



# The Pershing Post

Logo by Lian Jie Li (Class 703)

"For the students. by the students"

March 2019

## Love Fortnite? You Might Reconsider After Reading This Article

- Written by Yu Chen Lin and Jessica Qiu (Class 804)

Fortnite is a battle royale, third-person shooter game by Epic Games with many different game modes. Fortnite Battle Royale is a player versus player battle royale game with up to 100 players. Players drop from the Battle Bus to scavenge weapons and supplies. While scavenging, players can cross some other players and will battle with each other. It is available on many platforms such as Windows, macOS, mobile, XBOX, Playstation, and the Nintendo Switch and about 40 millions players play the game. Streaming a popular game such as Fortnite can make a professional gamer a lot of money. For example, Faze Tfue, is a very famous Fortnite streamer with a net worth of \$3 million, most which comes from twitch subscriptions and donations. (Not saying that you should be a streamer, unless you're as successful as him.)

Fortnite is beneficial in certain real life situations. Fortnite allows people to be creative in building. This could inspire them to pursue careers such as

architecture and engineering. People can also improve their communication skills by interacting with others online. Interactions help kids build up their public speaking abilities by giving them the courage to talk to friendly players online. Moreover, the game can help improve reaction speeds in real life. While playing the game, a player can shoot you, but with quick reaction speeds, you can quickly turn around and start building to defend yourself. Lastly, since the game is available on multiple platforms such as XBOX, Playstation, and the Nintendo Switch, it allows the same account to play across all the different platforms at different locations.

However, Fortnite isn't only full of happiness and fun, as you'd expect. Although people can improve their communication skills, they can also be endangered by talking to strangers. Families and children are also at risk of losing a lot of money from the pressures of having cosmetic add-ons in the game. For

example, Epic Games' value went up quickly because of Fortnite. In turn, this also means that families' hard earned money is being lost. In addition, people may lose their romantic relationships because they are too focused on the game - rather than on their significant others. Fortnite can also ruin relationships with friends because players get angry at each other for not 'carrying them' and playing with them as often as they'd like. This emotion of anger can even lead people to lose their minds and even hurt themselves or others.

**Look over our pros and cons list and decide for yourself: Is Fortnite beneficial or harmful?**

### Cons of Fortnite:

- Teenagers lose their girlfriends
- Kids can lose their minds (raging)
- Kids could interact with strangers
- Costs a lot of real money
- Can end friendships

**Are you interested in learning about John J. Pershing's principal, Mr. Dempster?**

**Turn to page 2 for an EXCLUSIVE interview conducted by the Newspaper Team's very own Walin Wasee from Class 703!**

### Pros of Fortnite:

- Kids can get creative with designing and building
- Kids can experience more social interactions
- Kids are able to play on many different platforms
- The game can improve reaction speed

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**The Pershing Post wants to hear from you!!!!**

**Go to this link:**

**[bit.ly/PershingPost319](http://bit.ly/PershingPost319)**

**to vote for which field trip would interest you the most.**

**Poll closes on March 18, 2019.**

(Written in Walin's perspective)

Recently, I had the absolute honor to interview Mr. Dempster, the principal of our school! To most students in Pershing (including me before this interview), Principal Dempster is a complete mystery. Most students feel that they barely know anything about him, other than the fact that he is our principal. So, today, I will share with you the information that I learned about our humble principal.

### **What made Mr. Dempster want to pursue a career in education?**

Mr. Dempster has always had a passion for helping children and he wants to see children succeed. When he used to play basketball on a traveling team, they made the players work with young children as part of their community service. This was when he discovered that - with the right guidance - children can succeed. Mr. Dempster himself admitted that even though he worked hard to come to the position that he is currently in, he also had some guidance and encouragement from other people. This was also why he wanted to be one of the key people to change lives for the better.

### **What college did he go to and what did he like about it?**

Mr. Dempster went to college upstate, at a school called Genesee, where he enjoyed playing basketball. He then had to return back home and finish at a local school called Touro. At the time, he was working all day long so he needed a school that fit his schedule. In the end, he believed in himself, and look where it got him! He's now the principal of our school!

### **How did Mr. Dempster become a principal?**

Mr. Dempster also expressed that he loves teaching and has had a lot of success with it. His

principal at Seth Low used to be an assistant principal at Pershing, so he has a very special bond with our school. His old principal thought that he was a very strong teacher and should be a dean. Then, after being dean for a while, she thought Mr. Dempster would make a great assistant principal as well. After realizing that he had a passion for leading schools and teachers, he made it a goal to become principal of his own school one day. After much deliberation and a few offers, Mr. Dempster chose John J. Pershing as the place where he would begin his legacy as a principal.

### **How does Mr. Dempster plan on making the John J. Pershing school community better?**

He expressed that he wants to make sure he collaborates with the teachers and parents as well as making sure that the students have a voice in the school. He realized that even though he can make decisions on his own, it's not all about him, but it's about what's best for students. He also wants the parents to be engaged in helping their children while still making sure that the teachers are comfortable in teaching the students in front of them. (That's pretty selfless if you ask me!)

### **What new services and activities can we expect from Pershing in the future?**

## **Interview with Mr. Dempster**

**By: Walin Wasee (Class 703)**



**Mr. Dempster with Walin Wasee**

Right now, he's trying to make some more extracurricular activities available for students. When he first came to Pershing, they had just started a basketball team and a chess team, but there still weren't as many options as he wanted. Over time, the school has started a girl's basketball and volleyball teams, a soccer team and also a track team soon! After listening to a student's request, he also chose to bring back the chess team this year.

Mr. Dempster wants you to work hard but also play hard with things like the yearbook committee and our very own newspaper team. We also have a girl's empowerment movement that Ms. Baldassano is in charge of and with Ms. Dedushaj's help, the GEM girls are really growing in numbers. In addition, he hopes to bring more electives to the school due to its current success.

### **How does Mr. Dempster handle the challenges that come along with being a principal?**

Mr. Dempster said that the way he deals with challenges is to try to look at them from different angles. If it's a very hard decision, he talks to people he trusts - like his assistant principals, teachers on the teacher leadership team, students and the PTA - to get the full picture. He stressed that in every decision he makes, he keeps the students at the center of them all.

### **What advice does Mr. Dempster have for his students?**

Mr. Dempster would like us all to know that we have a long future ahead of us and that we should believe in ourselves, work hard, and strive for our dreams. He says that no one became successful without working hard. He also says that you can't let the opinion of others determine who you are. Mr. Dempster said, and I quote, "The biggest fan you have, besides your parents, is yourself". Now that's something I can get behind!

### **What does he think is the most fulfilling thing about being Pershing's principal?**

Mr. Dempster said that it is watching students develop and grow. Also, he loves watching the joy of the teachers when they see the successes of their students and their hard work pay off. Seeing the joy of others is really what makes Mr. Dempster feel like he's doing a great job leading our school.

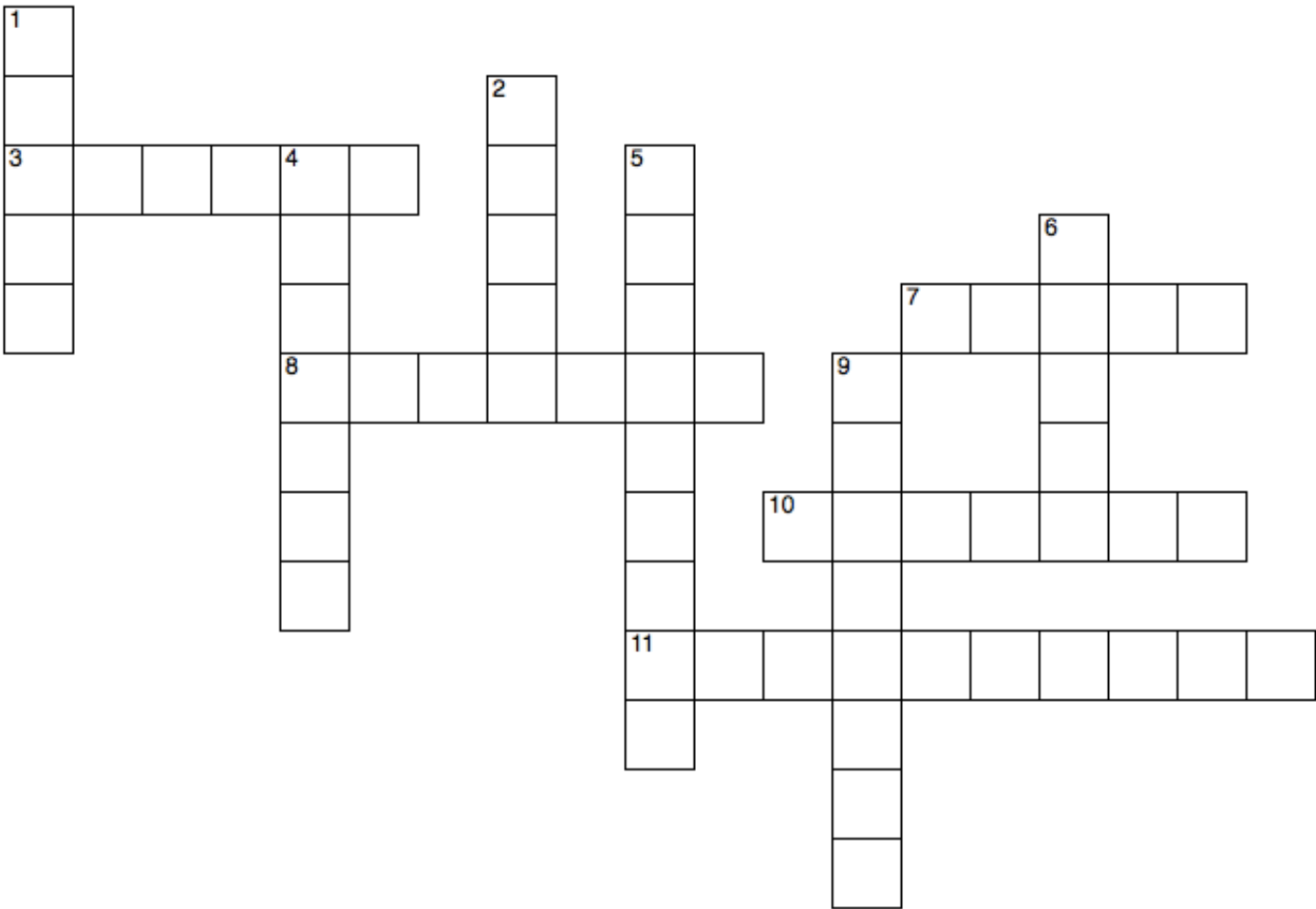
### **What mark does Mr. Dempster want to leave at John J. Pershing?**

Mr. Dempster told me that he wants to leave this school a better place than when he got here. Also, he wants the person who comes after him to leave it as a better place than when that person got here and so on and so forth. He wants students to feel cared for and that they can do anything they want with their lives. Additionally, he wants to impact lives in a positive way and make everyone feel like Pershing is their second home.

### **In my opinion, Mr. Dempster is doing a really great job as our principal. Wouldn't you agree?**

St. Patrick's Day Crossword

By: Yu Jie Zheng (Class 703)



- ACROSS**
3. Four leaf \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 The month it happens
- 8 Happens when rain is over
- 10 The month and the day of the holiday
- 11 A person who tries to take the pot of gold
- DOWN**
- 1 It's \_\_\_\_\_ to find a four leaf clover
- 2 The fourth color of the rainbow
- 4 A type of gemstone
- 5 At the end of a rainbow
- 6 People from Ireland
- 9 A green plant that's related to the holiday

The Mind of the Debaters

By: Adayani Magdaleno (Class 801)

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be on the Pershing debate team? Even though the debate team started only last year, they have already won many debates against other schools!

Debating is an activity where students go against other schools to debate whatever topic they were assigned. Students have to be prepared for both sides of the argument since they are not told what side they will be supporting until they have arrived to the debating location. Beforehand, students are given time to be introduced to the topic in order for students to find enough supporting information that they need to make a valid argument. There are many rules involved in debates. For example, the speaker, has four minutes to speak and help them support their claim but before they can even help support their

claim, they must greet themselves to the judges and audience. Then they can start talking about their topic. A student on the Pershing debate team says, “Even though we have four minutes, it is kind of stressful trying to say all of your points since it really isn’t enough time.”

In practice debates that are held after school, students have twenty minutes to prepare their argument. This is when students have time to research and get more of their supporting facts. During the last ten minutes, they are told to stop researching and get ready for a practice run. This is when the partners decide what side they want to practice on. Being on the debate team can be beneficial in many ways and teaches the members many skills that will help them in the future!

A Day in the Life: Math Class Edition

By: Anonymous

Math class is not one of my favorite classes or my best subjects. Although, the teacher does try to make it bearable, so it isn’t that bad. Having a good teacher can really make a big difference! The teacher is excellent at teaching and we all like her as a teacher because she makes sure to explain everything in a way that we understand. She is very nice and she has amazing teaching methods. She not only teaches us about math, but she also always makes sure that we are feeling alright every day.

Right now, currently in math class, all of us are trying to do some group work. Our class is good at a lot of things, but group work is not one of them. It's hard to stay focused when your friends are talking about the newest movie they watched on Netflix. At the end of the day, though, we get the work done because failing is not an option for us!



## A Sweet Treat: Oreo Truffles

By: Shuhana Uddin (Class 801)

\*Don't forget to check out her St. Patrick's Day recipe on page 6!\*



Here's a deliciously easy dessert that I enjoy making with my family!

### Ingredients:

- 1 (16 ounce) package OREO Chocolate Sandwich Cookies, divided
- 1 (8 ounce) package PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese, softened
- 2 (8 ounce) packages BAKER'S Semi-Sweet Baking Chocolate, melted

### Directions:

1. Crush 9 of the cookies to fine crumbs in food processor; reserve for later use. (Cookies can also be finely crushed in a resealable plastic bag using a rolling pin.) Crush remaining 36 cookies to fine crumbs; place in medium bowl. Add cream cheese; mix until well blended. Roll cookie mixture into 42 balls, about 1-inch in diameter.
2. Dip balls in chocolate; place on wax paper-covered baking sheet. (Any leftover chocolate can be stored at room temperature for another use.) Sprinkle with reserved cookie crumbs.
3. Refrigerate until firm, about 1 hour.
4. Store leftover truffles, covered, in refrigerator.

## Movies Coming Out in March

By: Lian Jie Li and Yu Jie Zheng (Class 703)

### Dumbo: Live Action

March 29, 2019

This exciting new rendition of Disney's classic film, Dumbo, will help you reminisce about your childhood in a brand new way! The movie is about the story of a circus elephant that is sneered at for a distinct feature of his — his colossal ears — and realizing that his ears aren't all that bad. The movie also includes some added features that weren't in the original, so you're in for a treat!



### Five Feet Apart

March 15, 2019

Stella Grant, a seventeen-year-old girl, suffers from cystic fibrosis and has to be hospitalized frequently. She meets another charming patient of the same conditions, Will, and love instantly sparks between them.

However, because of their conditions, they can't physically be close together. As the story unfolds, their relationship will develop - for better or for worse.



### Captain Marvel

March 8, 2019

Captain Marvel is going to be about this stronger-than-life superhero getting baffled in the middle of an astronomical war between two different types of alien clans.



### Wonder Park

March 15, 2019

Wonder Park is about the innovative aspects to life because June, the main character, uses her gargantuan creativity to make an amusement park, and amazingly, it comes to life!





## Get to Know Mr. Herr

By: Jason Ren (Class 801)

Mr. Herr is an 8th grade social studies teacher and debate team coach who genuinely enjoys his job. He says that the reasons why he decided to become a teacher are to help students achieve their dreams and also to get summers off. This school year is his 4th year of teaching at Pershing. He likes many things about teaching social studies, such as learning about past presidents and seeing how past events relate to today. He is also a big fan of American history, hence one of the reasons why he likes social studies. To Mr. Herr, the most challenging thing about teaching social studies is trying to make the content interesting enough for the students to pay



attention to it. On the other hand, the main reason why he likes teaching is getting students to achieve things that they thought they could never achieve on their own.

On a more personal note, he is also a big fan of hockey. He also supports the New York Islanders, takes the train to work and likes the color orange.

## The Spring Equinox - What is it?

By: Amanda Ruan (Class 801)

The spring equinox marks the first day of spring which happens on March 20, 2019. An equinox is when the sun shines at the equator, causing the length of night and day to be nearly equal (12 hours). Basically, the equinox is similar to the solstice, but has its own unique characteristics as well. A solstice is the point during the Earth's orbit around the sun at which the sun is at its greatest distance from the equator. Unlike an equinox, it's at the closest distance from the equator.

The equinox is a celebration to many people across the globe. For example, in Japan, they celebrate the dead moving from Earth to eternal peace and spend a week doing Higan,

which is a week of Buddhist services in Japan. In many Christian cultures, eggs are decorated to represent fertility and rebirth. In China, people have to balance an egg to represent fertility as it was part of a modern myth. In Iran, preparations are made by buying new clothes for family members and thoroughly cleaning homes. Wheat or lentils that represent new growth are grown in a flat dish a few days before the New Year and is called Sabzeh (green shoots). These are some of the traditions that are celebrated during the spring equinox across the globe. Of course, there are many others and these aren't the only ways to celebrate!

## The History of Mardi Gras

By: Yu Jie Zheng (Class 703)

**When and why is Mardi Gras celebrated?**

Mardi Gras was first celebrated on March 3, 1699. French explorers, Pierre Le Moyne d'iberville and Sieur De Bienville, landed near present day New Orleans, Louisiana and they wanted to commemorate their landing by starting an enormous celebration.

**Where does the celebration happen?**

The people celebrate Mardi Gras in both France and New Orleans, Louisiana. However, the celebrations are so fun and unique that other places have also adopted the tradition as well. Some of the best places to celebrate Mardi Gras are Venice, Italy, St. Louis, Missouri, Sydney, Australia, and Quebec, Canada.

**What traditions are celebrated on Mardi Gras?**

People celebrate with parades, musical performances, picnics, floats, and tons more. You can see many people wearing either costumes, or dressed in gold, green, and purple since those are the traditional Mardi Gras colors. Also, people adorn themselves with beads that are handed out during the parades and other festivities. The beads they wear are usually from parades from previous years, making each year more special than the last. Jazz music fills the streets all night as people watch the themed floats and eat cajun food that is rooted in both French and Southern cuisine. Sounds like a joyous holiday unlike any other! .

## Get to Know Mr. Andersen

By: Han Zhang (Class 801)

Mr. Andersen, an 8th grade science teacher, has been teaching at Pershing for the past 18 years. He's stayed around because he is very happy with his job and loves being able to discuss the big questions of life like, "How did the the diversity of life evolve over time from primitive ancestors?"

What Mr. Andersen likes most about teaching is when he is able to make a positive impact on a student's life. It can be when someone does really well on a test, or when a student asks a great question, or even emotional goodbyes at the end of the year.

What he finds most frustrating about teaching is the one student who struggles and seems to spend very little effort to improve, despite all the help he or she is getting. To him, it is disappointing to see a student that

does not put forth the effort to do well.

I believe that Mr. Andersen is a great teacher because he always allows students the opportunity to do well (like when he provides make-up work if they are absent). Also, he is hilarious! He has a skeleton named Tony (because he is bony) that he uses as a prop in the classroom. His ability to keep us on our toes really helps us stay focused in science class!



Mr. Andersen and Tony the Skeleton



圣帕特里克节 ( St. Patrick's Day ) 是为了纪念爱尔兰的守护神——圣帕特里克 ( St.Patrick ) 。公元432年，圣帕特里克主教受到教皇派遣，从威克洛附近的海岸来到爱尔兰岛。当地愤怒的异教徒企图用石头砸死圣帕特里克，但他从容镇定，灵机一动，随机摘下身边的一颗三叶草 ( Shamrock ) ，形象地解释了基督教中圣父、圣子、圣灵三位一体 ( Trinity ) 的教义。他的演说使爱尔兰人感同身受，并心服口服地接受了圣帕特里克主施的洗礼。公元493年3月17日圣帕特里克逝世，爱尔兰人民为了纪念他便把每年的这一天定为圣帕特里克节，同时它也是爱尔兰国庆日。

爱尔兰历史上连年的战争和自然灾害使无数人不得不离开故土，光是19世纪40年代末的土豆大饥荒就迫使100万爱尔兰人迁移到世界的各个角落。于是，每逢圣帕特里克节，不仅在爱尔兰，在拥有大量爱尔兰后裔的美国、英国、加拿大、澳大利亚都有盛大的狂欢。在英国伦敦每年都有十五万人参观游行，聆听爱尔兰传统歌谣；在美国芝加哥，市中心的河流被人们染成鲜艳的绿色；就连北京的长城也曾因圣帕特里克节被打上了绿色的灯光。因而虽说圣帕特里克节起源于宗教，在越来越世俗化的今天，它更代表一种爱尔兰乡愁，对故土文化一种

## The History of St. Patrick's Day (Chinese)

By: JingWen Weng, ZiYan Chen, WenTing Lin (Class 810)



Artwork by Lian Jie Li (Class 703)

爱尔兰乡愁，对故土文化的恋恋浓情。

每年的3月17日，是西方的圣帕特里克节 ( St, Patrick's Day)。这一节日5世纪末期起源于爱尔兰，美国从1737年3月17日开始庆祝。美国的圣帕特里克节这一天，人们通常要举行游行、教堂礼拜和聚餐等活动。美国的爱尔兰人喜欢佩戴三叶苜蓿，用爱尔兰的国旗颜色——绿黄两色装饰房间，身穿绿色衣服，头戴各式各样的绿帽子，并向宾客赠送三叶苜蓿饰物等。

圣帕特里克于公元385年出生在威尔士，取教名为麦克斯威恩。16岁时他的家乡遭到一伙强盗的抢劫，他自己也被卖

作了奴隶。

在那段被囚困的艰难日子里，他对宗教的信仰开始强烈起来。6年以后，圣帕特里克逃了出来，在一所修道院住了12年。在这段岁月里，他意识到自己的使命，那就是让更多不信上帝的人成为基督徒。于是，他产生了一种强烈的想要回到故乡爱尔兰的冲动，后来圣帕特里克担任了爱尔兰主教。

帕特克传教非常成功，这也激怒了凯尔特德鲁伊教的祭祀。他们多次把帕特克逮捕入狱，但每次帕特克都成功地逃了出来。他传教的足迹遍布爱尔兰，在全国主持修建了很多修道院。他还兴建了很多学校和教堂。

公元493年3月17日，圣帕特

里克逝世，爱尔兰人为了纪念他，将这一天定为圣帕特里克节。

虽说圣帕特里克节是爱尔兰的传统节日，但数百年来，随着爱尔兰后裔遍布欧美各国，这一节日也渐渐成为西方国家共同的节日。

1737年，一些爱尔兰绅士和商人在美国马萨诸塞州波士顿聚会纪念圣帕特里克，并成立了爱尔兰慈善社团。1780年和1784年，费城和纽约先后成立了圣帕特里克友谊之子等团体，从此美国每年都庆祝这个节日。

美国芝加哥庆祝圣帕特里克节的活动可以说在世界上独一无二，流经市中心的芝加哥河被可食色素染成绿色。作为庆祝圣帕特里克节的一项主要内容，从1962年开始每年都有数十万芝加哥市民和游客聚在河两岸观看“染绿”河水的活动。

对别人讲“Lá fhéile Pádraig sona dhuit!”来祝福他人。[1] 这是一种非常直接、非常基本的祝福语。当你在圣帕特里克节遇到别人时，你可以用这句话来表达对他的祝福。

## The History of St. Patrick's Day (English)

By: JingWen Weng, ZiYan Chen, WenTing Lin (Class 810)

Saint Patrick’s Day, also known as the Feast of Saint Patrick or the Day of the Festival of Patrick, is a cultural and religious celebration held on March 17th of each year. The day commemorates Saint Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland. It also celebrates the heritage and culture of the Irish in general. When people celebrate the holiday, they often wear green attire and adorn themselves with shamrocks. This holiday is really interesting because it follows many traditions throughout several countries.

Years of war and natural disasters in Irish history have forced countless numbers of people to leave their homeland. The potato famine in the late 1940s forced a million Irish people to move to every corner of the world. As the descendants of Ireland spread throughout Europe and the United States, this festival has gradually become a common holiday in Western countries as well. Thus, every St. Patrick's Day, not only in Ireland, but also in the United States, Britain, Canada, and Australia, (which all have a large number of Irish descendants) they have a grand revelry. In London, 50,000 people visit the parade to listen to traditional Irish songs and in Chicago, the rivers in the city center are dyed bright green. Even the Great Wall of China displays a green light show on St. Patrick's Day! Thus, although St. Patrick's Day originated from religion, it represents a kind of Irish nostalgia and love for the homeland culture.

## A Traditional Irish Recipe

By: Shuhana Uddin (Class 801)

A quick, fun recipe that compliments the unique Irish culture! Grab a plate and enjoy!



- Ingredients:**
- 12 small red potatoes
  - 1/3 cup butter, cubed
  - 3 tablespoons lemon juice
  - 1 teaspoon salt
  - 1 teaspoon lemon peel
  - 1/4 teaspoon pepper
  - 2 teaspoon fresh parsley

- Directions:**
1. Peel a strip from around each potato. Place potatoes in a large saucepan and cover with water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and cook for 15-20 minutes or just until tender.
  2. Meanwhile, in small saucepan, melt butter. Stir in the lemon juice, salt, lemon peel, pepper and nutmeg. Drain potatoes and place in a serving bowl. Pour butter mixture over potatoes; toss gently to coat. Sprinkle with parsley.



## World Water Day:

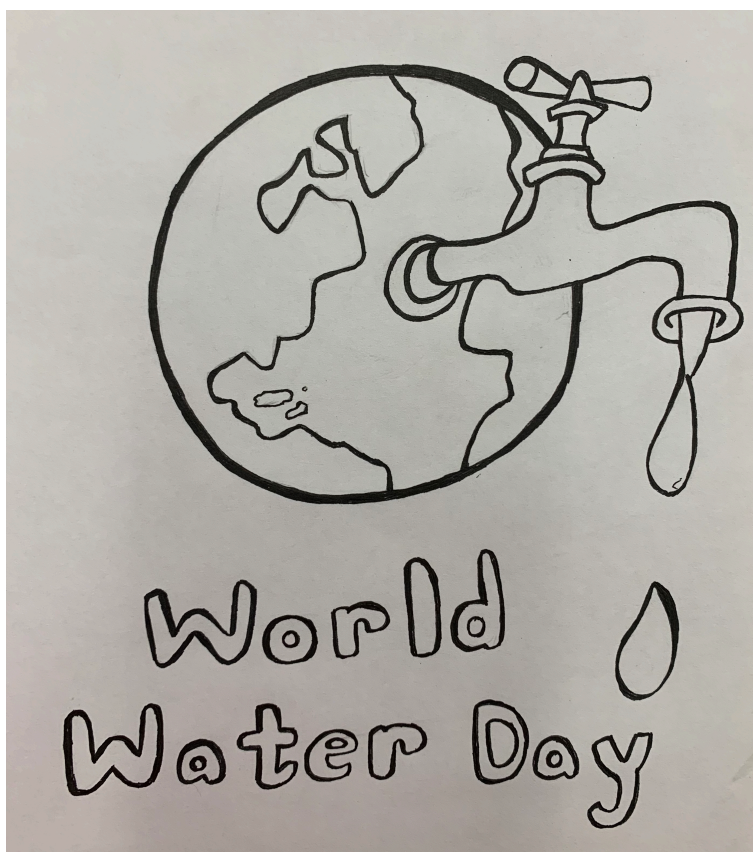
### The Importance of Saving Water!

By: Angela Chen (Class 820)

World Water Day is a holiday where it brings attention to the importance of conserving fresh water. In 1993, the first World Water Day was officially observed and now it is celebrated all over the world. This day is used to spread awareness about maintainable fresh water and the lack of it in many countries around the world. The point of World Water Day is to encourage people to save water so that the world's fresh water supply can last us for generations to come.

We can help these people in need by turning off the faucet after using the sink or taking shorter showers. Also, only wash full loads of dishes and laundry. Together, we can make a difference in the world!

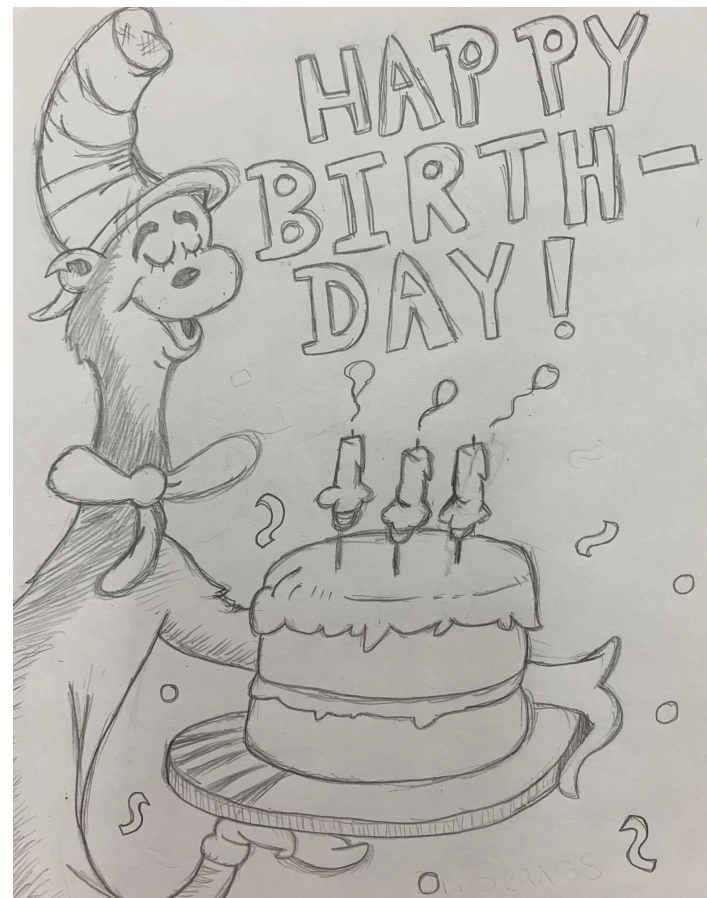
In the world today, 663 million people (1:9 people) drink water that is not safe or clean. The average American water usage is about 80-100 gallons a day. However, children all around are severely affected by the lack of clean water in their homes and countries. Around the globe, one third of all schools lack access to drinkable water because of poisonous lead in the water, causing it to be unsafe to drink. Furthermore, people in other continents have to walk about 3.75 miles every day just to get fresh water.



Artwork By: Yu Jie Zheng (Class 703)

## Who Was Dr. Seuss Before "Green Eggs and Ham"?

By: ChiLing Jiang (Class 810)



Artwork By: Yu Jie Zheng (Class 703)

Dr. Seuss' full name is Theodor Seuss Geisel. He was born on March 2nd, 1904 in Springfield, Massachusetts in the United States. In 1921, he graduated from high school and enrolled at Dartmouth College. While there, he joined the humor magazine, "The Dartmouth Jack-O-Lantern", and eventually became an editor-in-chief. After he was caught drinking alcohol, which was illegal during the Prohibition, he was forced to resign from the magazine. However, he decided to keep working for it and instead used the pen name "Seuss." When he graduated in 1925, he then entered Lincoln College, in Oxford, to work towards his Ph.D. in English Literature. While at Oxford, he met Helen Palmer a woman who would,

encourage him to pursue a career in art instead of becoming an English teacher. During World War II, he drew over 400 political cartoons for the New York Daily Newspaper called "PM News". His cartoons denounced Hitler and Mussolini, and one of them depicted all Japanese Americans as latent traitors. His cartoons are also supportive of the way President Roosevelt managed the war and were especially critical of Congress. Eventually, he would go on to draw posters for the War Production Board and the Treasury Department, and then he would write films for the United State Army Air Forces. After World War II, he began to write children's books that we all still know and love today!

## The Zodiac Oracle

By: Eric Lin (Class 801)

2019 is in full swing and you must be getting all sorts of "know your future" messages, which can be tempting to read sometimes. However, life is not always about rainbows and butterflies! Whether you believe in the Zodiac or not, here is a fun spin on the *other side* of the Zodiac that is rarely talked about!

**\*\*Disclaimer: This is a satirical piece not meant to be taken as *complete* truth!\*\***

Aries: March 20 - April 20

You take pride in your aggression but sadly, you are the only one. You will realize that during appraisals this year.

Taurus: April 20 - May 21

Predicting your future is pointless because your stubborn attitude will ultimately do what it wants. This year and always.

Gemini: May 21 - Jun 20

You spent the last year and many before that scrolling through Instagram. Unlikely that your attention-seeking self will stop it in 2019.

Cancer: Jun 21 - Jul 22

The retrogrades of 2019 will have zero impact in your life because you are already so overwhelmed by everything all the time.

Leo: Jul 22 - Aug 23

A short period of uncertainty is predicted but it can't be shorter than your temper. This year you will realize that the even planets are more well-behaved than you.

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sep 23

Love is in the air this year, and that is where it's probably going to remain because of your itch to control every thing.

Libra: Sep 23 - Oct 23

2019 will bring some clarity of thought in your life. So you'll be able to take the most basic decisions in 3 hours instead of 5.

Scorpio: Oct 23 - Nov 22

2019 has a lot of love in store for you, only if you stop acting like a person whose ego is more fragile than drinking glasses stacked on top of each other.

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

The last time you showed emotion was when you cried after being born. Jupiter's transit will make sure that doesn't change.

Capricorn: Dec 21 - Jan 20

I'd tell you what the future holds but you will hate me for knowing something more than you do. So keep guessing.

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

This year, your conceited self will finally realize that the world doesn't revolve around you, but that won't stop you from acting like it does.

Pisces: Feb 18 - Mar 20

The stars aligning in 2019 will result in overwhelming changes at school or work. Even one extra minute of work makes you cry so this is going to be really tough.



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### Back Story

This is story about our nation's founding fathers, the first generation, whatever that means...

Once there was a farmer named Blinn Blinn, who overheard the founding fathers' conversation while he was passing by Jefferson's house. Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison and Hamilton are telling stories while eating dinner. Blinn Blinn runs home to tell his brother about it. "Bob! I heard some entertaining tales- (Bob looks at Blinn suspiciously) - no, I definitely did not eavesdrop about your idols!" Blinn Blinn said.

"Woo ok, tell me ALL about it!" Bob said, all excited.

Blinn Blinn said, "Ok, sit next to me and I'll proceed to listen to great tales of men, since women don't exist..."

### Chapter 1 - The Excuses of Washington

"Good afternoon, gentlemen. Tonight, we have gathered at our fellow friend, Jefferson's house for dinner." Washington paused as the men around the table turned to look at him, finally stopping their gibberish chit chats.

"So, what's the big deal? We do it all the time." Adams was telling a joke to some of the men and was unsatisfied with the fact that the attention had passed to Washington.

"Let this dinner ceremony be a momentous event." Washington coughed. "It shall be filled with stories; Stories of ourselves, and not of other strangers who we know nothing of. I have been inspired by the great gods from beyond." Everyone gagged and stared at Washington with eyes that of disgust. They were shy, cough cough, and all too embarrassed to tell others of their past stories.

"It is only right for me to start the story though, as I am the most superior in this table," Washington stared at everyone at the table, expecting someone to start yet no one was willing to take the bait.

"Well, I shall tell an interesting story." Washington chuckled as if he heard something funny.-(Weird random chuckles)

"Recall the time when we fought at the Battle of Brooklyn, in which our army had run out of supplies? Well, today I will reveal to you the truth, with no chocolate cake or sparkles that decorate it. I shall start my story now."

Greene cut in and stated, "Sir, was it the battle that caused rumors of cherries trees." Greene said, as he walked in to deliver the food that was desperately decreasing.

However, our beloved general ignored Greene, grabbed the food and started his flashbacks

"Many stories have many different versions, but the one I am to tell you is the honest and raw version."

It all started when General Greene came running into the tent.

"Washington, sir, our supply depot had been captured by the British army," Greene reported as he walked strikingly into Washington's Headquarters, uninvited.

Washington stopped teasing the cat he was holding and stared at Greene with a blank stare. Finally, after 2 minutes of unbroken eye contact with Greene, Washington rubbed the tears on his eye and yelled...

"OH LORD, PLEASE SAVE US! WE ARE ALL GOING TO STARVE AND DIE! I haven't even married yet." Washington screamed melodramatically, drawing unnecessary attention from other soldiers going off on their days. It was ironic that such a hero can be so childish, a fact that no history book will ever recognize.

Greene stared at Washington bleakly. "You are married sir," Greene paused as he sighed. "With 2 adopted kids."

Washington, surprised by the comment, stopped his tantrum for a moment. Continuing, he looked at his soldiers and stated "I... I don't want to eat my ... I am a vegetarian

Greene made a face but resumed to his normal, calm self. "With all respect, sir, haven't you had the ham ordered from the kitchen staff? Sir, please stop. Think of -"

Greene was cut off by the knock on the door. Bang, Bang. The staff had walked in the room, without permission. What's with people coming in randomly, he's still the Second in Command of this army, the most superior of all (besides The great General himself, of course)!

The mysterious staff whispered, rudely interrupting Greene, "Yo, excuse me, General Washing-Machine, the ham fried rice stall is ready, with all of the stupid requirements you requested. Gosh, had never met a man with some much needs, even more than a spoiled little brat." The staff had an informal tone, not suited for talking to the great and amazing General. They were talking at a low voice, but they picked up a few words, enough to understand the content.

Greene hadn't minded, as he was used to it, but Washington looked embarrassed as if someone found his Wonder Woman underpants. He started to make his exit while rushingly saying, "Excuse me, I need to use the bath house. And, ah...the ham is for a friend of mine, Hamilton, if you insist."

He proceeded to back up his excuse with a few mumbles of yes. He took the ham on the way out and prepared to dig a hole and bury himself.

Greene, after Washington left, said to the staff calmly, "Why did you interrupt me? Shall I hand you over to the chefs? That shall make use of those such as..." Greene paused to shoot the staff a sneer. "YOU. Now go off and stop fooling around. Don't let me see you again."

Greene was clearly annoyed even if his tones were soft. It was hard to find a time where he could talk to the general, since he always locked himself in his room, looking through pranks to pull on his fellow generals; or vacation places to go after the war was over.

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That and now the staff had intervened the chance of a proper discussion on the issues of the continental army since soldiers were not considering to resign for such a childish general. Such opportunity was ruined by a piece of ham, and a mannerless piece of chocolate, which was disgusting.

Greene held his head with his arm, he was just a man who wanted to win the war. Why was it so hard to get the general to do his job!?

Washington walked around in the fort and set his ham unattended on a table alongside with his eating utensils. Flowers, books and an apple decorated the table. Looking at the red apple, he thought of a great idea.

Greene has hinted before to share some of the cherries from his cherry farm. Washington was always playing dumb, and turning a deaf ear towards him. However, he can definitely make use of the apple trees that are in the Native Americans' land, since they are inferior lobster-supporting barbarians.

He decided that 'borrowing' some apples for the army was a good idea. However, he would not be the one doing it, since 'high moral' superiors do not condone themselves to perform these acts. He will come up with a plan.

He walked around in circles, thinking of a plan... He spotted Hamilton reading a book.

Hmmm, he will be the perfect victim. He needs something exciting, a break from books. Washington thought.

"So you are using me that time?" Hamilton asked, angry at Washington. "Due to that, I had been accused and assaulted!" He looked at Jefferson.

Jefferson coughed as he looked at Burr's tomb that was strangely placed next to his fireplace. On the tomb, it said, "Aaron Burr 1756-1781(BATTLE OF COWPENS) Death due to Aggressive Secretary Person. "

"I'm Sorry, I'm Sorry," Washington said half-heartedly. "Anyways..."

"Hey Hammy, can you do me a favor?" Washington asked as Hamilton looked up.

"Yes, sir. What do I need to do?" Hamilton asked Washington, thinking nothing suspicious.

"Our supply depot had been-unfortunately, infiltrated," Washington said with a sigh, with the sigh being as fake as Hamilton's friendship with Jefferson. "But the apples might be of good use."

Hamilton looked skeptically at Washington, confused and clearly processing whatever idiotic words that just came out of His Excellency's mouth.

"But... It's Native American land..."

"Unfortunately, my cherries have turned a purple color, so it would not be wise to eat those. We need those apples. But fret not Hammy, my father always told me that sharing is caring. The Natives would be HAPPY to help, I'm sure of it. My father will be willing to help too. Muahahaha!!!"

Washington sang. He, seemingly crazy, had scared the poor Hamilton. In a daze, Alexander Hamilton the Great accepted, with a slight nod, along with the most frightened expression on his face.

"If you say so." Hamilton's face was paler than the color of the cravat Washington was wearing.

Washington snickered a bit and smiled. What a stupid-no ... helpful Ham. However, since he was still useful, I shall spare him of his worries. I can blackmail my father then tell him our cherry tree is poisoned, and we need to borrow some apple.

Washington thought, Perfect, now Greene won't annoy me anymore about me not sharing and caring. Washington always wins.

Just then, Washington stopped his story. The congressmen all groaned. They were just getting into the story.

Washington started to speak, "Now, I am pretty tired... Maybe someone can tell their story instead. Please make it interesting, who knows, it might be better than mine?"

Jefferson was just thinking about how The Great President's story was able to back his up. So he wanted to take over, but Hamilton beat him to it. He would allow it since Hamilton wanted to impress the old Washington, and he would like the old man to make new friends.

However, Washington ordered Jefferson to go first, because he liked Jefferson more than Ham. Hamilton could see Jefferson grinning and snickering at him as if showing off his favorites from washing machine. Jefferson can be a ridiculous yet caring guy.

"Elders first," Washington said as an excuse. Hamilton groaned in his head. Hamilton was 'dumb', but not oblivious. He knew that everyone else was older than him, and by the time it gets to his turn, dinner would already be over.

"But... Sir!" Hamilton opened his mouth to protest but was stopped abruptly as Washington waved him off. "Hamilton. Who's your daddy?"

Hamilton then became silent. His dad left him, what a jerk, right?

Washington was a mean old grandpa who disliked those younger men who were not as experienced as him. He thought of them as obnoxious, but in reality, he was just jealous that they were better than him. Washington just refused to admit that.

Hamilton pouted and stared at Jefferson with enraged eyes. Jefferson didn't notice, or perhaps he did because he did an innocent victorious grin and nudged Madison as if saying 'Too bad for Hamilton. He can't do ANYTHING about it'.

So ignoring Hamilton, Jefferson started.

"It happened one day as I exited the office and saw two things; a cat and a branch of purple apples..."

**To Be Continued...**



# March—Horror STORIES

