and "he was encouraged" by Trump's willingness to work.

Donald Trump called President Barack Obama "a very good man." This was a great opportunity for Trump to gain a better understanding about politics, as well as an opportunity to make a good impression on Obama. It also gave people a sense that he will be a respectful president, which is more favorable and then he will be viewed as a respectful man running this country. So far, Trump now has a better impression on Obama. Although not perfect, because while Trump was running for president, he actually accused Obama of being the creator of ISIS. This may seem like a contradiction, since Trump called Obama "a very good man." Obama seems to be warming up to Trump, and said, "if you succeed, the country will succeed." Before the meeting ended, Trump said, "Mr. President, it was a great honor being with you and I look forward to being with you many, many more times."



## Brazil Soccer Team Shocking Plane Crash

By Yeti Gil

On November 30, 2016, the Chaperones soccer team was on its way to the final game of the Copa Sudamericana, an international competition of South America. When they were over Medellin, Colombia, an electrical failure occurred. An emergency signal was sent out by the pilot on Monday night, but a few minutes after the crash on the mountain, seventy-seven people died. Only six people survived: three players, two crew members, and a journalist. A lot of people knew some people on the soccer team. Roberto Pannarotto said, "I have lost a childhood friend a member of the coaching staff in the crash." This crash has left a lot of people in shock.



The plane took off from Bolivia and was flying over La Union at 10 PM when they sent an emergency call. The plane crash and moments later in the mountains of Antioquian Municipality, about twenty-two mile away from where they were supposed to land. They are still not sure what caused the electrical issue. Heavy rain and thunderstorm were passing over Colombia, around the time the plane was close to the airport. Three days after the crash, President Michel Temer said he will be assisting the families that were involved in the crash. Chaperones defender Alan Ruschel 24 was in stable condition after he was pulled out of the plane crash. As of the other survived Jackson Follman and Helio Zampier, journalist Rafael Valormbia were all moved to nearby hospital. Flight attendant Ximena Suarez and crew member Erwin Tumiri were also taken to nearby hospital. The goal-keeper Danilo survived but later died to his injuries. Many would say this might be the saddest time for Brazil.

## Egypt Economy Escapade

By Bob McCann

Recently in the news, Egypt has been going through tough times. The economy is failing, in recent years because the area around the country has been in many wars. When war happens it takes a lot of money to supply soldiers, and keep order. It also pollutes and makes areas around ground zero very uninhabitable. Because of the wars there has been very little opportunity to recover. Many of the citizens have been quoted saying "There is no hope in this country, fruit that was normally a dollar is now four dollars." The IMF are going to be help Egypt with a 12 billion dollar loan.



The Egyptian men and women are being restricted in terms of money. The value of the Egyptian dollar is dropping steeply, as previously quoted, "Fruit that was a dollar is now 4 dollars." The Egyptians are stooping low with buying U.S. dollars off of the black market. This leads to kidnappings and many ways to manipulate those buying. The IMF is planning on reinvigorating the job market and economy with the 12 billion dollar loan. It is hard to remember that they are just normal people trying to get by.

But there is still hope, fore the IMF will be paving way for the Egyptian government. A 12 billion dollar loan is set for 2017. This will help the government get back into the world market. The problem before hand was that the dollar had no value behind it. This loan hopes to fix that problem. The U.S. and those associated, are taking a big chance because there are many ways that things can go wrong, but it is better keeping an open mind and hoping for the best.

## Western Wild NC Forest Fires

By Molly Janssen

Forest fires can be very tragic, they are most likely caused because of natural causes and in some cases there are caused purposely. Or because of droughts. But the forest fire that happened in North Carolina, was not caused by a natural cause, or a drought.

The wildfire in North Carolina was caused purposely by two teenage boys, fifteen and seventeen years old, who lived in North Carolina. The boys were playing with fire when some branches caught on fire, leading to a forest fire.



This forest fire took place in Asheville, North Carolina in November 2016. The forest fire destroyed many families' homes and animals.

To stay safe in a forest fire, immediately after you see one, call **911**. Do not try to put out the fire by yourself. Get yourself and your family members out, and find somewhere safe. Your safety and your health is more important than your home.

When do you know it's safe to go back? You should only go back when the firefighters and police men tell you the area is clear and safe. Your first concern should always be about your health when there is a fire, because the fire can be very dangerous and the smoke can be very harmful to your body.

The western North Carolina fire was very tragic and destructive. These few facts about this particular fire and how to stay safe when one occurs, can help you in the future. Never play with fire unless you are under adult supervision.

## Holly Springs Parade

By Kathleen Gomes-Laureano

'Tis the season to be jolly fa la la la la, la la la la. It's Christmas season and everyone needs to spread their Christmas spirit! In the small town of Holly Springs, a Christmas parade was held to spread Christmas spirit. All this joy was held on December 10, 2016 at 11:00 AM on Holly Springs' Main Street. The Christmas parade surely brought joy to many folks in town and the season's joy will continue to increase.

Holly Springs is growing by the second and has celebrated this Christmas parade every year for almost twenty years. Every year the parade includes bands, vehicles, dancer, Santa Claus, and more. On the day of the parade, it was about 34 degrees Fahrenheit, but that didn't stop all the hundreds of people from coming out to watch the local parade.



[[hollysprings.us/270/Happy-Holly-Days-Christmas-Parade](http://hollysprings.us/270/Happy-Holly-Days-Christmas-Parade)]

The parade included multiple bands from high schools and a middle school. Most parades only have high schools participate, but this Holly Springs parade included the middle school band from Holly Ridge Middle School conducted by Michael Grimes. The parade included tiny race cars that had senior citizens driving them, classic cars, modern cars, mascots, and many other things.

This parade is a real spirit lifter and it brings tons of joy to all who attend. Next year, Holly Springs is expected to have another parade for the fun of it and to experience more joy. Participants can apply to be in the parade, so if you want to show your talent, go for it! Don't forget, to spread some Christmas spirit!



## Cyber Attacks

By Lydia Stockell

Cyber-attacks can happen anywhere at any time. Because we live in a very internet connected world, cyber-attacks are becoming very common. Most people rely on technology in today's society and not knowing what's unsafe to click on could be dangerous.



What is a cyber-attack? A cyber-attack is an attempt by hackers to damage or destroy a computer or network system. It can affect our everyday lives. From shutting down popular websites to making electrical grids go down. These attacks don't just occur in the U.S., but all around the world. In the U.S., cyber-attacks happen as many as ten million times a day. People use cyber-attacks to obtain information, or to disrupt networks. Hacking and cyber-attacks are considered criminal felonies. The FBI handles major cyber-attacks, especially government attacks.

Rumored attacks earlier this year were that the 2016 Presidential election counts may have been tampered with. There were suspicions that Russia may have been behind the tampering. Also, Hillary Clinton was investigated earlier this year after having private emails that contained classified information in them. In recent news, Yahoo, a major search engine used by millions daily, just uncovered a major security breach. Investigators say that the cyber-attack has been going on since August of 2013. Over one billion users have had information from their accounts stolen. "Yahoo badly screwed up; they weren't taking security seriously and that's now very clear. I would have trouble trusting Yahoo going forward," says Bruce Schneier, a cryptologist and one of the world's most respected security experts. The hackers have not been identified. This is just a glimpse for us into the future.

In a few countries, the military has also taken action involving cyber hacking. The PLA Unit 61398 is a Chinese military unit that deals with hacking. Although, a few years ago, some of the members were charged tampering with U.S. commercials. Because China and Russia are the United States biggest competitors, it is expected to have conflicts between the countries.

The easiest way to avoid being hacked is to not click on anything out of the ordinary. If there is a commercial or advertisement that looks suspicious, do not click on it. There are many different software companies that have software to protect you from hacking. All in all, hacking is a very big problem in today's society. Next time you're online, be careful what you click on and be safe online.

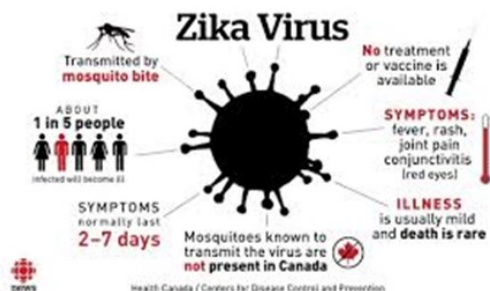
## Zika Virus is Ongoing

By Lina Laouti

The Zika virus is an ongoing threat, known to be carried by mosquitos. Scientists are currently trying to decrease the mosquito population. Male mosquitos don't bite, but females do, so they are the disease carrier responsible for the spreading of the virus. Scientists are now trying to figure out a vaccine to inject into the mosquitos they have caught. Beating Zika will require openness to innovation in both technology and policy.

Scientists are attempting to inject the vaccine into males, so that if they mate, the eggs won't hatch. They are trying their very best to not release female mosquitos, since they may be carrying this deadly virus more than males.

For safety precautions, everyone should avoid mosquitos, but especially pregnant women, because their unborn child could be affected, and they could miscarry their baby, or it could be born with complications. Currently, the Zika virus is ongoing until a cure can be found.





## The Island of Plastic

By Arden Stritzinger and Amanda Hernandez

Midway Island is a place of loss and peril. It is an area infested with pollution. The island has trash and plastic covering the island, as far as you can see. Many lives of animals have been lost due to this, and the population on the island is decreasing as time passes.

The island is right in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, and just to the west of Hawaii. A flight to Midway Island is about three hours northwest of Honolulu. The entire coastline is full with trash and broken down materials. Most of this pollution is from trash being emptied from industrial areas hundreds of miles away, and has been happening for the past few years. Not too many people realize the importance of reducing pollution, and how reducing it will positively affect the Earth's wildlife. Many industries from miles and miles away are the main problem. Also, when people are driving with boats, trash is being dumped into the ocean, or oftentimes, when people are just going along with their day. This mostly comes from Hawaii, and its inhabitants. Sometimes, people forget that this widely affects wildlife and nature, and it is not good for animals, or the environment.

Recently, one of CNN's own reporters, Nick Paton Walsh, traveled to Midway Island. He and a tour guide walked around throughout the entire island and noticed something strange. They didn't hear or see that much wildlife. But what they did see was trash, and lots of it. But even worse, underneath that trash, was where they found the missing wildlife, and they weren't alive. There were many dead birds, and plastic pieces within the birds.

The pollution has grown worse, and now even the President of the United States, Mr. Barack Obama, has been notified about it and he boarded a flight to the island. He was very disappointed at what he saw. Not only that, but everywhere he looked, there was trash. President Obama said that he was planning to snorkel off of the coastline, but even there within the beautiful, once crystal clear waters of Midway Island, there was pollution.



***Let's all do our part at the Ridge, and be better stewards with our environment and our resources!***

**Don't Forget to Feed the Bin!**



## Seventh Grade Science Fair

By Cristina Sullivan

The annual Holly Ridge Middle School seventh grade science fair occurred on December 6, 2016. All seventh graders attending Holly Ridge are required to participate. Students who decide they want a good grade will conduct a science experiment and graph it on a board. To get full credit you must include the problem, hypothesis, experiment, results and lastly the conclusion don't forget to include the independent variable and dependent variable. When graphing it on the board you must make it look organized and neat. The board usually is pretty large so it can be viewed at the science fair easily.

Decoration also contributes to the grade so contestants typically try to make it very decorative. Some of the best experiments will be able to be in finals where they can be interviewed for their project. Finalists also get a special ribbon and get to stand near the front entrance during the science fair the whole time. The night of the science fair was a full house, parents and children got to view all different types of projects and it sure was packed in there. Students will stand near their project at their assigned times as teachers, other students and parents ask questions on their project. During their assigned time their job is to teach others on their experiment.

The science fair is a major grade and is counted as a project. All the projects received participation awards, after the science fair you can go home with your board and the next day you will most likely get your grade. As long as they did their best and followed all the instructions students would get a great grade on this. I've asked many seventh graders how their science fair experience was and they said good things. Seems like the seventh graders, including myself, enjoyed their 7th grade annual science fair!

## Pieces of Gold

By Ella Pudhorodsky

On Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Cadby's yearlong six period Dance II class went to audition for *Pieces of Gold*. The audition was held at Pine Hollow Middle School in Raleigh. The class went to perform a dance choreographed by them and Mrs. Cadby. The purpose of the audition was to audition for the performance at Memorial Auditorium on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and to compete against other schools in Wake County. *Pieces of Gold* is not just for dancing, it includes all arts such as dance, singing, and artwork. The dance program at The Ridge has not competed in *Pieces of Gold* for a couple of years, so this was a first time for a majority of the dancers here. The dancers seemed to enjoy the audition, so they will probably enjoy the competition portion of *Pieces of Gold*. Last year at *Pieces of Gold*, the school that won was AB Combs Elementary School.

The class left during their sixth period to head to Pine Hollow which was about forty-five minutes away from Holly Ridge. The class performed a modern dance to the poem "To this Day". It was a modern dance that the class had been working on for about two months before being ready to perform. The class all felt like it was an amazing, yet nervous experience. For some of the dancers, it was their first dance audition and from some comments I heard, the reactions of them were good. The class took the activity bus to Pine Hollow and were gone until after school hours. It took about five minutes to audition but the class waited about 30 minutes to go in. It was a nerve wrecking 30 minutes because the class saw their competition, and they looked professional.

Dance II members found out the results of their audition on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> and the results were great! The class made *Pieces of Gold*. They were all very happy. The class celebrated their accomplishment with some donuts too. The class will go back to compete at the Memorial Auditorium on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, and hopefully bring home a golden win against all other schools arts program. The class needs to continue to prepare hard for their performance in March and do their best when they go to Raleigh Memorial Auditorium in downtown Raleigh.



## Eighth grade Holocaust Lessons

By Yeti Gil

In the amazing school of Holly Ridge Middle, the students of the 8th grade classrooms are learning about World War II. More specifically, The Anne Frank diary, which later was written in the format of a play. The students started with notes on the Holocaust and World War Two. After that students got the literature books to being reading the diary. They add three pages of question in their language art note. Once student were done gluing pages in their notebook they began to reads the first chapter.

Once student were done with reading or listening to audio recording of the chapter they would being answer the question to chapter one. They will continue with the rest of the story. Once students are done with Act one they will get 3 more pages of question for Act two. Also student will be answering some thinking question for example "is war inevitable?" After the students are done with the thinking question they begin with Act two and answer the questions as well as summarizing the chapters. When the students are done with the diary of Anne Frank the students would finish the rest of the questions. After they finished the rest of the question the students will finished the rest of the thinking question if not finished.

Many students have a lot of emotion and thought on the Anne Frank story. Even they that wasn't the real diary or not even all the chapters or Acts. Rocco Said "Anne Frank is very interesting and sad story. Which a lot of people agree with him on that statement. Another statement for another student came from Bob. Bob McCann said, "So this is what people went through when hiding from the Germans or Nazis during World War II." Ryan Blazer said, "This hard to be a very hard time for all family being separated from each other for ever how long. Not even knowing what is happening to them and no way of keeping in touch is a very sad thing.

## Greaser and Soc Day

By Kathleen Gomes-Laureano

It's *Greaser and Soc Day* at HRMS! On January 18th, 2017, 7th grade students and teachers dress up as a greaser or soc. This day is based on the book 'The Outsiders' by S.E. Hinton. Here at the Ridge the whole 7th grade has read 'The Outsiders and are going to choose which side to be on.

The main idea in the book 'The Outsiders' is that socs are always jumping random greasers because they think they are better than them... before the incident happens. After two incidents happened, some greasers became heroes and get framed as murders. As some may know from the book, socs are rich and snobby kids and the greasers are the poor and nicer kids. Students were allowed to wear clothing from either one of these sides. Many students participated while some did not. Seventh grade students have now watched the Outsiders movie in their Language Arts class.

This experience was wonderful for middle school students. It would be marvelous if students and teachers could just dress up as a group of people from something all students and teachers have seen. Who knows, maybe in the future the whole school could dress up as some of the characters from a movie or TV show also. Always, remember to 'stay golden.'



## Santa University

By Erin Henry

Santa University is where “Santas” go to learn to act like a real Santa. It is a four day class. The men learn to have to perfect Santa beard so they are more believable to the kids. Santa University is located in Los Angeles, California. It is also known as SCU, which stands for Santa Claus University. SCU does not only teach men to become a perfect Santa Claus but it teaches women to become Mrs. Claus as well. These Santas and Mrs. Clauses want “to bring happiness to the children.”

There are over 1,000 members in the AORBS, or Amalgamated Order of Real Bearded Santas. They get together once a year and call themselves “Santa’s Ambassadors” Some of the best Santas could make up to \$100,000 a year.



Insurance is another topic covered in a case a child is accidentally dropped or battered in any way, shape or form. Another subject taught in SCU is the history of Santa Claus and how his name was spread across the world. They are learning how to prevent lawsuit as well as the appearance and attitude. Santas are taught to always have hands visible in photos to keep them and the kids safe. The commonly asked questions from children are answered, too. Such as “How can reindeer fly?” and “What if I don’t have a chimney?”

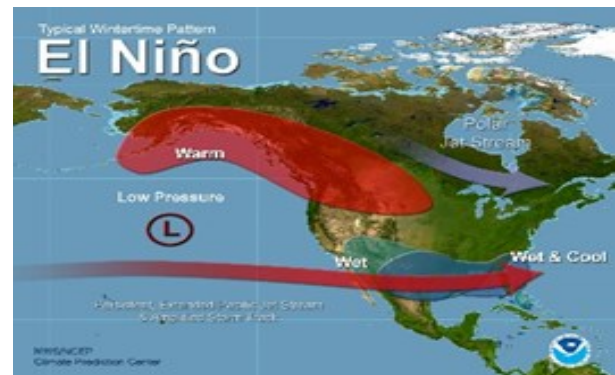
Clothing is made in Hollywood because the more realistic the Santa suit looks, the more he can charge to talk to a child. Six hundred to eight hundred Santa costumes are made a year in Hollywood alone. Each costume is about \$18,000.

## Wintery Weather Predictions

By Claire Schumann

This winter, it is predicted that it will be a cold, wet winter. The above average chances of this is getting higher. Even if this winter is wet and cold, that does not guarantee snow. It is predicted that snowfall is below-normal this year. Weather is predicted to be near average.

It is unlikely, but not impossible that the weather will be a repeat from last year. The average temperature of January is about 47 degrees and February’s temperature will be about 46 degrees. Winter will have higher average temperatures this year. The coldest parts of winter will start in January and end in mid-February. Even if it is a warm winter, there are still cold days. Most snow is predicted in February.



[[http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/el\\_nino/lanina-faq](http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/el_nino/lanina-faq)]

If there is a strong El Niño, that could mean a wet winter. El Niño is a force that causes variations in climate patterns. It is the abnormal warming in the tropical Pacific Ocean. El Niño affects places around the world. You should not just make assumptions on El Niño though. There are many other variables involved. You can predict weather, but it is not always exact.



## Acorn Drop Raleigh

By Erin Henry

You might watch the ball drop in New York at midnight on January first. In Raleigh, a giant acorn is dropped to show when it's officially the New Year. Raleigh is known as the 'City of Oaks' represented by the acorn. The ball drop brings millions of Americans every year to watch the ball drop in Manhattan, but in North Carolina if you are watching it on TV, the screen is split, so you can watch the New York ball or the acorn drop. The acorn does not bring as much attention as the New York ball. People from Raleigh or near Raleigh can watch it in person without having to travel far.

In Raleigh, on First Night, the acorn drops and fireworks go off at 6:00 PM for kids who cannot stay awake until midnight, but still want to enjoy the night. At midnight, the acorn drops to show the official New Year. There is a larger display of more fireworks at midnight before everything closes down for the night. Before the ball drops there are performances, food and beverages for adults.

Children events start at 2:00 PM until 6:00 PM. The Raleigh drop usually attracts about 40,000 people. In 2012, a new record was set with 80,000 in attendance. For the 2015 to 2016 drop, the theme was "Celebrating North Carolina's Firsts." Non-popular facts are told about our state. The first night of the New Year is built on "a foundation of Celebration, Community, the New Year, and the Arts"

## Martin Luther King Jr. Day

By Ryan Blazer

On January 16 of this year, the holiday recognizing Martin Luther King Jr. is being celebrated. It occurs on the third Monday of January. The reason we celebrate is because Martin Luther King Jr. was born on the third Monday of January. So every year, it is celebrated on the third Monday. Several things are celebrated on this remarkable holiday.

Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday was actually on January 15<sup>th</sup>. We celebrate his speeches and the famous Civil Rights Movement for the once oppressed African Americans. Martin Luther King Day is also a day for Volunteerism where people volunteer to help their communities. It's important that we do this on this day helping our communities in memory of a great person who led many who followed his dreams.



People at the Ridge also do things on Martin Luther King Day. Since it is a day off from work and school you can basically do whatever you want. Not just that, but people like 8<sup>th</sup> grader Bob McCann have spent time with their family. Caleb Bone said he was playing Minecraft with friends. Lucas La Russa said he played with friends on this day. Rocco Marvilli said he went outside to play basketball with friends. Those are just some people, but I bet most people just relaxed on this holiday and reflected on the memory of a great person who changed America a lot, for the better.



## Top 25 College Basketball

By Jaden Winter

The NCAA top 25 teams are set and in first place it is the Villanova Wildcats. Their leading scorer this season is Josh Hart, who is averaging 20 points per game (PPG). The second ranked team is the UCLA Bruins, led by point guard Lonzo Ball, and their leading scorer this season is TJ Leaf he is averaging 17 PPG. In third place in the rankings is the Kansas Jayhawks, with leading scorer Frank Mason III, who is averaging 20 PPG. In fourth place in the rankings, are the Baylor Bears. Their leading scorer is Johnathan Motley, who is averaging 15 PPG. In 5<sup>th</sup> place, it's the Duke Blue Devils. Their leading scorer this season is, Luke Kennard he is averaging 20ppg. The Kentucky Wildcats are in 6<sup>th</sup> place and their leading scorer is Malik Monk, who is averaging 21 PPG.

The Gonzaga Bulldogs are in 7<sup>th</sup> place. Their leading scorer is Nigel Williams Goss and he is averaging 14 PPG. Justin Jackson is the leading scorer averaging 17 PPG for North Carolina, in 8<sup>th</sup> place. Creighton is in 9<sup>th</sup> place and their leading scorer is Marcus Foster, who is averaging 18 PPG.

In tenth place in the standings, Louisville Cardinals with leading scorer Donovan Mitchell. This season he is averaging 11 PPG. West Virginia follows in 11<sup>th</sup> place. Esa Ahmad is their leading scorer averaging 12 PPG. The Virginia Cavaliers are in 12<sup>th</sup> place. Their leading scorer this season is Austin Nichols, who is averaging 11 PPG.

The Butler Bulldogs are in 13<sup>th</sup> place. Their leading scorer is Kelan Martin and he is averaging 18 PPG. The Wisconsin Badgers are in 14<sup>th</sup> place. Their leading scorer this season is Bronson Koenig and he is averaging 15 PPG. Purdue is ranked 15<sup>th</sup>. Their leading scorer is Caleb Swanigan he is averaging 17 PPG. The Indiana Hoosiers are in 16<sup>th</sup> place with leading scorer this season James Blackmon, Jr. whose averaging 17 PPG. Xavier's Trevon Blueitt leads scoring with an average of 19 PPG and they are ranked in 17<sup>th</sup> place. Arizona is ranked 18<sup>th</sup>. Their leading scorer is Lauri Markkanen, who is averaging 16 PPG. Saint Mary's is ranked 19<sup>th</sup> with leading scorer Jock Landale averaging 18 PPG.

Oregon, ranked 20<sup>th</sup>, has Chris Boucher as their leading scorer averaging 14 PPG. Florida State is ranked 21<sup>st</sup>. Their leading scorer this season is Dwayne Bacon and he is averaging 16 PPG, followed by

South Carolina being ranked in 22<sup>nd</sup> place. Their leading scorer is Sindarius Thornwell and he is averaging 18 PPG. USC is ranked 23<sup>rd</sup> in the rankings with leading scorer this season Elijah Stewart averaging 15 PPG. Jacob Evans is the leading scorer averaging 15PPG for 24th ranked Cincinnati is ranked 24<sup>th</sup>. Last in the rankings at 25th place is Notre Dame with Bonzie Colson as the leading scorer this season averaging 16 PPG.

## NBA Standings

By Aiden Simon

Today is only a few days away from the halfway point of the 2016-2017 NBA season and the race is close in both the east and the west. Starting with the east the Cleveland Cavaliers look to dominate the east again but they only have a 2 game lead over the second place Toronto Raptors. For the Raptors in certainly won't help that last night they just lost to the 13<sup>th</sup> seed Philadelphia 76ers an embarrassing loss.

The other six playoff teams in the east include the Boston Celtics, Atlanta Hawks, and Washington Wizards at the 3, 4, and 5. The 6, 7, and 8<sup>th</sup> spots belong to the Indiana Pacers, Charlotte Hornets, and Chicago Bulls. The Hornets have made the playoffs many times before but yet have never won there conference. The Brooklyn Nets are last place in the east with an 8-33 record.

In the west, the first spot belongs to the notorious Golden State Warriors, but just like Cleveland, things won't be as easy this year, because of rising teams, like the Houston Rockets. Though the Warriors have a 3.5 advantage over the second place San Antonio Spurs, nothing is out of reach in this race. The rest of the playoff teams in the west consist of the Rockets, Clippers, Jazz, Grizzlies, Thunder, and Nuggets in order from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> place. The Portland Trail Blazers coming in at 9<sup>th</sup> place are so far a disappointment. They were supposed to be a championship contending team and as of now aren't in the playoffs. Power rankings top 5 put the Raptors at 5<sup>th</sup>, Spurs at 4<sup>th</sup>, Rockets at 3<sup>rd</sup>, Cavaliers at 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the Golden State Warriors at first and the west and the NBA. Russel Westbrook is ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in overall offense, Hassan Whiteside is ranked as number 1 defensive player.

## Boys Basketball

By Jaden Winter

The HRMS basketball season is underway. Currently, the Hornets record is 3-4. They started out the season with an away game against Salem. The Hornets lost the close game by 9 points. The next game was the team's first home game against Davis Drive. It was close, but Davis Drive came out with the win.



The Hornets next game was away against Mills Park. The game was a blowout and the team lost by 25 points. This put them at a record of 0-3. The first win of the season came at home against East Cary. The game was close until the fourth quarter. Then the Hornets ended up winning the game by 12 points.

The next game was away. The game was played against Westlake. This game was also very close all the way through the game but Westlake won the game by 10. After this game the Hornets went on a 2 game winning streak. The first win of the two came away against Fuquay-Varina. The game was intense. Joey Phillips made 14 free throws in a row in the fourth quarter to overcome Fuquay by 3 points.

The Hornets most recent game was against Apex. They were up by 17 at one point in the third quarter, but Apex managed to comeback and make it a close game. The Hornets ended up winning this game by 4 points with a clutch 1 by Gary Williams and a free throw by Thomas Harris with only a minute left in the game.

## Lady Hornets Basketball

By Molly Janssen

Here at Holly Ridge Middle School, there are many after school activities to try out or participate in when the school day ends. Exercise and a healthy diet is a priority of our students and faculty and that's why they provide clubs and sports to encourage involvement.

At the Home of the Hornets, the girls' basketball team is very competitive, and female athletes must try out to make the team. Try outs are open to seventh and eighth graders who must follow a few simple steps. One of the steps is to get your physical forms and take it to the front office, so they can evaluate your health and make sure you are healthy enough to run around and compete. Your parents also are going to have to sign a few forms to make sure they support you on the team. After these steps are completed, you'll learn that it's absolutely worth it.

Team sports are definitely fun and something to try, because being a part of a team can be one of the best and most rewarding experiences during the middle school years. At this time in the season, the Lady Hornets basketball team have won all their games, except for one.



To encourage the girls' basketball team, the Hornet cheerleading squad cheers them on from the sidelines, as well as the fans, family and friends sitting in the bleachers. You should definitely come out to support them this year!

## Footbonaut

By Nate Wright

The Footbonaut is a soccer machine used to increase the accuracy of the user. It's around a 3 million dollar machine. Footbonaut was designed by Christian Güttler in Berlin, Germany. The machine is described as a robotic cage. Many professional soccer players use the Footbonaut. While the art of repetition can only be a good thing for a soccer players said skills, how can playing against a machine in a small cage truly prepare you for a match? "You can make sounds, stadium sounds in your sessions," Rafael Hoffner says. "But we actually play with two sounds; the first sound is the ball machine and then double sound for the goal. But on the field in a game you don't get a double sound like a bird (the machine beep); it's a loud stadium, you hear nothing. "Then it's important we can say 'silence' in here, you must only see which direction the ball is coming out and where the goal is". It's more pressure for the player - no sounds, only stadium noise.

When you play ten balls with sound that's okay, but playing ten balls with complete silence, that's really hard. "To increase the sensation of a real match day, Hoffner says they also put defenders into the circle to hassle and harry the player as he tries to control the ball, while also increasing the frequency at which the balls are fired out. After installing the Footbonaut, Hoffenheim, a German soccer team recorded its highest finish in the Bundesliga for five years -- ninth -- though last season the club flirted with relegation before eventually finishing 15th. In a sport where so many factors -- such as injuries -- can affect a team over the course of a season, Hoffner is convinced the contraption has a positive impact on the players. "It's clear they get faster the more they use it," Hoffner says. "If you repeat the training all the time, you'll get a better score and will be faster. That's the concept of the Footbonaut.

"Often the players that are fast in here are fast on the pitch". It's not often a player is perfect in training with the Footbonaut and is bad on the field. I don't know one player that's like that. "So the Footbonaut definitely helps improve the player's on-field performances? "Yes, yes, yes," Hoffner replies emphatically. His claim is supported by the stats he has collected. The first team is on average 0.3 seconds faster

in 2014, while the youth team has improved by half a second. If you practice with the Footbonaut your skill will increase.



## Car key cloning device leaves police Scratching their heads

By Ian Shore

Recently, all across America there have been some car thefts that are leaving police in shock. No glass broken, all cars are locked, and they are disappearing in seconds. How is this happening? Well, this is actually a two man job and people wait until they find a victim to steal from. They follow their victim with a special device that makes a copy of their key fob. Once the key is copied, they back off. The other person goes to the car with the device in range and it unlocks the car. They open the door and take what they want or drive off.

Overall, this is a major issue that needs to be addressed. These keyless entry cars are being made all the time. Should we go back to conventional car keys? Police don't really have any way to catch these people because there's no broken glass to analyze and they steal the car so quickly, that once the victim returns, they could be far away fleeing the scene. Even worse, these devices are being obtained through the internet



which is widely available around the world. Could this trend spread worldwide? Only time will tell. We have just entered the new trend of car thefts, possibly house break-ins as well.



## A New Movie Theater Experience

By Cristina Sullivan

A new movie theater experience like none other is the 4DX movie. Usually we go to the normal theaters that just have the typical popcorn and seating arrangements. But MX4D movie theaters have ways that help you “feel” the action. The 4DX includes high-tech motion seats and special effects including wind, fog, lightning, bubbles, water, rain and scents, in both 2D and 3D formats. These effects work in perfect synchronicity with the action on screen creating the most exhilarating cinematic experience yet. The movie theater has lots of different cool things like a neck tickler and even a leg one too!

They use air blasts, wind blast and water splashes. You may ask “why should I go to that kind of Movie Theater?” Well, to enjoy the adrenaline rush as your seat rolls and tilts and it feels like you’re in the movie because you can feel and smell it. 4DX is widely considered to be the biggest innovation in cinematic technology to date. Developed in South Korea by the CJ conglomerate, a leader in the Asian entertainment industry, this amazing, new experience was warmly adopted by the big Hollywood Studios.

These kinds of movie theaters were just released in America as they were mainly popular in other countries like China. And it seems like us Americans really like this new experience because 4DX movie theaters are becoming more and more popular as people are hearing about this. Right now it’s not super popular because there aren’t many adds as there are only a few theaters that can do 4DX because it takes a lot of money and time to build a theater that includes this service. Right now it may not seem like it but 4DX movie theaters are sure to be the new rave especially for thriller movies!

## Self-Driving Cars

By Maliyah Richardson

In 2017, we have self-driving cars. These self-driving cars are very cool but sadly, you can’t buy them at a dealership, you can only rent them as a rental car. And some driving companies, like Uber, are making some of their cars self-driving. The price to turn your car into a self-driving car is about \$7,000 to \$10,000 in the year of 2025.

You may be wondering how self-driving cars work. These self-driving cars have a camera on the top of the car, and use its sensors its environment without human touch. These self-driving cars also have a high grade GPS system built in and once you type your location in, it starts to take you to your location.

You may also be wondering how long have these cars been around. Google first started a self-driving car company, called Waymo, and has been working with them since 2009. The first self-driving car was a Toyota Prius. The second self-driving car was in 2012 and was a Lexus RX450h, more than 300,000 miles self-driven in this car. In 2014, Waymo designed a new prototype vehicle.

How are self-driving cars useful? If a robot is driving a car it is most likely not going to get in an accident, but if a human is 81 percent of the time you are going to get in an accident. And self-driving cars can help out the elderly and people who may have had a few drinks and don’t want to risk driving home. These self-driving cars can help the elder if they need to go somewhere and it’s raining really hard and they don’t want to save themselves. This is why I think self-driving cars are a good way to help society.



## Plagiarism

By Baron Lo

Plagiarism is not something you should be doing if you want to be good, when people are plagiarizing, they are taking other word, in high school, the teacher will be very mad at you and maybe send a letter to your parents, plagiarism is very bad thing is school year, even adult some time plagiarize.

Let's talk about how bad is plagiarize, First plagiarizing can make you lazy, and not want to do work because your body just want to copy the answer, so you don't think much about what are you going to do next. If you plagiarize, you're not alone. In 2005, when 3,000 high school students were asked if they plagiarize, 59% of the students plagiarize, and 34% of the students self-reported to a teacher or a grown up. The number is growing. In 2007, of 30,000 students, 60.8% of college students have cheated on a test or quiz, but only 16% of the students admitted to cheating.



[[https://www.google.com/search?q=how+many+%25+of+people+plagiarize&biw=1440&bih=770&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewj1oeOdufbQAhXD7CYKHdUDAnEQ\\_AUIBygC&safe=active&ssui=on#imgsrc=pp26NGX](https://www.google.com/search?q=how+many+%25+of+people+plagiarize&biw=1440&bih=770&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewj1oeOdufbQAhXD7CYKHdUDAnEQ_AUIBygC&safe=active&ssui=on#imgsrc=pp26NGX)]

Plagiarism is wrong, but people just don't want to do their own work. Developing technology is becoming more advanced, and people are getting lazy, because they don't want to think for themselves. Many technology devices we have today, like iPhones, can be challenging for people to have to control themselves from plagiarizing.

## Too much phone usage?

By Kaiya Vaughan Pierce

In America it's really easy to get sucked into the world of social media but the thing is that people get sucked in for a long while. With devices being kind of like a necessity in everyday life it's easy to begin to get addicted. You use it for school, for entertainment, to get work done, to figure thing out, to see what's going on in the world, etc. Since you use it so often I see how many people can get attached to it. You may be addicted to yours so listen up.

Devices are getting better as time goes by so this makes more people want it and when they have it then it becomes normal to have it all the time. Even though this addiction isn't in diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders it's still a thing and may one day maybe even in the distant future be listed there. This addiction could really affect your life in a bad way and get you lost in touch with those around you that you care about. Your need for your phone could cause a negative change in brain development like a hard time making decisions, it could be hard to control your emotions, and you may not have great impulse control which makes it more likely for you to get into other things that aren't good for your health.

Some of the symptoms you may experience are panicking when misplacing your cell phone, driving while using your phone, sleeps with your smartphone, believing your phone went off when it hasn't. These aren't even all of the symptoms but here are some and you or someone you know may be like this so maybe a phone addiction is something to suspect. If you're someone that follows rules very well then maybe you should think about setting rules to limit phone usage. You could even possibly go to therapy to help you lose this bad habit. Try to use your time wisely and limit your phone usage. Attachment to your devices could lead to bad things as you can see and that's not even the tip of it. Here are additional symptoms to consider:

Are you stressed a lot?  
 Insomnia or a change in sleeping patterns?  
 Do you have anxiety?  
 Are you aggressive or a delinquent?  
 Do you have back problems?  
 Do you have eyesight problems?

## Jcole The Come Up

By Aiden Simon

The American rapper Jermaine Lamarr Cole was born on January 28, 1985 in Frankfurt, West Germany. Jcole, his stage name, was raised in Fayetteville, North Carolina or as he refers to as Fayetteenam. He first earned recognition with The Come Up an album he released in 2007. Cole signed with Jay-z's Roc Nation in 2009. In November 12, 2010 Cole released album Friday Night Lights which was very successful. His first studio album, Cole World: The Sideline Story in 2011. The album would climb to number 1 on the Billboard 200, and went platinum. 2013's Born Sinner and 2014's, 2014 Forest Hills Drive received positive reviews from critics. 2014 Forest Hills Drive was the first album in over 25 years to go platinum with no features. Cole is very talented, he is self-taught in piano, also a producer for artists Kendrick Lamar and Janet Jackson, along with his music.

Dreamville Records is his non-profit organization. In 2015, he decided to use his childhood home to house single mothers for free. Jcole is associated with Bas, Jay-z, Wale, Kendrick Lamar, Omen, Cozz, Trae tha truth, Lute, Miguel, TLC, Ari Lennox, Elle Carner, and Jeremih. Jcole's dad was in the military so he was born at a military base in Frankfurt. His mother was a German postal worker.

Cole's father abandoned the family while his mother took him to Fayetteville. In his youth he was very interested in basketball and music. Jcole began rapping at twelve years old and really took it serious in 2000 when his mom bought an ASR-X music sampler. He would first work with Bomm Sheltuh, a local group. High school went well for Cole; he graduated with a 4.2 GPA. College was a reality for him; he went to St. John's in New York City and graduated in 2007, but received his diploma in 2015, because of an overdue library book.

On December 9, 2016 Jcole released his most recent 4 Your Eyez Only, which includes From Whom the Bell Tolls, Immortal, Déjà vu, Ville Mentality, She's Mine pt1, Change, Neighbors, Foldin Clothes, She's Mine pt2, and 4 Your Eyez Only. Cole also released two singles before the album, False Prophets and Everybody Dies. Both tracks are considered 'diss' tracks toward various artists.

## New Addition to a Classic Edition

By Megan Armstrong

On November 11, 2016, Nintendo released the now sold out Mini Nintendo Entertainment System (NES) Classic Edition, thirty-one years after it was first released in North America. This new NES has thirty games already installed into the console, and without cartridges needed. These games include Super Mario 1, 2, and 3, Kirby's Adventure, Metroid, The Legend of Zelda, and many more classic games. Since most NES's no longer work on modern televisions, the classic edition has a HDMI cable to play all your favorite 8-bit games in high definition glory.



Nintendo was founded in 1889 in Japan, and was originally a Hanafuda playing card company. After dabbling a bit in toys the company eventual settled on video games after releasing the Game and Watch, a handheld toy with just one game installed. The company went on to create well known video game characters and immensely successful consoles such as the DS, the Wii, and the soon to be released Nintendo Switch.

After 127 years, Nintendo is still able to shovel out quality games, memorable characters, new consoles, and billions of dollars' worth of childhoods, even after thirty-one years since the release of NES and still making thousands of dollars worth of money off it.



## Yearbook Importance

By Ian Shore

Yearbooks sound like something unnecessary. This statement is not true however at Holly Ridge. We don't treat yearbooks as a way to make money; we want people to look back at the moments throughout the year they had at the Ridge. And these yearbooks are created by great students! They spend a lot of time, effort, and devotion to give you a nice book at the end of the year.

Not only can you purchase one, but you can actually configure and personalize your yearbook to your likings! This is made possible by simply filling out a small yearbook survey that asks you about your personality and what hobbies you might have. This can make you stand out on the page and tell people a little bit about you. When many students participate in this, it makes the yearbook feel more lively and memorable. Whether your hobbies are sports or making memes, this can really put some fun into yearbooks!

Our fellow students go through a lot of time and process to roll out a good yearbook for you every year; they even have a different theme for each book. This year's theme is about traveling *Around the Ridge*, tying into our school's theme '*Racing the Ridge, One Lap at a Time!*' The product you receive is high quality and the cost of \$33 is lower than in past years, allowing the book to reach more hands and make you appreciate your school and Holly Ridge spirit. Also, at the end of the year, you are able to have all of your classmates' signatures in your book for memories of the Ridge! What more could you ask for? ORDER early, last year's volume sold out before the distribution date at the end of the year.

## Art Myths Debunked

By Megan Armstrong

Art supplies, all the great artist use good art supplies. So, you must only be a good artist if you use good art supplies, right? FALSE, OBJECTION, CAUSATION IS NOT CORRELATION, THE ELECTION IS RIGGED, And THE MOON LANDING IS FAKE..... I'm sorry for that.

Hello fellow artist in training! Or random bored reader... If you read my last article on art tips, then you should be semi-decent at art by now, and you have probably looked at online artist and realized there is a lot of people better than you. And they are. But if you're like me, you probably jumped to the conclusion that "They use better art supplies than me, that's why they're better than me." FALSE. The real reason is that you haven't practiced enough and your art work needs to improve. That is okay, because everybody starts somewhere, and you can't get good without realizing you're really bad, so just practice a lot more and you will improve. Just don't find yourself believing that if you gain some better art supplies that you immediately become better. That's really not how it works. And don't believe that someone is an amazing artist only because they use better art supplies than you, please, you'll embarrass yourself. And remember the only way to become a great artist is to practice. Practice. PRACTICE. PLEASE PRACTICE.

Another art myth that at least I'll fallen victim to, is of course the classic, age = skill.

In theory this makes sense, the older they are, the longer they've been drawing, so the more they've practiced, so the more skill they have. FALSE. THE EL-.... I'll stop myself there. This isn't always true; some artists don't start drawing until they're fifteen, and others when they're ten. Really, you shouldn't let age be the defining factor of whether an artist is good or not. Any artist, regardless of age, can be a great artist if they practice and put forth the effort. So if you see a great artist that is younger than you, don't panic, just use that as a reason to practice some more. Please practice. Please.