



The BLOB

Best Literature on the Block

WESTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

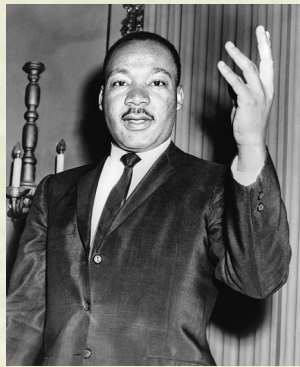
- Athletes of the Month
- Sports Recaps
- Theo's Thoughts Comic Strip
- Dear Bloberta Advice Column
- Mystery Stories
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- Game Reviews
- Students of the Month

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MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY: A REASON TO REMEMBER

Martin Luther King Jr. Day honors the famous American civil rights leader who dedicated his life to achieving equality for people of all colors. Although few kids would question a day off from school, some may wonder why there is an entire day devoted to one man.



Martin Luther King Jr. was a black man who grew up in a very racist time. He was born January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. His father was a min-

ister, who believed in peace and equal rights. King's father inspired him to change the world peacefully. Martin Luther King said "Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that." Martin led many peaceful protests against the segregation that was happening everywhere.

In this time, people of color were separated from white people. Colored people could not go to the same restaurant, bathroom, or even use the same drinking fountain as white people. Martin Luther King inspired many people to stand up against racism, and fight for equal rights.

Martin Luther led the march on Washington, a huge protest in Washington DC to get equal rights for all. At this Protest Martin Luther King jr gave his Famous "I have a dream" speech. That speech was very inspirational, and after this

speech, the name Martin Luther King was known to many more people than before. It made Congress move faster in passing the Civil Rights Act. This set of laws was finally passed the next year, in 1964. Many of these laws gave African-Americans more equal treatment than they ever had before. Martin Luther was very inspirational and changed many lives with his courageous acts.

On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King jr was assassinated. King was shot while he was standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. He was killed by James Earl Ray. We honor and celebrate Martin Luther King on January 17. He changed and made life better for so many people, he truly was an amazing man.

-Theo Sprenger

5TH GRADERS GIVING BACK

During the last week before Christmas vacation, 5th grade students in Ms. Groshong's class worked on making blankets as a way to give back to the community and others who might be in need of care.

Ms. Groshong stated that her class wanted to find a



way to help others. After taking a vote, they decided that making blankets would

be a great way to show others that they cared about them.

Most students measured, cut and tied the blankets on their own. Each student also wrote a letter to the person that would be receiving a blanket

-Staff

Creative Writing

The Sunken Ship (Pirates Point of View)

They were gone, and I had a feeling they'd be back. I had no idea what my plan would be if they were to come back, arg I'd better figure it out soon. The night came upon us and I knew they'd be back. "I hear voices," said the co-captain. "ARG, its dem. I told ye they'd be back." I peered around the corner but there be only one of em. I said "There is only one of em so this'll be easy."

Usually we would be partyings but today we're waiting and watching for those girls. "THERE THERE BE ONE OF EM GIRLS" one of the crew members said. "Ight here the plan, yee hide and I jump out as she turn corner and I'll hold er to the pole and yee tie her up." The plan was set and it shan't fail. The girl came up and as I said I grabbed her and the crew tied her up. "Cap'n what are we goin to do wit her?" said the second mate. "We'll We'll, investigate er!" I replied. "But now we party in the success of capturing ye girl."

Then we were ambushed. That girl from earlier "Brooklyn" Conya called her. She ran in, grabbed a sword, cut Conya loose, grabbed her and left. "I WILL FIND YOU AND GET YOU, YOU CAN COUNT ON IT!!!" I said.

Twelve Years Later

Brooklyn speaking "Tyler come down, breakfast is ready!" "Okay mom." says Tyler. Meanwhile at Conya's house. "Morgan, you need to hurry up, the bus is here!" says Conya. "I'm hurrying mom."

Conya and Brooklyn are no longer friends. They see each other around, and their kids are friends. They no longer live as next door neighbors but now live across town with different jobs and different households.

Meanwhile Morgan and Tyler are at school talking about their plans to visit the abandoned ship on the beach for Halloween . To be continued...

-Megan McLouth

P O E T R Y

A New Year Poem

As fireworks burst
Countdowns are going
Blow horns are blowing
And people are cheering

In celebration for a New Year
Everyone is drinking there spar-
kling cider
Children are screaming and run-
ning around
For some kids do not know what
is going on

As resolution's are being made
People are thinking hard
The kids kept on running around
like wild animals
For a celebration of the New
Year

-Charlotte H.

Spring Poem

Spring will soon arrive
New plants have revived
That isn't the only thing alive
New babies are bouncing

Through the meadows they
run
In hope to have some fun
Goats, foals, and calves
All frolicking without goals

That is what spring
Is all about
New lives have evolved
But yet things lay unsolved

-Addy Hall



Athletes of the Month

- Annika H., Charlotte H.



B Team Basketball:

Mylie Garrett has received athlete of the month for B Team because she is good at following directions, helping her teammates and she works hard at basketball skills.

A Team Basketball:

Brooklyn Parker received athlete of the month for A Team. She has a great attitude and she is very supportive to her teammates. She also has amazing basketball skills.



Girls' Basketball

Vs. Echo B Team:

B played hard against the other team and held their own. They did end up losing 20-33 but they tried their best and had great teamwork. The home team ended up playing their A team with their B team despite having enough players, but our team held their own!



Vs. Central B Team:

B team won against Central 46-6. They had amazing teamwork and they played hard throughout the whole game. They had quite a few steals and many great layups. Almost every person scored that game which is definitely something to celebrate!



Vs. Echo A Team:

A team played amazingly well. They won 36-18. They showed a lot of effort out on the court. They played aggressively and showed lots of hard work in the game. Good job A team.

Vs. Central A Team:

A team played hard and really aggressively. They were amazing on offense and defense. They had many great steals and fast breaks. A team won 64-10. Way to go A team.

-Charlotte Hansell

Students of the Month

(For the month of December)



Reed Glover 4th Grade

NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

Eleanor Kenney 5th Grade



Sydnae Stroe 6th Grade



Hailie Burns 7th Grade



Brooklyn Parker 8th Grade

Students of the month consistently demonstrate Weston Middle School's values of being safe, being respectful, and being responsible. Congratulations!

Winter Olympics 2022

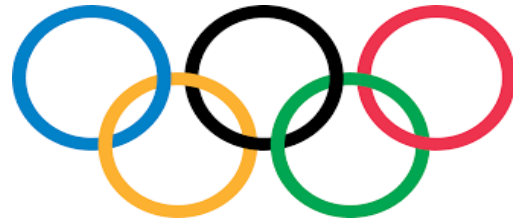
The Olympics are coming up beginning Friday, February 4th in Beijing, China! The Olympics will be broadcasted on NBC and streaming live on Peacock Network.

There are going to be 109 events held. The events that many people are looking forward to are snowboarding, slalom, short-track speed skating, ski jumping, and many more.

This Olympics may be different from previous winter Olympics because of the Omicron variant of COVID. Similar to last summer's Olympics that were held in Japan, Beijing is not planning on allowing spectators other than coaches and possibly family members for most sports. There are also stringent procedures in place to protect athletes and their coaches.

Some teams that are participating are the United States, Canada, China, Finland, Sweden, Germany, Russia, Denmark, Norway, Japan, Romania, Serbia, South Korea, United Arab, Thailand, Kuwait, Austria, Ukraine, Australia, Taiwan, North Korea. The Olympics will end on Sunday, February 20. Get ready for some epic winter events at this year's Olympics!

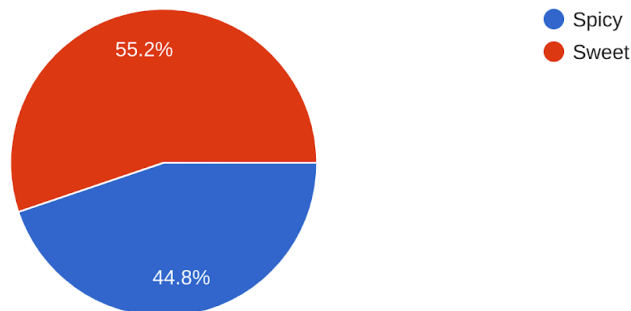
-Charlotte Hansell



Do You Prefer?

We did a poll that was sent out to every student at Weston Middle School to see whether they preferred sweet or spicy foods. When all the results were tallied we found out that more people prefer sweet foods over spicy.

Spicy foods or Sweet foods?
58 responses





Materials:

A jar with a lid
Red, pink and white M&Ms
A Valentine's Day sticker
Ribbon

Steps:

Fill the jar with M&Ms.
Put the lid on the jar.
Put the Valentine's Day sticker on the jar.
Tie the ribbon around the outside of the jar.

Supplies:

A black and orange marker
Brown, black and white felt
A tiny white cup
Hot glue gun

Steps:

First, you are going to take your white felt and cut the shape of a snowman melting. Then you cut out two arms with your brown felt the shape of twigs. After that you cut out a hat with the black felt then with that same color cut out three little squares. Then you need a hot glue gun to put your snowman together. And on the white cup you have you are going to draw eyes with the black marker and a carrot nose with the orange marker. There you have it, a melted snowman.



-Hailie Burns

Winter DIY Crafts

Dog Breeds

Are you looking for a new four legged companion but your living quarters or the restrictions you might have holding you back from getting one? Well if so this might help you.

If you aren't wanting a big dog, here are some smaller dog options that don't need constant exercise. The first dogs that come to mind are the Pug, Shih tzu, Yorkshire terrier, Maltese, or some mixed breeds. Yorkipoo, Cockapoo, and Maltipoo dogs being mixed with a Poodle is a very common thing breeders prefer to do, due to the fact that poodles tend to add hypoallergenic traits and intelligence.

Mixing breeds tend to add the best of both breeds. If you want a dog smart like a Border collie but more calm and chill, you might end up mixing with a calmer breed that can throw some other characteristics. Now if you're an active person with a big yard and a long attention span, here are some breeds. German shepherds, Border collies, Australian Shepherds, Beagles, Vizsla, Weimaraners, Huskies, or any sort of pointers, such as German shorthair pointers, Irish setters or German Pointing Griffon.

If you're looking for a wildcard of a dog that can either be super chill or super wild, get a Labrador, Golden retriever, or even a Husky. Getting a Golden retriever, Lab, or even a Poodle are great options for an active family, even with younger kids. I think finding an older mutt in a shelter or pound is a great thing, a laid back, sweet, calm older dog might just be perfect for your family.

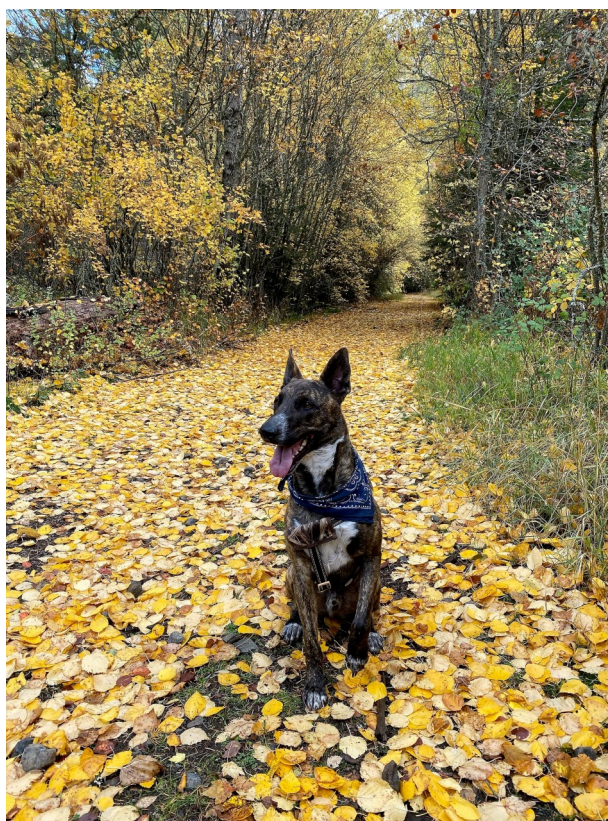
Getting a young dog or puppy when already having kids is tons of work, but every once and a while you'll find a nice calm, quick learning puppy. There are so many different breeds and one is perfect for you, but sometimes it takes trial and error to find your perfect partner.

Another thing is finding your companion at an animal shelter, adopting from animal shelters can be hard because you usually don't know their past, their breed, or their exact ages. Lots of shelter dogs can have separation anxiety and many other health things you have to watch out for, but adopting is a great way to give back to the community by making more space for other stray or unwanted dogs to go.

My dog is a shelter dog and he does have some health things and some other things that can get annoying but at the end of the day he is the perfect mix of breeds he gets the best of several different breeds. But this example doesn't go for all shelter dogs.

Some will be dropped off because of a family moving or someone just not being able to care for it anymore, so they might bring a purebred or a dog that they can tell you about its age and breed so the dog is better set up for a successful home. Although finding a purebred dog in a shelter is uncommon, it is definitely possible.

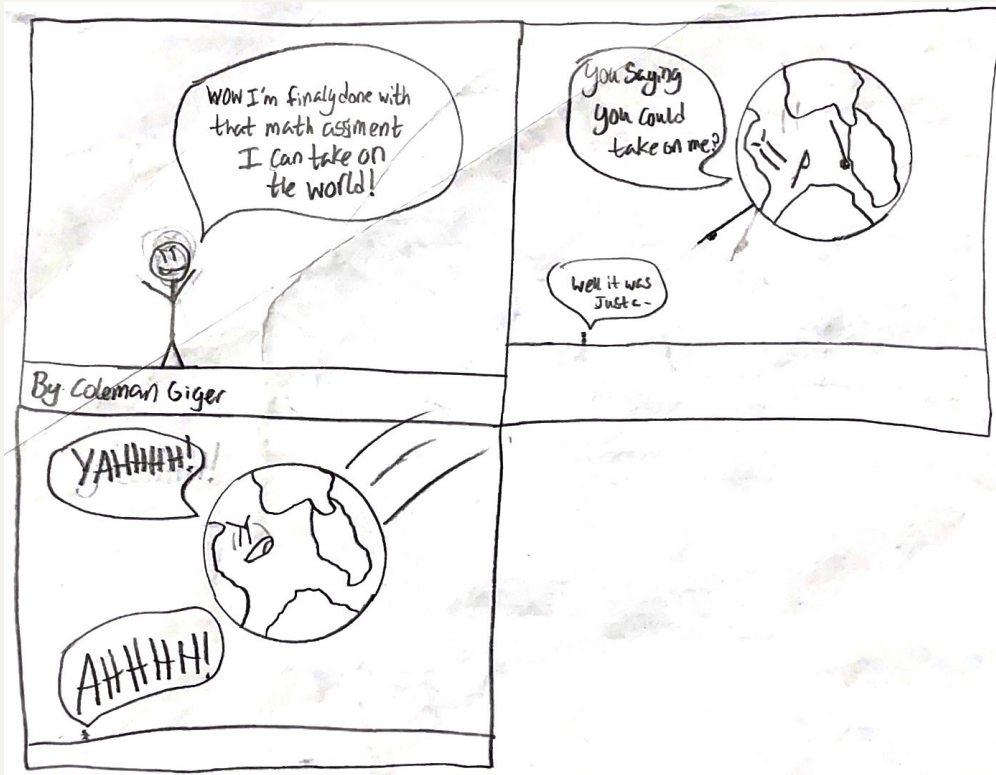
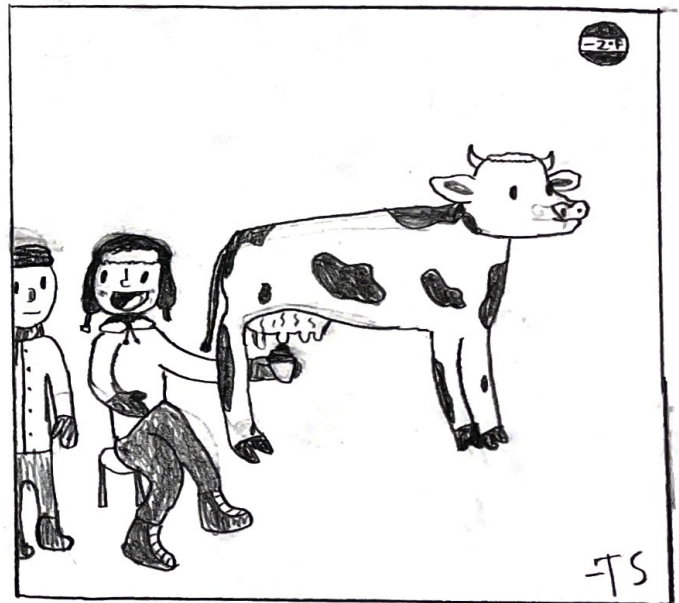
Finding Pitbull, Chihuahuas, and lab mixes in shelters are more common than not. Luckily, shelters spay and neuter all dogs that come in to insure the numbers of unwanted puppies and dogs stay lower. There are tons and tons of breeds that I didn't mention but there will be a Part 2! So if you didn't see what you're looking for in this issue look on the next!



-Addy Hall

Theo's Thoughts

Original Comic Strips by Theo Sprenger (Guest Artist Coleman Giger)



GAMING CORNER

LFD 2

Now let us talk about a classical masterpiece, LFD 2 is the horde fighting game developed by Valve and is considered the better game of the two in the series. I'd love to talk about the lore and the "Green flu" virus but that would take awhile so let's talk about the basics.

There are four playable characters also known as "survivors". Their names are Couch, Rochelle, Nick and my personal favorite Ellis. The game itself encourages teamwork as

the "Special infected" can pin you down or make you unable to fight back until a teammate can save you. There are also different "Hordes" which are huge groups of "common infected". A single common is harmless at best, but a horde of them can split survivors up making teamwork hard or impossible.

There are also plenty of things that you can use to dispatch the infected from frying pans to other incendiary devices. You are bound to find something that you will like. This is a game I very much enjoyed playing and I think you will as well. Look for a new

review in the next issue.

-Hunter Carey



What is Wordle?

Do you enjoy logic puzzles like sudoku or crosswords? If so, there is a new type of logic puzzle that seems to be particularly popular on social media called Wordle.

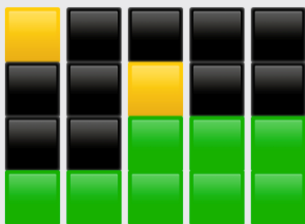
What is Wordle? Wordle allows 6 chances to guess a specific 5 letter word. With each guess, there are three possible outcomes for a letter. If it is not in the answer, it will turn grey or black. If it is in the answer but in the wrong location, it will turn yellow. If the letter is the right letter and in the right location, it will turn green.

Strategies suggest using popular letters in your first word such as "tears". However, most puzzles seem to have answers that are made up of more difficult letters but you have eliminated a large majority of important letters first.

Spend a moment playing Wordle. It might just make you smarter.

-Staff

Wordle 222 4/6





The moment you realize "2022" is pronounced "2020 too"



This local pizza place threw out their leftover dough in a garbage bin and it started growing



Pizza maker:



Top Ten Lists

Top 10 Sports

- Soccer
- Football
- Basketball
- Baseball
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Table Tennis
- Cricket
- Hockey
- Golf

Baked Goods

- Apple pie
- Chocolate chip cookies
- Bagels
- Cream puffs
- Cornbread
- Blueberry muffins
- Whoopie pie
- Red velvet cake
- Banana bread
- Pretzels

-Hailie Burns

Creative Writing

Snowmobiling

In my opinion, snowmobiling is a very fun thing to do. However, you always need to have the right gear for it or you could get injured very badly. Personally, I have been hurt while snowmobiling but not because I didn't have the right gear. Rather it was because the driver wasn't careful.

My sister, two of her best friends and I were getting pulled on the back of the snowmobile on the sled and the driver saw that there were other snowmobilers ahead. We were off to the side so we were safe. She decided we needed to get to the other side of the road which was where all the trees were but there was a path for snowmobiles. You had to be super slow and safe while going through there.

We went ahead and drove to the other side of the road. Once we got over there we had to make a quick stop and the sled slid more than the snowmobile. That meant we slid into a tree and all of us hit our legs and arms against the tree. When we realized how much it hurt, my sister and I got up and started yelling at the driver. She obviously didn't know that we would get hurt and after a little bit she apologized and we said we were sorry for yelling at her. We were very sore the next day, but we got better over the next couple of days.

-Jaidyn N.



A Friendly Ghost

Here at WMS, there have been supposed sightings of a ghost. The seventh graders have named the ghost "Casper", because he is friendlier than your average ghost. Although when certain people walk in the room he will knock stuff off shelves and sometimes it will trip certain people.

you will know because you will instantly get the chills and most likely stop in your tracks. Also if you don't believe me that Casper is real, I don't think he is real either. However, our school is almost a hundred years old so you never know.

-Anonymous

Casper also likes to float through people and sometimes hide stuff occasionally. That is about all the damage that Casper does though. If Casper does float through you,

Chinese New Year

This year, February 1st is the Chinese New Year, also known as The Spring Festival or the Lunar New Year. If you go a Chinese New Year celebration, the suggested colors are green, yellow, red, and blue.

Chinese New Year remains the most important holiday for the Chinese people. The Chinese New Year is a great way for families to spend time together and or reunite.



Some celebrations for Chinese New Year include:

- 1) Putting up decorations,
- 2) Offering sacrifices to ancestors.
- 3) Watching dragon and lion dances,
- 4) Giving red envelopes with money called Hong Bao or other gifts.

Chinese New year is the start of the spring or the New year according to the Chinese calendar. The Chinese New year is celebrated with 1/4 of the world's population.

Chinese New Year is when the most fireworks are set off throughout the whole year (sometimes it's illegal). It is also the longest Chinese celebration. Chinese New Year is for praying to Gods and/or fighting off monsters. There is no set date for Chinese New year.

-Jaidyn Niemeier



RAT	OX	TIGER	HARE	DRAGON	SNAKE	HORSE	RAM	MONKEY	ROOSTER	DOG	PIG
1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911
1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043
2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055
2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067
2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079
2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091
2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103

An important part of Chinese culture is knowing your zodiac sign for the year you were born. Check the chart to the left to see the animal that represents the year you were born.

If you are interested in further information, you can easily search for your zodiac animal and the traits that this animal represent for your life.

-Staff

THE STORM PT 2

Last issue...

As we were running, KB let out this metallic screech that meant that he had only seconds left. KB was doing this thing with his hands, but we didn't know what until we saw. Somehow, he was controlling the wall.

...

It was unbelievable. Was I dreaming? How was he doing this? Whatever, it was not important, not now. KB was still controlling the wall, and Tyler was getting transfixed by it. I had to pull him out of his trance that he was in. What was more important though: escaping imprisonment, because right now, KB, or more accurately, the parasite, was trapping us around him with the wall, which he was still controlling. With Tyler and I trapped in the enclosure, we had no choice but to become engulfed in the Storm.

There was no sound, no space, no time, just blackness all around, floating in the middle of nothingness. Yet, you could still feel your senses around. We tried to contact each other, only to get a quiet "Jeremiah" in return.

As we were calling each other, my mind started to darken, and then the most dreadful pain came through my head. Only after I noticed that something was on my back, something... liquid, yet solid. It was climbing up and down my back, up to my head. Then, immense pain, so much I collapsed. When my mind went blank, a voice came through. A rather raspy, low voice : *Hello, Jeremiah, welcome to the dark side.*

"The Storm. The Storm that would eventually end us... or at least America. What you and KB didn't know was that I was a parasite. A parasite that could eventually put the world in a void, make it non-existent in the universe. What you also didn't know, I was controlling the wall. You, Jeremiah, were the hardest to get to. You are one of 8 in the world that

is immune--"

I tried to fight it off, whoever was on my back, or what, I should say. The pain was immense still as it was still fighting for control. *"Listen, I can help you, all you have to do is let me."*

I tried to tell him "no" through the way he was telling me. This went on for what seemed like a while. Talk, pain, talk, pain, talk, pain. Then, he said *"If you won't help me, I'll show you what I'm dealing with"*

I didn't know what he was talking about until all pain ceased and the world came back ever so slowly, except it wasn't ours. The ground was red, different lifeforms of all different sizes. All of the world was in a void of dark purple and black. Then I realized: It was his world.

To be continued...

-Anonymous



Creative Writing

Dear Bloberta

(Advice Column for Weston Middle School)

Dear Bloberta,

I am having troubles in school because people keep on bullying me. I do not feel comfortable in school. What should I do?

Sincerely,
Bullied

Dear Bullied,

I have been through a similar situation. The first thing I did was build up a friend group so if something happened they have your back. Everybody stopped bullying me because they knew I had back up. I have also found a trusted adult that I knew I could talk to and ask for advice. They told me that my plan was good but also it was important for the teachers to know as well so that they could watch for bullying behavior. I was worried that telling an adult would make things worse but having my friends around me and having the teachers watch really helps me feel safer. I know that it probably won't solve all your bullying problems but it is a start.

Sincerely,
Bloberta

Dear Bloberta,

My friend keeps sneezing with their mask down. It is not a pretty site. What should I do because I do not want to be mean?

Sincerely,
Grossed Out

Dear Grossed Out,

I can not imagine seeing that. I would say, "Just so you know you might need a tissue." That way it is not as mean and offensive.

Sincerely,
Bloberta



BLOB Staff Now & Then



Annika Holden (Newborn)



Annika Holden (Current)



Mr. Bryant (Age 3)



Mr. Bryant (Current)

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If you have suggestions for content or would like to submit a creative writing story, please email our

editor at: 27rabbb@athwestsd.org

"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward." Martin Luther King Jr.