

THE JAMS JOURNAL

JOHN ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL
FEBRUARY 2019
VOLUME 1 : ISSUE 2



“PIE FELICIA!” TEACHERS GET A FACE FULL AT NJHS FUNDRAISER



Students get groovy during dress up days



Rubik's Cube craze gives parents flashbacks



Fortnite dance contest sends fans into frenzy

THE GREAT MASCOT DEBATE

By MIA SUBIN

Last year, a group of sixth graders (now seventh graders) Bibi Peterson, Ana Luiza Milk, Dashiell Burton, and Maya Williams brought to the attention of JAMS administration that the school mascot is gender and culturally exclusive. Mr. Richardson thought that the students had a strong argument and since the Norseman isn't a big part of the school identity, the school was ready for a mascot change.

The students first got the idea when they bought their new JAMS sweatshirts. "When we got the sweatshirts for JAMS, the first thing that we saw was the Norseman and we thought, 'Whoa that is so wrong!'" said Bibi Peterson

Students were asked to take a survey about the changing the mascot. The survey showed that out of 226 responses, 36% of the students like the current mascot, 25% don't like our mascot, and 40% of students don't care about the name of our mascot. Fifty six percent of students think that our mascot should not change, and 44% of students said that we should change the mascot. After many surveys, students voted and decided the new mascot of John Adams Middle School is to be the **JAMS Dragons!** What's your opinion on the new mascot? Email us at JAMSnews@smmk12.org



Maya W., Ana Luiza M., Bibi P., and Dashiell B. are the students that called for change.

Celebrating Black History Month

By NICOLAS CRUZ



Daisy Bates

Daisy Bates was a civil rights activist, most known for her work on the Little Rock Nine, nine African-Americans who enrolled in Little Rock Central High School in 1957. She and her husband founded an African-American newspaper advocate for civil rights - Arkansas State Press.

Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler

Dr. Crumpler was the first African-American female physician in the US. In 1864, she was accepted into the New England Women Medical College. She mostly worked with the poor who had limited access to medical care.



Ralph Abernathy

An African-American rights activist and a Christian minister, Ralph Abernathy was also the best friend and close assistant of Martin Luther King, Jr. He was the president of Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the organization non-violently fought for African-American rights.

Shirley Chisholm

Chisholm was elected as the first African-American congresswoman. Chisholm made history when she ran as a major political party to run for the Democratic party nomination.



The JAMS Journal

VOLUME 1 : ISSUE 2



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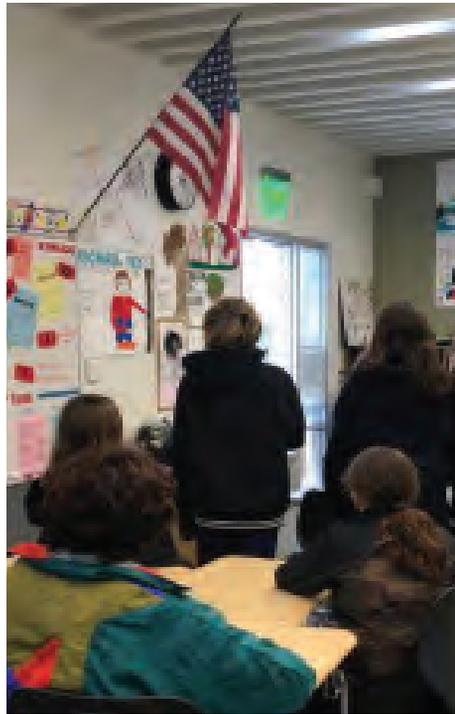
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Do you have news or ideas to share with The JAMS Journal staff?
Email us at JAMSnews@smmk12.org

THE PLEDGE QUESTION

By NIKO BARDACKE

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” This is the Pledge of Allegiance, a 31-word oath that is recited at the start of school every morning. It is the norm that everyone stands up, put their right hand over their heart and join the rest of the school in reciting the pledge. Many students for one reason or another have decided to break the etiquette and not stand up for the pledge.



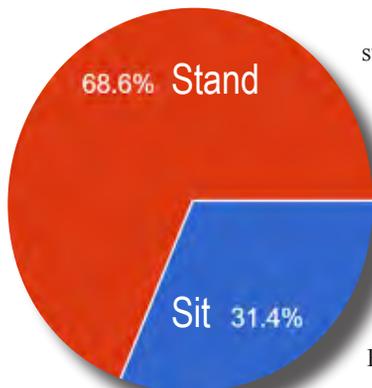
Some students use their freedom to express themselves and choose to sit and not recite the pledge. They have many reasons but most students disagree with our current political climate. Public school students are not required to stand during the pledge, since JAMS is a public school, they don't have to stand. This is part of their First Amendment rights.

“It should be up to the student. Growing up, I chose not to stand. I love the words but because those words didn't apply equally in the lives of all groups of people, I chose to sit.”

-Dr. Eure

Most adults on campus believe students should have a choice. Dr. Eure said, “It should be up to the students because growing up, I chose not to stand. I love the words of the pledge, but because those words didn't apply equally in the lives of all groups of people as a form of resistance, I chose to sit.”

Although Dr. Eure used to sit, his perspective has changed. “I now choose to stand. I choose to stand because although we may not be reaching the goal of the pledge, I still see the words of the pledge as lofty goals to have. Out of respect for veterans and for others I choose now to stand but I think that everyone should have a choice.” Other adults have a different point of view. “I think students should stand during the Pledge of Allegiance because I believe that it shows patriotism to our country.” said eighth grade social studies teacher Ms. Murphy. “I just think that if students are going to sit, they need to understand the reason why they sit.”



In a survey sent out to the entire student body, 118 students responded. More than two-thirds of those JAMS students stand during the pledge. Most stand out of respect for veterans and people who have fought or died for our country. Those who sit are part of the minority. Most of the students who sit, disagree with the current political climate.

Do you sit or stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and why do you do it? We'd like to hear from you.

Email us at JAMSnews@smmk12.org

LOST & FOUND FIASCO

By JOY VINE

When you lose a personal item, your first thought might be to go look for it in the lost & found, but the students at John Adams Middle School might think differently. The JAMS lost & found has been a continuous problem for a long time, but recently the problem has increased. Over time, the lost & found has been building up to the point where it is being filled to the brim with clothes, lunch bags, water bottles and other items. The cause: students aren't claiming their lost items.

Many pants, shirts, hats, water bottles, and even shoes have found their way to this land of forgotten. The problem became so bad, parents donated their time to organize the area and provide clothing racks and hangers. Still, none of the owners put up the effort to look for their lost belongings. It's a simple walk to the attendance office to look for lost belongings but the pile-up proves that many students simply don't make the effort. During the holiday break, a group of parents donated all unclaimed items to the Dream Foundation.

“I think it's great that we donate all of the unclaimed items to those who might really need them.” said Ananda S. Some students think that the lost & found area should be somewhere with high traffic. “A possible solution is probably just getting a better location so that students can see it more often and find something they didn't know was missing.” said Gabriel C.

SOLUTIONS TO MINIMIZING LOST & FOUND PROBLEM

- Write your first and last name on your belongings like lunch bags and water bottles
- When leaving the classroom, always check your surrounding area
- Keep your items in your possession at all times (especially during breaks)
- Visit lost & found as soon as you lose an item
- Check if your teacher has a lost & found in their classroom (many do!)



CONGRATULATIONS ALL-STATE AND ALL-SOUTHERN MUSICIANS

By MIA SUBIN

Eleven JAMS students were among 1,000+ musicians in the Southern California region to audition and be selected to participate in this prestigious event, performing on Saturday, January 26, 2019 at the Hyatt Regency in Garden Grove. Also, ten All-State students were among 2,600+ California musicians who participated in the audition process. They rehearsed and performed in Fresno on Feb. 14-17 as a part of the California All-State Music Education Conference, the annual statewide music educators conference.



Citli C., 8th
All-State Honor Band
Oboe



Connor M., 7th
All-Southern, All-State Honor bands
Clarinet



Yuna C., 8th
All-State Honor orchestra
Violin



Sarah M., 7th
All-Southern, All-State Honor orchestra
Bass



Dylan H., 8th
All-Southern, All-State Honor orchestras
Viola



Daliia P., 6th
All-Southern Honor band
Clarinet



Max F., 8th
All-Southern. All-State Honor bands
Clarinet



Henry S., 6th
All-Southern Honor orchestra
Violin.



Francisco M., 8th
All-Southern Honor band
Cello



Cassidy W., 7th
All-Southern, All-State Honor orchestras
Cello



Raeva v., 8th
All-State Honor band
French Horn



Edward W., 6th
All-Southern Honor orchestra
Bass



Adam B., 7th
All-Southern Honor band
Percussion



Hannah W., 7th
All-Southern, All-State Honor band
Clarinet



Ryan C., 7th
All-State Honor band
Alto Saxophone

Photos: Mia Subin

BEAUTIFYING JAMS

New mural brings color and positive message to campus



Harper S. helps the artist, Sel, with painting the new mural in the quad.

Photo: Charlie Snyder



"Why fit in when you were born to stand out" mural on the science building.

Illustration by former JAMS Students:

Ariana Gonzales, Olivia Overfield, Denise Rosa, and Ella Rose

Artist: Sel @sel_dog

Photo: Ms. Beeman-Solano



The new mural is now a colorful backdrop to many school activities including the recent rap battle with Theo D. and Spencer H.

Photo: Crystal Ramos

CAUGHT ON CAMPUS



Crowd reacts with cheers and laughs during rap battle. Photo: Mr. Miranda



Handshake contest brings out creativity among friends. Photo: Cyrus Valenza



Fortnite fans recreate the popular game's dance moves during a competition. Photo: Mr. Miranda



Top fundraising students rewarded with games, fun, prizes, and treats at the Step It Up! day. Photo: Ms. Beeman-Solano



The choir concert was a success when JAMS singers took the stage at Barnum Hall at SaMo High.

THEATER GROUP PREPARES FOR APRIL SHOWERS

“Singin’ in the Rain” is this year’s musical performance

By ELLEANOR QUIST

In November, a large group of theater students started off on their long journey towards a full-length production of the school musical, *Singin’ in the Rain*, which will be performed in April.

The first step of the process was two consecutive auditions, the first of which started off with an icebreaker game. One student would introduce themselves with a gesture, and the rest of the students in the circle would repeat the name and gesture. In the next part of that audition, the young actors learned a short dance to the song, “Good Mornin’” from *Singin’ In The Rain*. This dance was to be used in the second audition and, for some, the callbacks. The second part of the first audition, which started after a snack break, was simply students being called up to sing a song and tell a story.

The second audition was very similar to the first. To start things off, everyone lined up to dance the short dance and sing “Good Mornin’”, and the rest of the audition consisted of songs and stories from the kids who hadn’t tried out in the first audition. After two days of auditions, the director was ready to start callbacks. Everyone got called back for at least one thing, but some actors got called back for as many as six roles.

At the end of the process, on the following Friday, everyone came back for the final casting meeting. The show was split into two main casts, which means that two of each of the main roles were

cast. The role of Don Lockwood will be played by Raeva Vasisht and Maxine Grossman; Lina Lamont will be Jackie Oram and Rebekka Raphling; Cosmo Brown is to be played by Jet Lipman and Dylan Bruce; and Kathy Seldon will be played by Ava Lowe and Sadie Lovette.

After winter break, the cast gathered again to learn how to sing most of the songs from *Singin’ In The Rain*. In previous years, singing rehearsals have taken place with Ms. Blanchard in her classroom, but this year, due to the choir room’s mold problem, the cafeteria, and in later weeks, room 32, was filled with singing and music. These singing rehearsals took place for one month, or at least until everyone involved couldn’t go a day without getting “Good Mornin’” stuck in their head.

The singing rehearsals have ended, so dancing and acting rehearsals continue on Mondays and Wednesdays until a final push in April. The final rehearsals will be two weeks, and after school on every day, the entire cast and crew of *Singin’ in the Rain* will be bussed to the Lincoln Middle School stage for tech rehearsals and dress rehearsals. Then, after all of this rehearsing is over, it’s showtime! Don’t forget to buy your tickets!



JAMS Theatre Cast rehearse for their new musical, *Singin’ in the Rain*, after school. Photo: Eleanor Quist

Wellness Awareness

By ZACHARY SWERDLOW and ELLEANOR QUIST

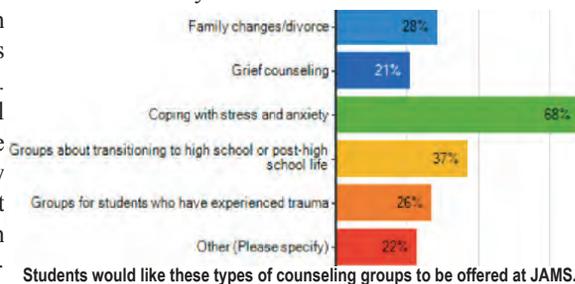
In spring 2018, students, parents, and staff completed a survey about the overall wellness of JAMS students. The survey included various questions about mental health issues that students face and how students prefer to get information about mental health.

Shuli Lotan, SMMUSD Mental Health Counseling Coordinator, said that the data provided in the JAMS Wellness Survey will be used to find out what issues affect students and give them enough information to hopefully act on the data. Fifty three percent of JAMS students responded to have “somewhat” low self-esteem. Forty one percent of students responded that they get verbally attacked. Lotan said that the most interesting thing she found while conducting the survey was the fact that different groups of people (parents, students, and staff) think about

what affects a student's happiness. According to Lotan, parents rated “verbal harassment” as the greatest factor to a student's well being, while children saw “low self esteem” as the greatest factor.

The data tell us that a lot of people are unaware of the services available to help students and their families. “There is also great information about issues that are affecting students wellness, and ways that students would like to receive information about mental health, so this will be used to tailor what we focus on and how we do it.” said Lotan.

In the future, students at JAMS can probably look forward to more awareness of things like counseling groups to help increase overall student wellness. Shuli Lotan said, “Everything that we do regarding mental health in SMMUSD is to benefit the students, so ideally this survey leads to some meaningful changes in people's awareness of and openness to seeking support for the many challenges that life brings.”



After School Hours

By NOAH ZUCKER and TYLER STRANG



Mr. K., or Paul Karakoubian is a math teacher at JAMS. He is quite open about what he does outside of

school, but there are still some little known facts about him. On Mondays he goes to Lincoln Middle School to play basketball in their gymnasium. He lives in Hollywood and courses at USC. He also plays basketball on Tuesdays at UCLA. Outside of school he tutors kids struggling in math. Teaching and helping students is one of his passions in and outside of school.



Axel W. is a 7th grader who plays a different kind of sport - ESports. Axel explained that

ESports is online gaming where one plays in tournaments for the chance to win a cash prize. Axel has won 8 tournaments giving him a grand total of \$500. He says he plays it as an afterschool activity because it is, “Fun, competitive, and challenging.” He plays from his computer at home and is too young to take part of team tournaments where you must be 16 years or older to play, but nonetheless he found a way to win.



Mick L. is a 6th grader who's favorite after school activities are lacrosse and football. He's been playing

lacrosse for four years and football for eight years. “I play these sports because they are a great form of exercise and are both really exciting to play.”



Matilda S. is a fellow 8th grader who has been at JAMS since 6th grade. One after school activity

that Matilda is part of is volleyball. Like many other girls at this school, she's been playing this sport for many years. “This is a very entertaining sport and it's fast pace is the main reason she has enjoyed for the past years.”

RoboVikings Explore the World of Science, Technology & Robotics

By IZABELLA GONZALEZ HERNANDEZ and JESSIE YU

RoboVikings is a fun robotics club for JAMS seventh and eighth graders in the Santa Monica Science Magnet where they get to build a robot from scratch and compete against other schools. The team participates in the FIRST Tech Challenge, which is a worldwide robotics competition for middle and high school students. The challenge is announced in September, and they meet to design, build, program and practice operating the robot to win points in regional competitions that begin each December.

They compete against other teams (non-violently, it's not Battle Bots!) by winning points for the robot design. The second competition took place at Monrovia High, where there were 27 high school teams and two middle school teams. JAMS is very proud since the team came in 5th place. Finals take place at the World Championship in April.



Photos: Ruben Aronin

WINTER GETAWAY

-Ruby Kingscote

1. Yearbook and eighth grade social studies teacher, Ms. Goldberg spent her winter break in Vail, Colorado with her daughter Maia. She loved spending time with her family and believes “there’s nothing better than watching kids in the snow.”



2. Eighth grader Lana P. spent her winter vacation baking with friends at home a couple days before Christmas. Unfortunately, “The velvet cake ended up being a little dry, and stuck to the pan!” She still had lots of fun making the cake.



3. Sixth grader Jaxon W. feeding carrots to a giraffe at a zoo in Palm Desert.



4. Sixth grade science teacher, Ms. Schwartz enjoyed a snowy break with her husband in New Mexico. “I have been inner tubing on water before, but I’d never done snow tubing,” she commented.



5. Eighth grader Apre T. went to Ensenada, Mexico over winter break and spent New Years at Venice beach, with his cousin Jackson for the last sunset of 2018.



6. Sixth grader Grace G. went to Bruin Woods Family Camp at Lake Arrowhead over winter break. She enjoyed her trip in the snow while “catching snowflakes on her tongue.”



7. Eighth grader Liam L. went to Mammoth over break and had a lot of fun snowboarding with his friend and “it wasn’t too crowded and it was nice to be in the snow.”



8. Eighth grader Alice K. went to Bethesda, Maryland and visited her friends and family.



Cube Craze

By ELLEANOR QUIST

The Rubik's Cube is coming back to JAMS in a big way. This toy was invented in 1977 by Ernő Rubik and soon became a fad in the eighties. Now, more than forty years after its invention, you can't visit a class without seeing someone fidgeting with one of these puzzles. As the 'craze for cubes' increases, let's ask ourselves, "what is the reason for its return?"

YouTube could be one of the reasons that Rubik's Cubes are coming back into the spotlight. Back when they were first invented, it was much more difficult to solve one. This made both learning and showing people your skills much more impressive than it is now. Today, anyone can look up a tutorial and be a master in minutes. There are more ways of communicating through online

and videos to share successes.

Another reason could be that Rubik's Cubes are being made in so many shapes and sizes. Once you know how to solve a basic three-by-three cube, you can move on to a crazy rotating dodecahedron with a vibrant color on each side. The possibilities are truly endless. Additionally, there are now more companies producing the cubes making it easier to find new puzzles. These companies include Gans, Moyu, and others

Whatever the reason, Rubik's Cubes are making their way back into popular culture. To anyone who wants an inexpensive and screenless source of entertainment, you should definitely try one. Not only

is it a great source of fun but also a way to challenge your mind that'll get you hooked for hours and hours.



PRESIDENT FOR A DAY

By LIAM LARWOOD

Eighth graders visited the Reagan Library field trip right before winter break. During this trip, the students alternated between various activities including playing different roles in the press, armed forces and oval office, as well as learning many interesting facts about "The Great Communicator". Students also learned how the Secret Service was originally created to protect the nation's economy. Another fun experience was exploring Air Force One. On Air Force One, students saw various parts of the vessel as well as the history behind this infamous plane.



"I had a great time at the Reagan Library, and especially enjoyed playing a general in the army."
-Ty V.



"My favorite part of the Reagan Field trip was when we went on Air Force One."
-Lilly R.

MARVEL MANIA

We asked JAMS students who they are most excited to see in the highly anticipated **Avengers: Endgame** that comes out in April. These are the top three characters voted by the student body.



#2. Captain Marvel



#3. Wong



Yearning for Yosemite

By MAX HARRISON
and KALEY JIGAMIAN

The Yosemite National Park field trip is an activity that many students look forward to all year. Camping, exploring the park, and photographing nature are all popular with JAMS students. Despite a bout of Norovirus two years ago where students and teachers became ill, it's still one of the school year's highlights. But while some students are excited, a few are still nervous about potential health concerns.

All students have different opinions about this trip. For example, Dashiell Burton said, "I'm really excited because on the other

"I think it was a great and incredible experience. It seemed like everyone had fun and stayed healthy, so it really just turned out nice. If I could, I would definitely go again."

-Bibi Peterson



Students of rotation C, all gather together after they got off the bus at the start of the Yosemite trip. Photo: Ursula Burton

school trips that I've been on, I got to hang out with my friends and it was really fun. So I'm really excited for this trip."

On the other hand, some may not have the right requirements and others just may not want to go. Ana Luiza Milk did not want to attend because she was afraid of getting sick. "First of all, it's not safe or clean because of the government shut down. There aren't many rescue services or rangers there to help us if we need it. I also don't want to get sick."

Nevertheless, the Yosemite trip was a huge success despite the government shut down and there wasn't a trace of the Norovirus anywhere.



Caught between a rock and a hard place, students find their way out together.

Photo: Nancy Gutierrez



Photos: Caroline Agamata McCormick

Space JAMS

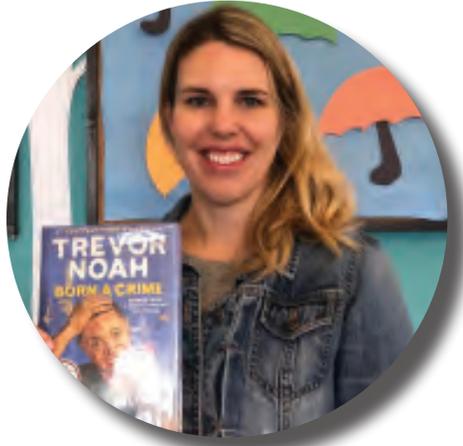
Eighth graders explore Astrocamp

On February 1st-3rd, eighth graders visited the beautiful San Jacinto Mountains near the town of Idyllwild to attend AstroCamp. Astrocamp is a hands-on physical science program with an emphasis on astronomy and space exploration. The trip includes both academic activities as well as team-building physical activities.



THE BOOKMARK

Ms. Jarvis's Library Book Favorites



**FOR ADVANCED READERS:
BORN A CRIME
BY TREVOR NOAH**

Have you been trying to find a good and fresh book to read or perhaps a page-turner? Did you enjoy Ms. Jarvis' picks from the last issue? She's selected some more books for all grade levels to read.

The books she has chosen are the Spy School Series by Stuart Gibbs, Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales Series by Nathan Hale, and Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer. Ms. Jarvis also has a book chosen that is a little more advanced in case the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade books just aren't at your level. Her chosen advanced book this time is Trevor Noah's Born a Crime. *-Crystal Ramos*



**6TH GRADE:
SPY SCHOOL SERIES
BY STUART GIBBS**

"Think middle school is hard, try accidentally getting admitted to a science magnet school that is a secret front for the Junior C.I.A. academy!"



**7TH GRADE:
NATHAN HALE'S
HAZARDOUS TALES
SERIES
BY NATHAN HALE**

"Check out JAMS's most popular graphic novel series of this year. True stories of the Alamo, Civil War Battleships, Revolutionary War spies, Pearl Harbor, and more. Be sure to checkout the newest tale: Lafayette!"



**8TH GRADE:
INTO THIN AIR
BY JON KRAKAUER**

"Looking for adventure? Check out the true story of the 1996 Mt. Everest disaster."

OPINION

The Dress Code: Does It Distract From Academics?

By SINEAD O'CALLAHAN

In the first edition of The JAMS Journal, I talked about how the dress code is unjust and sexist. For this issue, I set out to find if what students are wearing really affects the students around them. The dress code is there to ensure that we are in a good learning environment. However, when I ask the boys around me, none of them seem to pay attention to what girls are wearing. As teens, it is natural for boys and girls to take interest in the students around them. The purpose of a dress code is to provide guidance to students and parents as to appropriate attire for school and at any school function. Many schools institute a dress code instead of a school uniform so that students can still dress the way they want and express their individual personality. Some feel that dress codes are too restrictive or they focus unfairly on girls. Where is the line between a student dressing how they feel most comfortable and what is deemed 'inappropriate' by the school district.

I set out to get a boys' opinions on the matter. Aaron Smollins, an eighth grader said, "The way girls dress at John Adams doesn't distract me in the classroom. This does not affect me in particular because there is no visual distraction that I see when I am trying to do well in school."

Although our dress code seems bad, in reality it isn't compared to other schools. Some schools don't allow shorts below the fingertips, tank tops, and other things that are allowed here. Other schools should't ask themselves, "how much is too much?"

AVID CORNER: Students of the Month



NOVEMBER 2018: Nia G., Kate R., Giselle A., and Juan L. Photo: Cyrus Valenza



DECEMBER 2018: Wongiel G. and Jadon A. Photo: Cyrus Valenza



JANUARY 2019: Lily G., Alexander H., Kayla T., and Luis A., Photo: Cyrus Valenza

FAST FORWARD

Where Do Students See Themselves in Ten Years?

By Ana Luiza Milk and Luisa Gonzalez

“I see myself as an entrepreneur in ten years because I want to create new innovative ideas for the world. I was inspired by my dad , who always supported me. To fulfill my dreams I would attend a business school. I hope I can reach my dreams and help the world be a better place”



Archer T.
(6th Grade)

“I see myself as a recording artist in ten years because I have a strong passion for music and singing. Someone who inspired me is Billie Eilish. To fulfill my dream, I will attend a music school.”



Vanessa G.
(7th Grade)

“The job I see myself having in ten years is a knee surgeon because I have a knee injury and doctors have helped me massively. I was inspired by my doctor, Dr. Goldman. To fulfill my dreams I will go to medical school.”



Isabella S.
(7th Grade)

Photos: Ana Luiza Milk

Dear Journal

Advice Column

By CRYSTAL RAMOS and CYRUS VALENZA

*Dear Journal, this is probably a common thing, but I need advice on how to talk to my crush. I get so nervous that it's hard to start a conversation and get to know them. Do you have any suggestions?
Sincerely, Tongue-Tied*

Find a time and place that you find comfortable; ease into conversation. Being nervous is never ideal, so remember to breathe and take it slowly. Eventually, you two will get to know each other and become closer. Although it's cliché, don't forget to be yourself!

*Dear Journal, I always procrastinate with everything. It's affecting my school work, sleep, and making me act like a zombie. Any tips?
Sincerely, The Procrastinator*

Use things such as a calendar or phone reminders to help notify yourself of unfinished work. Also, make your assignments your top priority. Homework first, then Netflix/Fortnite.

*Dear Journal, my friend told my crush that I have a crush on him, and I am worried he will start to avoid me. What do I do?
Sincerely, Confused Crush*

Act like nothing happened so he does not feel like anything is wrong. If he starts to avoid you, talk to him about it and say you don't want this to affect your friendship.

*Dear Journal, I really dislike my 2, 4, 6 period teachers and I don't know how to cope with it!
Sincerely, Agitated*

Unfortunately, you're not allowed to transfer classes just because of the teacher. But you can try to build a relationship with your teachers by doing things such as asking how their day has been or asking if they need help with anything. Show that you care - that will put a teacher in a good mood and in their good graces.

2018 Entertainment Review

By HOLDEN HENDRICKSON and DEREK NAPIER

2018 was definitely a pleasing year for entertainment. This year, some of the most influential movies and video games of the decade were released, but which entertainment giants topped the charts? Over 250 students were surveyed and determined which movies and video games are JAMS favorites. In addition, students believe that 2018 was a great year for the movie and video game industry.

Best Movies



Avengers: Infinity War

This Marvel blockbuster became the highest grossing superhero movie ever.

“Avengers: Infinity War was one of my favorite movies because it has a lot of different things going on such as action, romance, suspense, and sadness- and it ties everything in the MC universe together very well. Also, I’m kind of just a Marvel geek.”

- Ellanora L., Eighth Grade



Black Panther

In this Marvel movie, T’Challa takes over the kingdom of Wakanda but is soon challenged for the throne by his cousin, Killmonger, and must save the fate of Wakanda.

“I like Black Panther because it represents strong black actors and shows how talented they are.” - Eva B., Seventh Grade



Incredibles 2

This second installment of the Incredibles series was a great family friendly, but action packed film.

“I liked Incredibles 2 because it had a fast-moving story and lots of action” -Hoyt G., Sixth Grade

Best Video Games



Fortnite: Battle Royale

This free-to-play battle royale game took the world by storm with over 200 million players worldwide, also allowing friends to team up on different gaming platforms.

“I like Fortnite because it’s so different compared to other battle royale games and it’s just so fun to play with friends.”- Adalberto V., Eighth Grade



Spiderman PS4

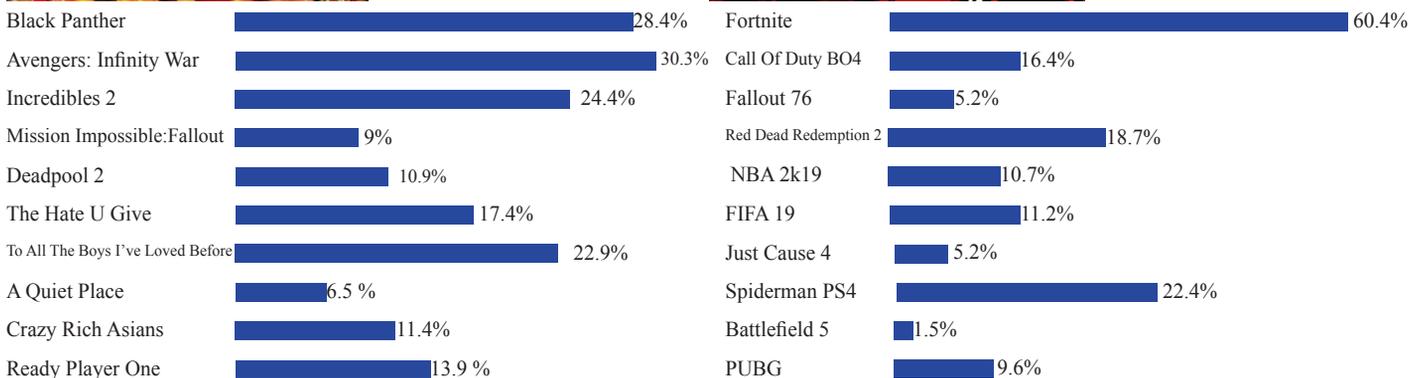
“I like Spiderman because of the interesting story and concept of Peter Parker. Especially when you can play as him in a video game. Spiderman relates to kids, because he deals with adolescent problems, but also saves people. He is only a high school student with a completely different side to himself” - Lana P., Eighth Grade



Red Dead Redemption 2

“I mainly like the game for its creative random storylines. The second reason I chose this game was because of the customization and the amazing artwork. The last thing I admire in Red Dead is the amazing open world.”

- Vincente M., Eighth Grade



JAMS Style

By SOPHIE CANNY

Forget matching, slightly odd socks are the new favorite!



JAMS is home to many unique students with style from around the world. We discovered students with interesting styles and they described their personal fashion interests to The JAMS Journal. This page is not about the latest fashion, but rather style that students have made their own.



Izzy A. shows off her fishnet gloves and all black aesthetic with a smile.



Peyton P. describes her style as 'indie'.



Jet L.

Popularized by pop stars such as Billie Eilish, oversized clothing has made its way into the fashion spotlight!



Zoe H.

Josephine G.

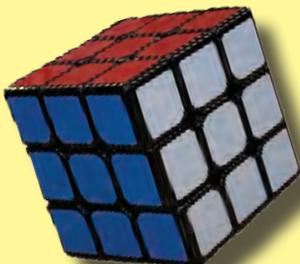


Matthew M. is wearing matching Adidas shorts and shoes, a popular combo amongst the boys at JAMS.



Olive G.

Back in style, the classic 80s puzzle, Rubik's Cubes are popular with JAMS students.



No judgment here! An increasing number of JAMS students are showing up to school in their PJ's.

Fjallraven Kanken bags are the latest in backpack trends, they come in many different colors and are usually paired with unique pins.

Year of the Pig: Fortune and Personality

By DESMOND GABRESKI

In the tale you may have heard as a little kid, Buddha was holding a race for all the animals in the world. Unfortunately, only twelve animals showed up. To reward them, he would name every year in the Chinese Zodiac calendar after the animals, based on what place they came in the race. This is the last year in the Zodiac calendar, the year of the pig. During the race, the pig was hungry so he stopped to eat. Then he became tired and fell asleep. He woke up just in time to finish in 12th place.

So, “what’s so special about pigs?” you may be asking. Well, pigs are blessed with good fortune in life. They’re energetic and enthusiastic. Men born in the year of the pig are gentle and optimistic. Women born in the year of the pig are social and full of excitement. Pigs are gentle and want everyone to live in harmony, so a career in charity could be a good fit. Pigs are patient and always want to help people, so they’re great teachers and coaches. If you’re looking for a business career, real estate is a great option for pigs.



The year of one’s zodiac year is always unlucky, so be ready for any sadness, frustration, and negativity. It is unclear how Lunar New Year began, but here’s another story that explains it.

In ancient times, there was a monster named Nian. Once a year it would come up from the bottom of the sea to eat humans and animals. During this time people would run away into the mountains. One year a beggar was looking for shelter but everyone was running away until an old woman gave him a home. He promised to scare the Nian away. He decorated the house. A Nian came at midnight. When it saw the old woman’s house covered in red. The Nian roared in anger until a firecracker started. The Nian screamed in anger. The beggar walked out cover in red, laughing at the Nian. The next day the town was so amazed it started using loud noises and the color red every Lunar New Year. Aside from the myths, monsters, and races, have a fun time this Lunar New Year. Wear red and be loud!

On February 12th, ASB and Asian Student Union collaborated to create fun and engaging activities. About 360 red envelopes were planted in classrooms with prize coupons inside and were used to redeem prizes in the quad. They also hosted booths such as Pin the Fire on the JAMS Dragon, Bingo, Calligraphy, and Cupcake Walk. Photos: Ms. Beeman-Solano



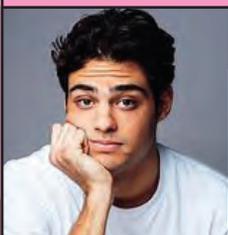
Celebrity Crush

By DESMOND GABRESKI

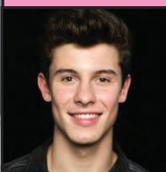
JAMS students reveal their celebrity crushes. These are the results and why cupid hit the mark.



#1 Tom Holland
“Kind and sweet”
Photo by Golden Globes



#2 Noah Centineo
“Random and quirky”
Photo by W Magazine



#3 Shawn Mendes
“Sick and dope”
Photo by Grammy.com



#1 Ariana Grande
“Kind and sweet”
Photo by eonline.com



#2 Billie Eilish
“Funny”
Photo by Las Vegas Weekly



#3 Doja Cat
“Sick and dope”
Photo by MadameNoire

SUPER BOWL LIII By WILL GASPARINO

Patriots won the Super Bowl for the 6th time! The New England Patriots beat the Los Angeles Rams 13-3 on February 3, 2019. Luckily, the new stadium is indoors, so no one had to experience the cold weather which could have changed the game. In a game where the offense of both teams barely showed up to play, the Brady and Belichick era prevailed. Most people call the game ‘the most boring Super Bowl in history’ but the defenses of both teams did not make many mistakes. After the Patriots won, the official Instagram account posted a picture of the team’s charter plane and commented, “we’re gonna need a new plane”. This is kind of crazy, since they have won so many Super Bowls that they can’t even fit six pictures of trophies on the tail of their plane.



“I am disappointed that the Patriots won again. I hope that the Rams win next year.”
-Ry B.



“The game was really boring and I was disappointed with the Rams losing. The halftime show was very bad as well.”
-Kaya S.

What do you look forward to in the Super Bowl?



- Halftime show
- Game
- Watching the game with friends
- Commercials

Super Bowl FUN FACTS

The first Super Bowl was held on January 15, 1967. Kansas City won 35-10. It was played at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

On Super Bowl Sunday, there are approximately 8 million pounds of guacamole eaten. Approximately 14,500 tons of chips are consumed.

The cost for placing a commercial in the Super Bowl is more expensive than any other television event. The average cost is \$2.8 million for 30 seconds of air time.

The average Super Bowl ticket costs between \$2,500 and \$3,000. In Las Vegas, more than \$115 million is (legally) bet on the Super Bowl every year.

Sources: Mentalfloss.com and SoftSchools.com

Mountain Mayhem By DILLON NEWMAN

Every year, millions of people compete in winter sports competitions all over the world. However, living in what is commonly stereotyped as “fun in the sun”, what happens to all of the winter athletes who live in Santa Monica? The closest mountain for skiing, snowboarding, and all other winter activities, Mountain High, is over two hours away. Also, the more popular destinations, Mammoth Mountain and Big Bear Mountain, are four-six hours drives from Santa Monica. Adding to the fact that most of these people only have the weekend to go skiing, it leaves not a lot of time for actual skiing, just driving. Also, not everyone has the money for good snow tires, which leaves them to add more time to their journey up to the mountain putting on tire chains so that they don’t slip and slide on the icy mountain roads. Adding to the food stops, bathroom breaks, and the drive from Santa Monica to Big Bear or Mammoth is completely unreasonable.

Mountain Sports FUN FACTS

The longest ski jump is 832 ft. by Stefan Kraft.

The fastest anyone has ever skied is 156.8 mph. That’s faster than the average speedboat.

The fastest snowboarding speed is 126.309 mph.

In the past Winter Olympics, the United States won six out of nine possible medals for snowboarding.

Austria has the most medals for skiing with 105. Almost twice as much as second place, Switzerland with 56.

Norway has the most Winter Olympics medals with 329. The United States is second with 282 medals.

Russia has the most people who ski in the world with 3.9 million people skiing every year.

Source: Wikipedia

What are your opinions about the drive to mountains like Mammoth and Big Bear?



“It takes like six hours to drive to Mammoth. So you get really tired by the time you get there.”
-Jonathan S.



“You have to drive seven hours just to ski the next day. Then, you have to drive back the next night.”
-Donovan S.



“It is really annoying because you need chains on your tires and if you don’t, you skid on the road and it is really dangerous.”
-Pablo R.



“The drive is annoying because I get carsick. You should also bring movies and music to keep you occupied.”
-Molly B.

TRIVIA TIME

1. What state gets the coldest during winter?
2. What is the name of the tree that always has leaves during winter?
3. How many days is the Lunar New Year celebrated?
4. What is Lunar New Year?
5. T/F: The Lunar New Year date changes each year.
6. When is Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday?
7. What is MLK Jr.'s most famous speech?
8. How many children did MLK Jr. have?
9. Who is the ancient Greek god that symbolizes Valentines day?
10. T/F: Valentines Day is the second most popular day to send cards.

(1) Alaska (2) Evergreen (3) 23 days (4) The new year of the Old Chinese calendar (5) True (6) January 21 (7) I Have a Dream speech (8) 4 (9) Eros (10) True

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

By REBEKKA GARCIA

Although the winter holidays have passed, people have some personal family traditions to share. Families bake cookies, sing songs, or make a feast for dinner. Everyone celebrates differently, here are just a few some students who shared their family's holiday traditions.



"We all go to Starbucks and have coffee, tea, and hot chocolate and buy a 20 dollar gift card and we have a silent raffle at home"

-Viankah R.



"On Christmas Day my cousin and I wake up at 6:00 and knock on everyone's door til they wake up to open presents"

-Nia G.

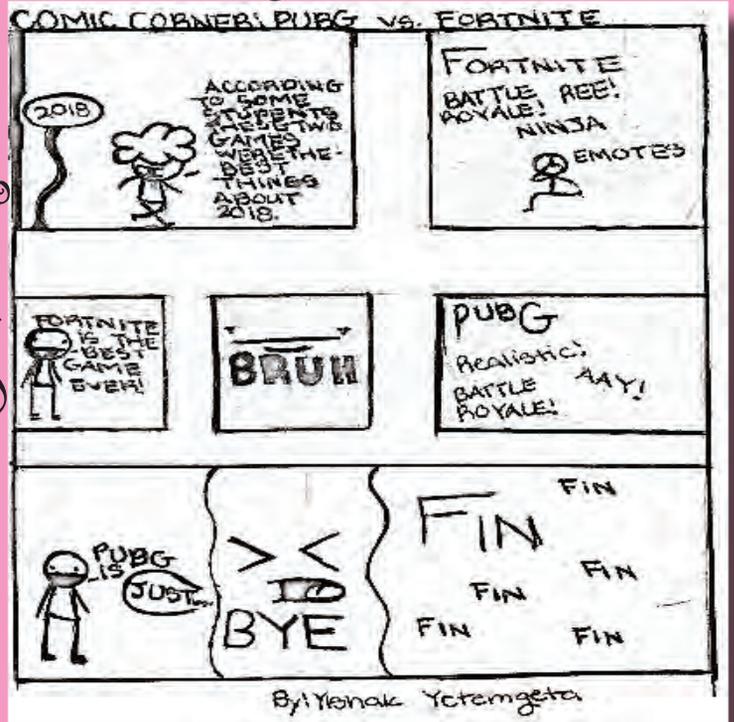


"We eat exotic foods for Christmas and have a party."

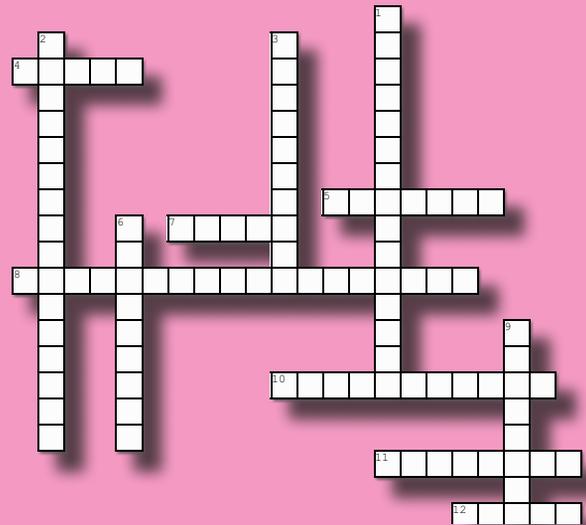
-Marco E.

Photos: Rebekka Garcia

COMIC CORNER



Crossword



ACROSS

4. What coin is Abraham Lincoln on?
5. In what state was Martin Luther King, Jr. born?
7. Which U.S. President is the only president to have resigned from office?
8. What prize did MLK win in 1964?
10. What is MLK Jr.'s famous speech?
11. Which president was assassinated while in office?
12. What is the most popular flower sold?

DOWN

1. What song is most often associated with MLK Jr. ?
2. Who is the first president of the United States?
3. What state produces the majority of America's roses?
6. What is the most popular gift on Valentine's Day?
9. Who usually receives the most Valentine's Day cards?