

# The Westampton Eye

WESTAMPTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

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FEBRUARY 7, 2020

Westampton Middle School

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## IN MEMORIAM: KOBE BRYANT 1978-2020

*By Steve A., Special Correspondent*



On Sunday, January 26, 2020, the world lost one of its greatest athletes: Kobe Bryant. Everything that could be said about Kobe and his career has been said in the days after his death.

Kobe was a relentless competitor and a worldwide icon who inspired millions in the way he played basketball. Kobe's peerless confidence and competitive drive were apparent in the greatest moments of his career. In a game against the Toronto Raptors, Bryant took a staggering 46 shots to reach 81 points, a career-high and the second-highest individual point total of all time.

In his last game, an otherwise meaningless regular-season finale, Bryant took 50 shots to get to 60, and while he only made 22 of those 50 shots, it didn't matter because he was so determined and so competitive that he would keep on taking those shots until he made them. This state of mind, nicknamed Mamba Mentality, inspired millions around the world and was synonymous with him. His daughter Gianna, or "Gigi", who also died in the crash, was an outstanding young basketball player who many believed would follow in her father's footsteps.

*The Westampton Eye* team gives it condolences to Bryant's family and everyone impacted by this tragedy.

# IPHONE 11

*by Daivik P.*

Did you know the new iPhone is out? It's called the iPhone 11 and it came out on September 20th. You have three options: the iPhone 11, the iPhone 11 Pro, and iPhone 11 Pro Max. You can get the iPhone 11 in six different colors: black, white, red, purple, green, and yellow. All three forms of the iPhone 11 are water resistant. The iPhone 11 Pro and the iPhone Pro Max both have three cameras, while the regular iPhone 11 has two cameras. Also, the iPhone 11 has a A13 Bionic chip. It sounds like this iPhone is the coolest Apple has ever invented.



# AUSTRALIAN WILDFIRES

*By Molly M.*

Did you know Australia wildfires were even worse than you think? According to Vox.com, about 1 billion animals have died in Australia. Over half of the country has been destroyed from the fires. It is sad to think that there are so many people in danger and the homes that were destroyed. We want to help them the best we can so they can get through this horrible tragedy. Climate change is a big reason why the fires happened.

If you are interested in donating to help, go to <https://www.unicefusa.org> today!



# GLAD DOGS

*by Daivik P.*



Have you heard about Glad Dogs? Glad Dogs is a company that lets people donate toys to dogs. It was founded by Marianne Ahern.

Donations to Glad Dogs toys are sanitized in hot water using biodegradable laundry detergent, and then they are dried on high heat. Glad Dogs removes any choking hazards such as buttons and other hard objects. The company replaces the plastic toy eyes with various fabric and felt appliques. They also replace the hard nose with colorful pom-poms.

The Westampton Middle School recently had a Glad Dogs drive directed by Mrs. Burrows. According to Mrs. Burrows, the drive was successful. The NJHS decided to do this because it wanted to do something to help animals. Thank you to everybody who contributed.

# NBA TRADE DEADLINE

*By Daivik P.*

The NBA trade deadline ends on Thursday, February 6. The NBA trade deadline is basically when NBA players or unrestricted free agents get traded to different teams. The NBA trade deadline is important because it can make teams stronger by getting fresh talent. It can also work the opposite way: a team can pick a player who doesn't perform well at all!

Here are some NBA trades that I think might happen before the deadline:

- Jrue Holiday to the Phoenix Suns for Josh Jackson and Mikal Bridges
- Kevin Love to the Phoenix Suns for Tyler Johnson and the No. 6 pick
- Chris Paul to the Sixers
- Kyle Kuzma to Washington Wizards for Bradley Beal
- Ben Simmons to the Denver Nuggets for Jamal Murray and Paul Milsap

I think after February 6th, the NBA is going to be more fun to watch. But you have to hope that none of your favorite players leave. These are my predictions and I hope they are correct because it will make the NBA better.

# STRANGE FACTS: UMBRELLAS

*By Isabella I.*

What do you use when it rains? I bet you use an umbrella. Humans have used umbrellas for more than 4,000 years, but have you ever wondered where they come from? According to Umbrella history.net, there is evidence of umbrellas in the ancient art and artifacts of Assyria, Greece, Egypt, and China. Umbrellas were first designed to provide shade from the sun. The Chinese were the first to waterproof their umbrellas for use as rain protection. They waxed and lacquered their paper parasols in order to use them for cover from the rain. In 1928, Hans Haupt invented the pocket umbrella. She was a student studying sculpture when she developed a prototype for an improved compact foldable umbrella. She received a patent in September 1929. The umbrella was called "Flirt" and was made by an Austrian company. In Germany, the small foldable umbrellas were made by the company "Knirps," which became a synonym in the German language for small foldable umbrellas in general.

Umbrellas have been around for a very long time and yet most people know nothing about their original purpose and creator. Now you do! So next time you are using a umbrella think about that.



# NEW TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: MR. BURKE

*by Kayla S.*

*The Westampton Eye* interviewed the middle school's new math teacher, Mr. Burke.

Q: What Job did you have before you came here?

A: Before even becoming a teacher, I was actually a security guard at a local Best Buy in my area. I sat in a room watching cameras, making sure people weren't stealing, that the store was safe, and handled any law enforcement and safety work. It wasn't glamorous, but it was entertaining at the very least.

Q: What was your dream job?

A: Despite being a teacher now, growing up I always dreamed of being a surgeon. Specifically, I wanted to be a neurosurgeon, since the brain was fascinating to me. To help people out, and save lives while doing something I thought was the single most interesting profession seemed perfect to me!

Q: Why did you want to be a teacher?

A: When I was younger, I had a teacher that inspired me to be everything I am today. He, in more ways than one, helped raise me and guided me to be the best version of myself. So when I thought of the idea of being a teacher, I planned to follow in his footsteps and be a middle school music teacher. The issue there though was that I only played percussion, I can't play anything else. So I chose my favorite subject, math, and then set out to be a middle school math teacher instead. The rest is history!

Q: What is your favorite part about this school?

A: The students; without a doubt the students. I wouldn't come here every day, stay until almost 5 or 6 most nights, and then repeat that week after week if I didn't love the kids and students I have the opportunity to work with. All of you make this job feel less like a job, and more like hanging out and learning with my friends. We have fun, we learn and grow, and we get to enjoy ourselves as much as we can in the process, and that means a lot to me.



# VAPING: DON'T DO IT

*By Emily C. and Isabella I.*



The electric cigarette, more known as the e-cigarette, is a battery-powered, hand-held, non-tobacco product. Even though commercials like to portray vaping as safer than cigarettes, it can be just as addictive. People think because their friends do it that it is normal and okay.

Many people in high-school and middle-school are being pulled into vaping by peer pressure. If you're being pressured into vaping, talk to an adult, don't let others say, "Oh, just one try. It won't kill you!" According to Sciencealert.com, over 2,200 people have gotten sick from vaping in 2019.

Just remember that vaping is just as dangerous as cigarette smoking.