

# THE OBSERVER

News We're All a Part Of

## 2018: A New World

**Net Neutrality • Conspiracies • Semi-Formal  
Talent Show • Myanmar • Netflix**



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Vol. 7 Issue 3





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*Happy New Year!*

## Letter from the Staff

*Dear Readers,*

As we leave 2017, new opportunities and a pleasurable year await in 2018. The staff at the *Observer* will continue our task of providing students and faculty with intriguing and informative news in the new year.

We would like to start off 2018 covering a myriad of important topics, informing you of late developments in 2017, such as the critical Net Neutrality vote, new teachers, and upcoming local activities, like A-A's talent show. This issue also contains more light hearted topics, like why to get a guinea pig and Netflix changes, so readers can be sure to find something interesting.

Happy New Year! We hope 2018 will treat you well.

*Jessica Malleron*

## Mission & Vision

### News We're All a Part Of

It is our mission as the Alfred-Almond *Observer* to provide truthful, unbiased, and accurate information to the student body. Our goal is to deliver relevant stories focused on both informing and entertaining the Alfred-Almond community. We strive to promote a positive school climate and will use the *Observer* as a way to give all voices at Alfred-Almond a platform.

## 2017 Observer Staff

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# Announcements

NO SCHOOL!!  
MONDAY,  
JANUARY 15 FOR  
MLK, JR. DAY

REGENTS RETAKES  
WILL BE HELD  
JANUARY 22-25

NO SCHOOL!!  
FRIDAY,  
JANUARY 26 FOR A  
CONFERENCE DAY

Semi Formal will be held January 27 at 7pm in the High School gym  
Grades K-6 Fun Night is Friday, February 2 from 4-6 p.m.

## 2018 AACS Spelling Bee Competition

- ❖ **Competition:** 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 18 in the High School Auditorium
- ❖ **Open To:** Grades 1 - 8
- ❖ **Entry Forms & Practice Sheets:** Available in elementary and high school main offices
- ❖ **Winners** of the Local January 18 Bee **must** be available to represent AACS in Corning, NY on March 17 for the Regional Qualifier.
- ❖ Visit [spellingbee.com/study-tips](http://spellingbee.com/study-tips) for more information and helpful study tips





# AA's Got Talent!!!!

The class of 2023 will be hosting the first ever talent show/spaghetti dinner in Alfred-Almond School history! On Friday, February 9, 2018, the 7th graders and class adviser Mike Levey plan to have the first annual AA Talent show. In the last few weeks, the 7th graders have been working very hard with some assistance from Mr. Levey, and they are very excited to see what talents you have. Some of the things they are looking for are people to be themselves and for whatever you as a participant think is talent.

## Participants

include anyone who is currently attending Alfred-Almond, grades 3-12, and of course, Alfred-Almond Staff may also participate.

## Auditions:

Grades 3-6, A-A staff, and Boces students:

Monday, January 22 at 3:30-5 p.m.

Grades 7-12:

Tuesday January 16+23 during activity mods

**The Talent Show** itself will be Friday, February 9, 2018, beginning at 6:30 pm.

**Spaghetti dinner:** 4:30-6:30 in the high school cafeteria

## Guidelines:

- NO fire/pyrotechnics
- NO fog/smoke machines
- NO water or food in your presentation
- NO animals in your presentation.
- Please refrain from using profanity (or songs with profanity) in your act.
- Please make sure your presentation is school appropriate, and appropriate for those attending.
- Please bring all the necessary equipment for your act unless you check in with the school and you are told the school can supply equipment. (school equipment includes: speakers to play music [YOU have to supply the music], microphones, etc.)
- Please keep your act within the 1 - 5 minute range.
- MAKE SURE your act is safe for you and the audience.
- Must be an Alfred-Almond student, Alfred-Almond Staff
- Four Teacher Judges include Mr. Mix, Miss Karr, Miss Hatch, Mrs. Wall and one student judge

## Ticket Prices:

Admission - \$5

Acts are free

Spaghetti dinner - \$8

**Prizes-** 1st-\$25 2nd-\$10 3rd-\$5

By Christopher Galusha Staff Writer





# The Snow Ball

The Semi-Formal Dance is an event hosted by the National Honor Society; students in grades 9-12 are allowed to attend it. Guests in the dance are dressed semi-formally, meaning young men wear a shirt and tie, and young women wear dresses. You can go alone, in a group, or with a date. The dance will take place Saturday, January 27; come to Mr. McAneney with questions regarding the dance.

For this year's ninth graders, it will be the first year they're able to attend. Here are some of the ninth graders' expectations:

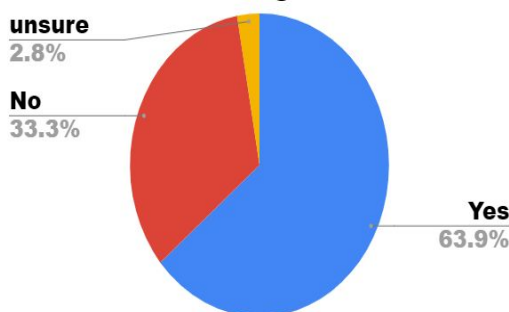
-Carsen H. doesn't think it will be a big, luxurious dance. "It's at the school, so it can't be a really big thing." He expects there to be a mix of slow music and today's common music. He hopes there will be cookies and soda.

-Kailyn C. thinks people will be "dancing like wild, doing weird head spinny things." She plans on dressing in a nice dress and boots because she doesn't like fancy shoes. She hopes there will be streamers, soda, and fruits. Kailyn would like it if country music was played, but she expects pop.

-Brent P. believes the gym will be split into two sections - one section for slow dance, and one section for pop/hip hop. There might be a photobooth or photographer. He expects baked goods and punch.

-Chelby M. guessed incorrectly that people would be dressed formally at the semi-formal dance. Chelby loves food and has high hopes of there being a large variety of chips. She doesn't expect milkshakes but, "it would definitely be cool if there were some."

## Students Attending Semi



### Students Attending Semi

*Based on a survey taken during activity Period, more than 60% of students 9th-12th will attend the dance. Poll done by Sam Warren.*

**Tickets will be available Tuesday, January 23-Thursday 25 due to there being a conference day on Friday, the 26th.**

**Single tickets are \$15.  
Couple tickets are \$25.**

**The dance goes from 7:30-11:00 p.m. There will be cookies and punch, a DJ, and a backdrop for taking photos. If people plan on bringing a guest from a different school, a permission slip is needed.**

**By  
Sam Warren**

**Public Relations Manager**

Seniors have been able to go for three years now, and many have attended dances all three available years. They have some experience, and have advice for people that are going for their first time. These three seniors have gone all three years:

-Hudson L. says it's best to stay calm. It's not as big of a deal as people expect. Don't take it too seriously, focus on having a fun time. Enjoy how you dress, think of it as just another dance.

-Sophie N. believes you should just focus on having a good time. Surround yourself with people you enjoy the company of. Wear whatever makes you feel confident and comfortable. Get dressed up nice and dance your heart out and laugh a lot.

-Brady H. says it is wise to conserve your energy while dancing so you have it for the whole night. Don't try kissing anyone; public displays of affection are not allowed. Most importantly "don't eat too much Jell-O before the dance. You will puke." When asked about fashion advice, Brady stated that, "Suspenders always make you look cooler and don't try fedoras or fingerless gloves." You will not pull them off.



"I thought it was a good experience and I enjoyed it."

-Roni M.

# BE HERE TOMORROW

"It was interesting and informative."

-Jadie F.

On the quiet morning of Friday, December 15, our school was given the opportunity to listen to the story of John Kevin Hines. Hines is one of very few people who survived the jump from the Golden Gate Bridge. His goal was to share his experiences and make people more aware of the consequences of suicide.

Hines' demeanor while telling his story was hopeful and energetic. Although the subject was heavy, his story was told with a good balance of emotions. He balanced out the serious nature of the presentation with his sense of humor and inclusivity. His infectious positivity made listeners more comfortable and willing to open up. Although his story is very rare, he made those listening relate to his struggles, and at the very least, he brought awareness to a prevalent issue.

Suicide is a common cause of death around the world, but many people ignore this problem. Even though he thought of suicide may make people uncomfortable, it is a necessary topic of conversation as it has become more of an issue. There are many different ways and reasons that someone might be suicidal, yet there are steps that can help to prevent the worst case scenario from happening.

By  
**Chloe Muhleisen**  
Copy Editor



*Today Is a Gift Kevin Hines uses his platform and experiences to educate people on suicide and suicide prevention.  
Photo from parkrecord.com*

"It was eye-opening."  
Morgan G.



*A Sad Reminder The Golden Gate bridge has become a symbol of pain as well as a well-known landmark due to the number of suicide attempts that occur there each year.  
Photo from history.com*

Suicidal behavior varies for children, teenagers, and adults. No matter what age, someone who suffers from mental health problems will benefit from talking to people about what's wrong or what's on their minds. It is difficult to tell who suffers from mental health problems from just a glance, so it may be hard to tell if someone needs to talk. One way to combat this is always asking the people you are close to and your loved ones if they're okay. Asking that simple question could mean the world to someone who wants to be heard.

Listening is an important part of helping those who suffer from mental illness. Even if someone doesn't want to open up and talk to you, a gentle reminder of how much they mean to you and that you will always be there for them could help. There are other ways to help a suicidal person, including suicide prevention hotlines. If you or anyone you know may be suicidal, call 1-800-273-8255.

If you or a loved one ever has or has had suicidal thoughts, please remember that you are not alone. Being alive is a gift and although it may not seem like it sometimes, there will always be someone there for you.

"It hit me hard."  
-Chris G.

**SUICIDE HOTLINE**  
1-800-273-8255

How do you feel about Kevin Hines' presentation? Share your thoughts [here.](#)





# More Than Just A Dream

By Veronica Morsman  
Design Manager

Martin Luther King Jr. was an American civil rights advocate primarily during the 1950s and 60s. In the year 2018, Martin Luther King Jr. Day will be on Monday, January 15. This holiday celebrates Dr. King's healing that he brought to America through his power of courage, justice, compassion, and dignity. His words were inspiring to many people all over America, so on this holiday we commemorate everything he has taught us. While preaching his thoughts on equality through his speeches, Dr. King used peaceful protest and believed violence was never the answer.



**Feeling Inspired**

*Dr. King standing in his office with a picture of Mahatma Gandhi, whose practice of nonviolent teaching inspired King.*

*Photo from Special Collections, Stanford University Libraries*

On August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. gave his "I Have a Dream" speech to a group of nearly 250,000 civil rights protesters in Washington D.C. Not only did Dr. King intend to influence thousands of marchers surrounding the Lincoln memorial, but also the Federal Government to take on a larger role white fighting for racial equality.



**250,000 Crowd Members**

*Dr. King acknowledged the crowd on the day he gave his "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington D.C.*

*Photo from  
themercurynews.com*

Martin Luther King Jr. and his "I Have a Dream" speech have provided an even broader application to Americans than we think. References to the speech are present in many songs and even movies. The song "One Vision," by Queen, includes positive verses and a hope for unity. Freddie Mercury sings "Look what they've done to my dream," as the guitar plays, referring to the hope for unity among the country. The song "We Shall Overcome," by Bruce Springsteen, could be applied to most instances of oppression within the country during the civil rights movement. The song gains instrumental momentum to relate to the encouraging spirit of Martin Luther King Jr.

In Ms. Backer's ninth grade English class here at Alfred-Almond, students are currently studying rhetoric and creating their own speeches. "I Have a Dream" was not entirely

written by Dr. King alone, his advisers Stanley Levison and Clarence Jones wrote the first draft of the speech, while the final draft came together with the input of many others. Ms. Backer's students read and analyze the speech in order to write their own speeches with the rhetoric they learned. In Mrs. Kress's AP English class, they read and analyzed "A Letter From Birmingham Jail." The students reflect on the power of speech and the speech structure. On the fifteenth of January this year, students will have the day off of school to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr.



**King and His Wife**

*Coretta Scott kisses her husband after leaving court in Montgomery, Alabama.*

*Photo from cbsnews.com*

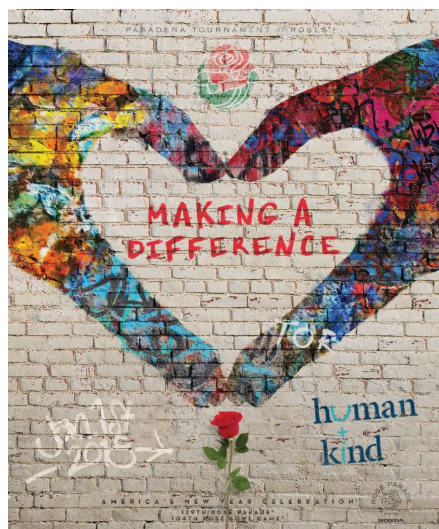
Even to this day, Dr. King's words continue to inspire us all. Almost 55 years ago Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech to thousands of civil rights marchers. In hopes to gain civil and economic rights, Dr. King never stopped fighting for the freedom he knew we all deserved. Although so many years have passed, his legacy remains. In classrooms, households, movie theatres, and novels Martin Luther King Jr. and his fight for civil rights will always be in our lives today.

# Fancy Flowers

By: Emily Noone  
Technology Advisor

The Rose Parade is a festival of flowers, music, and sports. It takes place every January 1 as a New Year's celebration in Pasadena, California. This year is the 129th anniversary of the parade. It began as a promotion for Pasadena's Valley Hunt Club during the winter of 1890. Members of the club invited the East Coast to a midwinter celebration. "In New York, people are buried in snow. Here our flowers are blooming and our oranges are about to bear. Let's hold a festival to tell the world about our paradise," professor Charles F. Holder said during a club meeting. The Valley Hunt Club invited the East Coast across the country to watch games including chariot races, jousting, foot races, polo, and tug of war. Over the next few years, more and more was added to the festival, including marching bands, motorized floats, ostrich races, bronco busting demonstrations, and a race between a camel and an elephant. In 1895, after the festival had become too much for Valley Hunt Club to handle, the Tournament of Roses Association was formed to take their place.

The Tournament of Roses takes about 80,000 hours of volunteer work and 935 members of the non-profit Tournament of Roses Association. Each year there is a new parade theme, which the float ideas are based on 2017's theme was "Find Your Adventure," and 2018's theme is "Making a Difference." Every year there are 24 trophies and awards given to floats that are within certain categories and specifications. The highest award is the Sweepstakes award; it is given to the most beautiful



*Making a Difference 2018's theme is a way to honor and celebrate those within communities who are generous, selfless, and have kind ways that benefit others.*  
*Photo from tournamentofroses.com*

entry encompassing float design, floral presentation, and entertainment. There are nine awards that incorporate floral presentation, ten under float design, and four based on entertainment value. Each year there is a royal court that includes one Rose Queen and six princesses. The 100th Rose Queen and royal court will be on the last float of the 2018 parade.

Every year, 22 marching bands are chosen from around the world to perform at the Rose Parade. Two of the marching bands are from the schools competing in the Rose Bowl; the other 20 are chosen based on musicianship, marching ability, and entertainment/special value. A majority of the marching bands selected are those from American high schools. The others come from around the world; one band from Australia is called Australia's

Marching

Koalas.

The Rose Parade is followed by the Rose Bowl Game, which features the College Football Playoff Semifinal, and is held at 1 p.m. after the parade concludes. The game is held at the Rose Bowl Stadium, and has been since 1921, when the stadium was built. This year, the stadium welcomed the Oklahoma Sooners and the Georgia Bulldogs. Last year, the game got 35.6 million people to tune in, and the number of viewers increases each year.

The Rose Parade is a New Year's celebration of flowers, music, and sports. People all across the world tune in on January 1 to watch the beautiful parade and listen to some music, then continue watching to see who comes out on top at the semifinals of the College Football Playoffs. Viewers tuned in to ABC, NBC, HGTV, or Hallmark Channel at 8 a.m. on January 1 to watch the Rose Parade and ESPN at 5 p.m. to watch the Rose Bowl.



*Sweepstakes Dole Packaged Foods won the Sweepstakes award for their "Spirit of Hawaii" float in 2017.*

*Photo from tournamentofroses.com*





**New Year's on the Water** Honolulu residents can enjoy a warm tropical New Year's with yacht rides and fireworks over the water.

*Photo from hawaii-aloha.com*

# The 5 Best Cities for New Year's Eve

*around the U.S.*



**A Unique New Year's** While in New Orleans, guests are met with a New Year's like no other, specifically the fleur-de-lis drop.

*Photo from gonola.com*

## Honolulu

Hawaii's New Year's Eve festivities feature waterfront fireworks, concerts, and delicious meals across all of the islands. Hawaii's Party of the Year, located in the capital of Honolulu, holds concerts, a food truck area, DJs, and a spectacular firework display to end the evening. When choosing Hawaii for New Year's, guests can look forward to a warm, wonderful holiday!

## Las Vegas

For Las Vegas New Year's, the entire Las Vegas strip, is closed to traffic to feature a huge block party for anyone and everyone! Once midnight hits, each casino displays a choreographed firework show. Numerous concerts and events are held in the strip too. From parties, concerts, and fireworks, Las Vegas New Year's Eve is sure to deliver an experience like no other.

**By: Maya Racho**

## New York City

New York City is one of the best places to attend for New Year's Eve.

From New Year's Eve parties throughout the entire city, concerts from famous artists, the ball drop, and more, everyone is sure to have a fabulous time. Besides the Times Square festivities, there are fireworks in Prospect Park, a NYC Midnight Run, and cruises on the New York Harbor.



**In the Big Apple** New York City's New Year's Eve is the most well-known celebration around the United States. *Photo from edmtunes.com*

## New Orleans

New Orleans is famously known for putting a unique twist on every holiday, and this can especially be seen when it comes to New Year's! One of New Orleans biggest attractions is the fleur-de-lis drop; a six foot tall fleur-de-lis symbol is lowered during the countdown to midnight, with local musicians performing as well. New Orleans features a fun, exciting twist for New Year's, and is definitely something you don't want to miss!

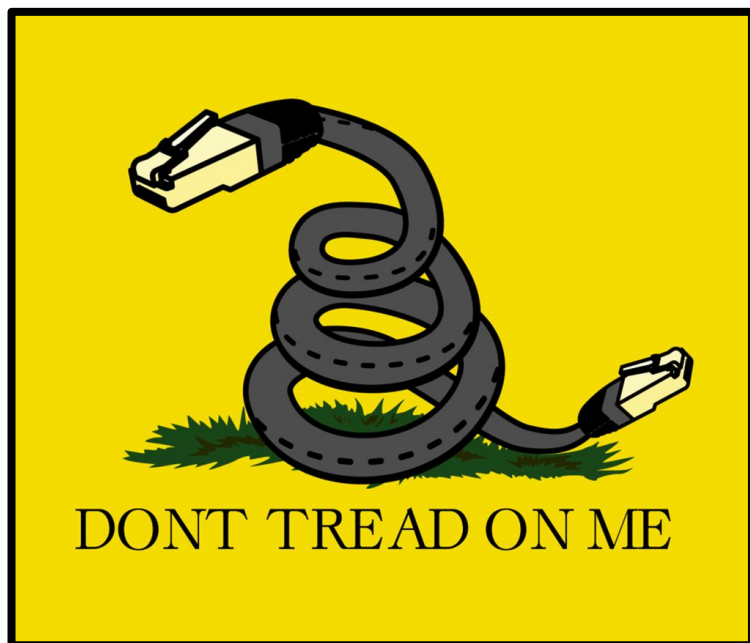
## Charleston

Every year in Charleston, South Carolina, a Charleston Wonderland is held. The Wonderland features live bands, DJs, a champagne toast, and balloon drop. Live shows include an exciting fire and ice show, a cirque performance, and numerous dance crews. If searching for a sophisticated, elegant, and extravagant New Year, Charleston is the place for you!



# Net Neutrality: A Rundown

By Josh Carstens, Design Manager



## A FITTING REPURPOSING

*The Gadsden flag was originally designed during the American Revolution for the Continental Marines and featured a coiled snake. This is a modern adaption featuring an ethernet cable used by net neutrality advocates.*

*Photo from TechCrunch.com*

It seems that nowadays, the Internet is more important than ever. Virtually all Americans use it for some purpose; specifically here at Alfred-Almond, we rely on it for homework delivery and submission. There's a good chance that you're reading this very article online. Since the Internet is so important to our daily lives, it would only make sense we should all be aware of the behind-the-scenes portion of it that our lawmakers are responsible for, and the way it's being delivered to us.

We get access to the Internet by paying Internet services providers, or ISPs, for access to their lines. Oftentimes in America, they will also offer access to cable television and telephone service. In Allegany County, the most prominent ISPs are Spectrum, previously known as Time Warner Cable, and Frontier. Both of these companies are very large, in fact the 2nd and 8th largest ISPs in America, respectively. As of right now, the price we pay is based on the speed of our service, so if you want to send or receive information quicker, you pay more.

ISPs, like all other companies in America, are regulated by a government agency, and must follow the rules these agencies set. ISPs are specifically regulated by the Federal Communications Commission, or FCC, which is controlled by five commissioners who are appointed by the president. Recently, the FCC has passed a vote to eliminate certain regulations on ISPs. These regulations are based on a Title II classification, and were instated in 2015 by the FCC's Open Internet Order. When ISPs were under this classification, they were considered "common carriers," and as such, were subject to rules similar to landline phone and electricity providers. The whole reason for this classification was to give the FCC more power in maintaining a policy: net neutrality.

The general concept of net neutrality is that ISPs must treat all data transmitted over the Internet with the same priority. They cannot intentionally censor data they don't like. They can't throttle, or slow down, data either. Conversely, they can't prioritize data and give certain incentives for accessing certain websites. ISPs have a motive for not treating data neutrally because of their participation in the media industry. Comcast, America's largest ISP, owns NBCUniversal, and would prefer you visit NBC's website over CNN's. Without net neutrality, they would also have the power to fulfill political motives and selectively censor certain opinions or material. Additionally, they would be able to block access to certain sites and services unless the customer pays a premium. This concept of neutrality applies to other Title II services such as electricity. Power companies charge you for general access to electricity and can't control which appliances you use it for.

Protections in favor of net neutrality have been present much before the Open Internet Order of 2015. In 2005, FCC chairman Michael Powell declared the FCC would enforce four main freedoms on the Internet: The freedom to access content, use applications, attach personal devices, and obtain service plan information. At this point, their authority to regulate the Internet was derived from Title I classification, which gave the FCC less to work with than Title II, but nonetheless they had the power to fine North Carolina ISP Madison River for blocking voice-chat program Vonage. But this recent vote has proven that the motives of the FCC have changed. Before the reclassification of the Internet as





# Net Neutrality: A Rundown

Continued

Title II in 2015, the FCC was vigilant in keeping ISPs in check; after the reclassification, it was nearly impossible for ISPs to not act neutrally, although they still made attempts. But the vote, along with scrapping Title II classification, also specifically repealed laws enforcing net neutrality, and the current FCC has made it clear that their intention is to let the ISPs do as they please.

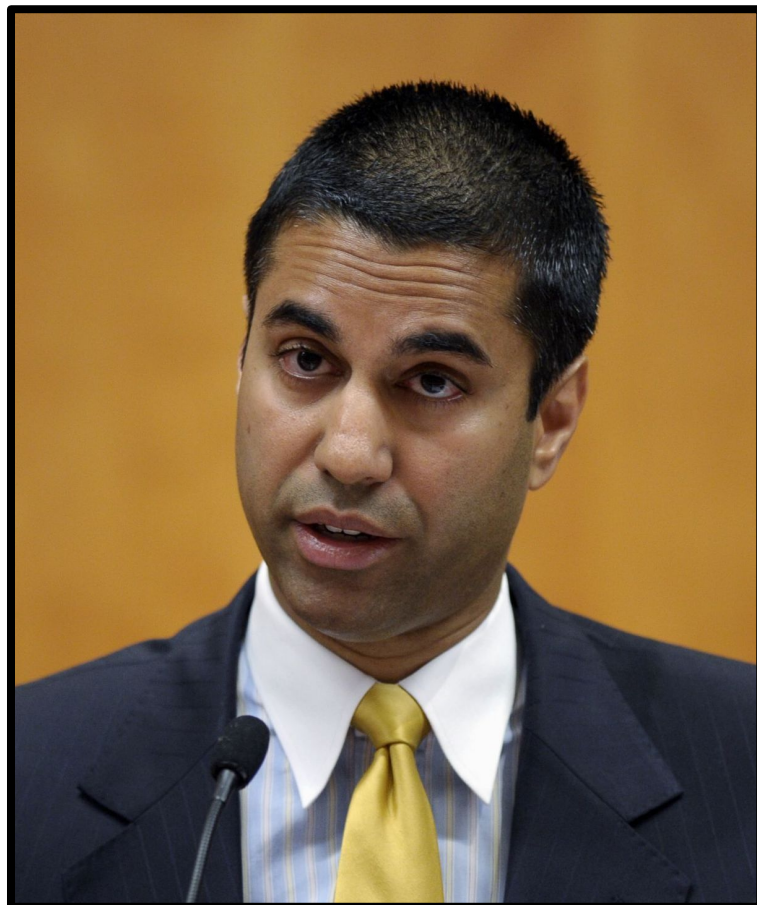
Part of America's need for regulation of ISPs comes from the lack of competition present in most of the country. Locally, we only have one cable provider, Spectrum; one DSL provider, Frontier; and if necessary, satellite Internet provider Dish. This is average for America. In a European country like the United Kingdom, the average number of providers is significantly higher, thanks to legislation they enforce. The key difference is ownership of the lines. Here in America, companies like Comcast tend to make it very difficult - illegal in some cases - for competition to establish itself, by means of lawsuits and lobbying, and most of the time maintain monopolies. They won't let competitors put up their own lines without a fight, and sharing existing lines is out of the question. This is why Google Fiber was a failure: every city it arrived in required a legal battle with existing ISPs. But in many countries in Europe and Asia, things are handled the complete opposite way.

Not only do ISPs not even try to force out others through legal battles, they are also required to share the last mile of the infrastructure they build with other ISPs. That way, if one ISP does something unsavory like limiting the amount of data you can use per month or blocking or throttling websites, you can just choose another one. This is referred to as local loop unbundling and is highly unlikely to become reality under the current FCC, so the next best option is making the ISPs we have behave themselves.

## THE MAN IN CONTROL

*Our current FCC chairman, Ajit Pai, was previously a lawyer for Verizon and was appointed to commissioner by Barack Obama during his time as president after being recommended by Mitch McConnell. Once Donald Trump became president, Pai was designated as chairman. He takes an anti-net neutrality stance and was one of the three commissioners who voted for its repeal in December.*

*Photo from Yahoo.com*





# Rohingya Refugees

By Kaitlyn Cook  
Editor in Chief

On August 25, 2017, there was an outburst of violence in the Southeast Asian country of Myanmar. According to BBC.com, the violence started with an attack on police by **Rohingya** militants. Since the attacks, thousands of Rohingya have fled Myanmar. The Washington Post reports that Burmese troops and Buddhist mobs have been attacking the Rohingya, committing systematic rape, and burning and looting their villages, as a response to the attacks.

The Rohingya are a mostly Muslim ethnic group that have been long persecuted in Myanmar. They are a minority in the state of Rakhine and that has created tensions between them and the Buddhists also living there, according to the BBC. The country does not recognize the Rohingya as citizens. Instead, the government refers to them as “Bengali” which means that they are considered illegal immigrants from the country of Bangladesh, reports the Washington Post. Bangladesh does not recognize the Rohingya as citizens either, leaving the minority group stateless.

NPR reports that during the first month of the attacks, 6,700 Rohingya were killed. The Myanmar government’s official death count for the same time period is 400 people. The government has also denied all accusations of ethnic cleansing, which have been mounting as more information has been received. According to the BBC, the UN human rights chief said that **genocide** could not be ruled out. Nearly 650,000 Rohingya have fled Myanmar since August, most of them going to Bangladesh, reports the UN Refugee Agency.

The UN called for an investigation into Rohingya persecution about a year ago. Since then, they have called for an end to the violence, but have not imposed **sanctions** on Myanmar, reported the BBC. The UN Refugee Agency has distributed warmer clothes and supplies to improve the shelters of the refugees now living in Bangladesh. On November 23, Bangladesh and Myanmar signed an agreement to allow for the return of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar, reported CNN. Only time will tell whether the Rohingya will return to Myanmar.



**Rohingya:** A member of a Muslim people inhabiting western Burma (Myanmar).

**Genocide:** the deliberate and systematic extermination of a national, racial, political, or cultural group.

**Sanctions:** actions by one or more states toward another state calculated to force it to comply with legal obligations

*Definitions from Dictionary.com and Oxforddictionaries.com*

## Myanmar or Burma?

*You may also see this Southeast Asian country referred to as Burma. In 1989, the country’s military took over and changed the name to Myanmar. However, not everyone recognizes the military as the official government. The U.S. policy is to call the country Burma.*

*Photo from CWS-Asia.org*

## Mass Destruction

*This Satellite image shows two villages in the Rakhine state. The one on the top was a Rohingya village that had been burned. According to Sky News, this village is one of 288 villages either damaged or completely destroyed by fire since August 25. Photo from Skynews.com*





# COLONEL SANDERS

As promised in last month's issue, this month I'm introducing Mr. Wes Sanders. After majoring in history at Alfred University, he started student teaching in Mr. Donlon's classroom on October 23 and ended December 15. Throughout high school, Sanders participated in school plays and productions, as well as playing on the Ithaca High School football team. He continued playing football in college for the Alfred University football team while studying history to become a teacher.

As for choosing his place of study, Sanders decided on Alfred University because he was interested in their football team and the area offered an ideal location for him. "I've always been a fan of being in the middle of nowhere and of the cold. Alfred definitely provides both." He went for the football team because it is known for a history of winning and his team didn't win that much in high school. Sanders played football for 15 years and played 4 years at Alfred University. He played the positions safety and cornerback.



By  
**Abigail Hendee**  
Editor in Chief

The transition from highschool to college taught Sanders that in college, the responsibility of what you get out of your education lies with you: "There were some helping hands, but the responsibility ultimately falls on you," he shared. Sanders was undeclared at AU for his first two years and didn't want to commit to a major until he found what he really wanted to do in life. During his first two years, he was taking a lot of history courses and discovered that he genuinely enjoyed the subject and found his teachers to be inspiring, so he declared his major in history.



A Student-Athlete!  
*Sanders competed in NCAA Division III football for four years. Photo from gosaxons.com*

Another interest that Sanders pursued was acting and participating in theatre. He has been in many productions, including: "Peter Pan," "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer," "Willy Wonka," "Arcadia," and "Cinderella". Sanders likes "taking goofiness, anger, happiness, [and] humor to another level, and theatre is always a place where that is encouraged."

He believes that practicing over and over will help the nervous feelings that come with speaking and acting in front of people. Being prepared and practicing for the moment is important to him for success. "Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen said it best, 'Victory awaits him who has everything in order - luck, people call it.'" Sanders offers simple but strong advice to the students at Alfred-Almond: "Be kind, work hard, and enjoy everyday."

Sanders was a pleasure to have teaching in Mr. Donlon's classroom, and he enjoyed being able to help students get excited to learn. What he likes the most about teaching is being able to include variation in his instruction and work to pertain to each specific student. After he completed his student teaching at AA, he then graduated from Alfred University.



*Working Alongside Students Sanders and Brady H. are working side-by-side in African-American Studies. Photo courtesy of Abigail H.*



# Miss Sick Is Sick, Yo

By: Attilo Cushing  
Design Manager / Staff Writer



All settled in

Miss Sick spent time over the summer preparing her room to become a colorful, welcoming atmosphere for her students. Photo courtesy of Attilo Cushing

## Who is she?

Miss Sick was hired this year to be a direct consultant teacher in the high school, even though she had been certified for elementary school. She finished her high school education at Wayland Cohocton and went to SUNY Cortland to get her teaching certification. Although she graduated from a four year program at SUNY Cortland, Miss Sick only spent three years there because of how many credits she graduated highschool with. This was an amazing opportunity that saved a lot of money, however, Miss Sick expressed that she was saddened to have to leave all of the friends she had made. Fortunately, in this day and age, we have apps such as Snapchat and Instagram that make communication easier.

Blaze to Eagle

Miss Sick's previous school mascot was the fierce Cortland Blaze. She can now reside under the accepting wings of the Alfred Almond eagle  
Image from cortland.edu



**"She is really nice and very helpful."**

-Haley L.

## Student Athlete

Miss Sick was a constant participant in sports throughout high school and college. At Wayland, she was a three sport athlete, playing soccer and softball as her main sports, and running indoor during the winter. She spent one winter season trying out cheerleading, but lost interest and didn't continue. She didn't join the official college sports teams, yet she did play intramural sports. When I asked her how competitive that league was considering it wasn't the DIII soccer or volleyball team, she confirmed it was indeed a competitive alternative, and an even more flexible one. "A lot of kids quit varsity or club sports to play intramurals because the coaches were more intense than they wanted, but they were still very competitive," said Miss Sick.

## Why a Direct Consultant Teacher?

Miss Sick has a few characteristics that fit this career perfectly. One of these characteristics in particular that prompted her decision was the patience she had with children. She would teach young children to swim at a summer camp, which is no easy task. This of course requires extreme patience, and a knack for working with children. She is also a personality that radiates energy, helping her to capture students' attention. Lastly, an attribute Miss Sick says helps her the most is being able adjust quickly to unexpected situations.

**"She brings lots of energy to the classroom, and we are glad to have her."**

-Mrs. Bensley





## Things You Might Not Know

● Miss Sick is quite possibly the only other person in the high school who walks around as fast as Mrs. Bain-Lucey does. Maybe we will attribute that to beginner's luck... furthermore, although she is a teacher, that doesn't automatically mean she listens to Yo Yo Ma, or Beethoven. She knows all of the popular modern artists, such as Post Malone, G - Eazy, Lil Uzi Vert, and even Lil Pump.

● She is a certified lifeguard, something she claims will make you lots of money over the summer if you have an outlet for it. Additionally, if you're drowning in school, she is someone that can help you whether you mean it literally, or figuratively.

● Miss Sick went to Australia to do her second student teacher placement. She spent a total of three months there, which wasn't long enough to develop an accent, but certainly enough time for her to develop some habits. "Sometimes I say 'good on ya,' or 'right,' like when someone knocks my phone out of my hand and apologizes I'll say, 'It's right.'"

● Something that was difficult for her to adjust to was Alfred-Almond's schedule. At Wayland Cohocton, their daily schedule consisted of the same classes every day for 38 minutes. That's quite different from our three 60 minute periods at the beginning of the day, three 30 minute periods in the middle of the day, and two one-hour periods at the end of the day (except the seventh period on Tuesday is split into two, half-hour segments...) As you can see, that would take some getting used to.

*Zip Zip Zoom  
I managed to stop  
Miss Sick for a  
quick pic while she  
was navigating the  
hallways to her  
next class.  
Photo Courtesy of  
Attilo Cushing*



## Her Message to All.

Finally, Miss Sick's room is open for anyone, all of the time. She welcomes all students, whether their purpose is for homework, or when they're in need of someone to talk to (see schedule pictured below for details). You can start off the new year the right way and visit Miss Sick in room 257!

		Mon.	Tues	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
1st	8:15 -			Not		Not
Mod	9:18	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available
2nd	9:26 -	Not	Not	Not	Not	Not
Mod	10:26	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available
3rd	10:29 -	Not	Not		Not	Not
Mod	11:29	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available
4th	11:32 -			Not		
Mod	12:02	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available
5th	12:05 -					
Mod	12:35	LUNCH	LUNCH	Available	LUNCH	LUNCH
6th	12:38 -					
Mod	1:08	Available	Available	LUNCH	Available	Available
7th	1:11 -				Not	
Mod	2:11	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available
8th	2:14 -	Not	Not	Not	Not	Not
Mod	3:14	Available	Available	Available	Available	Available



With so many faculty and staff members roaming the halls of Alfred-Almond, we often find that we, the student body of Alfred-Almond, know nothing about the very people we see day in and day out. These familiar faces pass us and look after us as we scurry from class to class, and stand in front of the room to give us the best education possible. Their passion and devotion to making our school such an amazing and friendly environment to learn is what makes them so intriguing. Once you take a look into their lives, you can see the person behind the lessons and advice, along with the things that go above and beyond their job description without any expectation of anything in return from us. So for that reason, now for the second time, I challenge you to use your deductive skills to figure out **who is on the other end of this Q and A.**

Q: What are three interesting facts about you?  
A: I am double jointed. I have two brothers and two sisters. I am always volunteering for something.

Q: In your opinion, what period in history had the best fashion?  
A: I love fashion from the 40s and 50s. Clothing was very elegant and people liked to dress to impress. I also love 80s fashion. The bright colors, big hair, and leg warmers. It was interesting growing up during the 80s.

Q: Who is your favorite musical artist?  
A: I love music, so I can't just pick



one favorite. I love Aerosmith, Maroon 5, The Beach Boys, The Beatles, NKOTB, Justin Timberlake, and Bruno Mars to name a few.

Q: What are your hobbies?  
A: I love traveling, watching baseball, photography, and diy projects.

Q: What's your favorite part about your job?  
A: I love teaching the subjects that interest me to others. It's always great to see someone learn something new!

Q: What is a normal day in your job like?  
A: I don't think any day is normal. I arrive at work most days by 7:15, and when I leave varies. I also come back for various events held at school. I teach 3-5 classes per day, create lesson plans, attend meetings if I have one, do my advisor work, grade papers, help students with questions on assignments, and help anyone that needs it.

Q: What jobs did you have prior to this one?  
A: I started working when I was 12. I babysat, I was an assistant dance instructor, I have worked in a grocery store as a cashier, I have worked in retail clothing stores, I sold cell phones, and I was an administrative

bookkeeper.

Q: What job would you be terrible at?

A: I would be a terrible truck driver. I always sleep in the car.

Q: What job do you think you'd be really good at?

A: I like to think that I am good at my current job. I also feel I would be good as an event planner for a nonprofit, or an owner of a dog rescue company.

Q: Why did you decide to do the work you are doing now?

A: I always wanted to help people see the potential within themselves. This job allows me to help students prepare for their future goals.

Q: Where did you go to high school?

A: I went to Hornell High School.

Q: Where did you go to college?

A: I went to Alfred State and received my Associates Degree, then I went to SUNY Brockport and received my Bachelor's Degree, and then I went to Alfred University and received my Master's Degree.

Q: When did you meet your husband?

A: I met my husband when we were in 9th grade.

Q: When did you get married?  
August 15, 1998, which is the same day Mr. Mac got married.

Q: If all jobs had the same pay and hours, what job would you like to have?

A: Well, I love my current job, but if I had to choose something else





**Faculty's Best Friend** *As a dog person this faculty member named dogs their favorite animal, especially their own*  
*Photo courtesy of our mystery staff member*

I would love to be a Rockette or an Event Planner.

Q: What would you say your biggest accomplishments are?

A: My biggest accomplishments would have to be receiving my MBA, being married for 20 years (almost), teaching for 16 years (and counting), and traveling to Hawaii (it was the most beautiful place I've ever been).

Q: What age do you wish you could permanently be?

A: I would say 24 is the perfect age. You're early on in your career, healthy, and traveling as much as possible. It was just a really fun age to be.

Q: Would you rather be able to see 10 minutes into your own future or 10 minutes into the future of anyone but yourself? Why?

A: I would rather be able to see 10 minutes into my own future because you never know what the other person's future would be like.

Q: Would you rather always be able to see 5 minutes into the future or always be able to see 100 years into the future? Why?

A: I would rather be able to see 100 years into the future. I don't want to always know what's in store in the near future. Sometimes, good surprises happen when you least expect them.

Q: Would you rather always be 10 minutes late or always be 20 minutes early? Why?



**Drink of Choice** *This staff member loves Diet Coke and even names it as one of the top 5 things they couldn't live without.*  
*Photo courtesy of Morgan G.*

A: I would rather always be 20 minutes early. It's rude to be late.

Q: Would you rather never be able to use a touchscreen or never be able to use a keyboard and mouse? Why?

A: I would rather never use a touchscreen. It's essential for my career to use technology as much as possible, so I am always working on a computer and I need a keyboard and mouse.

Q: If you could be one person for a day who would it be? Why?

A: Ellen DeGeneres, because she's kind, caring, funny, meets a lot of cool people, and she gives really cool gifts.

Q: If you could have any superpower what would it be and why?

A: Flying, so I could go anywhere I want, anytime.

Q: What is your favorite month? Why?

A: July because it's like 90 degrees.

Q: What is your favorite animal? Why?

A: A dog because they're so fluffy, adorable, and they are a great companion.

Q: What five things could you not live without?

A: My dogs, cell phone, internet, my car, and diet coke.



**Who's behind door #2?** *Find out which staff member it is on page 30!*  
*Photo courtesy of Morgan G.*



# HOLIDAY HOOPS

By: **Matt Ingalls**  
Staff Writer

The Alfred-Almond Boys Varsity Basketball team participated in the annual Scio Holiday Tournament this year at Scio Central School. This is the first year that the team participated in the tournament. Scio, Hinsdale, and Friendship took part in the tournament along with Alfred-Almond. The tournament tipped off on Wednesday, December 27, and the finals were held on Thursday, December 28.



**Alfred Almond's Ballers**

*Your very own AA Varsity Basketball team  
Photo courtesy of Coach Marlatt*

The Alfred-Almond team had a lot of potential this season. They had a few experienced players that were able to mentor the younger ones and give them an idea of what varsity basketball is all about. Going into the tournament, Alfred-Almond was 1-7 and was expected to do fairly well in the tournament. The Bobcats from Hinsdale were 1-4 and had some talent returning from last year. They were expected to be about in the middle of the pack in their league this year. The Eagles from Friendship had a record of 0-6. Friendship hasn't had the best last

few years on the basketball court, but they were hoping to change that this season. The Friendship Eagles were expected to be in the bottom of their league this year, as well. The Scio Tigers were also participating in the tournament. They had a record of 4-1 thus far and a legitimate contender for the County Crown at the end of the season. Alfred-Almond and Scio were the favorites to be in the finals game of the tournament. The two teams had previously played each other to a close game earlier in the season. Scio emerged on top at the end of that game by a score of 46-35, but it was a good battle all night long. Friendship and Hinsdale were expected to play each other for third and fourth place. Alfred-Almond cruised past Friendship in the first round of the tourney 49-26 led by 17 points from Matt Ingalls and 10 from Davon Bloom. Alfred-Almond trailed Friendship by 1 point at half time, but came out in the second half and played some lockdown defense and only allowed 5 points the last 16 minutes.

Scio and Hinsdale faced off in the first round as well and Scio handled the Bobcats with ease starting the game with a 21-2 first quarter. Winning 55-20, the Tigers were headed to the championship for a shot to grab the title at their home tournament. The Tigers were led by Brendan Graves and Cam Loucks

with 12 and 11 points on the night.

Hinsdale and Friendship came together to fight for the third place spot. The entire game was a dogfight. The two teams were very evenly matched and it came down to the wire when Friendship had the last shot of the game down by one but they couldn't get the job done. The Hinsdale Bobcats took third place with a 34-33 win while the Friendship Eagles took fourth.



**AA Trap**

*Brady H. and Garrett L. trap Scio's guard in the corner during thursday's title game  
Photo courtesy of Randy Swackhammer*

Alfred-Almond and Scio went head to head for the title. The game was kept close for most of the first half until Scio began to pull away in the second. It seemed that there was a lid on the hoop for the Eagles during the second half. For the Tigers they just couldn't miss. The final score of the title game was 68-44 in favor of the Tigers.





# A Year Older!

By : Sophie Napolitano  
Public Relations Manager

Senior year is a big year and many students are turning 18 and "entering adulthood." I had the opportunity to briefly shine light on classmates that have winter birthdays by asking them some questions about themselves.

**Madina A. - January 7**

**What are your plans for next year?**

*To go to an American University and travel*

**How do you like to spend your free time?**

*By watching movies and spending time with friends*

**If you could have any superpower what would it be?**

*To read people's minds*



**Christopher G. - January 7**

**What are your plans for next year?**

*To study biology at The College of Northeast Alabama*

**How do you like to spend your free time?**

*Hunting and fishing*

**If you could have any superpower what would it be?**

*The power to save people*



**Alexandra W. - January 11**

**What are your plans for next year?**

*To go to Alfred State College for graphic media design*

**How do you like to spend your free time?**

*Listening to music*

**If you could have any superpower what would it be?**

*Teleportation*



**Jacob M. - January 20**

**What are your plans for next year?**

*To become a logger*

**How do you like to spend your free time?**

*Fishing and hanging out with family*

**If you could have any superpower what would it be?**

*To be able to fly*



**Hannah K. - January 24**

**What are your plans for next year?**

*To go to college to study radiology*

**How do you like to spend your free time?**

*Sleeping and watching Netflix*

**If you could have any superpower what would it be?**

*To be able to read minds*





**Kaitlyn C. - February 2**

**What are your plans for next year?**

*To go to college to major in biochemistry*

**How do you like to spend your free time?**

*By watching YouTube*

**If you could have any superpower what would it be?**

*Ability to change appearance at will*

**Katy D. - February 18**

**What are your plans for next year?**

*Go to college for a few years and then study marine biology at a college in the South*

**How do you like to spend your free time?**

*By watching Netflix*

**If you could have any superpower what would it be?**

*To be able to fly*



**Abby H. - February 20**

**What are your plans for next year?**

*To go to college to study pharmacy*

**How do you like to spend your free time?**

*Cooking and playing video games with friends*

**If you could have any superpower what would it be?**

*To be able to teleport*

**Julia P. - November 12**

**What are your plans for next year?**

*To go to college to major in physical therapy*

**How do you like to spend your free time?**

*By reading books and hanging with friends*

**If you could have any superpower what would it be?**

*The ability to fly*



**Gavin P. - November 17**

**What are your plans for next year?**

*To go to Alfred State for network administration and to have fun*

**How do you like to spend your free time?**

*By playing sports like soccer and baseball*

**If you could have any superpower what would it be?**

*The power to fly*





**Chloe M. - December 6**

**What are your plans for next year?**

*To be happy*

**How do you like to spend your free time?**

*Watch movies, read books, and be around people who make me happy*

**If you could have any superpower what would it be?**

*Invisibility*



**Katlyn G. - December 7**

**What are your plans for next year?**

*To go to college to become a high school history teacher*

**How do you like to spend your free time?**

*By watching musicals*

**If you could have any superpower what would it be?**

*The ability to shapeshift*



**Emily N. - December 10**

**What are your plans for next year?**

*To attend college*

**How do you like to spend your free time?**

*By watching Netflix and hanging out with friends*

**If you could have any superpower what would it be?**

*To be able to teleport*



**Ellen M. - December 12**

**What are your plans for next year?**

*To go to college to study biology*

**How do you like to spend your free time?**

*By playing the flute and drawing mandalas*

**If you could have any superpower what would it be?**

*To be able to breathe underwater*



**Jessie M. - December 18**

**What are your plans for next year?**

*To go to college to pursue a biochemistry type major*

**How do you like to spend your free time?**

*Hang out with guinea pigs, play video games, and crocheting*

**If you could have any superpower what would it be?**

*Superspeed*





# Give Dance a Chance

By:  
**Samantha Quick**  
Design Manager

## Fun Facts

- ❖ Dancers tend to be successful students and hard workers because they are “well-disciplined, focused, and high achievers.”
- ❖ Professional dancers are considered to be athletes because of their “increased muscular strength, endurance, and motor fitness.”
- ❖ The longest conga dance line record was set by “119,986 people in 1988 in Miami, Florida.”
- ❖ Tupac Shakur was not only a good rapper during the late 80s and early 90s, but he also did ballet. He even joined “the 127<sup>th</sup> Street Ensemble, a Harlem based theater company.”
- ❖ In 2008 a sustainable dance floor was opened in Rotterdam, Sweden. Each tile was attached to a spring so that when people danced on them, they produced energy that ran the LED lights on the dance floor.
- ❖ During the Macy’s Day Parade, around 6,000 tap dancers dance through the streets of New York City
- ❖ “A ballerina wears 50-150 tutus in her lifetime.” Each tutu can take up to 100 yards of ruffle to keep it up.

## Advice Column

- ❖ “Don’t let anybody tell you that you’re not good enough to do it because you can do it and everybody should dance.”  
-Andrea Meyer, studio owner
- ❖ “Be well-rounded.” - Samantha Voss, a dance teacher at a dance studio in Avon
- ❖ “Establish friendships, find kindness and friendliness, and don’t discriminate new from older students.” -Lisa Pelton, studio owner
- ❖ “Pay attention and try your best.” -an Alfred-Almond dancer
- ❖ “Respect and learn from each other” -Samantha Alger, studio owner
- ❖ “Point your toes, smile, and enjoy yourself” - Amber Trudell, a former dancer

### Explain the Dances Please

*If you want an explanation of the different types of dance, visit [this website](#). This website is a good source to visit before starting dance.*

*Image from [weheartit.com](#)*



## Common Misconceptions

- ❖ **Dancers don’t eat.** Dancers are required to eat food loaded with proteins and complex carbohydrates to stay healthy while dancing.
- ❖ **Dance is just a hobby and isn’t a sport.** Dance has been recognized as a sport because of the amount of physical activity that can be required and the physical exertion on a dancer’s body.
- ❖ **Dancers are naturally flexible.** Most of the time people have to work towards their level of flexibility whereas some are just born with it.
- ❖ **All dancers are stuck-up and obnoxious.** Dancers are dedicated to their art, and while some can be over dramatic, most are trying not to be.
- ❖ **Dance won’t get you anywhere.** Dance can help you build self-confidence which can help you in the future at job interviews.
- ❖ **You need to have previous dance experience.** To start dance you have to start somewhere which means you have to start at the bottom and work your way up. How can you try something new that you have done before?





## Give Dance a Chance cont'd.

### *Dancin' On Edge Dance Studio*

The owner was unable to find a time to sit down and have an interview. But be sure to ask the Alfred-Almond dancers about the studio, or visit the website for more information.

- ★ Dancers: Anna Yarnal, Morgan Trudell
- ★ Website: [www.dancinonedge.com](http://www.dancinonedge.com)
- ★ Location: 283 Canisteo Street near 7-11 and across from H&R Block, another location in Bath
- ★ Contact information: (607)324-7994

### *Miss Sam's Dance Center*

A few years after college, Samantha Alger decided to open her own studio in Hornell. According to Samantha, "the opportunity of the Hornell studio arose. I guess you could say it was fate!" Miss Sam bought the studio from her dance teacher growing up. Samantha and her teachers strive to show "110% dedication" in the "family atmosphere" at the studio. Her students "are close and respect each other."

- ★ Dancers: Morgan Randall
- ★ Website: [www.hornelldance.com](http://www.hornelldance.com)
- ★ Location: 7 Seneca Road next to Forever Art Tattoo
- ★ Contact Information: (607)661-6594



**Dancin' On Edge**  
Tarah Greene, left, is the owner of Dancin' on Edge.  
Picture from facebook.com



**Broadway Mall**  
Lisa Pelton, left, is the owner of Miss Lisa's. Andrea Meyer, right, is the owner of Revolution.  
Pictures from mlaod.com and Andrea Meyer



**Dance Center**  
Samantha Alger, right, is the owner of Miss Sam's Dance Center.  
Picture from hornelldance.com



In 2001 Lisa Pelton opened her studio in Hornell and accomplished a "childhood dream." She worked under Disney for a few months (January 2001 – August 2001) and decided she wanted to go and create her vision. She opened a "friendly, family oriented, fun" dance studio that "works hard" to achieve greatness. "We welcome anyone 'new' into the studio with open arms," Pelton says.

- ★ Dancers: Noah Briglin, Asher Fearick, Abigail Quick, Sierra Sanchez, Samantha Quick
- ★ Website: [www.mlaod.com](http://www.mlaod.com)
- ★ Location: 38 Broadway Mall across from the YMCA
- ★ Contact Information: (607)382-8002

### *Miss Lisa's Artistry of Dance*

Six years ago, Andrea Meyer opened up her studio in Hornell as a means of staying busy. She "[doesn't] focus on competition but uses [the studio] as an outlet for others" to express themselves in a positive way. She and another teacher help prove that "dance is not like 'Dance Moms' and those shows." Andrea tries to make everyone feel "laid-back" in her studio and make everyone feel like a family. People can "expect to be treated with respect and to be given our best and to have fun."

- ★ Dancers: none at Alfred-Almond
- ★ Website: [www.revolutiondancehornell.com](http://www.revolutiondancehornell.com)
- ★ Location: 12 Broadway Mall next to Maple City Bank
- ★ Contact Information: (607)382-7550

### *Revolution Dance Studio*



# Old Flix to New Flix

By: Zoey K  
Staff Writer

If you're like me, at this very moment you're probably trying your best to procrastinate doing your homework. One way I procrastinate without even knowing it is by binge watching Netflix. I don't recommend doing this. What I do recommend is getting your work done, then binge watching Netflix. Listed below are some shows and movies that are leaving Netflix in the new year so when you search your title you won't be disappointed when you see "Titles related to:" Also, shows and movies joining Netflix in 2018 are listed. Some of the titles that are coming to Netflix haven't even been released in the theaters or on T.V., so if there's a title you're anticipating, save this list! Read below and stay up to date with the titles joining so you too can watch Netflix for five hours straight.

- ★ Born To Explore
- ★ Dino Squad
- ★ Gunslinger Girl:1 and 2
- ★ Huntik
- ★ The Irregular at Magic High School
- ★ Jack Hanna's Into The Wild
- ★ Law&Order: Special Victims Unit
- ★ Lucid Dream
- ★ Magi: The Kingdom of Magic
- ★ Magi: The Labyrinth of Magic
- ★ Mighty Machines
- ★ Monster Allergy
- ★ Ocean Mysteries with Jeff Corwin
- ★ Poppy Cat
- ★ R.L. Stine's The Haunting Hour
- ★ Rock the Park
- ★ Ruby Gloom
- ★ Run
- ★ Sons of Anarchy

To the left



is a list of shows and movies that **left** Netflix January 1, 2018.



To the right



is a list with the new movies and T.V. shows **joining** Netflix in 2018.

- ★ Cars 3 (February)
- ★ Thor: Ragnarok (May)
- ★ Riverdale (Season 2) (May)
- ★ Supernatural (Season 13) (May)
- ★ Jane the Virgin (Season 4) (May)
- ★ Coco (June)
- ★ Star Wars Episode VII: The Last Jedi (June)
- ★ Arrow (Season 6) (June)
- ★ The Flash (Season 4) (June)
- ★ Supergirl (season 3) (June)
- ★ Hawaii Five-0 (Season 8) (June)
- ★ Blue Bloods (Season 8) (June)
- ★ Agents of SHIELD (Season 5) (June)
- ★ The 100 (Season 5) (June)
- ★ A Wrinkle in Time (2017) (September)
- ★ The Walking Dead (Season 8) (September)
- ★ The Blacklist (Season 5) (September)
- ★ Dolphins (October)
- ★ American Horror Story (Season 7) (October)





By  
**Jessica Matteson**  
Editor in Chief

# A Perfect Pet

When parents ask kids what pet they would want, they'll most likely get "dog" or "cat" as a response. Cuddly, cute, and comical, these animals are great choices, but many others get ignored due to the popularity of cats and dogs. However, guinea pigs are a great choice for a pet, and here's why.

It is true that after being immediately bought, these cavies (scientific term for guinea pigs) are quite shy and tend to stay in dark corners. However, as they start to warm up to you, piggies can be super friendly and adorable. For instance, as they start to recognize your behavior, guinea pigs will become more social. Once piggies get into a dinner routine, they do not hesitate to squeak up a storm when they think it's a proper time to be fed, or they hear the crinkle of the pellet bag. Additionally, guinea pigs will start to get more comfortable wandering about. The little creatures love a good romp, and could potentially start popcorning in the middle of their adventure. Popcorning is when a guinea pig joyously jumps in the air and twists its body quite quickly. This endearing activity usually occurs when the animal is at peak happiness.

Mainly dictated by breed, piggies also have their own personalities. There are about twelve different types of guinea pigs, and many of the personalities overlap, so here are the most notable ones. The most active pigs are typically Abyssinians, the spiky yet short haired bunch. This breed loves jumping, crawling, and running through tunnels.

On the opposite end of the spectrum are long, shaggy haired Peruvians. These pigs tend to laze a bit more often than others, and enjoy being groomed, as their long hair can be quite a hassle. Skinny pigs are quite unique, as they're usually entirely hairless. They act quite normal, enjoying the daily run and eat, but their unusual appearance makes them stand out. Finally, there are Cuys. Cuys are bred for their meat, as they a delicacy in Peru, so are larger in size. They are a bit harder to care for due to that, but are just as lovely as the others.

Probably the most miraculous fact of them all, guinea pigs can be trained. Using special food, such as blackberries and blueberries, as treats, you can bribe them into learning whatever you want! One of the easiest things to teach pigs is where to use the bathroom. This is extremely useful for people who frequently take their guinea pigs out for floor time (roaming on the ground). Instead of letting them relieve themselves whenever, the pigs can be taught to associate certain bedding or cloth with that, and by giving them a treat each time they use that bedding or spot specifically, they will be positively reinforced to do that again. You can teach them almost anything with food; some pigs can even do tricks!

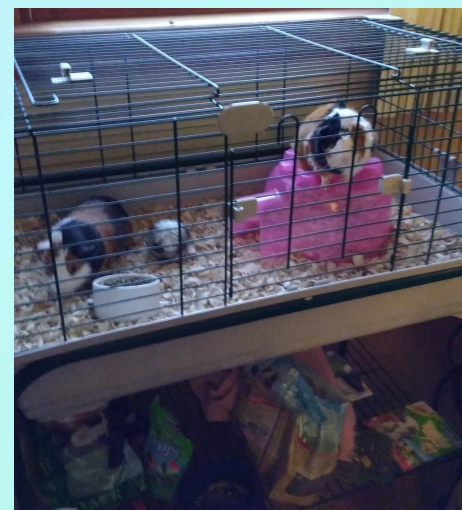
As you can clearly see, guinea pigs are cute, fun, and sophisticated animals. You can get any type of personality you want, if you pay close attention to the breed. Training, just like with dogs and cats, can be done with other animals, too! Next time you choose to get a new pet, seriously consider guinea pigs.



**Lazin' Pig**

*Charlotte the American guinea pig having a relaxing nap in her newly cleaned cage.*

*Photo courtesy of Jessica Matteson*



**Parkour Master**

*Lola (on pink castle) is practicing her jumping skill by leaping atop her home.*

*Photo courtesy of Jessica Matteson*



**Protective Boy**

*Will the Rex is making sure no one can take one of his favorite pastimes away from him: eating*

*Photo courtesy of Jessica Matteson*



Here is a list of the essential equipment you need to take care of your very own guinea pig!

- A cage with the dimensions of 30" x 50" for every two guinea pigs you obtain.
- A water bottle or water dish.
- Food dish and/or tray.
- Food pellets that are branded for pigs; they can't generate Vitamin C so they need some food source to provide it to them.
- Hay so that your little pet can digest food easily.
- Store bought apple tree branch treats or branches from an apple tree that has no pesticides on it. Guinea pigs' teeth never stop growing, and they need something to chew on to wear them down.
- Cage bedding, either wood shavings or cloth. Many kinds of wood shavings irritate guinea pigs' skin, so make sure you check if its okay before you buy it. The safest type to buy is aspen.
- Many leafy greens for treats.
- A brush pan, garbage bags, and many paper towels to clean the cage with.
- A plastic castle or cloth building so that your guinea pig can hide. As animals of prey they love to scuttle away!
- Some tunnels or treat balls for them to experiment with.



**Nutrient Filled!**

*This brand of food supplies guinea pigs with Vitamin C, an important vitamin they can't generate on their own.*

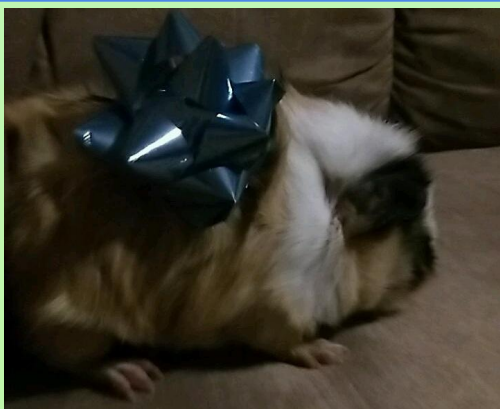
*Photo from tractorsupply.com*



**One Cozy Home...**

*Your guinea pig would love sleeping in such a wide, closed in house.*

*Photo from petsmart.com*



**Think Twice**

*Baby guinea pigs can be cute, but make sure you're ready before buying one!*

*Photo courtesy of Jessica Matteson*



**A Yummy Treat**

*Leafy and green, celery with leaves and all is a perfect reward for you new pet.*

*Photo from wegmans.com*





# Just When You Thought You Knew...

*By: Duncan Bryant-Carly*

## [Conspiracy Theories](#)

What is a conspiracy theory? A conspiracy theory is a belief that a certain secret organization or group has covered up the truth about what really happened. This can come in many different forms: the moon landing conspiracy, Area 51 conspiracy, JFK assassination conspiracy, etc... There are thousands of conspiracy theories - some crazy and ridiculous, but some reasonable and maybe even true. Here are four popular conspiracy theories, but there are plenty more for you to discover and decide for yourself whether they are true or not. Click the link above to learn more about conspiracy theories.

### Moon Landing

#### [Moon Landing Conspiracy](#)

- It is written in our history books that the United States was the first country to ever set foot on the moon. There are pictures and videos taken of the expedition, and the idea is widely accepted that we successfully put a man on the moon. Yet not everyone is convinced that this is the truth.
- The theory is that we never really went to the moon, and it was all a hoax - no one has ever really been to the moon, it was all staged by the government. Some believed we did make it, some don't. Theorists believe that we simply did not have the technology and it was scientifically impossible for us to actually make the trip
- **Why stage something this big?** The Cold War and the Space Race between the U.S. and Russia is why. Whoever made it to the moon first would win the Cold War. Rather than actually going to the moon, why not just stage it?
- **Evidence** to support this conspiracy theory:
  - The flag that was put down is flapping as if it is in the wind. There is no wind on the moon, so how is this possible?
  - There are no stars. There should be stars if they are in space.
  - The letter C is inscribed in a rock. This makes no sense if no one has ever been to the moon before.



*Image right: C Moon Rock*

*Photo from moonlandinghoax.org*

*Image below: John F. Kennedy*

*Photo from buquad.com*



### JFK Assassination -

#### [JFK Assassination Conspiracy](#)

- John F. Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963. It is written in our history books that he was killed by a lone gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald. Kennedy was shot in the back of the head and died before he arrived at the hospital. Not soon after, the man who shot the president, Lee Harvey Oswald, was then shot and killed by a man named Jack Ruby. Ruby, as it turns out, had mafia ties at the time which raises many questions.
- There are many conspiracies surrounding the JFK assassination: Only a few are: The Government had JFK killed, the Mafia had JFK killed, Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) had JFK killed, and The Grassy Knoll



- **The Government had JFK killed** - It is believed that the U.S. government had JFK killed because he was going to reduce the size of the military. They believed JFK was going to withdraw from Vietnam and negotiate peace with Russia. This would have caused many military contractors to lose money and power, and ultimately hurt the military industrial complex.
- **The Mafia had JFK killed** - It is believed that since JFK failed to protect U.S. interests in Cuba, the Mafia, who was promised by Joe Kennedy (helped JFK get elected) that JFK would protect them, had JFK killed. Another possible motive is that the JFK administration was starting to crack down on the Mafia. Another possible theory involves Jack Ruby, the man who shot Lee Harvey Oswald. His ties to the Mafia at the time indicate that by killing Oswald, he may have been covering something up.
- **LBJ had JFK killed** - While it is said that after JFK was assassinated, LBJ rushed getting sworn into the office because he wanted to assure the U.S. had a president. Some believe he was sworn in so fast that it was as if he knew it was going to happen.
- **The Grassy Knoll** - While it is confirmed that three shots were taken at the president, some witnesses claim that they heard a fourth shot. It is believed that the fourth shot is the one that hit the president. That shot supposedly came from the Grassy Knoll from a man known only as the "JFK Umbrella Man." The Grassy Knoll was a grassy park area beside the road JFK was assassinated on. If this man really killed the president, that would mean that he got away with killing the president and the wrong man was charged with murder.



*The Grassy Knoll*

*Photo from abc.net.au*



## Area 51

### [Area 51 Conspiracy](#)

- Area 51 is a CIA-run government facility located in Nevada. Up until 2013, no one was quite sure what actually was happening there. In 2013, the Freedom of Information Act was passed that forced the government to disclose many of its secrets to the public. It revealed that Area 51 was a secret testing facility that played a key role in spying and gaining intel on the Russians during the Cold War.
- While it is proven that the government tests new types of planes and weapons at this facility, Area 51 is still shrouded in mystery. The heavy security that surrounds the facility raises many questions about what else is going on. Many people believe that there is an extraterrestrial component involved in many of the experiments taking place at Area 51.
- Popular theories surrounding Area 51 consist of the Roswell New Mexico UFO crash and the Aurora Project.
  - a. **Roswell New Mexico UFO Crash:** A man found multiple pieces of some strange metal strewn across the desert. He then reported it to the authorities who opened an investigation into the matter. They stated that they had found some sort of "flying disk." Soon afterwards, the authorities changed their story and said that it was all part of a weather balloon accident. This was quite suspicious and raised many eyebrows and questions. Many people believe that the air balloon part was a cover up and that the saucer and alien bodies were carted off to Area 51 where they have been studied.
  - b. **The Aurora Project:** It is believed that the government has been testing aircrafts that can fly at supersonic speeds around Area 51. There is a 6 mile runway located around the facility that points to this conspiracy being true, yet the government has confessed nothing.

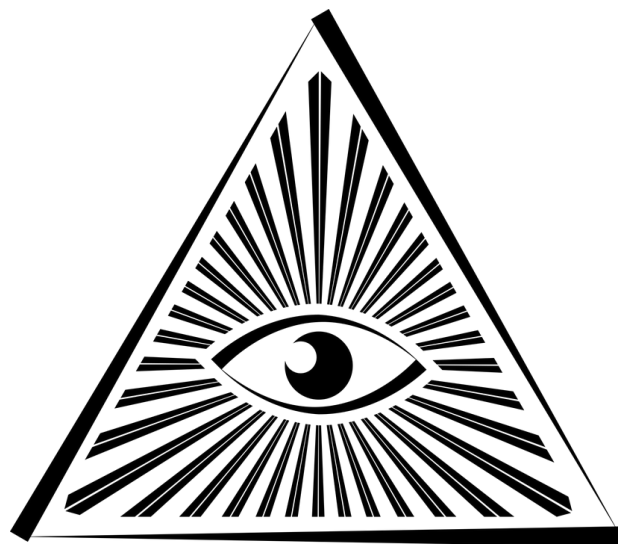




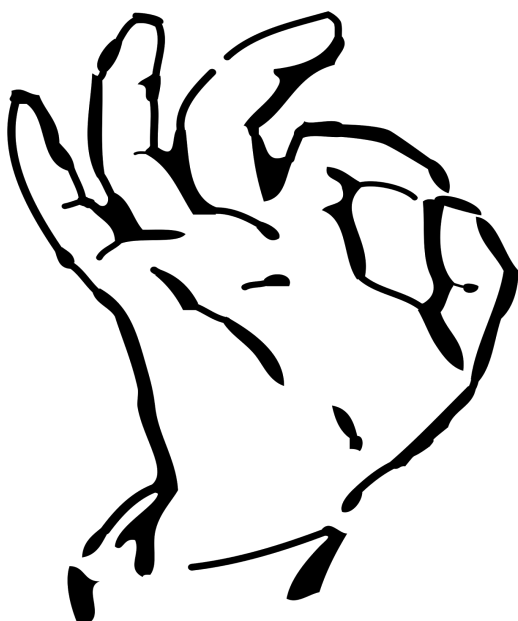
## Illuminati -

[Illuminati Conspiracy](#)

- Our world is divided into seven continents with various countries and forms of government running each one. At least this is what we are told. It is believed that behind all of this diversity, there is one group running the world, The Illuminati. Supposedly established in 1776 by Adam Weischaup, the Illuminati were supposed to bring an end to injustice and abusive governments all around the world and ultimately unite the world as one. The Illuminati plan on doing this by manipulating and controlling global education, finance, media, and by taking control of church and state.
  - **The New World Order** - This is a theory that the Illuminati are attempting to bring the world together to be ruled, united under one government, education system, currency, set of laws, and media outlet. By doing this, it would ultimately make all the people in the world the same, making them easier to manipulate and control.
  - **Decentralization Theory** - This theory says that the countries are all too unique to unite with each other, making the New World Order impossible. This theory says that each country needs to be isolated and lose its sense of identity before they can all be ruled as one.
  - **Control Via Finances Theory** - The theory says that the world can be controlled and enslaved by their debt collection. As the amount of global debt increases, the more control the Illuminati gains over the world. Some believe that the more debt acquired brings more wealth and that they are necessary for each other. Perhaps this is just propaganda initiated by the Illuminati. Part of this conspiracy says that as the banks lend out more and more money, they are slowly getting richer and more powerful each time. According



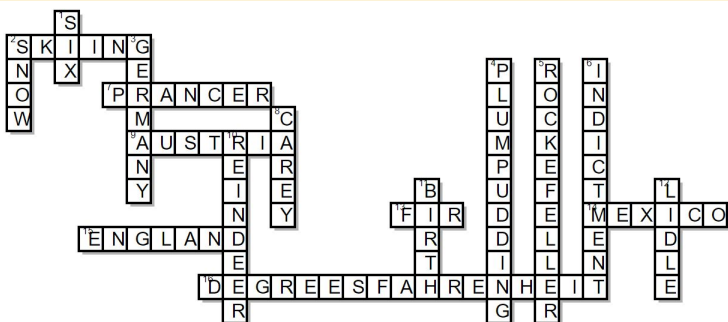
to this theory, the banks are lending out money they don't actually have, raising debts on the people and making profits at the same time. The banks get more powerful and the banks are connected to the Illuminati, ultimately making the Illuminati more powerful.



- There are many symbols of the Illuminati: the all seeing eye, the inverted pyramid, the A-ok symbol, etc....
  - **The all seeing eye** - This symbol is a eye floating over an unfinished pyramid. It is supposed to represent the Illuminati always watching and how their work is never done.
  - **The inverted pyramid and A-ok sign** - These are two symbols that also represent the Illuminati. While they often have double-meanings today, they are a sign of the Illuminati to others. They go from Christian backgrounds to satanic cults with their various meanings.
- Who actually runs the Illuminati you may ask? Well according to theory, people everywhere run the Illuminati. Celebrities, presidents, bankers, all sorts of people. Mainly people in power positions and people with lots of popularity. It is all a front as behind the scenes, these people are secretly running the world.

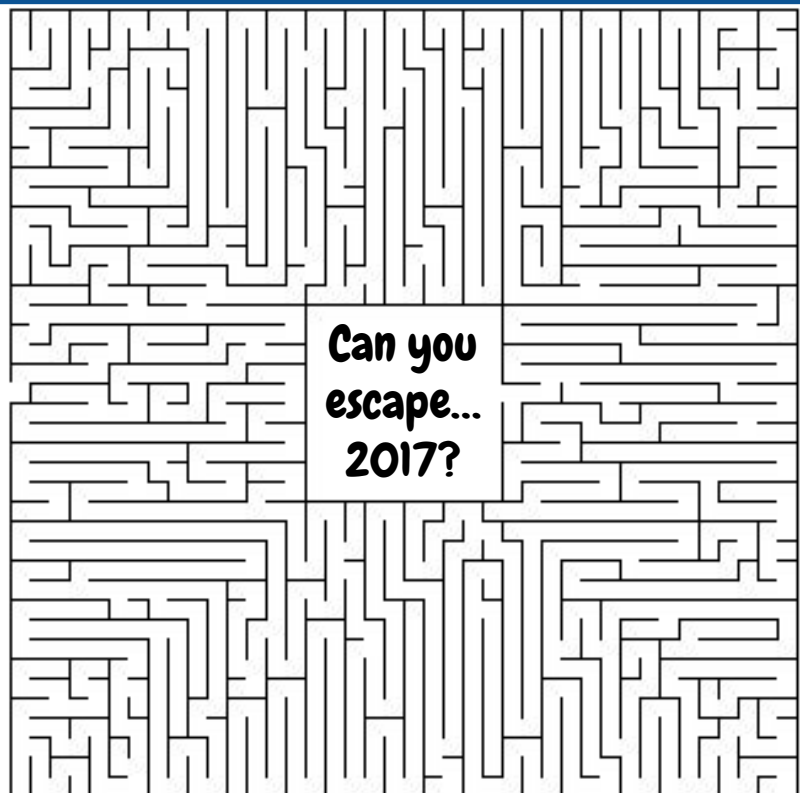


## CROSSWORD ANSWERS FROM LAST ISSUE



Discoveryeducation.com

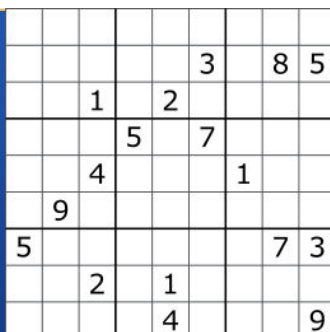
**Congrats you made it to... 2018!**



**Can you escape... 2017?**

## Sudoku

This Way!



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudoku\\_solving\\_algorithms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudoku_solving_algorithms)

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

### Wordsearch

Search for the words going up, down, left and right.

C	S	L	L	X	N	O	I	T	U	L	O	S	E	R
A	Z	N	A	G	A	V	A	R	T	X	E	I	Q	I
G	G	A	T	H	E	R	I	N	G	W	Z	N	P	N
A	F	O	T	S	W	O	S	D	R	W	L	O	L	V
D	I	D	R	O	Z	T	H	G	I	N	D	I	M	I
H	R	T	A	H	F	Y	T	R	A	P	W	S	E	T
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Y	Z	P	H	C	O	U	N	T	D	O	W	N	S	M
H	W	W	J	M	U	H	N	U	X	X	O	U	Q	R
L	F	A	A	H	S	E	Q	S	I	O	C	O	F	G

CELEBRATION  
FIREWORKS  
JANUARY  
PARTY

COUNTDOWN  
GATHERING  
MIDNIGHT  
RESOLUTION

EXTRAVAGANZA  
INVITATION  
NOISEMAKER  
TRADITION



DOMESTICMOMMYHOOD.COM

The mystery staff member  
from pages 16-17 is...

**Mrs. Valentine!**

Photo courtesy of Morgan Giglio







# Acknowledgements

Thank you Santa Claus, for being really nice to me and my friends and bringing us presents.  
-Brady Holmok

Thank you Audra Briglin, for always being around if I needed anything; help, food, a hug, etc.  
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-Mrs. Donlon's Class

Thank you Maya Racho, for making the acknowledgements for this edition of the Observer!  
-Hanna Tormey

Thank you to the participants of the door decorating contest. The building looks amazing! Great job to all involved!  
-Mrs. Turner

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-Ellen McInnes

Thank you Hanna Tormey, for always standing up for what you believe in.  
-Alyssa Greaney

Thank you Ms. Carretto, for being such a great teacher.  
-Kyler Kress

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-MWoF

Thank you Mr. Lidel, for all your help in the band room. You taught us so many new things, you were an amazing teacher. Best wishes in your future.  
-The Alfred-Almond Band

Thank you Kilroy and Mrs. Chambliss, for brightening up the mornings with lovely dog pets. Kilroy is the bestest boy in the land, I love him.  
-Sophie Napolitano

Thank you to all the teachers, staff and students who pulled out their creative spirits and decorated the hallway doors. What fun to walk around the school and witness the smiles as ideas came to life. From simple to elaborate, it made the season very special indeed.  
- Mrs. Chambliss

To make an acknowledgement in the next issue, contact a member of the Observer staff or fill out the form found [here](#).