

# The Royal Review

Fall 2021



## Welcome to the fall edition of the Royal Review!

The Royal Review is Reagan Middle school's newspaper. It is run by students and for students. It is a platform for student voices. Within these pages, you will read about student opinions, activities, and ideas. If you are interested in voicing your ideas and opinions, please join the newspaper staff. Our meetings are held on Wednesdays after school in room 139. All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students are welcome to join!

### UPCOMING EWEVENTS

By Jenna Mustapha

#### NOVEMBER:

Nov 11: Veteran's Day- No school

Nov 24-26: Thanksgiving Break- No school

#### DECEMBER- JANUARY:

Dec 17: End of 2nd quarter challenge

Dec 21: First Semester /Second quarter ends

Dec 22-Jan 4: Winter Break- No School

# Remembering 9/11

By Ava Hagler and Ryann Wadsworth

Hi! Ava Hagler here! I hope you are having a momentous day, and I hope you like our article. I had an idea for interviewing teachers and staff for 9/11, since I really likes history. I knew that Ryann would be good to help me with this story. After many interviews, this is the information that Ryann and I got from our interviews about 9/11. We think that it is important to acknowledge the remarkable stories of how things went that day, and how much terror, and true heartbreak that day caused. It was a terrorist attack on America, and nobody saw it coming. It changed the lives of not just New York, but all of America. Osama Bin Laden was an evil man, so we killed him years after 9/11. There was a lot of violence, which could have been avoided if it weren't for that day. That really was a tragic day in American history. My dad and I have watched a bunch of documentaries about everything from 9/11 to the Spanish flu. I hope that while you are reading this, you understand the misery and hopelessness that these people faced.

Hi! Ava Hagler and Ryann Wadsworth here! We would just like to say how thankful we are that the following staff members let us interview them about such a tragic day in American history. Thank you for sharing your stories. I think we both have seen some very emotional and tragic stories out of our interviews. Following are the people we interviewed!!

Mrs. Page (Mrs. Page was stacking towers with her children, and then after she built them, she would knock them down. She was watching Good Morning America, and she saw the towers getting hit. She then began to stop laughing when she knocked the towers down.)

Mr. Hamel (In 3rd grade earlier in the day. Teachers started talking and all the students stopped their work and the teacher put TVs on. Parents came for some kids and Mr. Hamel stayed. He remembers that he stayed longer because he had to clap the chalk erasers. His Aunt was supposed to be in the towers that day for a meeting at 3. He felt very confused at the time.)

Mrs. Clevenger (Was in college during the time, but she was at home on her coach studying. Then, her class was cancelled. She felt scared, shocked, and confused. She did not know anyone in the area thankfully.)

Mr. Shippert (Teaching music class for 5th or 6th graders. He was in between 2 classes, and a student delivered the news. He didn't know what the twin towers really were, so he guessed it was a world fair or something. He grabbed a TV and saw what was going on. He felt shocked and at first, confused.)

Mrs. Bovey (Mrs. Bovey had something called channel 1 where kids would record stuff and it would come through the TVs. She wasn't watching it, and the

sound was down. A substitute teacher came in and told her about it. The substitute told her to turn on the tv.)

Mrs. Bushman (Mrs. Bushman was teaching at Lincoln school. She was a writing teacher.

She traveled from class to class at that time. She came out of a 4th grade room to go to a 3rd grade room. Mrs. Bushman saw a 4th grade teacher had pulled a tv into the hallway. The news was on that the towers fell. Of course, everyone was crowding around it, and the teachers said there was a terrorist attack in NY. Tower 1 was already down at that point, and on fire. As she

and the other teachers were standing there, they saw tower 2 collapse.) Mrs. Bork was teaching in St Joseph at the time. Instant messaging was big at the time.

For some reason it was shut off and not working. The PE teacher, who was her friend, came

knocking on her door, asking if she had checked her messages. Her friend then told her, and she freaked out. After that, she couldn't tell students, and she wanted them to be calm. But kids

from Dr. appointments had found out, and they began telling other students. Then by lunch

time, the rumors were outrageous, so she had to say something to the kids. At lunch, she said

that there was something happening in New York, and that someone had done it intentionally.

She also said that they were investigating it now. There was also a rumor going around that

Champagne College was a target, which was about 10 miles away from the school. All the kids

there were sent home. She got called by the school because she was a volleyball coach there.

They said her game was cancelled but asked her if she still wanted to have practice. Of course,

she refused. She wanted the kids to go home and be ok. It was her dad who had said the date

was 9/11, like 9-1-1. Something that was crazy was that one of her kids asked if they could pray.

At school, you can't talk about church. But Mrs. Bork said that she can't lead, nor take part.

What was crazy is that about ¾ of her kids got on their knees and prayed that day. She then

texted their parents and said they should be so proud. At the end of the day, there was an

assembly, basically telling the kids they were safe, that they had no answers, and they should

talk to their parents about it. When she got home, she watched the news, and everyone feared

the lack of gas. She waited probably 45 minutes for gas, but she had gas in her car, her

lawnmower, all of that. Something that was remarkably interesting was how many flags there

were. There were American flags in every window, and everyone wore red, white, and blue.

All these stories of 9/11 are sad and devastating, but you must remember the past and

its unity or you will repeat the same tragedies in the future.

## Is Homework Necessary?

By: Madolynn Kirby

Now I know this is a question many students ask but is homework necessary? Many students think it is stupid or not good for them. Well, I asked some of the teachers at our school what they think about homework. The following being Mrs. Witcombe in which she is an eighth-grade math teacher, Mrs. Kitzman an eighth-grade social studies teacher, and Mr. Randick a P.E. teacher and volleyball coach,

but also a math teacher for 15 years.

Now the first person's opinion I want to talk about is Mrs. Witcombe. She loves teaching math but not when people are chaotic and cannot control themselves which helps her opinion on homework. She thinks that homework is important and the students need it. She tries to give the students the homework before the class ends so that they have time to work in class to get it done. She also thinks it is good for extra practice, like I said few to many kids do not pay attention but they get mad when they have homework which honestly does not make sense because she does give them time to do in class. So yes, she thinks it is important even if the people who do fully understand it, it is just extra practice for them for the future test.

The other interview I did was with Mrs. Kitzman I emailed her about what her opinion on homework was. Mrs. Kitzman is an amazing teacher and she loves to teach and help anyone get good grades and always wants to do anything she can to help kids get their grades up. Her opinion was that she thinks it can be necessary and she knows that kids have busy weeks and wants to make it as easy as possible for the kids. She answered me in an email so she quoted, "I have mixed feelings about homework. I do believe that it is important for practice, book reports, extended projects, and test preparation. However, I understand that students are busy after school too." She continues to say she understands that people may have terribly busy schedules especially with extracurricular activities, like sports or things they do for the school. She has strong feelings and knows how kids can have been busy and may not have the most time in the world to do homework which is what I love about being one of her students in her class.

The last person I wanted to talk about is Mr. Randick. Mr. Randick was a math teacher for fifteen-years and loved doing but then he decided to be a P.E teacher later. He is kind and fun to be around in P.E and every kid I know loves him. Anyway, Mr. Randick thinks it is important because many

kids need the practice. I even debated with him and asked him what if people do not necessarily need the practice. He said that it is good for extra practice no matter if the person needed it or not. He thinks that the kids need extra practice so that they can understand and get to know the subject better.

Over all I do think that homework is extremely important just by looking at what these teachers said. Also, I do think that it is better to get the homework done in school before so that the kids who may have especially busy schedules so they are not as stressed and its easier for them to get things done.

## Pros and Cons of Social Media

By Ryann Wadsworth

Everyone in 6th and 7th and 8th grade has social media, right? Well, I am Ryann Wadsworth, and I am writing this with my friend Colton Abney, and I do not have any form of social media. So, I thought I should ask around and see the reasons I should get social media and reasons I should not get social media. I have interviewed teachers and students to see the pros and cons of social media. To start us off I did a little research, and this is what the article said, "Studies show that depression among teenagers and young adults has gotten more common over the past decade. Social media use has also increased during the same time. It is hard to say for sure that social media causes depression. Still, there are several ways that using social media could harm kids." That is a con in the debate of getting social media. Next up in the debate is an interview with Mr. Hamel. We will start out with the pros. He says that it is like you can travel anywhere in the world on your coach with your device. Also, you can keep connected with your friends and family, there are work out instructors, religious events, and delicious dinner recipes. Now, before I get into the cons he says, "Like everything, it's all fine in moderation." The cons he mentioned included kids being too young to be exposed to some of the stuff that is out on the internet, cyber bullying is always a possibility, and your private life is not actually private. Another student you may know as Jimi/ James Gosinski said that I should get social media, "Because it is entertaining and its perfect for when you are bored." He said I should not get it because, "It may be inappropriate for kids, and your parents might not want you on it." Another student who wishes for me not to say their name, says, "You should get social media because you know what's going on. You can also hear other people's opinions and see things the way other people see them. You should not get it because there is exposure you may not want to experience."

Our final interview will be with Mrs. Clevenger. Mrs. Clevenger has apps such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter. But Mrs. Clevenger quit social media in 2020 due to politics, covid, and lots of how I say...DRAMA! "People can be so mean!" On social media people can be so misleading with their information. On the pros side Mrs. Clevenger says her connection with her worldwide family is so crucial. Let us start counting, Colton how many cons are there, "a lot." How many pros are there, "also a lot." So, it's settled, although there are many pros to social media, I will not install it for a long while.

## WHO WOULD YOU RATHER OWN?

By Ryann Wadsworth and Colton Abney

Cats vs. Dogs

Cats vs. Dogs. Which would you rather own? Hello, I'm Ryann Wadsworth and my partner Colton Abney. We decided to ask around and tally up who would rather own soft, cuddly, lovable baby tigers. Or sweet, energetic, playful wolf pups. We have asked students around the school along with teachers.

To start us off, give a round of applause for Mrs. Clevenger! She says, dogs because the whiskers and snouts are so cute. They bring her so much joy!

One of our teachers, Mrs. Abell said, "Dogs are better because cats are sneaky, and dogs are just friendlier. Cats are very suspicious!"

Then, we interviewed Mr. Hamel and he says, dogs because he's allergic to cats. Also, dogs are more interactive and they absolutely love attention. Dogs are smarter because they can learn tricks over time.

Our school students (Mostly 6th graders) said,

Dogs (no hesitation) there is much more interaction with them, and they have much more playfulness.

Cats are soft, sweet, and little tigers!

Dogs are better than cats because they are much better listeners!

Dogs are better because cats are meaner than dogs!

Another one of our teacher's said dogs are better than cats, they are much better listeners!

And last, but not least, our final teacher states, dogs because they are lovable, they meet you with adore, and they are always excited to see you.

Now, it's time for us to tally up the votes instead of boring you out of your mind with long, long opinions!

First up Mrs. Clevenger's advisory class:

Dogs 10

Cats 4

Those are our tallied votes in total cats have 5 votes out of 23. Dogs have an 18/23! So, the clear winner is... DOGS!!!

## **What would you do if there were no teachers for a day?**

By Ava Hagler

That's what I asked some RMS students. I know, I, personally, would raid the snack bar, and run in the halls. I'd also go up the elevator a million times and hope I don't get stuck. I asked Claire Grobe and Emerson Shiras what they would do, and they said they would either not go to school or run in the halls. The only reason I wouldn't go to school is because I wouldn't want to waste a day of no teachers! I also had kids saying they would spray paint on the walls and do random stuff. I might buy a disco ball and put it on the ceiling, and dance on the tables in the cafeteria. I could have a dance with my friends and have fruit punch or something. I think the teachers would have very different ideas of what they would do if there were no students for a day. I would guess they would stay home because there would be nothing to do. But you never know! Maybe the teachers do weird things at the end of the day when all the students go home. I decided to pick this topic, because I can do so much with this topic, and write so much on it. It's a general question, so I could make a good article out of it. Like, middle schoolers, high schoolers, elementary students, and kindergarten and preschool children have very different opinions on this topic. It wouldn't be the same for a high school senior and a preschooler. That's all for this article! This was a short one, but there are many long ones in progress right now!

## **Homecoming Week**

By Braelynn Melsness

When you think of fun, I think of homecoming week is one of the fun and most creative things you could do in school. First you get to dress up for fun days throughout the whole week. I know that RMS does not do the homecoming dance, and that is a bummer. But at least we have homecoming week, that week we had to dress like you are from a tropical paradise. Next you pick a friend and switch styles with them. Then on Wednesday you had to wear a specific color 8th blue, 7th green, and 6th red. AND then on Thursday you also pick a friend and dress like your favorite dynamic duo. Like Scooby doo and Shaggy, or Spongebob and Patrick, and even ketchup and mustard. But if you don't like ketchup and mustard how about ketchup and mayonnaise. But no matter what it will always come back to the most original duo ever. Peanut butter and jelly. Even though homecoming week is over I will always have that memory of it.

## Dances Around the World

By Teagyn Fuller

**Ballet** ::Ballet originated in Italy in around the 1500's. "Ballet" comes from the Italian word "ballare", meaning 'to dance'. Ballet has been around for 421 years. When it started, the dancers wore masks, costumes, pantaloons, large head-dresses, and (very surprisingly) ornaments! I'm still questioning the ornaments part. Even though we've been dancing ballet en pointe (on toe) for quite some time, it only became popular around the nineteenth century! I've interviewed some people and they have said that skipping and leaping is a big part of ballet. If you watch, famous ballet dancers such as Margot Fonteyn or Rudolf Nureyev, they do very fancy looking versions of leaps and skips, or jumps. Believe it or not, only 10% of ballet dancers become professionals! So, this seems like a very serious region of dancing, ballet dancers don't mess around!

**Jazz Dance** ::Jazz Dance began around the 20th century in America. Surprised? Well, jazz actually didn't start in any African countries. Jazz dance arose with, obviously, jazz music! It is an African-American style dance and combines classical ballet and modern dance. Bob Fosse is known as one of the most popular jazz dancers. Others like Louis Armstrong, or Buddy Bolden are very well known as well. Some say that jazz dancing can be a workout, but is worth it!

**Flamenco** ::The Flamenco is a Spanish dance that began through 1869 - 1910. Some people ask, "Why do flamenco dancers wear red dresses?" Well, here is the internet's answer to that. "The red dresses repre-

sent strength, bravery, vitality, and a passion in flamenco style." Castanets, percussion instruments of the clapper family in instruments, are commonly used in flamenco dances. I absolutely love this form of dance because of the red, flowy dresses and the way they just go-with-the-flow when the flamenco dancers dance. Flamenco dancing is truly beautiful.

**Dragon Dance** ::The Dragon Dance is probably the most common dance known in China, or at least one of them. There is an image of a dragon in poles which people will hold and hide under to imitate a dancing dragon, as in the name. Chinese dragons are supposedly believed to have control over water, rain, hurricanes and floods. It is also believed that the longer the dragon, the more luck it will bring. The Chinese dragon dance is very exquisite and interesting.

**Samba** ::The Samba blossomed in Brazil around the 1940's. This is an African-Culture-styled dance. Did you know, the Europeans banned samba dancing! They considered it vulgar. There are 5 styles of samba dancing. Samba de Gafieira, Samba no pe, ballroom Samba, Samba Pagode, and Samba Reggae. It is said that the dance is performed with many percussion instruments in the music. People consider Samba dancing to be fun, upbeat, and a lively dance. Samba dancing sounds fun!

Now, that concludes my article about Dances Around the World. This was so much fun for me, and I hope it was fun reading for you too! Maybe try out some of these dances, look them up!

**Foods around the world**

By Alana Lorenzen

I went around and interviewed people to see what culture of food they liked best . Many people chose Italian because pizza is technically Italian other people chose Greece because of gyros and baklava and Mexican food was popular to because burritos and tacos nachos and much more. People also said more like Mediterranean because of like the healthier foods like chickpeas.

When I was asked to do an Athlete Spotlight, I thought of one person immediately, and that person was Leah Carlson. I thought of her because, for one, she is an amazing soccer player, and she is on my soccer team. She is a good soccer player, but she is an even better volleyball player. She is someone to depend on when you need a good serve or a good hit over the net. She may be good at sports, but she has a big heart, too. For me, sports are not about skills, but it is about the passion and heart that goes into it. You can be a skillful player, but it does not matter if you are not happy about what you do or you do not try, and you are just naturally good at it. But Leah is never negative, and she inspires a lot of people. She also may get frustrated, but she rubs it off, and begins to say encouraging words. She seems so busy, and she is. She sometimes misses soccer practice or games because she is so busy.

**Favorite Season**

By Braelynn Melsness

Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter these are the four seasons. Now everyone has their favorite season. Like Jimi Gozinki he likes Summer because of Summer break. Or Penelope Rodriguez she likes Fall because of the temperature difference. Summer and Fall are our top options. They both have pros and cons. Summer can sometimes be too hot and humid and in fall the leaves don't get wrong I love the colors. But raking over and over can get tiring beauty always comes with a price. Fall is my favorite season. But that doesn't mean it has to be yours when you read this turn to and neighbor during lunch or free time and ask what's your favorite season and why? Interviewed Additional Participants Penelope Rodriguez, Braelyn Sharp, Sofia Dula, Alana Lorenzen, Dominick Davis, Kamreon Prather, Payton Cox, Adylynn Santanna, Braden Ward, Mr. Talor, Miss Reul, Miss Gasso, Joely Ortgiesen, Preston Richerds, and Jimi Gozinki.

# Volleyball

By Alize Janke

I am going to be talking about cheerleading and volleyball. I will give you some facts about cheerleading and volleyball and I will interview Bryalen Sharp. She is a cheerleader and plays volleyball.

## Facts about cheerleading:

1. Cheerleading is more than 100 years old. When it all started all cheerleaders were men.
2. 80 percent of schools in the United States have cheerleading squads.
3. The most popular sport for cheerleading is football.
4. There are 4.5 million cheerleaders just in the United States.
5. There are 12 thousand cheerleaders in the UK.
6. Thomas Peebles invented cheerleading.
7. Cheerleading was invented in the 1980s. By 1997 it was recognized as an independent sport, attracting national attention, but it wasn't made a real sport until 1999.

## Interview with Bryalen Sharp

- How is the season going? She said the season is going great.
- Why did you join cheer and volleyball? She said I joined them because I wanted to try them and see how I liked them.
- Do you like cheer and volleyball? She said yes.
- How many games did you guys play? She said she has cheered 4 games and played 2 volleyball games. They lost both times.
- What is your favorite thing about cheer and volleyball? She said volleyball is super fun and exciting. Cheer is super fun and everyone is super nice.

## Facts about volleyball

1. The game of volleyball was invented in 1892.
2. Volleyball was invented by William Morgan.
3. The first world championships were held in 1949 for men and 1952 for women.
4. Most volleyball players jump about 300 times a match.
5. Volleyball took some of its characteristics from tennis and handball.
6. Volleyball was first introduced as an Olympic sport in 1964.
7. The first two-man beach game was played in 1930.
8. Volleyball was called mintonette at first but it was changed to volleyball.
9. Volleyball is the second most popular sport in the world today.
10. The longest recorded volleyball game took 75 hours and 30 minutes.

## Activities

By Braelynn Melsness

Most people have hobbies that they like or dislike, they can be sports after school or work. This doesn't just have to apply for just children or just sports, it can apply for adults. Like what I do for a living is cheer. I love cheering as much as I do food. I have things that I like and dislike about cheering I don't like when it's hot at games. Or when we lose our games. But what I love about it is when I get to do stunts with my friends. Also winning the games and like I said earlier it doesn't have to apply for just sports. It can be yoga, dance, acting, designing, or even your children, family. Sometimes when you work ridiculously hard at a hobby, and you like it a lot, maybe you can succeed at it. So why don't you try and go find what you are great at find your spark. I guarantee you will be great.

## WHO the HECK HAS TIME FOR SLEEP?!

By Ryann Wadsworth

How much time do you get to sleep? 3 hours, 5 hours, 7, 8? Well, according to the CDC you are supposed to get 9-12 hours for a 6-12-year-olds, and 8-10 hours for teenagers, 13-18-years-olds. Well, who gets that? There are several ways to fall asleep faster than normal. You most likely know the most usual ways such as melatonin gummies or just melatonin. But there are also very natural ways to get to sleep faster. Some examples are eating cherries because they have a natural source of melatonin. Also, diffusers filled with lavender are very soothing. Then, there are sound machines, white noise, and fans. Really, it is just anything that makes a relaxing sound that can be helpful in falling asleep. Another effortless way is putting your phone in another room! Phones cause temptation, and as you may know when you are tempted to do something you may not be able to fall asleep. When you hear a notification go off on your phone it is all you can do to not want to grab your phone and text your friend or whoever it may be back. Now, if you have an alarm set on your phone you might think that this is unavoidable. What I say next might be extremely helpful then. Put your phone across the room from you. That is, it! Or decide that sleep is more important than your phone. If you have tried all these ways and still cannot get to sleep fast there is one more possibility. Yep, you guessed it, the melatonin method we discussed in the beginning.

## What is the Best Video Game?

By Joely Ortgieson

In this article you will find the top three video games, the overall most liked video game, interviews with students in the school on what their favorite game is, and various research on the topic.

Video games. Most of us have played at least one in our life, and most of us, if not all, have a strong opinion on what the best video game is. I know I do, but this article isn't about me. So, what is the best video game? Well, you're about to find out.

Let's look at the top three video games in the world. Coming in third place we have Animal Crossing: New Horizons. New Horizons is one of the newer versions of Animal Crossing. It was released on March 20, 2020, and has become an exceedingly popular game since then. The game follows a villager customized by the player, who, after purchasing a getaway package from Tom Nook, moves to a deserted island. After Tom Nook gives the player essentials, such as a tent, the game proceeds in a non-linear fashion, allowing the player to play the game as they choose.

In second place is the astounding game of Minecraft. Minecraft was released on November 18, 2011, and since the first version came out, there have been many major updates in the game that, when compared to the original, surpass the player's expectations. Minecraft is a video game in which players can create and break apart various types of blocks in three-dimensional worlds. The game's two main modes are Survival and Creative. In Survival, players must find their own building supplies and food. They also interact with block-like mobs and creatures. In the first place, meaning one of the number one games in the world is (drumroll please), Call of Duty: Warzone! Call of Duty: Warzone is one of the newest games, being released on March 10, 2020, compared to the original Call of Duty, being released on October 29, 2003. Warzone allows online multiplayer combat among 150 players, although some limited time game modes support 200 players. The game features both cross-platform play and cross-platform progression between three games. The game features three main modes: Plunder, Resurgence, and Battle Royale.

Hey, don't feel bad if your favorite video game isn't in here, or maybe you don't feel that the games that were mentioned were the best. I can't put every video game in this article even if I wanted to. So, now that you've seen the top three video games, let's see what some of the students have to say on what their personal favorite game is. "My favorite video game is Minecraft because I can be creative and play with my little brother that likes Survival." Says Ryann Wadsworth. "My favorite video game is Goat Simulator because you can go around and headbutt people in different worlds." Odd, but it sounds like a fun game Maddison Emmole! "My favorite video game is Roblox because it has a variety of games so it's not just one." Says Braelynn Melsness.

Now that we have seen some of the students' points of view, I think it might be time to wrap things up. In conclusion, the top three video games are Animal Crossing: New Horizons, Minecraft, and Call of Duty: Warzone. Thank you to the people I interviewed for giving a great opinion on your favorite video game. What do you think is the best video game and why? Answer it yourself!

## Words From the Fairy Godmother

### Teens and Tweens in the Fifties Compared to Now

By Ryann Wadsworth

For this article I asked my godmother questions about what middle school was like for her in the 1950's. There is both funny and surprising differences.

What kind of clothes do you remember were popular when you were a teenager or preteen?

Me: Right now, I just see crop-tops and leggings.

Nina: Jeans for boys only, you had to go to the boy's selection to buy jeans. Along with white tennis shoes. Long white button shirts that you roll up and tuck in.

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade what kind of projects did you do?

Me: Well, in 6<sup>th</sup> grade we haven't done much yet.

Nina: Drawing faces sometimes on wood for a religious activity. Talent shows. Lots of fieldtrips, Coca Cola company.

What grades did you go to school with when you were in 6<sup>th</sup> grade?

Me: Only 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Unless you count Madison.

Nina: We had a school with Kindergarteners through 8<sup>th</sup> graders and even a high school in a separate attached building.

Did you get in trouble often in middle school?

Me: Not really, I have only been in 6<sup>th</sup> grade for a quarter.

Nina: No, not really, that wasn't until a little later.

Where did you go to school?

Me: Reagan middle school!

Nina: I went to St. Mary's for middle school in Sterling, Illinois.

Who was your principal in middle school?

Me: Of course, Mr. Magnafici.

Nina: I had a priest instead of a principal. His name was Father Bonakey

During Jim Crow were you treated in any unfair way for being female or Hispanic?

Me: I can't relate to any of this. The hot topic for us is Covid-19 and sometimes riots and protests.

Nina: Luckily, no it was mostly in the south around that time. Around here there wasn't much on MLK Jr. Either. Occasionally, we would hear about him on TV, but we didn't do much research on him.

Are you still friends with some of the kids you were close with in middle school?

Me: I don't know I'm still in middle school.

Nina: Yes, I'm still friends with them mostly over Facebook.

Were you involved in any protests on your way to school or in general?

Me: There are some protests and riots going on right now, but nothing I have been involved with or been around. Specifically, not in my hometown.

Nina: No, but there was lots about the Vietnam war. My brother went into the service at the time. My brother was only 18 when he left for war with 4 of his buddies. Only one of my brothers' friends didn't make it back.

Did you enjoy school?

Me: Yes, I did. It has been fun so far.

Nina: Yes, I did. It was lots of fun.

What time did you get dismissed from school?

Me: 2:15 pm

Nina: 3:00 pm

What time did you get to school?

Me: 7:45 am

Nina: 8:00 am

Who was your favorite teacher in middle school?

Me: I'm only in 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Nina: "The English teacher because he was hot, **hot**, like super-hot looking." So was our priest.

Were there clubs or extra-curricular activities at your school?

Me: Band, choir, school newspaper, Builders club, and student council.

Nina: Student council, choir, and band.

What kinds of subjects do you remember from middle school?

**(Fairy Godmother** continued from page 12)

Me: Math, Art, Music, Technology, Health, Social Studies, Science, ELA, Advisory (if that counts), and PE

Nina: English, math, science, social studies, history, homeroom, music, art, home education (Sewing, cooking, baking, repairing things, etc.) the guys had wood working class, and we all had gym.

Did you have a crush or boyfriend in middle school?

Me: This question is... tricky. I mostly put it in to show teachers and students there has ALWAYS been drama in middle school.

Nina: YES! We used to go to school dances! We didn't usually wear dresses. If you went with a boyfriend or girlfriend, we used to wear the same colors as each other.

What kind of sports did your school play?

Me: We do many sports, football and volleyball being most of the big sports now! We still have all those other sports, but I don't think we have swimming.

Nina: I was a cheerleader and loved sports, so I played with the boys, and they let me play because they were often short one player or more players. We had big track competitions between all the schools. (I was a runner myself) We also had basketball for boys and girls. Along with softball and baseball. We didn't have football, volleyball, or swimming.

Were there other languages to learn in middle school? (If so what languages) (Which languages did you want to learn?)

Me: We might need to do some research. But it's nothing I know of.

Nina: Just Latin. I also learned Latin... but only for a short time.

What kind of student were there?

Me: In my opinion, there are the popular students, smart students, silly students, troublemakers (or detention lovers), the bullies, and then the people who do clubs. But I'm only in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, maybe there are more.

Nina: Troublemakers, as always, the smart ones, teachers' pets, the ones who thought they were smart, a few bullies, and then the student council group.

Do you think that most of the things that have changed are negative or positive changes toward middle schoolers' education?

Nina: I believe that they are mostly positive changes to middle schoolers' education, and I believe it has made students a bit smarter now.

To wrap it up, what do you think of middle schoolers now that you are older?

Nina: "I think they have too much freedom. I had to go to mass every day! But also, there is more out there for students to learn now, and it was very fun, and I hope that every student enjoys the rest of their school year. You only get to be a kid once."