

The Westampton Eye

WESTAMPTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

DECEMBER 23, 2020

Westampton Middle School

It's Christmas Time!

By Marley C. and Emily C.

There's nothing like waking up on Christmas morning and seeing all those presents. Some families have different traditions for opening your presents, like the Christmas pickle, where you hide the pickle and whoever finds it first opens the first present. Some then put cookies and milk on the table the night before; some leave carrots outside! Did you know that:

- "Jingle Bells" was originally meant for Thanksgiving.
- Christmas trees were first used by the Romans and Egyptians.
- The first batch of eggnog was made in Jamestown, Maryland.
- Tinsel was invented in 1610 and was originally made with silver.

Copy and paste this link into your browser to play our Christmas Kahoot!

<https://create.kahoot.it/details/christmas/1e500e5c-af79-4d0b-82e3-ba1f2c51159d>



Photo by Marley C.

KWANZAA!

By Christopher J.

It's December!! The holiday season is here! We all love the Christmas season and we all share our Christmas spirits. But Christmas isn't the only holiday out there. There are many holidays in the world, but I'm going to write about the holiday Kwanzaa.

According to Britannica.com, Kwanzaa is an annual holiday that's celebrated from December 26 to January 1 that affirms African family and social values. Dr. Maulana Karenga, a professor and chairman of Black Studies at California State University in Long Beach, created the holiday in 1966. After the Watts Riots in Los Angeles, Dr. Karenga searched for ways to bring African Americans together as a community. He combined aspects of several different harvest celebrations, such as those of the Ashanti and those of the Zulu, to form the basis of Kwanzaa. The name of the holiday derives from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza," which means "first fruits" in Swahili. Even though Kwanzaa is primarily an African American holiday, it has also come to be celebrated outside the United States, particularly in the Caribbean and other countries where there's a large number of descendants of Africans.



Each family celebrates Kwanzaa in its own way, but often includes songs and dances, African drums, storytelling, poetry reading, and a large traditional meal. On each of the seven days, the family gathers and a child lights one of the colored candles on the kinara (candleholder), then one of the seven principles is discussed. Each of the days of the celebration is dedicated to one of the seven principles, called the Nguzo Saba (in Swahili), which are values of African culture that contribute to building and reinforcing community among African-Americans. The principles are unity (umoya), self-determination (kujichagulia), collective work and responsibility (ujima), cooperative economics (ujamaa), purpose (nia), creativity (kuumba), and faith (imani). Kwanzaa also has seven basic symbols that represent the values and concepts reflective of African culture: mazao, which is fruits, vegetables, and nuts; mkeka, a straw mat; kinara, a candleholder; vibunzi, ears of corn (maize); zawadi, gifts, kikombe cha umoja, a communal cup; and mishumaa saba, the seven candles.

So I hope that this educated you, and that you won't always just think of December being a "Christmas" month. Maybe you and your family might even consider celebrating Hanukkah or Kwanzaa. It would be cool to have two holidays to look forward to! So go and share this to your family. Besides, as humans, we always learn something new each and every day!

LOGAN PAUL VS. FLOYD MAYWEATHER

By Aaron R.

Yes, you read the headline right: Youtube Star Logan Paul and legendary boxing figure Floyd Mayweather are scheduled to have a “Super exhibition” boxing match on February 20, 2021. It will be streamed as a pay-per-view on Fanmio.

Everyone around the sports world is trying to figure out why Mayweather agreed to do this fight. He has already proven himself to be one of, if not the best, professional boxers of all time.

Mayweather has an undefeated record with a total of 50 wins, and 27 of those wins were via knockout of his opponent. Why would Floyd Mayweather fight a YouTube star who has a professional boxing record 0-1? Many say that the only reason Floyd accepted this fight is because he needed the money.



People are also saying that Logan has nothing to lose whereas Floyd Mayweather has more to lose. If Logan loses to Floyd Mayweather, he loses to one of the greatest boxers of all time, and if he pulls off the win, he defeats one of the greatest boxers of all time. And if Logan manages to somehow knock out Mayweather, he knocks out one of the greatest boxers of all time. If Floyd Mayweather beats Logan--okay, so what?--he fought a guy who only had one fight under his belt, which he lost, and Floyd is one of the greats, so what was supposed to happen? And if Floyd loses, he loses to some YouTube guy who has only one fight under his belt which he lost.

Surprisingly, many people, including me, predict that Logan Paul will pull off the victory over Floyd Mayweather. Yes, it is clear that Mayweather will be the more experienced fighter, and we will see more boxing skill from Mayweather, but I just don't see how he can pull off beating Logan. Logan is 6'2", compared to Mayweather's 5'8". Logan is 18 years younger than Floyd. And Logan is very clearly stronger than Mayweather. If Logan and Floyd stay at their normal fighting weights, Logan will be fifty pounds heavier than Mayweather. Watching Logan's previous fight against KSI, who was shorter than Logan, one of the things that Logan used to keep KSI away was his jab. Logan has a very textbook but strong and powerful jab. And if Logan can use that to his advantage, along with his huge height advantage, I can't see a way that Mayweather can win. But you can never count him out, even if he is the underdog.

I will be rooting for Logan, specifically because he is a YouTuber and because he is a YouTuber, people try to discredit him, and not just him. They tried to discredit KSI's victory just because he was a YouTuber and he wasn't an athlete. They are afraid that these “YouTube guys” will take over the sport of boxing, where that is just not the case. But that is a discussion for another time. The point is because they are trying to put people in a box, I want as many YouTubers to win to break out of that box to show that anyone can be anything they want if they work hard at it, even if that means becoming a professional boxer.

OPINION: SOCCER

By Molly M.



Alex Morgan

Do you like soccer? Some people play it and some don't. I believe it is really fun. Some places--Europe and South America-- call soccer football. I play soccer and it is one of my favorite sports. It helps people focus and believe in themselves. A lot of people I know play soccer and they love it.

Alex Morgan is a really famous female soccer player, and she is a role model for many people. Soccer is not just about moving with the ball and controlling it; it's also about working together as a team. If you practice hard you can accomplish your goals, and most importantly you can have fun when you play.

Alex Morgan once said "If you work hard enough, someday your signature will be called an autograph." She also said, "What brings you down will eventually make you stronger." This quote is important to me because it says if you are struggling with something, keep working on it and someday you will be good at it. Soccer is a really popular and exciting sport. You should try it one day!

SOCIAL MEDIA: YOUTUBE REWIND

By Aaron R.

Starting in the year 2010, YouTube has made a huge video featuring the biggest creators and influencers not only from their platform, but from the whole Internet. They got the influencers to perform the biggest trends that were created that year. For example, in 2017 they had things like fidget spinners, marshmallow, the floor is lava, etc. Then they add in

2020.

Since 2010, we've ended the year with Rewind: a look back at the year's most impactful creators, videos, and trends. Whether you love it—or only remember 2018—Rewind was always meant to be a celebration of you.

But 2020 has been different. And it doesn't feel right to carry on as if it weren't. So, we're taking a break from Rewind this year.

We know that so much of the good that did happen in 2020 was created by all of you. You've found ways to lift people up, help them cope, and make them laugh. You made a hard year genuinely better.

Thank you for making a difference.



at least one bad thing that affected many people across the country, and then they would add a section that would show how people helped others out of the situation that they were in.

But this year, YouTube didn't feel that it was

right to make a rewind video this year, as this year wasn't like the others. This year didn't have all that good in it as the others had and they didn't feel like it was appropriate to carry on as if it was. Which I can understand; I wouldn't want to act like this year is like every other year and is normal because it's just not.

The only thing we can do now is hope that next year is much better than this year.

INTERVIEW: MR. TORNQUIST, ADVISOR, WMS DRAMA CLUB

By Christopher J.

Performing Arts. The world of acting and singing! Movies, shows, plays, Broadway! As defined by Google, “Performing arts refers to forms of art in which artists use their voices, bodies or inanimate objects to convey artistic expression,” meaning that we thespians use our voices to sing, our bodies to dance, instruments to create music, and our personalities to act in order to display our diverse art. And the Westampton Middle School has taken a part of it! I recently interviewed the one and only Mr. Tornquist, advisor for the WMS Drama Club, and he shared a lot of insight on our very own drama department.

Westampton Eye: Thank you for the opportunity to have this interview for the *Westampton Eye*. I believe that many of us do have our thoughts and questions that hopefully will be answered within this interaction.

Tornquist: This year will definitely be a little different, due to our circumstances. But we always do try our best to put on the best show possible!

Q: Okay. So how exactly do you, or have, prepared to put on a show.

A: We have to deal with getting the materials, meaning the actual scripts, the music, the props, costumes, and cast members (not material, but you see where this is going). While we are figuring out how we’re going to get all of those things, we have to think about the financing. Do we have the money to get everything we need?

Q: Yeah, yeah. So then let’s just start off with getting the cast. How have you done auditions before? I mean from my experience, I remember having to first sing a song and hoping that I get a good rating. And then either if you did In those callbacks, we had to read a script, get to know a little about the character, and act!

A: In the past, we’ve had people audition with a recording of themselves (singing, dancing, and/or acting) and submitting that response, or we actually have live auditions by grade level.

Q: So how exactly would the recording work?

A: Each student would have to choose what song they would sing, or what monologue to act; record; and then submit it. Afterwards, decisions would be made by rating and to actually cast roles.



Photo by John T.

INTERVIEW CONT.

Q: So what about the live auditions?

A: We would expect them to have practiced at home, and then once they come to auditions, we would give choices of songs to sing, either from the show, or from a random list of songs we give.

Q: How do you decide who gets certain roles?

A: It is important that the person assigned to the role has the ability to bring it to life and the talent to sing, dance, or whatever that role may call for.

Q: You mention finance? What's the financing for?

A: We need money in order to buy or rent costumes, to purchase props, lights, to rent sound equipment and anything else needed for that specific show.

Q: What are the requirements when choosing which show to do?

A: The show must be appropriate for middle school, we need to have resources for the show (music, scripts, notes, etc.). We also try to speculate about the cast we will have and whether a show would be a good fit for that group of students.

Q: How exactly do you get the music, scripts, and director notes and stuff?

A: We get them from different companies. The one company we use the most is called "MTI". MTI has packages where we can get the artwork, CDs, music, scripts, notes, etc. Though in order to use any of those, we would definitely need to buy the package, but also buy permission to actually put on the show.

Q: How are we going to do Drama this year because I do recall multiple emails about auditions?

A: We're hoping that some of the regulations will lighten up in order to put on a show. We are hoping to have cast members come together and perform in person. Maybe even record it, and then have a screening of the recorded production if we can't perform in person.

Q: That sounds like a great idea. Might even be the best thing we could do if things don't get better. Next question, wow long has WMS been putting on productions?

A: Before I even started teaching here, WMS already had a drama department and were putting on productions every school year. I remember my first year teaching at WMS; the drama department was putting on "Fiddler on the Roof." It was fantastic!

Q: Anything else you would like to add or share?

A: We (drama advisors) always look forward to putting on a show because the production is a highlight of the year for not only us, but for many cast members. That's why we put as much effort as we possibly can into the drama department. And I actually do enjoy it. It's always nice to be working with students - to help motivate them to do things that they love to do; and by doing so, we can put on a great show and raise the bar every time. One of our goals has always been to make each year's show better than the previous. Which is why we're trying to make this year's show special because 2020 has been challenging for everyone. Hopefully in 2021 things will turn around.

Q: I could totally agree with everything you stated. Especially when thinking about this year. If the drama department had the ability to still put on a show and make things work, even with all these regulations we have to face, that show further shows how strong the department is and that we really can accomplish anything if we put our minds to it!

A: Let's pray that things go as planned. It was nice talking to you. Thanks and you too!

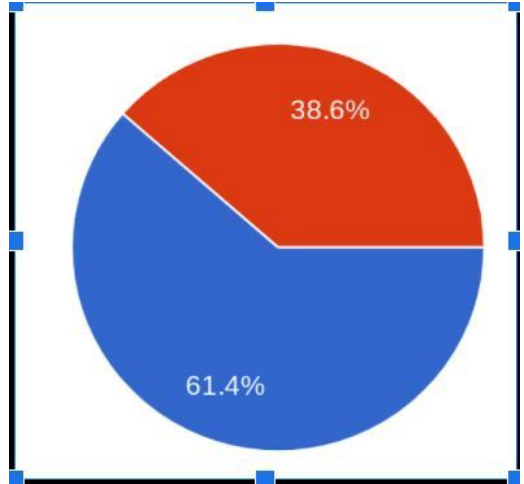
Looking Forward to 2021

By Christopher J.

This year, 2020, is a year many of us will always remember. Not even just us, but the whole world! 2020 is the year of Covid-19, celebrity and common citizens' deaths, cancellation of many plans, and much more! But, as our school motto states: "Today is a new day, a fresh start, with infinite possibilities."

I can see that many of us are in the same belief. I sent a form not too long ago, and asked some simple questions about 2019 and 2020. Thankfully, many of you have given me insight, anonymously, on what you feel about the years 2019, 2020, and upcoming year 2021!

As you can see in the chart to the right, the majority of the school said that they are definitely excited for 2021! 61.4%! But some of us still are feeling down and don't really have the same amount of hope as many of us do. 38.6%! So let's start sharing our responses and let us come together in union with the five questions I asked you guys!



Let's start off with what people felt about 2019. I asked "What do people miss about 2019, or anything before Covid-19 came around?" and many of you answered. It seems to me that most of us miss the times when we were still going out with our family or friends. People went to the mall, the beach, restaurants, each others' houses, even meeting up at school. Also, many of you guys miss the fact that we didn't have to wear masks on our face wherever we go! I can totally agree with both scenarios.

Now let's talk about your excitement for 2021. Like I said before, about 61% of us can't wait, while about 39% don't really care for 2021. So I asked why or why not? For those that said yes, you guys stated that you can't wait for 2021 because it's a new year with new adventures, 2019 was really bad and that you hate it in general, Covid might end soon, we can go back to normal living, 2020 wasn't your year and that you want it gone, and so much more.

Finally, I asked what are you looking forward to in 2021 if you are looking forward to it, and what's the first thing you guys will do? Let's see some of your responses! Some things you guys said that you're looking forward to graduating and going to high school, a fresh new start, for Covid to calm down and take a nap, for vaccines to be distributed. Now that is a great thought: no more masks, going back to playing sports with the team, movies and TV shows to resume, hopefully saying goodbye to Zoom, your birthdays, less procrastination, traveling, celebrating at celebrations, and for everything to change and go back to normal!

So I know that 2019 has done us wrong and that we could care less about the year ending. But we can always pray and hope that the upcoming years will bring us the satisfaction we've been looking for! We all know that things won't immediately get better in 2021, but will start to *heal* and *replenish* itself! So instead of moping and losing hope, let's look forward to coming days and fresh new starts together!

ELECTRIC

A Poem By Willarose T.

Electric, bright but edgy.

He comes in dark clothes but a bright face.

He moves fast like a lighting bolt through the sky.

His eyes yellow like the stars. His touch like a spark of happiness through your veins.

His breath like a wild fire.



The Westampton Eye

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