

BLUE EAGLE BULLETIN

BY STUDENTS

FOR STUDENTS



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NAMS SCHOOLWIDE READING CHALLENGE WHO WILL WIN?

by Abby Cowan

Two and a half million reading minutes is a whole lot more than 1 million. This year's NAMS schoolwide reading challenge involves students and teachers logging their reading minutes on Beanstack to reach a yearly goal. Plus, it's a competition! "Last year, teachers logged their minutes with their core teams, and core teams also each recruited two 'free agent' teachers not associated with a team," Mr. Bensing, the Media Center specialist, stated when describing last year's challenge. The goal last year was to read 1 million minutes, but students and teachers logged approximately 1.5 million. This year, the stakes have been significantly raised. The reading challenge goal for the year is an ambitious 2.5 million



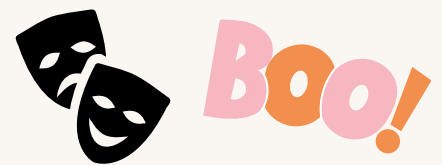
NAMS is striving to surpass 2.5 million reading minutes this school year.

minutes, accompanied by a competition designed to provide some serious motivation. Last year, the competition was set where, at the end of each marking period, Dr. Bauder would award a prize to the team with the highest minutes logged. It works a little differently this year. Instead of each marking period being a checkpoint, the end of each month is a checkpoint. The team with the highest reading minutes at the end of the month will be awarded 3 points. Second place will get 2 points, and third place will receive 1 point. Mr. Bensing noted, "These points count for the teams' overall total. At the end of each month, every team gets a reset, and the next month is a fresh competition. The team that accumulates the most points at the end of April will be named our overall winner."

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Another change is that the teaching staff is its own team! At the end of the year, any teams that outread the teaching staff will receive a special surprise! The final prize for the team that emerges victorious will be something awesome, though it's a surprise for now. Currently, the Emerald team leads for October, with the teachers and Jade close behind. For the overall challenge, the Emerald team has started off strong with 3 points, which were earned by having the most minutes logged in the month of September. Keep an eye out in the upcoming weeks to discover which teams are making a strong start in the pursuit of 2.5 million minutes!

BOO! *THE HOUSE OF THRILLS AND CHILLS* IS HERE INSIDE THE NAMS FALL PLAY PRODUCTION



by Juliana LaBarre and Elaina Maxwell

Fall is here, and with it comes the arrival of a fearfully fantastic show called *The House of Thrills and Chills*. Although it seems spooky, you don't have to be afraid; the drama club advisor, Mrs. Van Thiel, has given us the inside scoop on this ghoulishly great play.

The basic plot of the *House of Thrills and Chills* is this: 10 friends are running a haunted house, and when it closes, odd things start to happen and people start to disappear. Tons of scary monsters start appearing, and the audience is left with one question; what will happen next? Full of twists and turns, this play will keep you on the edge of your seat the whole way. Now, something else that is sure to amaze the audience, the stage crew will be working with special effects during the show! That's sure to give the audience a scare!

We have some information on the play from NAMS's very own music teacher and head of the Drama Club, Mrs. Van Thiel! She has informed us that she will have no limit to the number of students that can join NAMS's drama this year, but in order for the play to work, she needs as much stage crew as possible – so feel free to join! She is very excited for the upcoming 7th graders, and for any new or returning 8th graders to join up as well.



The cast and crew are working hard to make your nightmares come true in *The House of Thrills & Chills*.

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As a bonus, we've interviewed some of the set builders on *The House of Thrills and Chills*! One of these workers includes Hailey Janis, a drama club member. She told us that the set will be finished in a few weeks after the interview, and that at the time of writing they have built many of the core structures needed for the play. Building is underway in sessions of 45 minutes to 3 hours. Hailey has told us that the hardest set piece she will have to build is the fireplace or the windows.

The drama club has had its fair share of shows in the past, so Mrs. Van Thiel has learned some valuable lessons along the way. One of those is to not mess with tricky effects like motors! With all the years of this club, she knows better than anyone that drama will forever leave you with a lasting impression of family. Have an amazing October, and we hope to see you at *The House of Thrills and Chills*!

NEW CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE LGI

by Rylee Hamilton



The LGI has mostly been a basic learning space since NAMS was built, but not anymore. Dr. Bauder and Mrs. Mauser have big changes coming to the LGI that will be exciting for both students and staff. Some of the main uses are going to be for students and teachers to have access to a creative, hands-on classroom. These upgrades are collaborated by Mrs. Mauser and Dr. Bauder, combining both their ideas. These ideas include flexible seating, a green screen area, codeable drones and rover cars, robots, and a laser engraving station.



Sneak peak of the transformation

The idea is to have students eager to go to class and learn in a new, more interactive environment with teachers able to use the LGI during their classes or flex for a collaborative learning space. They would like to have these upgrades finished by the end of October, and hopefully we will be able to use the revamped space in early November. Students will hopefully be excited to show off the new environment to their families at parent-teacher conferences. Be ready for this new and improved learning environment!

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SOUNDFEST 2024

MARCHING BANDS COMPETE IN NAZARETH

by Ryan Talarico



Fall has officially arrived, and it is one of the most brilliant seasons. Soundfest is an amazing music competition between 13 marching bands around the Lehigh Valley. This event will be hosted by the director of the Nazareth Area Marching Band, Mr. Tanzos. This is Mr. Tanzos' second year directing the marching band and hosting Soundfest. This year, the event will be held in Andrew S. Leh Stadium at Nazareth Area High School on Saturday, October 19th, at 5:00 p.m. For students who are in the marching band and have attended other competitions, this will be full of even more great fun. The marching band will perform their undefeated show, *The Way of the Samurai*, to cap off the night. Many band members' favorite part is getting to perform for our home audience! The main goal for this year's Soundfest is to make every audience and every band member from all schools have an amazing time, to make sure they come back for years to come.

NAMS CROSS COUNTRY

MAKING A RUN AT GREATNESS

by Riley Miller

Cross country is a fall sport that doesn't get as much recognition as it should. If you didn't know before, cross country is a sport where people run at meets. Cross country runners put in hard work at every practice to beat personal records and run their best on days of their meets. Even though runners run individually at the meets, it's still a team sport because at practices teammates run together and push each other to success. Cross country is unique because you cannot blame anyone for how well you did but yourself. People should care about

cross country as much as other sports because, like other sports, runners put lots of effort into their training in order to do well

on days of the meets. Runners do this by running miles almost every day after school as a team, monitoring their eating habits, and really becoming the healthiest version of themselves to perform well at the meets.



Kaylee Rowbottom winning 5th place at the Parkland meet.

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HARRY POTTER CLUB BACK AND BETTER THAN EVER

by Claire Hardy



A few years ago, there was a Harry Potter Club. It was pretty great until it stopped for a while because one of the teachers in charge left. Well, we are happy to announce that the Harry Potter Club is back! If you are at all interested in Harry Potter, then you should consider joining! Harry Potter Club was started by Mrs. Badesso, and some things that the club does are:

- Puzzles
- Watching the movies
- Building Lego sets
- Crafts
- Painting

And some ideas for the future are:

- Field trips
- Trivia and games
- Making posters
- 3D printing



For more information, we asked Mrs. Badesso a few questions. Here is what she said:

Q: When will this club be happening?

A: On weekdays. The club has started already, and you're welcome to join! I try to schedule the club on different days so that band and chorus students can come.

Q: What gave you the idea to make this club?

A: I had it going with Mrs. Remely, but she went to a different building and so it stopped for a while. Now I decided to start it back up. The club was created to bring students together through a common interest.

Q: What led you to read Harry Potter?

A: I was 14 when it came out. My mother brought it home for my younger brother, but she was unsure whether it was appropriate or too scary. So I, being the older sister, decided to read it first. I read the book in 3 days and loved it. Then my siblings read it and loved it too!

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Q: What is your favorite part about the wizarding world?

A: The fact that they have flaws. They feel more like real people. Some books have characters that are too perfect, but for the Harry Potter series, the characters feel like real people.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to share?

A: You don't have to sign up, and you can join anytime! Also, you don't have to come every time, so don't stress out if you have to miss a meeting.

Overall, Harry Potter club is another great opportunity open to everyone in the school. If you want to join, Schoology message Mrs. Badesso!

FALL FUN AND FOOD NAMS STUDENTS HAVE SPOKEN

by *Chloe Shive and Abby Cowan*



Autumn is a wonderful time of year but it is also a very controversial time. Candy corn seems to be one of the most debated candies for Halloween, with some people enjoying it and others hating it. We received some great feedback, but almost half of the answers said no to candy corn, and the other half said yes. That means candy corn just pulled ahead; with 295 responses to the question, 166 said that they enjoy candy corn, and 129 people disagreed.

Another fall treat that was much more controversial than we would have thought was pumpkin spice lattes. We thought everyone would be going to Starbucks and Dunkin to get this delicious drink, but apparently some people would rather just drink something else. At the beginning of the poll, everyone was saying yes, but nearing the last few responses, we got more variety. Over 130 students said no to pumpkin spice lattes while more than 180 people said yes.

Of course, apple cider is next on our list for its history with being a major contributor to fall mornings and afternoons! This wasn't even a hard choice for many, with over 200 people responding that they would drink this fall delight. Only 94 people said no.

Up next is one of the most popular fall activities, pumpkin picking! The results did not disappoint, and almost 300 people said yes to this fun-filled activity, while only 40 said no.

Next in line is an activity that people have been doing for years, and that would be jumping in leaves! We would have thought that this fall pastime would be a little controversial, but boy were we wrong! Over 300 people said that they would enjoy this activity, and only 72 said no. Not an unexpected one, jumping in leaves has always been a favorite activity!

All in all, we can clearly see the differing opinions for these Fall activities, with candy corn being the most polarizing!



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HALLOWEEN ORIGINS WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

by Shay Negrao



Everybody knows that Halloween is coming soon. But do they know its origins?

Halloween is believed to have started with Samhain, from medieval Ireland. Instead of being celebrated in October, Samhain started on November 1st. It was celebrated for three days and three nights.



During the festival, people believed that the souls of the dead would come to visit their family and homes, and that the world of the gods became visible to man. A tradition of Samhain was to scare away evil spirits using bonfires. Another thing people would do to protect themselves was to dress up in costumes and masks to disguise themselves as spirits.

The next development of the holiday happened in the 7th century with All Saint's Day, established by the Pope at the time, Pope Boniface IV. The event started on October 31st and ended on November 2nd. Since the day before it was considered hallowed (or holy), the name evolved into All Hallow's Eve, or Halloween.

Today, Halloween is the holiday we all know and love. But when you go out trick-or-treating, think about how despite its age, many of the traditions from the first versions of Halloween still live on in the modern day.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

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3..2..1.. COSTUMES

COSTUME FACTS AND IDEAS!

by Kaley Heredia

Did you know that Halloween originated back 2000 years ago, in an ancient festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in) by the Celts? All of Halloween's origins come back to the Celtic festival. Back then, costumes were not as family-friendly as today. They were just plain scary in connection to ghosts, spirits, and superstitions. There is a theory that they would only dress in costumes to scare away roaming ghosts and spirits, as it is now the biggest part of Halloween: dressing in costumes.

Halloween is approaching faster than you would think; during this time of year costumes are mostly sold out. Costumes truly evolved over the years- throughout being used to ward off spirits, it slowly transitioned into being characters from everybody's all time favorite halloween movies, and even characters from all over the world. These popular costumes emerged from horror movies being released in the 70s, 80s, and 90s, such as well known movies and series like, Freddy Krueger, Ghostface, and Jason the Killer.

Other than what we had started with, what's hot now? Dressing up and going out with friends are very well-favored, so many people mix and match costumes together. With *Inside Out 2*'s new release recently, dressing up as emotions from the movie series has become extremely popular. Fairies, kiss, marry, kill, cowgirls and cowboys, football players, and even dressing up as Soulja Boy have been favored as well. Along with Soulja Boy, Ice Spice is also a very popular costume, known for her red, curly afro. Heroes have also grown more popular for costumes over the years; Spiderman and Batman are the top superheroes in use for costumes. As Halloween is on the rise, costumes are getting harder to purchase, as they sell out so fast. Have you thought about your costume yet?

Trick or Treat



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UPCOMING MOVIES

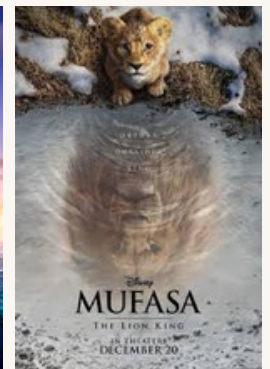
GET YOUR POPCORN READY!

by Claire Hardy

You may have heard about some of the new movies coming out, including *Moana 2*, *Wicked*, and more! Here is a brief overview of some of these new movies that are coming soon!

First is *Moana 2*. This sequel to *Moana* is coming out on November 27, 2024. This movie is about Moana, 3 years older, who journeys to the far seas after receiving a call from her ancestors. *Moana 2* includes a mix of old characters, like Maui, and new characters, like Moana's new younger sister. This movie will set Moana on an adventure unlike anything she's ever faced. This movie stars actors Auli'i Cravalho as Moana and Dwayne Johnson as Maui. Next up is the live-action origin story, *Mufasa: The Lion King*. This is coming out on December 20, 2024, and it follows the early lives of Mufasa, the future lion king, and Scar, the future villain. See how Mufasa went from an orphaned cub to becoming one of the greatest kings of the Pride Lands. Along the way, he meets Scar, a prince who welcomes Mufasa like a brother. This movie is a backstory connected to the classic movie *The Lion King*. This movie is also a musical, and all songs are written by Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Another great movie to look forward to is *Snow White*, a live-action remake of the classic movie. While it will not come out until March 21, 2025, it is definitely exciting because the first Disney movie was *Snow White* (1937). This movie will follow the original plot of a girl who lives with an evil queen who's jealous of Snow White. Snow White finally runs away from her home to a forest, where she becomes friends with seven dwarfs. In this movie, Snow White will be played by Rachel Zegler.



Lastly is the movie *Wicked*. *Wicked* was originally a play on Broadway musical, but now it is coming to life as a movie. *Wicked* comes out November 22, 2024, and it is an origin story about the wicked witch in *The Wizard of Oz*. This musical is about a young woman named Elphaba, who becomes friends with Glinda, a student with a desire for popularity. After meeting the Wizard of Oz, their relationship reaches a crossroad as their lives begin to take very different paths. In *Wicked*, Cynthia Erivo stars as Elphaba and Ariana Grande stars as Glinda.

In conclusion, these movies sound great! Be sure to keep an eye out for them in theaters coming soon!



NAMS THEATRE
Presents

The House of
Thrills and Chills

\$5 A TICKET

FRIDAY OCT. 25TH @ 7PM
SATURDAY OCT. 26TH @ 12PM
SUNDAY OCT. 27TH @ 2PM



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