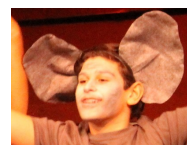




## From the Eyes of 2 JMS Actors in The Lion King

**My First Play in the Middle School- By John B.**



I had a wonderful experience acting in the middle school play, Lion King, Jr. On the day of auditions, I was very nervous. I didn't even practice, I just went in cold. I sang a song and was shocked to learn one week later that I made the cut.

Play practice started off just learning the basics, like lyrics for songs. As time went on, it got more difficult. Practices were longer, we had to learn choreography, and songs and lines had to be memorized. All of a sudden, the play was only a week away. Costumes had to be chosen and fitted, and everyone had to know everything off script – every line, song, and word without a script. The week before was very intense and everyone was serious. I was very nervous and every chance I got, I practiced things I was not sure of.

The night of the play finally arrived. We were putting on our makeup and the next thing we knew, we were onstage with the curtains about to open. The play started and one hour later, the play was over and I wasn't nervous anymore, but kind of anxious for the final performance the next day. That night I practiced everything I needed to know one more time and then I went to bed, resting up for that final performance.

The final performance started. Everything went well and everybody enjoyed the play a lot more than the kids did the evening before. After the performance, everyone went to 16 Handles, a frozen yogurt shop, to celebrate. I went home and wished the play never ended. It was a great experience and if you are the kind of person who loves singing and dancing, then you should try out for the middle school plays.

### **My First Experience in a Major Role -By Natalie P.**

Last year, I was in the school play, Peter Pan Jr. In that show, I played a small part with a few lines. This year, I got a major part with a lot of lines as well as a solo in Lion King Jr. Playing Pumba was a big step up from playing Skunk in Peter Pan Jr. I had a lot more lines to memorize as well as a solo and other songs. There were plenty of rehearsals and much to remember. I needed to know when to come on stage, where to stand, if I need to move and when to move, when to say my line, what line to say, what dance moves to do, and when to exit.



Some of the songs I had to sing were the Circle of Life, Hakuna Matata, and Luau Hawaiian Treat. My personal favorite song was Hakuna Matata, because I got to sing, dance, and act in it. My favorite line in the whole show was "you gotta put your behind in your past," because my character messed up the very well-known saying, "You have to put your past behind you."

I would recommend trying out for a play because you don't just get to act and sing, you also get to make new friends. I remember that after play rehearsal, some of the cast and I would just hang around when we waited for the buses. With the cast, there is never a dull moment.

Now, I know it sounds like a lot, but I'll tell you this: every second of it was worth it. I love to act and sing, so being in the play was a big deal for me. It's the best feeling when you finally get to perform in front of your friends and family, seeing the result of your hard work. I'm definitely going to try out for the next play that JMS will have.



# Lion King, Jr.



## Expected Collision By Shubham V.

Can you imagine watching a spectacular show with a man-made rocket crashing into the Indian Ocean making the sky quite bright? This is what scientists think is going to happen in Sri Lanka on November 13, 2015. A mysterious object is headed for a fierce and fiery collision on Earth in 9 days, but scientists say there's nothing to fear. Astronomers who've spotted the object say it's too light to be a space rock. They think a man-made rocket will finally be coming home. The residue of the object doesn't burn up when it enters the atmosphere when it comes down 62 miles off the southern coast of Sri Lanka. This object will be quite bright in the noon sky for just a few seconds. The object (known as WT1190F) has been spotted before in 2013, by the Catalina Sky Survey at the University of Arizona. ESA Astronomer Marco Micheli said it will provide "an ideal opportunity to test our readiness for any possible future atmospheric entry events involving an asteroid, since the components of this scenario, from discovery to impact, are all very similar." This sight will provide an opportunity to give scientists a chance to look at more of these fascinating space objects in the future. Now that scientists know WT1190F is coming, they're organizing a worldwide campaign to observe its approach and impact. In fact just this past Friday and Saturday, an unknown asteroid traveling 78,000 miles an hour, was expected to zip past Earth at a distance of about 300,000 miles which is called the Halloween Asteroid.



## Kid Buys Video Game with Bottle Caps By Brian R.

At E3 (a video game news event) one of the biggest news items was the newest game of the Fallout series, Fallout 4. A lot of fans were really excited and preordered this game right away. Most used cash, but one kid sent about 2,240 bottle caps which is the currency of the Fallout series. He used the bottle caps, which took him 7.5 years to save, to preorder the game.

A lot of people would believe the creators would say no to this idea, but they actually took the bottle caps and promised him a copy of the game when it came out. But who got the better deal? A YouTuber named Game Theory decided to find out. This YouTuber compared the cost of gold in the game to the cost of gold in real life. The amount of money he spent in bottle caps was \$116,480, enough to preorder the game and the extra stuff with money to spare!



## Laquan McDonald shooting: Why did it take 13 months to release video?

By Keerti S.

On the night of October 20, 2014, Chicago police responded to a call about an erratic man with a knife on the far west side of the city. A dashboard camera of a cop car captures the shooting. Several patrol cars rushed to the scene. Only six seconds after exiting his vehicle, it took Officer Jason Van Dyke only fifteen seconds to fire an astonishing sixteen times at Laquan McDonald, the later identified victim of the shooting. An autopsy the following day revealed that nine of the sixteen shots entered the seventeen year old's back. After the incident, Van Dyke, the shooting officer whom already had 20 complaints filed against him, half of them "use of force" complaints, went to unpaid desk duty. Despite the offhand way the incident was handled, the shooting went unreported and the dash cam footage sealed.

Eight days later, the city council voted to award the McDonald family five million dollars before the investigation was even complete even though the family had not filed a wrongful death law suit. That was more than a year ago. During the whole occurrence, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel was running for re-election and eventually on April 7, he won.

After reporters began questioning the five million dollar settlement, a freelance reporter filed a lawsuit asking for access to the dashboard camera video. Emanuel and the prosecutor, Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez fought in court to keep the contents of the video unavailable to the public. However, on November 19, a judge finally ordered the release of the video and just hours before the city was to release the video, Officer Van Dyke was charged with first-degree murder.

CNN reported that on Tuesday, December 1, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel said that the video was not released earlier because there was a concern that it could taint a federal and state investigation of McDonald's shooting. Protesters have demanded that Emanuel also resign and that a federal investigation be focused on the behavior of public officials and their actions following the shooting.

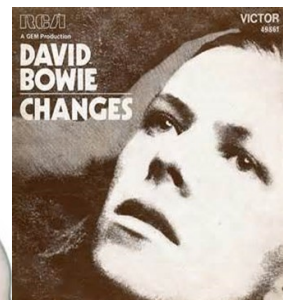
## All Time Music Legend, David Bowie Passes

By Jacob S.

On January 10, 2016, all-time music legend David Bowie died in his New York City apartment two days after his 69<sup>th</sup> birthday. Bowie died of liver cancer. He died a little bit after the 79<sup>th</sup> Golden Globe Awards.

David Robert Jones was born on January 8, 1947 in Brixton, South London. He was born to his parents, Margaret Mary and Haywood Stenton Jones. Bowie grew up to be a famous rock artist. He began his career in 1962. Some of his famous songs include Space Oddity, Changes, Ziggy Stardust, and Drummer Boy. One time he even guest starred in an episode of Sponge Bob! He was such a wonderful artist.

Everyone, including me, all over the world is really sad that one of our most favorite artists in history passed away. Bowie's funeral was scheduled to take place at Carnegie Hall in New York City on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Some artists that have planned to take part of this event include The Roots, Cyndi Lauper, and Perry Farrell. We all miss this extraordinary musician very much, but we will always remember him as one of the greatest artists of all time.



## Twins By Emily G.

Hi. You're probably the average kid, but not me. I'm a twin. Did you know about 32 twins are born out of every 1000 births? That has happened to me. I'm one of those 32 kids.

You probably know a twin, but can you tell them apart? For some reason, it's a little bit easier for me to tell twins apart, even identical twins like me! If you have known me for a long time, you can probably tell me apart from my twin, Sophia.

In my opinion, being a twin is good, and bad. The good part about it is that you know you have each other's backs. We are comfortable to tell each other secrets, and we share (sometimes). The bad part is that you HAVE to share, like birthdays, the spotlight, graduation, and a lot of other stuff. We want to experience what it's like to be an average kid, me at least. It's not her, it's me.

What is it like being a twin? It's pretty normal actually. You do the same things as a normal student. Apart from what I said earlier, nothing really.

Sometimes I forget that I am a twin. But then when I have to share something, here we go again. The yelling, the screaming, then all of a sudden I forget it. I just have to face the facts that I am a twin. Everyone knows this, sharing is caring.

Hopefully, my perspective of being a twin tells you what it's like, or you're just wasting your time. Just kidding. But in all seriousness, would you want to be a twin?



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## Annual Ski/Snowboard Trip to Jiminy Peak

By: Kyra H. and Emilie W.

We will be telling you about our experience at Jiminy Peak. First, we went to the school parking lot, and entered a luxurious Coach Bus. A great thing is that while you are on the bus you can be with your friends, and watch fun, exciting movies. We went to the comfy, warm lodge near the ski/snowboard slopes for breaks, when we're tired and when we want lunch or a snack. The lodge served delicious, scrumptious fluffy donuts, and cozy, mouth warming hot chocolate. Also, we get the opportunity to spend time with our family and friends while enjoying a fun sport. In addition, we can get the chance to take ski/snowboarding lessons and to learn proper technique and skills. Furthermore, there are different levels of slopes depending on how fluent we are at these sports. Moreover, going on the lift is really exciting, because we can get a good view of the people going down the slopes, the snow-covered trees and the crystal, clear breeze. The director and advisor of the trip, Mr. Kahn, determined a time and place for all of the students to meet up, so we can all head towards the bus, and go home after a great, wonderful day at the slopes, and remembering this joyous day with our family and friends. On the ride back home, we stopped to eat, and then went back on the bus and continued watching the movie. Before we knew it, we arrived back at the school. Another great day of fun, family, and friends at the slopes. Can't wait until next year!



## Fantasy Football By Adam G.

To me, Fantasy Football is a passion. Fantasy Football is a game played by most football fans that involves player stats. All the teams enter a draft, where they pick their team, when it's their turn to pick. Every week, when the real NFL games happen, the team owner sets their lineup, and they watch the games, hoping their players perform well. At the end of the week, the total stats of each player are tallied up, and team with the most fantasy points wins. At the end of the season, there are playoffs. In my league, we have 6 playoff teams but in others there could be 4. After that, the winner of the playoffs is the fantasy football champion! The prize could be money, or a trophy, and the envy of those who lost. I love playing fantasy football, because it makes football more intense to watch and also it is fun to compete with my friends!



## Star Wars Box Office By Rishab B.

Yeah, I know. "Star Wars: the Force Awakens" is one of the most top grossing movies of all time with only 20 days of release. J.J. Abrams has really let through after his amazing series of "Star Trek". But do you really know how popular the new star wars movie is? Well, information doesn't fly on wings, so read on to solve your curiosity!

Do you remember a movie in which there is a human who travels to a dimension in the form of a blue avatar to save their world? If you guessed Avatar, give yourself a pat on the back. The movie produced by James Cameron grossed over \$760.5 million, a pretty high feat indeed. This total makes Avatar the #1 total in the Box office. But to start off the New Year, there's a new sheriff in box, and his name is Force Awakens. With only 20 days of release as mentioned before it gained a domestic total of \$758.2 million. Released in December 2009, Avatar grossed nearly \$750 million in its original, seven-month run, plus another \$10 million-plus when it was rereleased in theaters. Thanks to Force Awakens, domestic revenue for 2015 was able to hit a record \$11 billion at the last minute.

Globally, Force Awakens has a long way to go before eclipsing the \$2.78 billion earned worldwide by Avatar, even as it does staggering business. Through Tuesday, its worldwide tally is \$1.56 billion, and that doesn't include China, where Force Awakens lands on Jan. 9. Force Awakens foreign tally is currently \$799.1 million. Many box office observers suggest the Star Wars reboot will ultimately gross \$2.2 billion to \$2.4 billion worldwide, passing up Cameron's Titanic (\$2.19 billion) which is a true classical for all movie watchers. If this theory happens, Force Awakens will become the No. 2 film of all time, not accounting for inflation. Already, it's the No. 4 title. In the box office so far, Avatar and Force Awakens are the only movie who have 700 million or more in North America.

As for me, I think Star Wars will probably reach Number 1 in the box office eventually. I mean, Star Wars has already gotten such a high feat in only 20 days, and if fans and surveyors don't lose interest, this might just come true. One thing which can ruin the popularity in the box office is the number of spoilers there are online or being told. I know fans are getting excited after watching the movie, but in most scenarios they will spoil it for eager fans. If you search up "Star Wars: The Force Awakens", the last option is spoilers. But this is depending upon you.

I hope that in these 1-3 minutes of your life you leave this site with some or maybe all knowledge about Star Wars and maybe this news will make you want to see the movie. Last question: What do you think? Will Star Wars finally become #1, or is it just not tough enough to beat Avatar and other movies? Thank you and may the force be with you.





# *Top 7 Most Amazing Extinct Animals* *(in my opinion—not in any order)* By: Anshul V.

## **#7: Stellar Sea Cow**

This giant mammal was named after its finder, Georg Steller, the researcher who first saw it in the waters of Commander Islands. Its scientific name is *Hydrodamalis Gigas*. Its length was about 8-9 meters. It weighed about 8 tons. It lived deep in the water. It had black, thick skin, had a small head, and a toothless mouth. The last specimen was found in 1768.



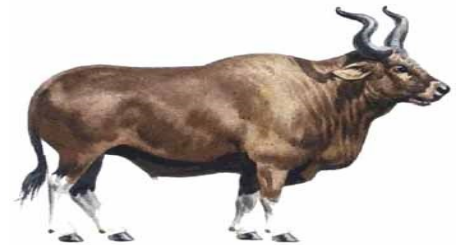
## **#6: The Cave Lion**

It is famous for living in caves. It was one of the biggest predators hunting 1,000s of years ago. Its shoulder height was about 1.2 meters. Its length was around 2 meters. It has been believed to be extinct for about 10,000 years.



## **# 5: Aurochs**

250,000 years ago was the beginning of the existence of the Aurochs. It is also European like The Cave Lion. Due to its huge importance as a prize, only nobles and members of the royal court were allowed to hunt them down. Because the population of the Aurochs was reducing, members of the royal court asked the gamekeepers to help. In spite of all the measures taken, the last Aurochs (female) died in 1672.



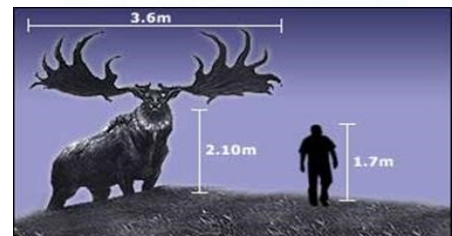
## **#4: Caspian Tiger**

It was the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest tiger in the world. It was mostly found in Western Asia. The weight of male ranged from 169-240 kilograms. The weight of a female ranged from 86-135 kilograms. Looks similar to a Bengal tiger in terms of color.



## **#3: Irish Deer or Irish Elk**

Its height was no less than 2.10 meters high. Its antler span was about 3.6 meters. It remains the largest deer ever. It was hunted more for its antlers than its body. The last Irish Elk/Deer seems to have lived about 7,000 years ago.



## **#2: Quagga**

It is one of Africa's rarities. The hunt for meat and hides caused the extinction of this beautiful animal. It is half zebra and half horse. You could not have seen two Quaggas alike, they were all unique in at least one way. Even though it is extinct, researchers are still interested in this animal!



**Go to the next page to see my #1 pick!!!**

## **My #1 Pick:** **Tyrannosaurus Rex**

Its length was about 43.3 feet

Its height was about 16.6 feet.

It weighed up to 7 tons.

Because of this, it remains the king of fauna (animals) and master of its times.

It became extinct more than 65,000,000 years ago.

Thank you for letting me share my picks with you!





# REVIEWS

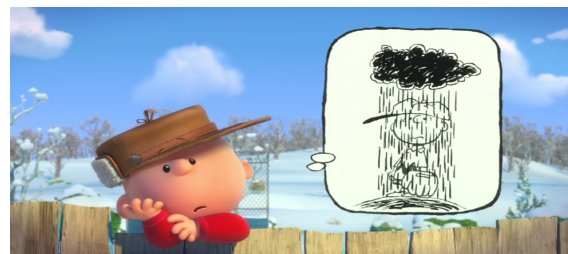
## Virtual Boy By Matthew M.

The Virtual Boy came out in 1995. It was one of the first portable video game consoles that was manufactured [other than the Game Boy]. There were only 14 games released for the Virtual Boy. It was a failure and it was discontinued in 1996. By the way, it doesn't look portable at all. The cartoon below gives you a visual demonstration of the Virtual Boy.



## The Peanut's Movie By: Brian R.

Good grief, another movie about Charlie Brown and his friends! This movie takes more of a yearly setting, starting on a snow day and ending on the last day of school. This movie is sadder than "It's a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" because it's about Charlie Brown trying to get the new girl next door to love him, and he keeps messing up. In addition to that story line, there is also the return of the mysterious Red Baron and Pilot Snoopy. If you want the full effect of the movie, watch it in 3-D because of the contrast of the thought bubble (which are comics) and the 3-D looking people. My favorite part of the movie was the football scene after the credits. Let's just call Lucy mean – really, really mean! After the movie, I found out that the movie was a throwback to the comics, not the holiday specials. This movie is great for everyone, but some of it won't make sense without reading or watching a Charlie Brown before this.



## A New Season of Tech

By Alvi H., Nick P., Muneer K., & Brian W.

Here are some reviews of the best new devices in the technology world.

### iPhone 6S

**Muneer K.** - The iPhone 6s has a lot more features and special improvements. Some new features are that it has a superior camera, it is faster, and it has a novel 3D touch screen. The features of the iPhone 6s are more durable and, when using the 6s, the Wi-Fi is twice as fast as any other phone. Also, the new iPhone came out with more ram for more power. **Rating: 5 stars**

### Samsung Galaxy S6

**Brian W.** - The new Galaxy has a lot going for it. It is fast and easy to use. The internet is better than ever and the battery life is fantastic. Its camera is better than average. It comes with incredible 4G LTE, so I can connect to the internet wherever I go. I would rather have this than an iPhone. **Rating: 5 stars**

### Nexus 5X

**Alvi H.** - The new Nexus was launched by Google earlier this year. The Nexus 5x is an all around performer and is quite snappy with the new Android Marshmallow. A disappointment though, was that this had less RAM. Also its resolution was quite mediocre with a less clear display. One good thing is that since it had a worse display than the competition, it will have a longer battery life. So all around the Nexus 5x is a good phone with a pretty good processor. Also this came with a new fingerprint sensor. **Rating: 4 stars**

### Xbox One

**Nick P.** - The Xbox one is a very advanced system with a great selection of games. The Xbox was made by the very large company, Microsoft. The graphics are very realistic and lifelike. Along with the Xbox comes a bundle with the Kinect. The Kinect as well as the Xbox is very advanced; it will understand what you say to it. You can shut down, sign out, go to the store, or view your games and apps. **Rating: 5 stars**

## Enders Game Book Series

By: Brian R.

Ender's Game is a series about a future with aliens, space exploration and more. Ender's Game is book 1 of a 4 book series about a 3<sup>rd</sup> kid taken by the government to become a leader against an alien threat. The only problem is, it's hard to find the order of the books. But if you find the order you'll be in for a great series. The books are Ender's Game, Speaker for the Dead, Xenocide and Children of the Mind. This is the creator's recommended order for reading the series.

Ender Wiggin is the main character who gets broken down by his superiors to be built into the perfect commander. The author created Ender to be a mix of his mean, too tough brother and his soft, calculating sister. If you love the series, that's great because there are 2 other series about the same future (one is a prequel series), and a lot of books by a different author. Read this and you'll be immersed in a book about aliens, diseases and a universe ruled by one government.



## The Apple Watch By John B.

Apple's latest product, the Apple Watch, has had mixed reviews and we're not sure why. My experience with the watch is very positive. It has so many great features! It can tell time, it is a phone, it lets you know every single notification you receive on your phone, you can send and receive texts, and it notifies you about health and fitness (heartbeat and rate). You can also play games on it. Some of the top rated games are Flappy Bird, Sonic Boom II, Home Run, Poll Party, Fit Brains, and Tic Tac Toe. You can even use it as a credit card and make purchases. There are over 10,000 apps for the watch.

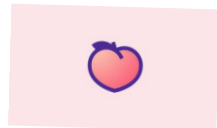


The watch comes in three models – the Apple Watch Sport, which is made out of aluminum; the regular stainless steel version; and the Apple Watch Edition, made from 18 carat gold, which costs over \$17,000. The least expensive watch costs about \$400. The screen even comes in two sizes so if you need a larger one, you can get it. The aluminum Apple Watch Sport, which is lighter than the other two apple watches, comes in gold, gray, silver, and rose gold. There are many different types of bands that can fit all three watches in every size. They have rubber bands, leather bands, and metal bands. You can customize your own watch band using other websites. There are many watch faces that you can choose from. Some examples are photos (allows you to use pictures as your watch face), motion watch faces, modular watch faces, regular clock watch faces and much more.

You can purchase your apple watch at any Apple store, or online. It is not only fun, but it can even save your life. It actually happened in September, 2015, when 17 year old Paul Houle, Jr's Apple Watch alerted him that his heart rate was abnormally high. This caused him to go to the hospital, where he found out he had a heart condition. He said that if it wasn't for the apple watch, he would have been another kid who died playing football.

## Peach the Twitter Killer By Brian R.

Peach is the newest type of twitter account. This app can only be downloaded on Apple products. On Peach you can post, tweet, and like. So why is it so big? That is because Tech Twitters (people who tweet about technology) have written about it so much that now it is a big success. What makes this worth writing about? They are getting donations. YAY! What's the downside? Too many people will go to the app, and because it's so new, they will force the app to crash, making everyone upset and no one will use it. So Peach is the newest twitter but please don't make an account without knowing your friends have one too.

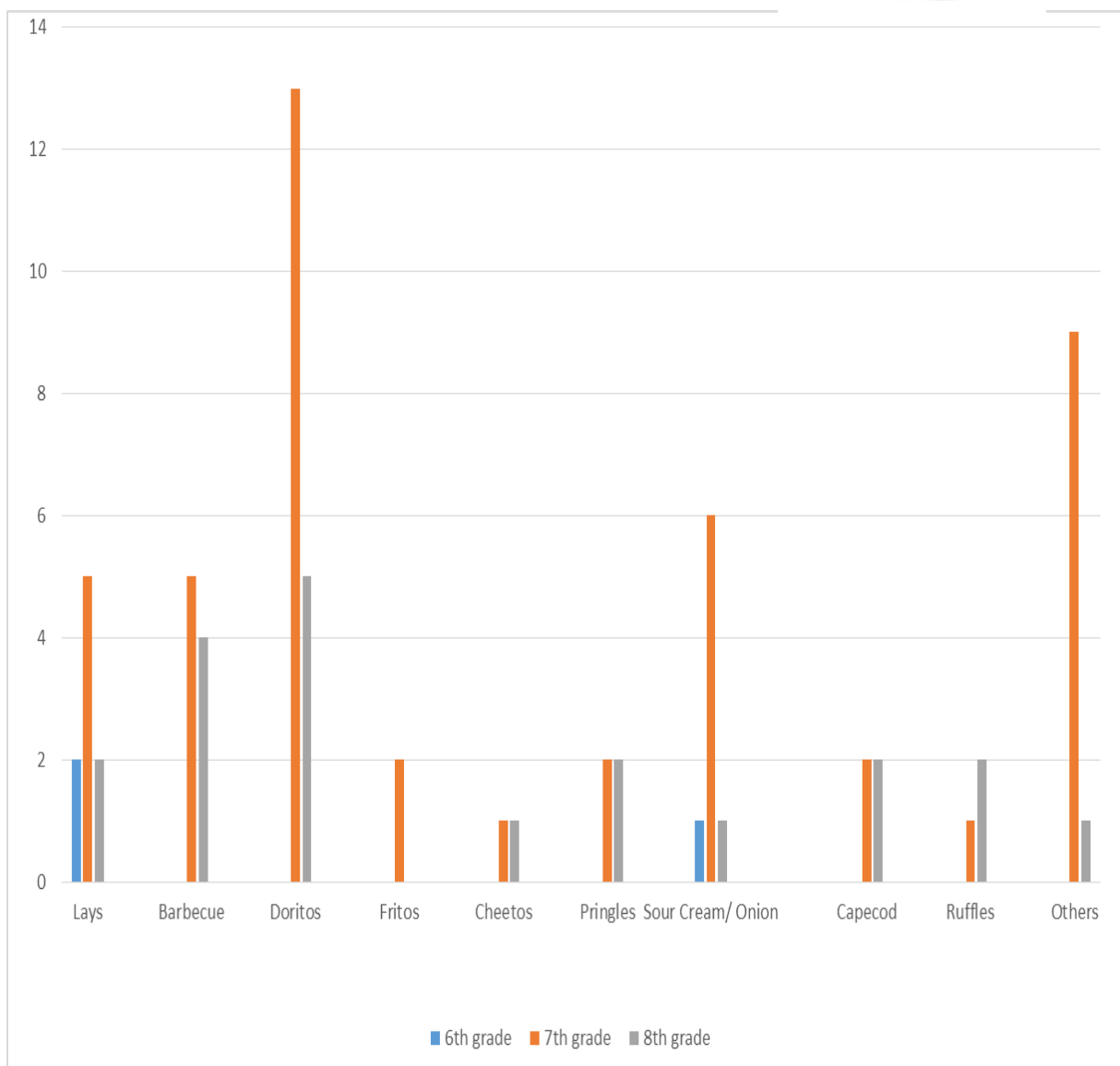




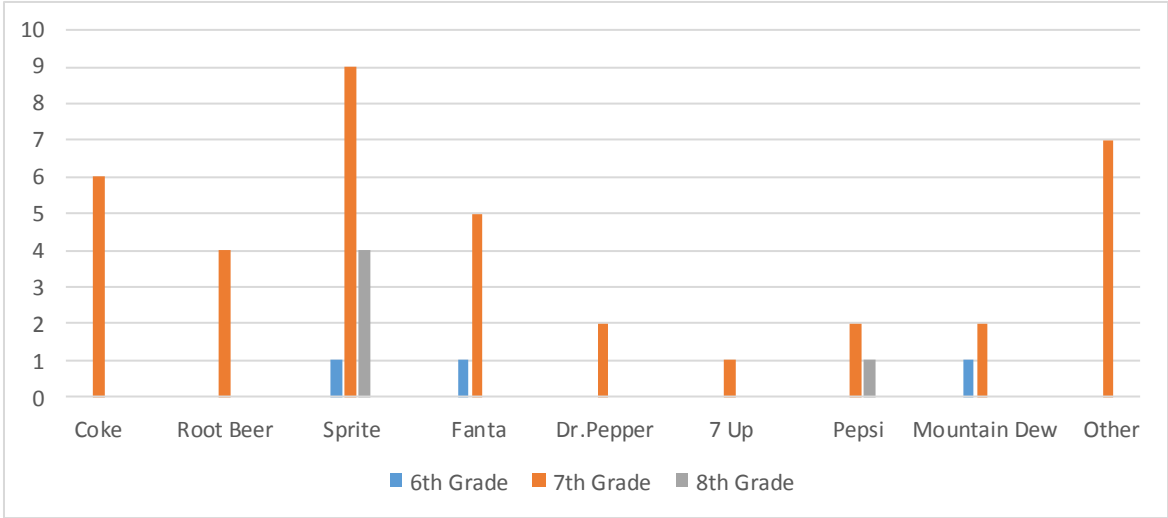
## Have you Ever Wondered? By Tiffany H., Ananya B., Allison N., Jessica C., and Sophie F.

Well, so have we! Several of our reporters have scoured JMS and polled many of our students to find answers to various highly interesting questions. We located students in computer labs, cafeterias, the library, and in after school clubs in order to compile data for these polls. Here is what we found!

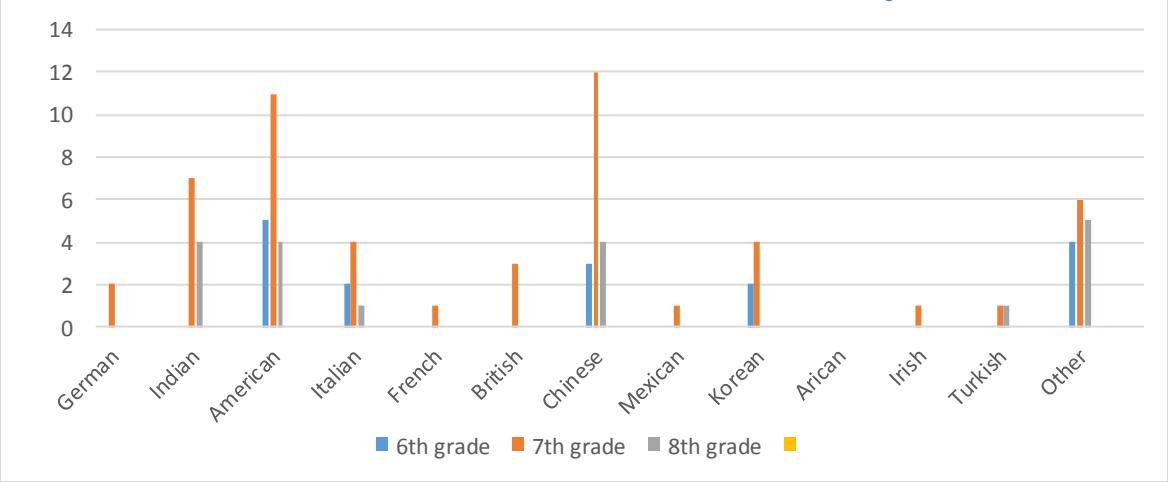
### What is Your Favorite Chip?



# What is Your Favorite Soda?



# What is Your Nationality?



## Fun Animal Facts By Danna C.

### Teacup Pigs

- 1.They are called teacup pigs because they can fit in a teacup.
- 2.The teacup pig is very smart.
- 3.They are easy to litter train.
- 4.They only live an average of 5 years.
- 5.Some teacup pigs get big and some stay small.



### Sugar Gliders

1. Sugar gliders are found throughout the northern and eastern parts of mainland Australia.
2. Sugar gliders are able to glide over 150 feet.
3. Baby gliders, called joeys, live for 60-70 days.
4. At around 4 months of age, joeys are able to survive on their own.
5. Did you know that Sugar Gliders can be bought as pets here in the United



### Red Pandas

1. Red pandas are 42 inches long, including their tail.
2. They weigh between 7 and 14 pounds.
3. Their red and white markings blend in with red mosses and white lichens what grow on trees in their environment.
4. In the winter, they cover their faces with their tails.
5. There are fewer than 10,000 Red Pandas.



### White Tigers

1. All White Tigers have blue eyes.
2. There are only 200 White Tigers left.
3. White Tigers live in jungles of Asian countries like India and China.
4. They are good swimmers.



### Differences Between Leopards and Cheetahs

1. The face of the cheetah is different than the face of the leopard.
2. The cheetah and the leopard have different markings- the leopard has rosette spots, and cheetah's spots are round.
3. The cheetah is the fastest land animal, running 70mph, as fast as a car drives on a highway.
4. The leopard is nocturnal (more active at night), whereas the cheetah is diurnal (more active during the day).
5. Leopards climb trees, and cheetahs do not.



cheetah

leopard



## More Fun Facts By Danna C.

### Catfish

1. There are 3000 species of catfish.
2. They live in caves in salt water.
3. They reach nearly 9 feet in length and 646 pounds.
4. Catfish have smooth skin.
5. They can survive from 8 to 20 years in the wild.



### Wolves

1. Wolves are the largest members of the dog family.
2. Grey Wolves are most common.
3. They live in packs of up to 20.
4. They can live up to 13 years old.
5. A baby wolf is called a pup.



## The Game of Wikipedia By Brian W. and Paolo M.

Many people use Wikipedia as a news source, while others consider it untrustworthy. But Wikipedia, aside from supplying us with occasionally faulty news, is also one of the most fun games in existence.

The rules are simple. All participants must go to the same Wikipedia page, chosen randomly. As an example, they would go to the “Pretzels” page. Then, they must all agree on the destination; for example “Indian History”. When someone says, “go”, all players must get to the destination page. Here’s the catch: you can only navigate pages by clicking on the blue links. The first player to get to the target page wins!



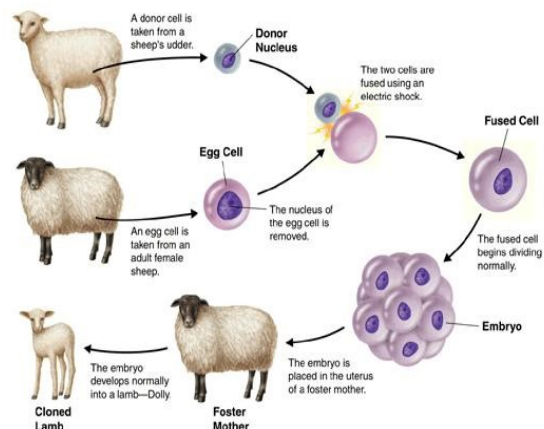
**WIKIPEDIA**  
The Free Encyclopedia

## Cloning By Kaylee F.

Do you know that humans have finally discovered cloning?  
This is how they do it.

### Steps to Animal Cloning

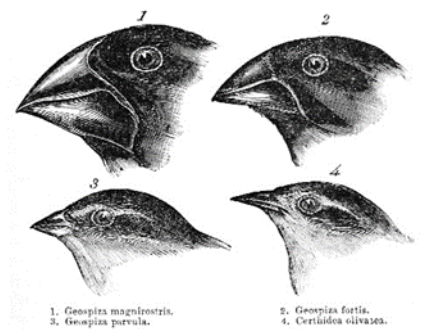
1. Take any cell from an animal’s body.
  2. Take an egg cell from a female animal.
  3. Take the nucleus out of the egg cell.
  4. Put together the cell of the animal skin and the egg without nucleus.
  5. In about 6 days, place it in the uterus of the female animal.
  6. In about 7 days, you will have your clone!
- Thank you for reading my article!



# The Theory of Evolution – Galapagos Islands

By Shubham V.

Have you ever wondered about traveling halfway around the world? That's what biologists Rosemary and Peter Grant do just to study finches. The Galapagos Islands are a group of volcanic islands in the Pacific Ocean. From South America, it is hundreds of miles away from its nearest neighbor. Plants and animals that live there evolved in unique ways. Charles Darwin, a scientist that studied the theory of evolution, was inspired by the islands and especially a group of dull little birds known as Darwin's finches. The Galapagos Islands have 13 different types of finches varying in size and shape. For example, a bird can have a beak that is 111 mm. Another bird can have a beak that is 77 mm. The difference between these two is 34 mm. So birds with bigger beaks have an advantage over the small beaks because their beaks are bigger so it can be used a lot. Each species has a different kind of beak. The cactus finch has a long thin beak that works well for crushing cactus seeds. The woodpecker finch uses its back to dig out insects from dead wood. The sharp-beaked ground finch feeds on nectar and flowers and catches insects, but sometimes it also pecks through the skin of seabirds and feeds on their blood. Each bird has a beak suited to certain eating habits while feeding on different foods. In 1835, Darwin went to see the finches on the Galapagos Islands. He was 26 years old and employed as a naturalist traveling on a five-year voyage around the world. Darwin collected samples of unknown plants and animals and collected some finches but at the time he was more interested in plants and animals. A few years after, Darwin wondered why there were so many species of finches and how they evolved. This puzzled him so he thought about it. Since finches don't migrate, he thought that they must have evolved on the Galapagos Islands. The finches' beaks gave him a clue about how they could evolve. The size and shape of a bird's beak determine the kinds of foods it can eat. A difference of the beak might give one bird an advantage over the other. This process is known as natural selection or "survival of the fittest."



# Study of Finches

By Shubham V.

More than a hundred years after, Rosemary and Peter Grant traveled to the Galapagos Islands to take a closer look at finches. They wondered if they took careful measurements of the finches and the foods they ate, would they be able to see the changes that Darwin had imagined? The Grants set up a research camp on Daphne Major which is an island in the center of the Galapagos. Medium ground finches have medium-sized bodies and beaks. You can tell this apart from other finch species. To find a count of the finch population, the Grants put up mist nests to catch the birds picking them out with their hands and placing numbered bands on their legs. Then the researchers took careful measurements. They weighed each bird with a spring balance and then measured it with a set of calipers. They kept data of the bird's wing length, leg length, toe



length and the most important: beak size. To find out the variation of the beak sizes, they also measured finches' food. Every morning, they used binoculars to see what they had for breakfast. This required sifting through the dirt, counting the seeds and measuring their size and hardness. They gave each seed a score based on how hard a bird had to peck to get it open. By the end of the year, they watched the finches eat 4,000 meals. Medium ground finches have blunt beaks that are suited to crushing small seeds. All of the ground finches eat small, soft seeds. But the birds with bigger beaks could tackle the large, tough seeds of a plant called Tribulus. The plant can stand extreme conditions such as long droughts. One year, a severe drought turned Daphne Major into the science experiment of a lifetime. It stopped many plants from producing seeds that year. So the finches had to depend on the seeds that were left over the last year. When they ate all that, they were left with big tough seeds. The birds with big beaks have a better opportunity over the birds with small beaks because it can gather more food. Because of the drought, the finch population decreased because there was a small supply of food. So would you travel halfway around the world to study finches? Are you interested enough?



**Fall** By Shubham V.

O Fall  
 How I love jumping into a pile of leaves  
 How I love the wind rustling amongst my ears  
 How I love seeing the colors change every year  
 O Fall  
 How I love wearing my favorite clothes  
 How I love the fresh start of going back to school  
 again  
 How I love seeing my friends after vacation  
 Why is Fall the best season?

Because of all these reasons!

**Fall Sweets** By Jacob S.

I love Fall Sweets,  
 They are very good to eat.  
 From candy apples to pumpkin pie,  
 There has to be at least one that will catch your eye.  
 On a cold, fall day  
 when the breeze makes you shiver,  
 I like to get a cup of hot apple cider.  
 I love fall sweets,  
 They make such a delicious treat!

**The Balloon**

By Doreen X.

Imagine being a balloon, if you  
 can,  
 drifting away up into the sky.  
 Looking at the world in a dif-  
 ferent way,  
 astonished by the wonderful  
 view.  
 Feeling the wind gently blow-  
 ing at your face,  
 hearing the birds sing a lovely  
 melody.  
 Eyes closed, enjoying the  
 peaceful world,  
 and drifting calmly through the  
 sky.

**O How I Love  
Snow** By Shubham V.

How I miss my favorite weather  
 That makes me feel much better  
 Than going to school  
 I could ice skate which would be a  
 pool  
 Eating snacks, playing games,  
 hanging out with friends  
 are what I'd rather do  
 Skiing would be fun  
 Or catching snowflakes under my  
 tongue  
 Snowball fights and igloos, making  
 snow angels  
 I would watch my favorite shows, or  
 go sledding on a beautiful snowy day  
 O how I would make snowmen with  
 a little orange nose  
 And then wash it away with a hose  
 I'll drink hot chocolate  
 And finally relax in my bed with my  
 softest blanket that is white as snow  
 And I'll sleep and then remember  
 Oh no, tomorrow I have school!

**Winter Days** By: Kyra  
H. & Emilie W. (to the tune of "Jingle  
Bells")

Winter Days, Winter Days, playing the  
 whole day  
 Oh, what fun it is to ski on a snowy slope  
 with friends, Hey!  
 Winter Days, Winter Days, playing the  
 whole day  
 Oh, what fun it is to ski on a snowy slope  
 with friends, Hey!  
 Sipping on hot chocolate, watching Net-  
 flix too  
 Holiday decorations, spending time with  
 you  
 Slurping Starbucks drinks  
 Licking Candy Canes  
 Toasting Marshmallows by the fire, and  
 snuggled up all tight, oh  
 Winter Days, Winter Days, playing the  
 whole day  
 Oh, what fun it is to ski on a snowy slope  
 with friends, Hey!  
 Winter Days, Winter Days, playing the  
 whole day  
 Oh, what fun it is to ski on a snowy slope  
 with friends, Hey!



## The 8th Grade Boys Soccer Team

By Alex C. and Matt R.

After 3 days of tryouts, the 8th grade Jericho soccer team was ready to start their exciting season. Coached by Phil Chaney, the 26 boys on the team worked hard in practice to get ready for game one, a home game against Great Neck North. The team plays 5 away games and 4 home games a year. Many of the same people were on the team last year and look to build on their 8-1 record with their only loss coming against Weber Middle School in Port Washington. They will play again this season in hopes of avenging their loss. The team found out that their first game was cancelled for undisclosed reasons. Then their October 2nd game versus archrival Roslyn got cancelled due to the weather, but was rescheduled for Friday, October 16th.

On Tuesday, October 6th the Jericho 8th grade Boys Soccer team played their first match against Cold Spring Harbor. They had a great start to their season, winning their first game in a nail-biter 3-2 victory. 8th grader, Kian G. scored all 3 goals for Jericho in their outing vs Cold Spring Harbor. Alongside Dylan S.'s 2 heroic saves in the final 5 minutes, defenseman, Anthony C. made the play of the game blocking one of Cold Spring Harbor's shots with a great kick, defending Jericho's lead. They look to stay undefeated in their game Friday against Great Neck North.

On Tuesday, October 13th, Jericho played their second game of the season, against Weber. An own goal for Weber gave Jericho an early lead of 1-0 which was followed up shortly after by a goal from each team giving Jericho a 2-1 lead. Two more goals from Jericho's Brandon W. and Paolo M. gave Jericho hopes for a win. Jericho blew their lead and Weber tied the game 4-4 after three late goals. Although the tie should have been a win Jericho retained their undefeated record.

The team will play 7 more games - 5 more home and 2 more away games, including games against archrival Roslyn on October 16th at Roslyn Middle School and a game here at Jericho Middle school on October 27th versus Garden City Middle School. This is a team they narrowly defeated last year by a score of 5-4 and Garden City will come hungry in hopes of avenging their defeat. Hopefully, the team can win its last 7 games. Go Jayhawks!

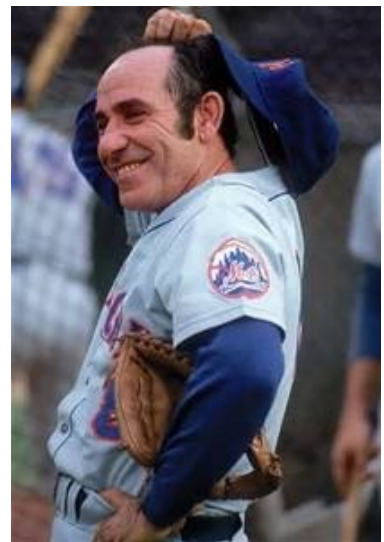
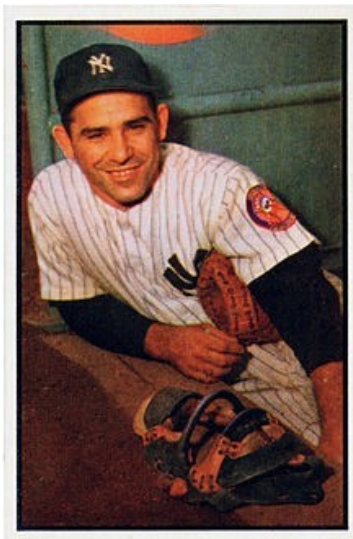


# All Time Baseball Legend, Yogi Berra Passes

By Jacob S.

On September 22, 2015, all-time New York Yankees baseball legend, Yogi Berra died at the age of 90 at his home in West Caldwell, New Jersey. Berra died of natural causes in his sleep. Yogi Berra served as an American baseball catcher, manager, and coach. He played for the New York Yankees from 1964-1964, the New York Mets from 1972-1975, and the New York Yankees again from 1984-1985. Yogi Berra's funeral was held recently on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

He was known as one of the best players of all time and was loved by all. People especially loved his famous quotes such as, "Baseball is 90 percent mental, and the other half is physical", and "The future ain't what it used to be." We are all very upset that he passed, but we all know we will always remember him.





## NFL Regular Season

By Alex C., Adam G. & Matt R.

Here is our running commentary of the 2015/16 NFL season.

### AFC (American Football Conference):

#### AFC EAST:

Led by the New England Patriots, the AFC East only has 1 playoff team. The Patriots went 12-4, losing their last 2 games. The Jets just missed out on the playoffs going 10-6 when they lost to the Bills in week 17. The Bills and Dolphins both missed the playoffs too. The Bills went 8-8 and the Dolphins went 6-10. The Dolphins are getting the 8th pick in the NFL draft and will look to improve their team by adding another top quality player to their roster.

#### AFC NORTH:

The AFC North has been an exciting division all year. In a historically quality division the Cincinnati Bengals won the division with a 12-4 record and won the AFC North. They have been led by a seventh ranked offense and star wide receiver, AJ Green. Behind them were the 10-6 Pittsburgh Steelers who were plagued by injuries but recovered nicely. Star running back, Le'Veon Bell tore his MCL and Quarterback, Ben Roethlisberger sprained his MCL but has recently returned. Pittsburgh got a break and clinched a playoff spot after the Jets implosion. The two bottom dwellers were the Cleveland Browns and Baltimore Ravens. The Browns recently have been historically bad and now have and finished with a record of 3-13 and will have the second pick. Finally, the Ravens finished 5-11 for their worst season since 2007.

#### AFC SOUTH:

After a neck and neck battle throughout the whole season, the Houston Texans were able to make the playoffs as the 4th seed, after ending their season on a three game winning streak. Heading into Monday of week 16, the Colts needed 10 different outcomes to happen. Of those 10, 6 actually happened but the Texans were able to clinch with a win over the Jacksonville Jaguars. The Texans finished the season at 9-7 whereas the Colts finished the season at .500, or 8-8. The Houston Texans will play the Kansas City Chiefs in the wild card round on Saturday at 4:35. The Jacksonville Jaguars ended the season losing three straight finishing the season at 5-11. The Tennessee Titans ended their season at 3-13 "winning" them the 1st overall pick of the 2016 NFL draft.

#### AFC WEST:

The Denver Broncos finished this season as the number 1 seed in the AFC. They went 12-4, tied with the Patriots and Bengals, but got the bye due to the head-to-head tiebreaker. The Chiefs, the hottest team in football also made the playoffs with a 11-5 record, getting the 5th seed. The Oakland Raiders finished 3rd in the division with a 7-9 record. The Chargers had a very disappointing season, finishing 4-12. They failed to meet their expectations, and will be picking 3rd in the upcoming NFL draft.

### NFC (National Football Conference):

#### NFC EAST:

The NFC East was the worst division in football this season by far. The winners were the Washington Redskins who finished the season 9-7 behind quarterback Kirk Cousins. The Eagles finished 7-9 and fired head coach Chip Kelly after what the Eagles front office considered a bad enough season to fire Chip Kelly. The third place team was the New York Giants who fired their coach Tom Coughlin after four straight seasons without the playoffs. In last were the Dallas Cowboys, who have struggled as a result of quarterback, Tony Romo's injury, and finished with a record of 4-12.

**NFC NORTH:**

A division led by the Minnesota Vikings, the NFC North consisted of 2 playoff teams. Heading into week 17, the Green Bay Packers and the Vikings were tied at 10-5, the winner getting the 3 seed and loser getting the 6. The Minnesota Vikings won that game, and they play the Seahawks in the Wild Card round. After losing to the Vikings in week 17, The Green Bay Packers are set to play the Washington Redskins in the wild card, in what should be an outstanding game. The Detroit Lions made a great comeback to an awful start with a 7-9 record. They were very streaky this season, as they started off 0-5 and finished on a 3 game winning streak. Shortly following the Lions were the Chicago Bears, who ended at 6-10.

**NFC SOUTH:**

After a loss to the Atlanta Falcons in week 16, the Carolina Panthers finished the season with an amazing record of 15-1, giving them the 1st seed in the NFC and home field advantage throughout the playoffs, not including the Super Bowl. The Atlanta Falcons ended at 8-8 after a 6 game losing streak from weeks 8-14. The New Orleans Saints finished at 7-9, one game better than the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

**NFC WEST:**

The winners of the NFC west were the Arizona Cardinals who had their best season ever as the Arizona Cardinals who finished 13-3 behind veteran leadership from wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald and quarterback Carson Palmer. In second place, the defending NFC champion Seattle Seahawks just made the playoffs at a record of 10-6. Without the amazing play of Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson, they might not have qualified for the playoffs. Third place was the St. Louis Rams who were led by rookie running back Todd Gurley and finished 7-9 and did not make the playoffs. In last place was the San Francisco 49ers who finished 5-11 and are struggling to find a good quarterback for the future.



Adam G.  
Alex C.  
Allison N.  
Alvi H.  
Ananya B.  
Anshul V.  
Brian R.  
Brian W.  
Danna C.  
Doreen X.  
Emilie W.  
Emily G.  
Jacob S.  
Jessica C.  
John B.  
Kaylee F.  
Keerti S.

Kyra H.  
Matthew M.  
Matt R.  
Muneer K.  
Natalie P.  
Nick P.  
Rishab B.  
Shubham V.  
Sophie S.  
Tiffany H.

## Join Newspaper Club! **By: Brian R.**

Like writing? Want an after school activity? Love to meet people with the same interest? Newspaper Club is for you. Newspaper Club is a great club that meets on every Wednesday in room 205. Don't like to write news? That's fine. You can write other things, like a movie review. Want to write about the school? That's totally okay. You can write about anything from spirit week to a football game. They even have snacks you can eat! If you have sports, don't worry- you can leave a little early. You know what's the best part? Your articles get published in a newspaper that gets put out twice a year. Why aren't you here yet?

