

# THE OBSERVER

News We're All a Part Of

RED NOSE DAY  
CYSTIC FIBROSIS  
TURKEY SEASON  
SUPERCROSS

THE STATE  
OF THE BEES

May 2018  
Vol. 7 Issue 7





# Observer

Vol. 7 Issue 7

Cover designed by Josh C. Photo taken by Kelly Graninger at the USGS Bee Inventory and Monitoring Lab

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## Dear Readers,

Spring has sprung, so spring into this edition of the *Observer*! This edition is filled to the brim with interesting articles and topics.

From Teacher Appreciation Day, to the status of our beloved bees, readers like you are sure to come out of this edition more informed and entertained. With a Senior Trip Recap, and Dos and Don'ts, students can catch a glimpse into what their trip may entail. In national news, read about Red Nose Day, Teacher Strikes and our teacher's opinions on these strikes. It is our hope that this edition of the *Observer* leads you to broaden your curiosity about events both local and worldly; we sincerely hope you enjoy this edition!

Maya  
Rachno

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## 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.

## Observer Staff:

### DJ Don and the Bees:

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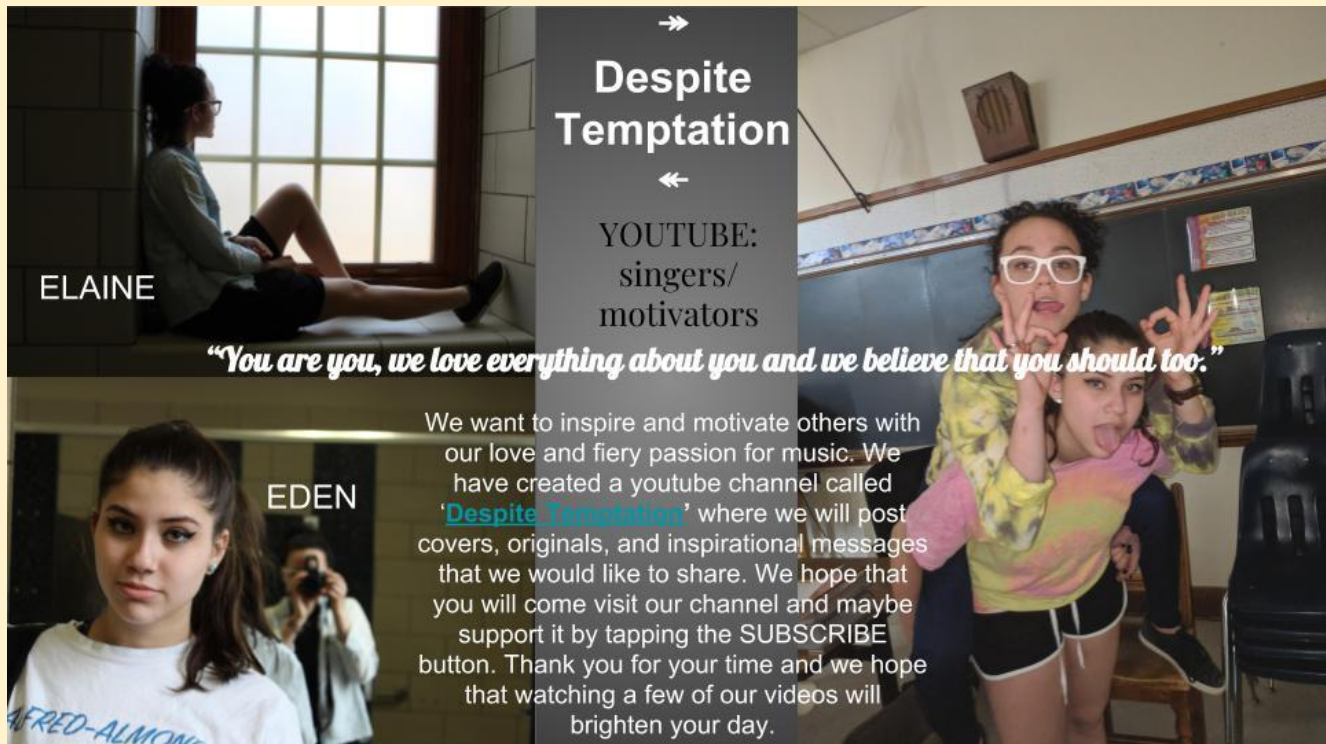
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Chris G. & Zoey K. : Editing Team



# Announcements



→  
**Despite Temptation**  
←

YOUTUBE:  
singers/  
motivators

ELAINE

*"You are you, we love everything about you and we believe that you should too."*

EDEN

We want to inspire and motivate others with our love and fiery passion for music. We have created a youtube channel called '[Despite Temptation](#)' where we will post covers, originals, and inspirational messages that we would like to share. We hope that you will come visit our channel and maybe support it by tapping the SUBSCRIBE button. Thank you for your time and we hope that watching a few of our videos will brighten your day.

Art Show & Ice Cream Social **Tuesday, May 15**  
Chorus Darien Lake Trip **Saturday, May 19**  
Elem. Band & Chorus Strawberry Festival Concert  
7:00 PM **Tuesday, May 22**  
HS Band & Chorus Strawberry Festival Concert  
7:00 PM **Wednesday, May 23**  
Memorial Day – No School **Monday, May 28**  
Last Day of School **Monday, June 11**  
Regents **June 12-22**  
Graduation 2:00 PM **Saturday, June 23**





As the end of the year approaches, I would like to ask all of you to take a moment and reflect upon what you have learned. Ask questions such as: What challenges throughout not your schooling and your life have you faced, and what did you gain from them? From all of those experiences, what failures did you face, and how did you react to them? These are the type of self-reflecting questions we must ask to discover our true selves. We are not just a list of likes and dislikes mixed with a few character traits. We are each unique, we have all lived through different experiences, and we have all encountered success as well as failure, but it is how we react to these situations that makes us different. These differences are not a bad thing, they are what make us interesting. So, as you reflect upon yourself and try to figure out who you are, you should also look around and realize that many of the people surrounding you are doing the same. Students and teachers alike are constantly in this state of self-discovery. High school is just one of the first steps in life, and we continue to grow as people far past when we graduate. A key part of this growth is our perception of not only ourselves, but also others. Learning from and about others can be as crucial to our growth as our own self-reflection. So now, I invite you to take this opportunity to discover the AA staff member **who is on the other end of this Q and A**, and maybe, in the process, you will see connections to your own identity.

**Q: What are three interesting facts about you?**

A: I was an undefeated wrestler in school. My first car was a station wagon. I played semi-professional football for two years.

**Q: What are your hobbies?**

A: Fishing, hunting, cooking, barbecuing.

# Whoisit?

**By: Morgan Giglio**

**Q: What is your favorite color?**

A: Green

**Q: Who is your favorite musical artist?**

A: U2

**Q: What were you like in high school?**

A: I was short but cool. (Like Fonzie)



*Fonzie Fonzie is a fictional character from the show Happy Days. He is known for being cool, riding his motorcycle, and his catchphrase "AYYY!" Photo from society6.com*

**Q: Where did you go to college?**

A: University of Buffalo and Mansfield University

**Q: Did you play any sports in high school and or college?**

A: Tennis and wrestling

**Q: What jobs did you have prior to teaching?**

A: I worked at a pizzeria and a 10 minute oil change garage

**Q: When did you start teaching?**

A: 1991

**Q: What's your favorite part about your job?**

A: The students

**Q: What is a normal day in your job like?**

A: Teach, teach teach, go home (repeat)

**Q: What job would you be terrible at?**

A: Professional ballerina

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

A: Sous Chef

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

A: My HS teacher had a huge impact on my decision to pursue my current job

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

A: Professional fisherman

**Q: When did you meet your significant other?**

A: October 25, 2006

**Q: When did you get married?**

A: October 10, 2009

**Q: How many children do you have?**

A: 3

**Q: Who was/is your biggest role model?**

A: My grandfather

**Q: What would you say your biggest accomplishments are?**

A: My children

**Q: Would you rather be completely invisible for one day or be able to fly for one day?**

A: Fly, I always had dreams about flying as a kid.





**Thermas, Where Ya At?** While two teachers have this thermas, only one has this specific beauty. Photo courtesy of Morgan G.

**Q: Would you rather live without the internet or live without AC and heating?**

A: Internet

**Q: Would you rather never be able to listen to music again or never be able to read again?**

A: Read for obvious reasons.

**Q: Would you rather be transported permanently 500 years into the future or 500 years into the past?**

A: 500 years into the past

**Q: Would you rather go back to age 5 with everything you know now or know everything your future self will learn right now?**

A: Age 5 with everything I know now, I would crush it.



1 of 2, but 24/7 According to students, this fan can be found on 24/7 and is one of two identical fans in this faculty member's room. Photo courtesy of Morgan G.

**Q: Would you rather be able to be free from junk mail or free from email spam for the rest of your life?**

A: Email spam because I use my junk mail to light my bonfires and stuff.

**Q: Would you rather give up watching TV/movies for a year or give up playing games for a year?**

A: TV/Movies, I love playing cards.

**Q: Would you rather never be able to drink sodas like Coke again or only be able to drink sodas and nothing else?**

A: No soda, because I don't drink it much anyway.

**Q: Would you rather be able to go to any theme park in the world for free for the rest of your life or eat for free at any drive through restaurant for the rest of your life?**

A: Eat, I don't like amusement parks.

**Q: Would you rather be only able to watch the few movies with a rotten tomatoes score of 95-100% or only be able to watch the majority of movies with a rotten tomatoes score of 94% and lower?**

A: Lower than 94%

**Q: Would you rather lose the ability to read or lose the ability to speak?**

A: Speak, one of my life goals is to be a hermit so I don't have to speak to people.

**Q: Would you rather face your fears or forget that you have them?**

A: Face my fears

**Q: Would you rather eat a box of dry spaghetti noodles or a cup of uncooked rice?**

A: Uncooked rice, less of a chance of hurting my throat.

**Q: Would you rather be an amazing artist but not be able to see any of the art you created or be an amazing**



**Thumper** This is a tool that this faculty member uses to help keep everything in tune. Photo courtesy of Morgan G.

**musician but not be able to hear any of the music you create?**

A: Artist

**Q: Would you rather never play an instrument again or never sing again?**

A: Never sing again

**Q: Would you rather be five or fifteen again?**

A: Five, being a teenager sucks, at five life is easy. You can just go to school and play.

**Q: Would you rather always be serious or never be able to take anything serious again?**

A: Never take anything serious again, I do that now.



**Who's behind door #6?** Find out which faculty member it is on page 35! Photo courtesy of Morgan G.





# National Teacher Day

*Duncan Bryant-Carly: DJ Don, PR Manager*

National Teacher Day is a holiday that is held every year on Tuesday of the first full week of May. This year it was held on May 8, 2018. There is not much clarity about the origin of National Teacher Day, but it is believed that sometime around 1944, a teacher from Arkansas named Mattye Whyte Woodridge began to reach out to her congressmen and government officials about the necessity for a day to celebrate teachers. Woodridge then wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt, the first lady at the time, about who in turn helped persuade Congress to establish the National Teacher Day. Today, this is a holiday that we take to appreciate all the time, hard work, care, and compassion our teachers give to us, and a day for us to give a little back.

By the time this issue of *The Observer* is published, National Teacher Day will have already happened, but that doesn't mean we can't still celebrate our teachers. Below are several ways that we can still show support for our teachers:

1. Hang signs on each classroom door, personally honoring the teacher inside.
2. Get student organizations to set cookies and punch in the teacher's lounge for teachers to indulge in.
3. Give teachers food baskets and/or the classic apple to show your appreciation.
4. Fill the teacher's lounge with balloons and flowers to liven up their day.
5. Help teachers clean up their classrooms and perform their everyday classroom duties.
6. Provide free lunch for the teachers through the school cafeteria so they don't have to pack/make their own.
7. Write a thoughtful, heartfelt letter to your teacher(s) to show your appreciation and care for all that they do.
8. Come up with other unique ideas to show support for your teachers - everyone loves an original!

As a reminder to our teachers that the students do actually care, I went around and asked random students to say something nice about our teachers. On the next page are their responses. On National Teacher Day this year, the NHS set up a little breakfast for our teachers to bring them some early morning joy and show their support. While these are only the high school teachers, let's not forget the elementary school teachers who also helped shape us into the young adults we are today!



## Blue Union

High school and elementary school teachers standing together in unison to represent the unity and strength amongst teachers. Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Chambliss





# Thank You, Teachers!!!

**"Mr. Brady** is the classiest teacher in the school"  
*Wesley Dennison*

**"Mrs. Turner** is nice and gives us candy whenever we want"  
*Sam Quick*

**"Miss Hatch** is super compassionate and cares a whole lot about her students"  
*Meaghan Rodd*

**"Mrs. Kress** is inspiring and dedicated to her students and her work. Love you Mrs. K!" *Maya Racho*

**"Mrs. Lawrence** is a great person and always kept us on track"  
*Nora Looney*

**"Ms. Zeh** always has candy for us and she's really nice"  
*Faith Agnello*

"Great guy with a great personality, very good at teaching and **Mr. Decker** loves what he does, and he loves every one of his students"  
*Nevin Allen*

**"Mr. Rech** is cool and relatable and he makes physics less painful"  
*Abby Hendee*

**"Miss Byrne** always gives us candy and she has a great personality"  
*Casey Racho*

"Sometimes **Mrs. Murphy** has random parties. I like them, especially when you're having a bad day"  
*Zach Marble*

"Thank you **Ms. Backer** for being such a positive influence on this school, and your smile always brightens students' days"  
*Hanna Tormey*

**"Mr. Hirsch** is very sweet, kind, and caring"  
*Payten Cooper*

**"Miss Mormino** is cool and nice"  
*Blake Ledbetter*

**"Mrs. Bensley** is the sweetest teacher I know and she always works hard to make sure her students have a good math experience"  
*Sophie Napolitano*

**"Mr. Donlon** is always enthusiastic. His loud, energetic personality keeps the class fun and interesting"  
*Chase St. George*

**"Mrs. Trautman** cares a lot about your success, but makes you work hard for everything you get"  
*Attilo Cushing*

**"Mrs. Acker** tells good stories and makes me laugh"  
*Laertes Cushing*

**"Miss Sick** is smart and nice"  
*Star Clark*

**"Miss Carretto** makes learning really fun and interactive. She makes the experience worthwhile, even when it's hard material"  
*Jessie Matteson*

**"Mrs. Powers** is always very welcoming of everyone to her room and always has a great attitude"  
*Kyler Kress*

**"Mrs. Donius** always talks about fun and interesting things with us"  
*Donata Koegel*

**"Mr. Bialecki** always has his door open for students and he always makes you laugh"  
*Julia Price*

"I love **Mr. Hall's** fun and active and energetic spirit"  
*Will Tormey*

**"Miss Curtis** is super caring and always willing to talk to any of her students and to help out whenever they need it"  
*Nathan Grove*

**"Mrs. Lehman** is hardworking and straight forward. She always keeps us on track"  
*Brennan Lang*

**"Mrs. Valentine** has helped me make life choices"  
*Brady Holmok*

**"Miss Acker** makes me strive to do my best and always holds me accountable"  
*Isaac Little*

**"Mr. Mac** is always watching out for his students"  
*Annie Lloyd*

**"Mr. Cook** pushes you to do your best"  
*Alex Comer*

**"Mr. Turner** is a good teacher and is really funny"  
*Vianna Koegel*

**"Miss Karr** has good style, a good voice, and is determined"  
*Katy Dixon*

**"Mr. Levey** is a very down to Earth human being"  
*Sam Warren*

"I like how **Mrs. Allen** treats everyone like her grandchildren"  
*Zane Johnson*

**"Mrs. Decker** is always super funny and helpful"  
*Alyssa Greaney*

**"Mr. Barniak** has got the most enthusiastic attitude of anyone I've ever seen in my life, ever, and it just makes me feel euphoric"  
*Josh Carstens*

**"Mr. Gemmell** is very enthusiastic"  
*Garrett Little*

**"Mr. Ruch** is easy going"  
*Lily Clark*

**"Mrs. Kuhn** always makes the learning environment fun"  
*Ellen Mcinnes*



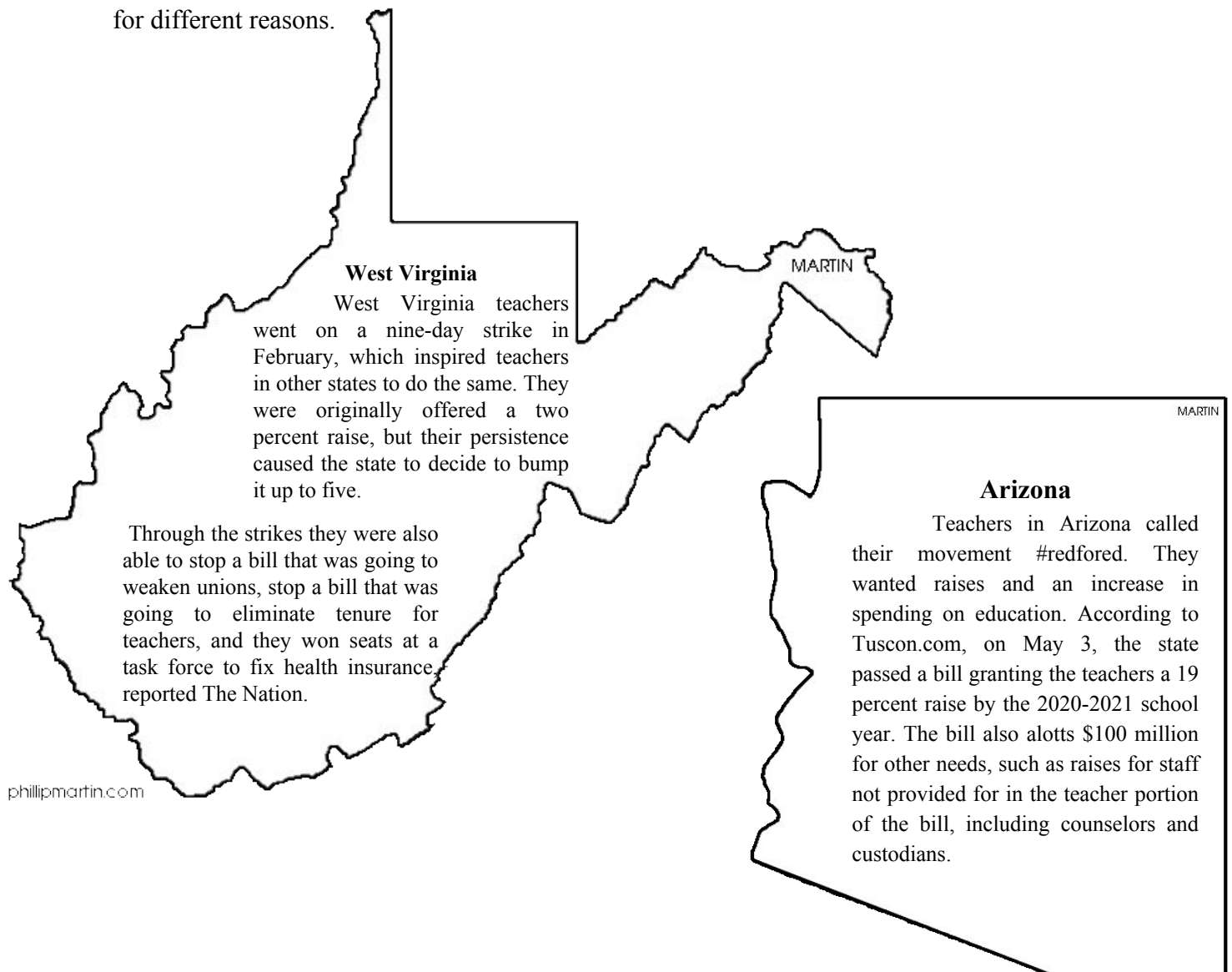


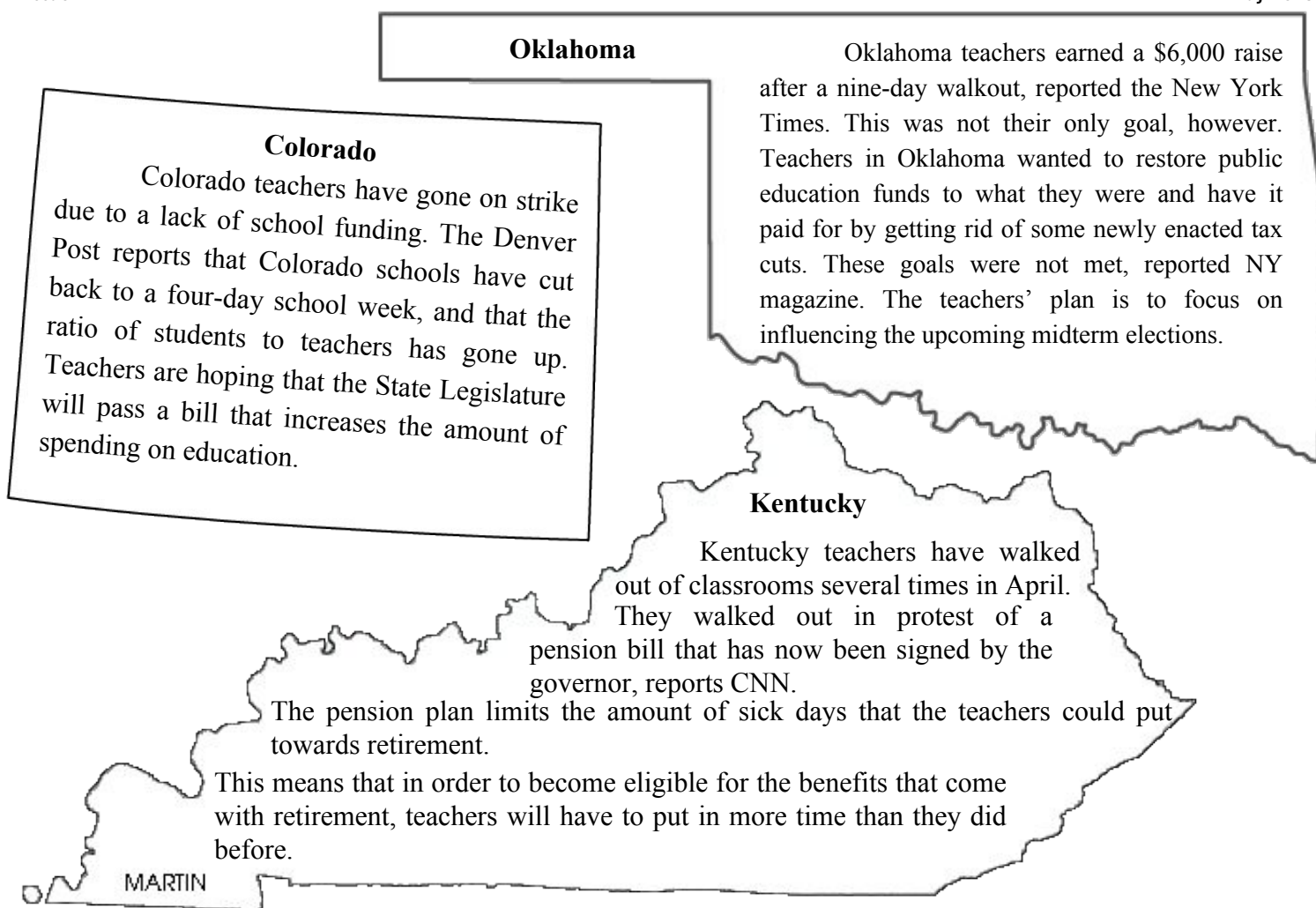
# The Strike Heard Across the Nation

Kaitlyn Cook  
Design Team

In late February, 2018 teachers from all over West Virginia went on a nine-day strike. The strike caused schools in all 55 counties of the state to close, reported CBS News. Teachers were asking their state government to give them a raise. According to CNBC News, the five percent raise that the teachers received because of the strikes was the first raise they had had in four years.

There are 17 states where teachers' salaries are decided by the state legislature including West Virginia, CBS News reported. Other such states have followed West Virginia's lead and gone on strike. According to USA Today, states where teachers have gone on strike include: Arizona, Kentucky, Oklahoma, West Virginia, and Colorado. Teachers in each state are striking for different reasons.





## Thoughts From Mr. Turner

Mr. Turner teaches AP Government, 11th grade US History, and 8th grade Social Studies. To get more insight on this topic I asked him what his thoughts were.

### Why aren't NY teachers taking part in the strikes?

"There are many ways to answer this. A few thoughts come to mind, though. From my perspective, there has not been been a strong call from membership to lend support to that degree. Membership may support the striking teachers in conversations or social media posts, but to conduct a successful general strike in support of teachers in other states it would take another level of commitment. I haven't spoken with any teachers who have a desire to do that. Secondly, Union (state or local) leadership has not encouraged membership to do so. Lastly, it is technically illegal for public school teachers in New York to go on strike. It is a lot to ask of working-class teachers to put their employment on the line."

### Do you think it was a good idea for the teachers to go on strike?

"Each instance of teachers striking should be taken individually on its merits. But in general, to give a more satisfying answer, I say yes. The negative consequences for students/families caused by striking teachers I believe will be outweighed more often by the quality of education created by better funded schools."

### Do you think that these strikes are going to have long term impacts? Do you think those impacts will be positive or negative?

"I believe these strikes will have positive long term impacts. The attention the strikes have received have again shined a light on the deficiencies in public education funding around our country. This awareness has to help. Also, the work stoppages have been successful in increasing teacher pay and school funding in several instances. A final positive impact will be the confidence teacher unions will proceed with in the future, knowing that a willingness to act can end with very successful results."





# The Wonderman of Okinawa

By

**Zoey Kays**

Staff Writer

Would you be willing to risk your life for the sake of your country? Would you, knowing you had a weapon to protect you, be more willing to risk your life? Would you risk your life *without* carrying a weapon? In the eyes of Desmond Doss, saving lives was more important than taking them, especially without the use of a weapon.

## Early Life

Desmond Doss was born in Lynchburg, Virginia on February 7, 1919. His mother, Bertha Edward Doss, raised him as a dedicated Seventh-day Adventist (a member of a Protestant sect that preaches the imminent return of Christ to Earth and observes Saturday as the sabbath). When Desmond was young, he vowed to never touch another weapon after his father drunkenly pulled a .45 pistol on Desmond's uncle. His mother managed to confiscate the pistol and handed it to Desmond to hide. After that event, a weapon would never touch Desmond's hands again. According to an article by Erin Kelly, Desmond's younger brother said it was never fun to mess around and wrestle with Desmond because he would never give up. His persistence was a significant characteristic of Desmond's legacy.

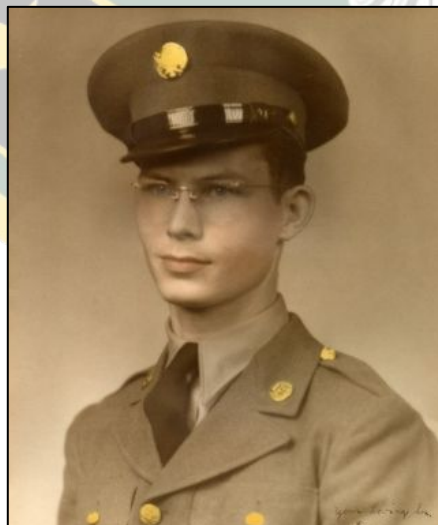
## Conscientious Objector

When World War II broke out, Desmond enlisted as a combat medic in 1942, but still kept his promise not to kill or harm. He enlisted as a medic because he wanted to serve his country and help save the lives of fallen soldiers. At first, the Army didn't want anything to do with Desmond, including his comrades. He was often persecuted for his request to not handle a weapon. Many of his comrades believed that in battle, soldiers are supposed to have each other's backs, and they believed Desmond wouldn't have theirs without a weapon. Despite the Army's hardest efforts, they couldn't make Desmond hold a rifle. However, a law made two years prior said conscientious objectors (a person who for reasons of conscience refuses to serve in the armed forces) can serve the war effort in noncombat positions, and with that Desmond was sent to one of the bloodiest battles of World War II, the battle of Okinawa.

### Young Soldier

*Desmond Doss joined the United States Army April 1, 1942, the beginning of World War II.*

*Photo from:  
desmonddoss.com*



***"Lord, please  
help me get one  
more."***

***~ Desmond Doss***





## Hacksaw Ridge

On May 5, 1945, the battle of Okinawa Maeda Escarpment, known as “Hacksaw Ridge” by the Americans, began on a Saturday, Desmond’s day of sabbath. The day of sabbath didn’t stop Desmond in the slightest bit. The Americans had to climb up a stiff, rugged cliff, where the Japanese would be patiently waiting for all the Americans to reach the plateau to open fire. This strategy left thousands of American soldiers injured or dead. Despite the bombardment of gunfire and explosions, Desmond crawled from one injured soldier to the next. Desmond was helping the soldiers who many would have left behind for dead, while constantly being shot at. Additionally, the Japanese had a reputation for torturing captured American soldiers. Knowing this, Desmond refused to leave a single man behind. Hour after hour, Desmond would crawl and drag wounded soldiers to edge of the ridge, tie them up, and lower them down the ridge to safety. Covered from head to toe in blood that was not his, under grueling fire, Desmond continued to save lives for 12 hours straight with no weapon at hand. As his brother said, Desmond would never give up. According to Terry Benedict's documentary about Doss, Desmond stated, “I was praying the whole time. I just kept praying, 'Lord, please help me get one more.'” Desmond miraculously made it out of the horrifying battle saving 75 lives, and keeping his own.

Two weeks after the battle of Okinawa, Desmond was back in action, fearless and ready. While in a foxhole with his patients, a Japanese grenade was thrown in the foxhole. Desmond courageously went to kick the grenade. As he kicked it, the grenade detonated, and left Desmond with grenade fragments deep in his leg. Desmond treated his own wounds. A stretcher came to help Desmond five hours later. You would think he would finally be done serving and fighting right? Nope, the second Desmond saw a fallen soldier, he rolled off the stretcher, and started dressing his comrade’s wounds. While waiting for more help to arrive, a sniper hit and obliterated every single bone in Desmond’s left arm. He crawled by himself 300 yards to the aid station. He didn’t realize it then, but he had lost the pocket Bible he had carried with him.

## After The War

After Desmond’s actions of bravery and heroism, he finally gained the support of his comrades. At the hospital, Desmond’s commanding officer brought him the bible he had lost. After the surrender of the Japanese to the United States, every soldier stayed and searched through the rubble for his Bible. Desmond was also informed that he would be receiving the Medal of Honor. This made Desmond the first ever conscientious objector to receive this prestigious award. According to Erin Kelly's article, President Harry Truman said to Desmond “You really deserve this. I consider this a greater honor than being president.”

Desmond lived to see the age of 87. He was hospitalized with breathing problems, due to tuberculosis, and passed away on March 23, 2006. After the war, many people thought of Desmond as a hero. If you were to call him a hero, though, chances are he would have corrected you. He was simply doing what God had taught him to do: save lives.

Medal of Honor  
Desmond  
received his  
Medal of Honor  
on a Sunday  
morning,  
October 12,  
1945, from  
President  
Truman.  
Photo from  
opentheword.com



Living a Long Life  
After the war,  
Desmond became  
a carpenter and  
a speaker to  
youth groups for  
character  
development.  
Photo from  
newsadvance.com





# Goodbye, Farewell

As the turbulence of senior year finally begins to dampen, waves of stress, excitement, eagerness, and alleviation ride high. A layer of numbness pervades over these emotions, often to a point where one knows that there is a way that seniors should act or feel, but for some reason can't achieve. Other waves that already reached the shore, crashing and tumbling, previously created a scene of chaos; yet in the waning months of the year, those percussive, deafening noises have led to tranquility. What really matters has started to be more clear, and for many, even the simple reality of being a senior has at last begun to make sense. Each "last" hits you a little harder, and moments with friends, or during sports games begin to feel more important. You realize that every passing minute may be one you cherish in the future. Everyone starts the year declaring "I know I'm a senior, but it really doesn't feel like it", or "I don't know how to act like a senior." After the stress of applying to colleges, choosing a major, filling out scholarships, and committing to a school or a career path, you will find yourself stripped bare, often with little mental energy to do

Abby H: Albany College of Pharmacy  
Alexandra W: Alfred State College  
Brady H: Alfred State College  
Chloë M: Alfred State College  
Emily Noone: Alfred State College  
Garrett L: Alfred State College  
Gavin P: Alfred State College  
Jacob E: Alfred State College  
Matt I: Alfred State College  
Roni M: Alfred State College  
Sam W: Alfred State College  
Wendy Q.: Alfred State College  
Emilia E: Alfred University  
Madina R: American University of Central Asia  
Zoey K: Army  
Vianna K: Corning Community College  
Ellen M: Dickinson College  
Evan W: Employment  
Jacob M: Employment  
Josiah K: Employment  
Nick C: Employment  
Attilo C: George Washington University  
Hudson L: Hampshire College  
Alyssa G: Ithaca College  
Mariah D: Jamestown Community College  
Mackenzie O: Keuka College  
Morgan G: Keuka College  
Maeghan R: Le Moyne College  
Hannah K: Monroe Community College  
Julia P: Nazareth College  
Kyler K: Onondaga Community College  
Sully C: Pitt Bradford  
Jessica M: R.I.T.  
Joshua C: R.I.T.  
Maya R: State University at Buffalo  
Katlyn G: St. Bonaventure University  
Payten C: SUNY Adirondack  
Katy D: SUNY Adirondack  
Kaitlyn C: SUNY Fredonia  
Duncan B-C: SUNY New Paltz  
Chase St. G: SUNY Oswego  
Sophie N: University of Pittsburgh

By  
Attilo Cushing  
BG Worker Bee

much more than what is required. Your body craves a break to prepare yourself for the next big adventure. Acting like a senior is less of a choice, but more of a force of structure. Undeniably, there are those who "act like a senior" right from the start, but generally speaking, this is something that just happens.



**All roads lead to...home**  
*Although everyone will go their  
separate ways, it is always important  
to remember your roots.*  
Photo from twitter.com

Our class of 44 seniors has resulted in a relatively wide range of destinations. From Kyrgyzstan, to the District of Columbia, 24 schools are represented and all seniors are either entering the workforce, or attending an institution of higher learning. Tune in next issue, where I'll be providing a more in depth look at where these seniors will be going, and why they chose their respective paths!



# **The *Observer's* Guide to Senior Trip**

By  
**Chloe Muhleisen**  
Copy Editor

On a weekend in the middle of April, the majority of the senior class of 2018 traveled by bus to Philadelphia for our senior trip. The trip lasted from April 13 to April 15, and it gave us an opportunity to spend time all together before graduation. Driving through small towns in Pennsylvania and learning about the history of Philadelphia helped us pass the time. We visited a wolf sanctuary and took a cruise on the Delaware River. We also splashed around at a waterpark, and lost during laser tag to a group of parents and their preteens. This trip brought us all closer together and created many memories that we will someday tell our children about. If you are debating on whether or not to go on your senior trip, I would highly recommend doing so. If not, you might regret missing out on lasting memories and fun times with your classmates. It might be your last chance to get to know people you would never consider talking to before. Below is a list of dos and don'ts that our senior members of the *Observer* staff have provided for you. Read at your discretion, and remember to enjoy your senior year while it lasts.

"DON'T go to an Amish town and eat jelly burgers." -Matt I.

"DO enjoy your time with your classmates because you're going to be graduating really soon."  
-Abby H.

"DON'T leave your bag or any other possessions in Binghamton when you're almost home and have to go back to get it. People will be very cranky." - Chloe M.

"DO take a shower."  
-Sam W.

"DO ride water slides with Nick."  
-Emily N.

"DO lock your door."  
-Roni M.

"DO tell your roommates what shampoo and conditioner is YOURS." -Zoey K.

"DON'T overpack and DO try to hang out with everyone and make friends before leaving."  
-Sophie N.





"DO pack good snacks and A LOT of water." -Jessie M.

"DON'T put the hotel pillows in your suitcase (twice) and DON'T take coat hangers because you might get charged for them. Also, DON'T let a food-loving friend steal your laptop and order Domino's while you are playing Call of Duty. It ends in you having to pay just as much as them, and them eating most of the pizza. DON'T forget a pillow on the bus." -Attilo C.

"DO get a four foot tall security guard for one night only." -Morgan G.

"DO wake up at 5 a.m. to go swimming" -Zoey K.

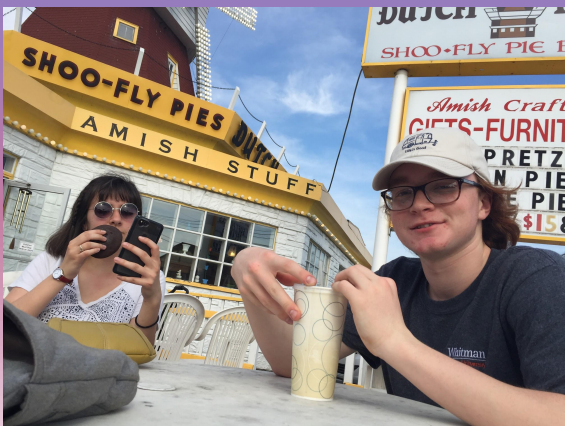
"DO take your mattresses off your beds and put them on your floor. DO golf with friends." -Josh C.

"DON'T bring any drugs, DO gamble, DO watch your popcorn closely, and DON'T share your popcorn with anyone, especially Attilo." -Duncan B.C.

"DO look at the weather and pack accordingly. DON'T ignore the weather report. DO bring enough money for anything you want to buy. DON'T spend \$50 on a necklace." -Kaitlyn C.

"DON'T steal two pillows and a coat hanger from a hotel, and DON'T take your mattresses off your beds and put them on the floor because the maids will have to pick them up." -Maya R.





### It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia

*The senior class of 2018 enjoyed their stay in Philadelphia while getting to know their peers better and creating lasting memories.*

*Photos courtesy of Chloe Muhleisen, Jessie Matteson, Maya Racho, and Attilo Cushing*





# CINCO DE MAYO

By: Maya Racho

## HISTORY

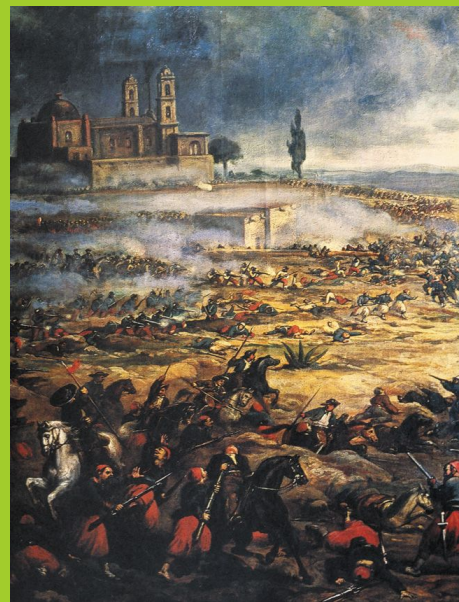
### An Unlikely Victory

As the early 1860s dawned upon Mexico, the Mexicans found themselves in deep amounts of debt with France. With no money in their treasury, and more than 10 million dollars owed to their European counterpart, Mexico was at a loss. President Benito Juárez suspended all payment of foreign debts for two years in an effort to raise money. Angered by this, the leader of France, Napoleon III, planned to send troops to Mexico to take over Mexico City. At the time, the Monroe Doctrine was in effect. This contract prevented European countries from interfering with nations in the Western Hemisphere. America couldn't prevent Napoleon from sending troops to Mexico as they were preoccupied with their own civil war.

On May 5, 1862, four days out from Mexico City, the French troops came upon the town of Puebla. 6,000 trained French soldiers were met with less than 2,000 loyal townspeople, with most of the civilians having no military experience. It seemed guaranteed that France would be victorious, though their overconfidence came as a large detriment. France was so sure of their win that they failed to completely equip their artillery, deeming it unnecessary. The troops met, and fought until early evening, until eventually the French were forced to retreat, losing almost 500 soldiers, while Mexico stood tall with only 100 casualties. Even though the Battle of Puebla was not a strategic victory, it was still a glorious triumph for Mexico.

Today, Cinco de Mayo is celebrated every year on May 5. The state of Puebla, where the battle occurred, has the largest celebration, but other countries participate as well. Many major U.S. cities such as San Jose, Los Angeles, San Antonio, San

Francisco, Phoenix, and Albuquerque celebrate Cinco de Mayo as well. Many of the cities that recognize the holiday are from Mexican descent. In Pueblo de Los Angeles, a festival is held every year with dancing, food, and music. Even though Cinco de Mayo isn't considered a federal holiday of the U.S., it is still celebrated among many.



#### The Battle of Puebla

*Though the Mexican army was outnumbered almost 1/3, the determined troops will still able to defeat their European counterparts. This defeat sparked the beginning of an independence movement away from French control.*

**Photo**  
[warfarehistorynetwork.com.org](http://warfarehistorynetwork.com.org)



#### Artists Depictions

*Many artists create the heroic scenes from the battle. Here is an artist's rendering of the initial meeting of the two armies*

**Photo** [thoughtco.com](http://thoughtco.com)



# CINCO DE MAYO

By: Maya Racho

## TRADITIONS

### Battle of Puebla Reenactment

During the holiday in the town of Puebla, a parade is held featuring Mexican marchers and people dressed in French attire complete with rifles. Women march alongside, wearing colorful dresses and skirts. Their presence represents the women that participated in the battle as well. After the parade, a battle reenactment is performed.



### Mexico City Reenactment

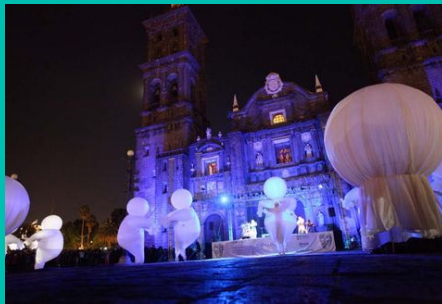
*One of the largest reenactment battles takes place in Mexico City, Mexico. Tourists, locals and anyone looking for exciting history all attend.*

*Photo from  
geo-mexico.com*

### The Capital of Art and Culture

*The traditional culture of Mexico can be experienced at this festival through both music and art.*

*Photo from milenio.com*



### Festival Internacional de Puebla

During the holiday, the Festival Internacional de Puebla occurs. Artists travel from around the world to perform at the festival. Traditional mariachi bands, flamenco dancers, and more are all a part of the entertainment.

### Mole Poblano

The dish of Puebla, Mole Poblano features chicken covered in sauce made from chocolate, chili peppers, and other spices. Amongst the Cinco De Mayo celebrations, the Festival Internacional del Mole is held. This two day feast invites celebrity chefs to prepare and discuss the dish.



### A Dish Known 'Round the World

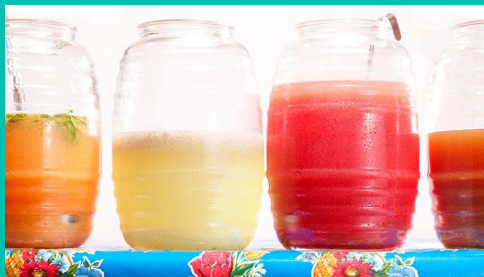
*Mole Poblano isn't just popular in Mexico and is served in different variations around the world.*

*Photo from  
seriouseats.com*

### The Drink of Variety

*Agua fresca has many variations, and can be flavored with almost any type of fruit.*

*Photo from  
bonappetit.com*



### Agua Fresca

Agua Fresca is the most popular Mexican drink. The water is flavored with fruit juice, and then combined with fruit seeds and flowers. The most popular flavors are lime, hibiscus, tamarind, and agua de horchata. The drink is served around the festival during Cinco de Mayo.

### Baile Folklórico

Folk dancing is a large part of Cinco de Mayo. Dancers wear big, bright colored dresses. The many layers of the dress are used to emphasize the spinning and twirling movements of the dance. In contrast, the male partner wears all black attire. Dancers perform to music from Mariachi bands.

### Colors of Dance

*Women wear brightly colored dresses with large skirts to emphasize movement.*

*Photo from  
gauchogazette.com*







# GO NOSE TO NOSE

By: Emily N. Technology Advisor

The organization, Comic Relief started in the United Kingdom in 1985 to use comedy to raise money to help people living rough lives. The goal of Comic Relief is to create a world free of poverty, and more specifically, child poverty. Comic Relief has raised over \$1 billion since it's launch. Comic Relief came up with the idea of Red Nose Day. Every year; since 1988, Red Nose Day has been celebrated. The date of Red Nose Day changes every year, this year it's on **May 24**. The day is celebrated with TV specials, Red Noses, and donations.

In the United States, in the past three years alone, Red Nose Day has raised \$100 million and has helped 8 million children. In those three years, 32.2 million meals were served to hungry children, 899,493 children received educational services, and 6.79 million children received medical services. This is just in the United States; so much more happens worldwide.

#GoNoseToNose is a fun way that Comic Relief has come up with to help raise awareness and money. In order to participate in #GoNoseToNose and Red Nose Day, go to your local Walgreens and pick up a red nose and have a friend do the same. You take a picture of you two going nose to nose, post it on any social media platform, and then pass the challenge on to more people. The aim is that every person who goes nose to nose will donate money, and when you challenge others to go nose to nose, they will donate as well.



*Noses are sold at Walgreens for only \$1; all proceeds from the noses go to Comic Relief.  
Photo from comicrelief.org*



*The Red Nose Day Special Tune in to NBC on May 24 starting at 10/9c to watch the special for yourself. It is 24 hours of laughs that helps raise money for the cause. Photo from nbc.com*

NBC airs a 24 hour long show that features famous people to help raise money, with their slogan "Make your laugh matter." Last year, Scott Mills and Chris Stark, both DJs, participated in an LOL-a-thon; both told jokes throughout the 24 hours. Sara Cox danced to 80s music for the whole 24 hours, and raised over one million pounds (the United Kingdom's currency). A group of comedians; Greg Davies, Joe Lycett, Miranda Hart, Romesh Ranganathan, Warwick Davies, and Luisa Omielan, preformed sketches throughout the day. Ed Sheeran and Kurrup FM made a music video, and James Corden reunited the cast of Love Actually on a 10 minute special of carpool karaoke. Many others have done things in the past, including One Direction. In 2013 they made a music video covering "One Way or Another" by Teenage Kicks. They actually went to Ghana and had kids that were helped by the day in the video. This year, Chris Hardwick will be the host. The Red Nose Day Special will start on May 24 at 10 a.m. on NBC.

Half of all of the proceeds raised in America will stay here, in the 50 states and Puerto Rico, to help our kids. The other half will be used in some of the poorest places in the world, including Latin America, Asia, and Africa. **If you're interested in helping to make a difference**, you can donate online and participate in #GoNoseToNose. On their website they recommend starting a bake sale, going nose to nose, wearing all red and telling people around you to wear all red, or putting out a change jar for everyone to donate to. If you're interested in donating online you can do so [here](#).



# Cystic Fibrosis: A Day In The Life



By Veronica Morsman  
Design Manager

May is Cystic Fibrosis Awareness month. Cystic fibrosis is a progressive, genetic disease that causes lung infections and limits the ability to breathe over time. In order to have cystic fibrosis, a person must inherit two copies of the defective CF gene -- one copy from each parent. Approximately 30,000 people in the United States have cystic fibrosis. In people with CF, a defective gene causes thick buildup of mucus in the lungs, pancreas, and other organs. Infections in the lungs can be caused by mucus clogging the airways and trapping bacteria. These infections can lead to extensive lung damage and respiratory failure. Mucus prevents digestive enzymes to be released that help the body absorb nutrients and break down food. Malnutrition and poor growth can be a result of the body not getting key nutrients.

The severity of symptoms differs widely from person to person with cystic fibrosis. The age at which a person is diagnosed can affect the individual's health and course of the disease. Minimizing contact with germs is a major concern for people with cystic fibrosis. With breakthrough treatments, the median predicted survival age is near 40 years. Tremendous advancements have been made in research and care; many CF patients are living long enough to pursue their dreams of college, careers, getting married, and having children. Although the progress in treating the disease is significant, there is still no cure for cystic fibrosis.

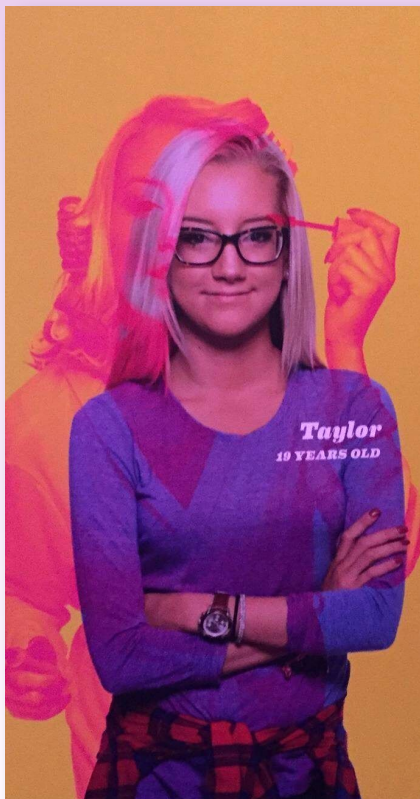
Each day, those with CF complete therapies such as airway clearance, inhaled medicines, and pancreatic enzyme supplements. Airway clearance loosens and gets rid of mucus being built up in the lungs. Many patients use an inflatable vest that vibrates the chest at high frequencies to help thin and loosen the mucus. Inhaled medicines are inhaled through a nebulizer to thin the mucus or open the airways. These medicines include antibiotics to help fight lung infections as well. Pancreatic enzyme supplements help the body absorb vital nutrients in patients with CF and are taken with every meal. Every single patient with Cystic Fibrosis has a different story and fights their own battles daily.

A good friend of mine, Taylor Smith, is a 21 year old girl living with CF. Despite the disease, Taylor is the most positive person I have ever met and inspires me everyday to always look on the bright side. She's such a happy person, and anyone that knows Taylor will agree that no matter what the situation, she always puts a smile on your face. I asked Taylor if she would explain to me her daily challenges, her biggest struggle, and how she remains so positive.

## CF Gala

*Taylor poses for a photoshoot at the CF Gala held in Buffalo, NY every year to raise money for cystic fibrosis research.*

*Photo courtesy of Taylor Smith.*



“ ...instead of feeling sorry for myself I just feel powerful, I feel unique, I feel like I have all the more reason to make something of myself because no one expects me to. ”





## Here's what Taylor had to say...

*"Well I have little struggles and I have big struggles, it affects every aspect of my life. Because of the heat and the steam in the shower, showers for me are exhausting; they take a lot of energy and they make my lungs work harder because of the steam, so after every shower I have a cough attack. My struggles go as small as having a coughing attack in the middle of my makeup routine and my mascara goes everywhere, or my eyes will water and undo my fake eyelashes. They become as big of an issue as making a life for myself; my biggest real life struggle right now is finding an employer that is okay with the idea of me going into the hospital for a few weeks at a time. Finding a job where you can miss that much time and only have a 48 hour notice is extremely difficult, some employers aren't okay if you miss half a day for a doctor's appointment. So I'd say that's my biggest struggle. It's also impossible for me to gain weight, between my skinny genetics from my parents combined with a pancreas that doesn't want to absorb anything from the food I eat, I will always be tiny, which really isn't a struggle it's more of an upside. It's also hard for me to have sleepovers with friends because of the lack of sleep I get. If you think about it, I'm laying flat, so all the mucus in my lungs kind of settles and it's a horrible position to where it becomes harder to breathe so my body is working twice as hard as when it's awake. I wake up to night sweats, which then send me into a coughing attack, and being at a sleepover it's not fantastic for their entire family to wake up at 3 a.m. because I was chasing after some donuts in a dream.*



### Puppy Love

*Taylor poses for a selfie with her two dogs, Mavrick and Roczen.*

*It's hard to explain CF to people who don't have it because everybody, from an outsider's point of view, just sees it as a disease, an obstacle, a struggle, but it's my whole life. It's my normal. I've never had a time where stairs have been easy to run up or sleeping through the night has been an option. Because you're born with CF, so it's not like I just woke up one day and could no longer do those things. Like if someone were to become paralyzed in a car accident, they spend their entire life dreading the fact that they can no longer use their legs. Another big thing that's hard for outside perspectives to understand is that literally every single CF patient is different. I could tell you all about my struggles, and you could go talk to someone else and they could never have actual cough attacks, they could have trouble losing weight instead of gaining it. Every case is different, every person is different, and every struggle is different. It all boils down to how you look at it. I could sit here all day and tell you all the things that suck about having CF, trust me, if I really wanted to I could probably put you and me into a severe depression right now, but just because that's the easy route doesn't mean that's how I want to look at it.*

*My lifespan is short to begin with, and having CF is something that I can't control, so instead of feeling sorry for myself I just feel powerful, I feel unique, I feel like I have all the more reason to make something of myself because no one expects me to. Like I said about gaining weight, I can eat all the McDonald's I want and never feel bad about it. I can't ever get high cholesterol so I could have a thousand fries, a stick of butter, and a bar of chocolate for breakfast and that would be a substantial meal for me. I get to have a handicap sign, so if you ever need to go to Walmart on a Saturday or the mall on Black Friday, you should probably invite me. No need to stress about a parking spot, we've got a front row seat. Don't want to do the pacer test in high school? Doctor's notes are on file. It's really all about how you look at life, whether you have CF or you don't. To somebody with normal lungs, I might have the worst life imaginable on paper, but someone without legs is looking at me like, 'Man she's so lucky to be able to cough and drive at the same time'. Everybody has someone who has it way worse than them, and everybody has someone who has it way better than them. You can't control the deck of cards you get, all you can control is how you play them."*



### Support All Around

*Team Taylor is a group of Taylor's supporters who attended a motocross race and donated money to help find a cure for cystic fibrosis.*



# Asthma and Allergy Awareness

By Abigail Hendee, Editor in Chief

May is National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month because the month of May is associated with the peak of seasonal allergies. Seasonal allergies are prevalent in the spring due to the season and weather changing from cold to warm. Flowers are blooming and allergens are released into the air, causing some problems to people who are sensitive to them. Among these problems, people can experience allergic reactions to certain particles like pollen or grass. People can also experience asthma or asthma attacks.

According to cdc.gov, one in every 12 people have asthma, resulting in approximately 25 million Americans. Asthma also is found to cost the United States around \$56 billion from early casualties and medical bills. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had a National Health Interview Survey in 2015, and found that roughly 24.6 million people have asthma.

Asthma attacks occur in reaction to allergens, stress, and changes in environment. They can be triggered at any time.

Additionally, cdc.gov also states that in 2014 there were about 1,642,598 people (10.7%) with asthma in New York State. Due to the location of New York State, asthma is seen as a common condition that affects many people's lives. Western New York is associated with higher risks of health issues like asthma, arthritis, and the flu due to the constant swings between cold and warm temperatures.

## Are You Allergic?

*There are many different ways that allergens can cause your body to react. It's recommended to be cautious about anything new that could be an allergen. It's also best to talk to your doctor about any type of suspicious reaction that you experience!*

Image from  
peggyshirmer.com

TYPES OF ALLERGIC REACTIONS			
Skin Contact	Injection	Ingestion	Inhalation
 Poisonous Plants  Animal Dander  Pollen  Latex	 Bee Sting  Medication	 Medication  Nuts  Shellfish	 Pollen  Animal Dander  Dust  Mold & Mildew

Asthma can be triggered by allergens; this is known as allergic asthma. Allergens are anything that can cause an allergic reaction; some surprising examples include cockroach body parts and feces! Upper respiratory illnesses can cause a greater risk in asthma, like the flu, upper respiratory infections, and colds. The symptoms of asthma are difficulty breathing, wheezing, shortness of breath, tight feeling in chest, and fast heart rate.

Dr. Joseph Chow, President of WNY Immediate Care, tells News 4 in Buffalo, NY that "The colder the air gets; some people's airways will become more reactive and become more inflamed in the cold weather." Due to the season changing from winter to spring, the conditions for people with asthma are a bit better, but still not problem free. Some tips to help prevent asthma or help if you or someone you know is diagnosed with asthma are on the next page!





A **nutrition** tip for preventing asthma is consuming an apple every day. According to research conducted by JAMA Internal Medicine, apples were seen to be related to better lung function and a decrease in risk of asthma. This is also associated with lower risk of cancer. The US Apple Association states that the positive attributes of eating an apple come from the fiber, vitamins, and minerals found in them.



commons.wikimedia.org

A **weather** tip for asthma during the cold times in winter would be to always protect your nose and mouth when outside. In cold temperatures, the airway is more vulnerable to becoming irritated. When the muscles in the airway tighten, breathing becomes more difficult and weak, causing a bronchospasm. During the spring, as recommended by lung.org, it's best to always check your environment before participating in physical activity outside. To avoid asthma attacks, it's also recommended to keep proper lawn care.



mzayat.com

For an **exercise** tip, swimming is seen as the ideal exercise for people with asthma. The air inhaled during swimming is humid and warm so the airways aren't strained or tight. A tip for managing stress is relevant to asthma because stress has been seen to trigger asthma attacks. Relaxing exercises like meditation or yoga are great for clearing negative thoughts that may result from the start of an asthma attack.



competitiveej.com

An **emotional health** tip for asthma is that generally, when someone is having asthma issues, they experience fear and anxiety. A way to counter these feelings is to find someone to trust and to express your feelings to them. It's good to get feelings out and to acknowledge them. If you have a friend going through an asthma attack, it's best to find someone with higher medical knowledge or to find their inhaler.



flaticon.com





# It's Turkey Time

Sam Warren  
Public Relations

May 1 marked the beginning of New York's spring turkey season. Which means, for this writer, another month filled with annoyingly placed bug bites, sleep deprivation, and starting the day frozen yet ending it drenched in sweat. All of this is worth it to experience the woods come alive with the sun rising, the songbirds tweeting, crow squawking, squirrels running around, and the indescribable woodsy calmness that's immediately ended with a long thunderous gobble. I believe there is not one thing in this world that could give you a stronger sensation of excitement than hearing that first May gobble.

Spring turkey hunting is a difficult sport; you can't expect to just walk into the woods and come out ten minutes later with one over your shoulder. Turkey hunting requires a lot a patience, skill, and knowledge about the animal. When you hunt turkeys, you're trying to trick them into doing something they don't normally do. Naturally, hens will come to gobblers (male turkeys) to be bred. A hen will call to let the tom know where it is in a series of clucks, yelps, and purrs (see video at bottom). The gobbler will hear it, and if he's interested, gobble back.



Photo of a box call from primos.com.

A box call produces sound by rubbing the paddle against the box, the friction causes a sound that mimics a turkeys sound



Photo of a mouth call from zinkcalls.com

All turkey calls are different but, it doesn't matter what you use. It depends on your sound preference .

The hen may call multiple times on her way to the male and he will respond, but there isn't a lot of calling between the two. The hen also always comes to the tom, which makes it harder because, as the hunter, you're trying to convince the male to come to you. This is because when you're hunting, you can't walk to them or the turkey will see you. Turkeys have superb vision. They can see color, movement, and distance better than people and can even pick out someone blinking at 100 yards. This is why you must dress in all camouflage, covering all of your skin. You have to hold completely still and wait for very long periods of time.

You are only allowed to take turkeys in the spring if they have a beard. A turkey's beard is basically just a bunch of hair-like fibers that are connected to the turkey's breast. This means you can only kill toms (adult male turkeys), jakes (adolescent male turkeys), and bearded hens (female turkeys with strange genetic mutations giving them a beard). In spring you're only allowed to take two bearded turkeys, and only one per day. If you shoot a turkey, the harvest needs to be reported to the DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) within three days of harvest..

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HAS6G7Uq4Oc>

Click here for a hen calling





# Safety and Reporting

Sam Warren  
Public Relations

## Safety Tips

[Montana State Hunter Education](#) provides these following turkey hunting tips.

- Don't Stalk Turkeys. It doesn't work and it is dangerous. Someone could think you are a turkey.
- Never wear turkey colors: black or brown like the body. red, white or blue like the head.
- Assume anything that sounds like a turkey is another turkey hunter
- Call with a large tree at your back.
- If you see another hunter, do not move. Never wave, whistle or make any turkey call or animal sound. Speak Up in a loud, clear voice to identify yourself. You don't want a hunter to think you are a turkey.
- Be sure of your target and what's beyond it to make sure you don't shoot anything but your turkey.



Photo of two hunters  
from dec.ny.gov

## Reporting Harvests

If you shoot a turkey you need to fill out a carcass tag immediately. You then need to report your tag. When reporting your tag you need measurements of its beard length, its weight, and its spur length. A spur is a hook on the back of a turkey's leg used to fight with. It grows with age. When you measure spurs they should be measured from the tip of the spur to the base of the spur, where it connects to the leg. Measure to the nearest 1/4 inch. When you measure beards they should be measured from the tip of the beard to the base, where it emerges from the skin, and measure to the nearest 1/4 inch. When you record the weight on a scale, you should record it to the nearest pound. You can either report it to [DECALS reporting system](#) or Call 1-866-GAME-RPT within 7 days to report your take.

Photo of a spur from  
[ohiosportsman.com](#)  
The record length in  
New York is 2 inches.



Photo of a beard from [maximumhunting.com](#)  
The record length in NY is 16 1/4 inches.

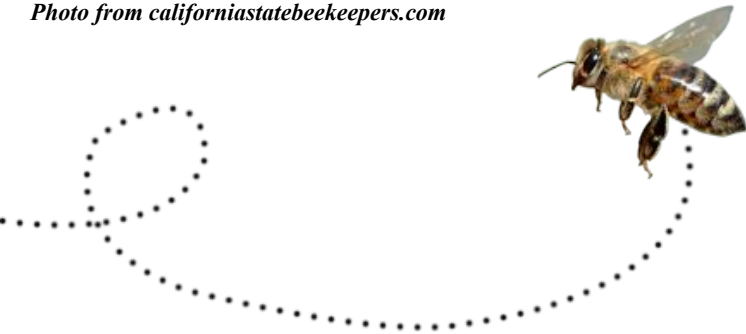




# The State of the Bees

By Josh Carstens, Bee #2.253; Design Bee

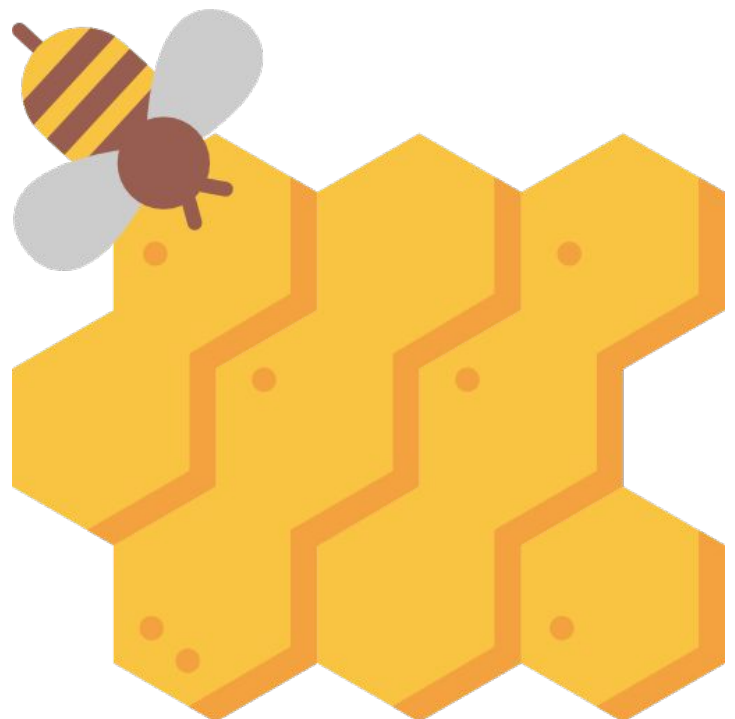
*Photo from californiastatebeekeepers.com*



For a small insect, bees carry a massive weight in our ecosystem. They're the single most important group of species to the livelihood of many plants, including some plants we rely on for food. Should the bees disappear, civilization's diet would be greatly restricted to wheat, rice, and corn products. Recently, the state of bees has been rocky. This concept was well-illustrated in Jerry Seinfeld's "The Bee Movie", released in 2007, where the bees ceased pollination and all the flowers shortly died out, however, the animated film overlooked the effect that a loss of bees would have on the food crop and the human race.

First, it must be established that as a class of insect, bees are not currently endangered. In late 2016, seven species of masked Hawaiian bees were listed under the Endangered Species Act, and in early 2017, the rusty patched bumble bee was also added, but these listings have led to actions from colleges, chemical companies, and governments which caused an increase in population since then. One such action is the recent vote of the European Union to ban neonicotinoid insecticides, an insect repellent chemically similar to nicotine, which, instead of only coating the surfaces of leaves, also covers flowers, pollen, and nectar, and can "rub off and get blown into the air, creating a dust that's been blamed for killing colonies of both wild bees and honeybees," according to NPR.

But should bees actually go extinct, the predicted effects on society and life in general are immense, as reported by the BBC. Bees pollinate 70 out of nearly 100 plants designated for consumption, which feed 90% of the population of the world. Around \$30 billion worth of crops per year depend on pollination by bees. Almonds, peaches, plums, apples, cherries, tomatoes, and more are reliant on pollination by bee. Many other plants, such as coffee, aren't fully reliant, but would face dramatic price increases should bees go extinct, as there would be much greater expenses on pollination by other means that would be passed to the consumer, according to NDRC. Fresh produce would be even further away from the table than it already is to the proletariat. And, the disappearance of many of these plants would also mean that staple cuisines, like pizza, would disappear, or need serious modification. Pizza, without sauce, really isn't the same. Additionally, non-food crops like cotton are also pollinated by bees, which could impact other industries like textile.



*Photo from commons.wikimedia.org*



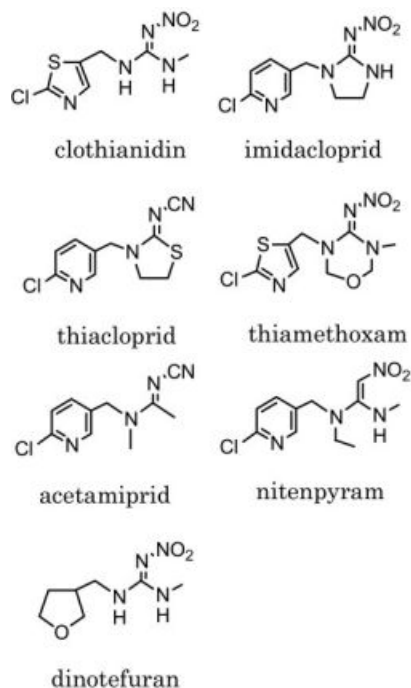


# The State of the Bees

Continued

Various neonicotinoid insecticides,

Photo from [openi.nlm.nih.gov](http://openi.nlm.nih.gov)



Plants bees love. Photos from [reboundersteam.com](http://reboundersteam.com), [pinterest.com](http://pinterest.com), [clipart.info](http://clipart.info), [sftextures.com](http://sftextures.com), [herbhedgegrow.co.uk](http://herbhedgegrow.co.uk), [animalia-life.club](http://animalia-life.club), and [e-computer-security.info](http://e-computer-security.info)

If you wish to help maintain the bee population, one way to do so is to maintain a lawn that has plants bees crave. Black-eyed Susans, daisies, roses, sunflower, zinnia, bee balm, dandelion, clover, goldenrod, and milkweed are all obtainable options. Many of these plants are considered weeds, so you may be able to pull off a bee garden by simply not doing any weeding, unless the weeds aren't conducive to pollination anyway. You definitely don't want to use any pesticides on your lawn, which are harmful to bees. Also, try not to destroy bee nests unless they're really in the way, especially those of bumblebees which are nonaggressive. Nests only last for one season, and bees will most likely not attack unless they think you are assaulting them, so just live with them if you can.

But realistically, the majority of work to maintain the bee population lies with beekeepers, as it is their job to keep bees (as stated on [reason.com](http://reason.com)). Beekeepers have to take into account all the pesticides their bees face, as well as all the destructive mites and bee diseases, like American foulbrood or chalkbrood, both of which tend to kill off bees in their larval stages and are spread by fungi. One of the largest recent threats to bee population are Varroa mites, which sucks the blood of both adult bees and larvae and can cause bees to emerge from larvae missing legs and wings. In order to counteract these obstacles, beekeepers will use miticides, fungicides, and hive rebuilding strategies such as "making increase," where they split one hive into several and supplement queen bees into the new ones.

When it comes down to it, humanity will probably be able to survive if bees die off, but the repercussions would still be severe. We would lose large components of our diet; eating healthy would become harder and more expensive, as would vegetarianism and veganism. It would make our diets blander and it would make many things less accessible. There is no doubt the public eye is on the survival of bees, so hopefully the interest of governments like the European Union and the continued diligence of beekeepers allows bees to prosper in the future.

Barry B. Benson, protagonist of the Bee Movie. Photo from [models-resource.com](http://models-resource.com)



# Influential Inventors

Highlighting inventions made by teenagers!

By : Sophie Napolitano  
Bee #5; Writer Bee

May is recognized as International Inventor's Month. This month celebrates all of the innovation and creativity that is happening universally. There are so many inventions that we take for granted, and there are so many things still left to be discovered. You may think you're too young to be an inventor, but here are five inventions designed by teenagers! If you're inspired by these young minds, visit [www.popularmechanics.com](http://www.popularmechanics.com) to learn how you can become an inventor!

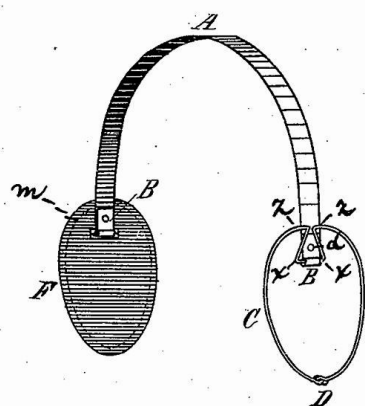


Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

## Fashion and Functionality

Greenwood created the earmuffs to wear while ice skating. Not only is it now used for athletic events, but it's a staple fashion piece for many during the winter.

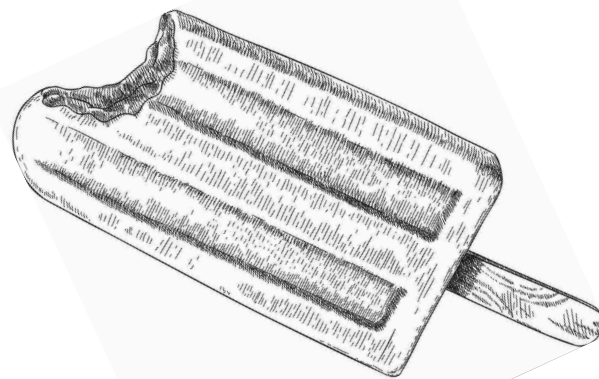
*Photo from smithsonianmag.com*

## The Popsicle

Eleven year-old Californian Frank Epperson accidentally invented the popsicle in 1905. One day, Epperson made himself a glass of soda, but left it out at night with the stirring stick still in the cup. Overnight the temperature dropped and ended up freezing this drink, creating the summertime snack that we love so much today. After this creation, Epperson began selling popsicles to his neighbors at a stand in front of his house. The local ice cream store was inspired by his idea, and the invention eventually spread worldwide.

## The Earmuffs

In 1873, Chester Greenwood invented the earmuffs at the age of fifteen. Greenwood was an avid ice skater from Maine and would often-times spend all day out skating. Unfortunately, he had very sensitive skin and would frequently return home with frostbitten ears. He was allergic to the wool used in normal hats, so he decided to ask his grandmother to sew flannel into two metal rings that would strap across his head onto his ears. At first, his friends laughed at this new headgear, but after seeing how functional it was, children began asking for their own pairs, and thus the earmuffs were born.



## Sweet Treat

Everyone loves popsicles, but did you know the original name was actually an "Epsicle" named after the inventor? It wasn't until Epperson had children who called him "Pop" that he coined the term popsicle.

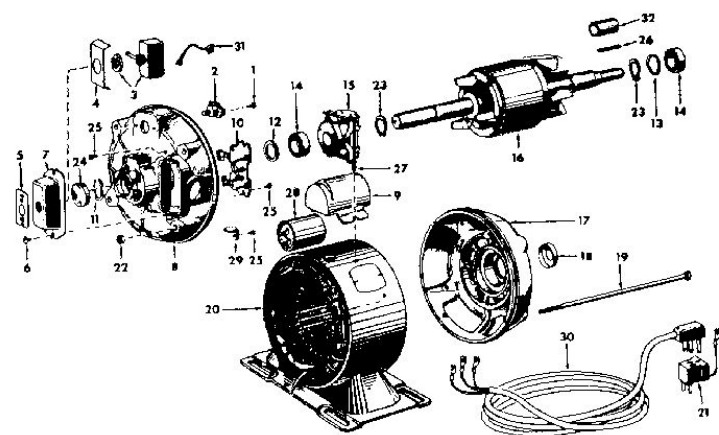
*Photo from canva.com*





## Supercapacitor Phone Charger

Eighteen year old Eesha Khare is just like all of us; she has a phone with a battery that dies too quickly. In 2016, as a high school student, Khare was very interested in energy and energy conservation, so she reached out to research labs in her area to learn more. After working with University of California, Santa Cruz for about a year, Khare was able to use nanotechnology<sup>1</sup> to create a supercapacitor<sup>2</sup> that was able to charge cell phone batteries in mere seconds. Google reached out to her in 2017 and is working to create a version that will eventually be available to the general public. Hopefully cell phone battery problems will soon be an issue of the past.



### Quick Charge

Pictured above is a diagram for Khare's phone charger. This device could easily fit in the palm of your hand!

*Photo provided from nunnovation.com*

<sup>1</sup> the study and application of extremely small things conducted at the nanoscale (one billionth of a meter)

<sup>2</sup> a high capacity device used to store an electric charge

## Braille

Louis Braille grew up in Paris and was completely blind by the time he was three. He was very passionate about subjects like math and music, but because of his disability, it was hard for him to learn. In 1824, when he was fifteen, he invented a system of reading and writing through feeling the words, allowing blind people to read. Each letter is composed of a combination of six possible points felt by the fingertips of the reader. Braille is now commonly used across the globe. There is even braille in our school on signs like "stairs" and "restroom."

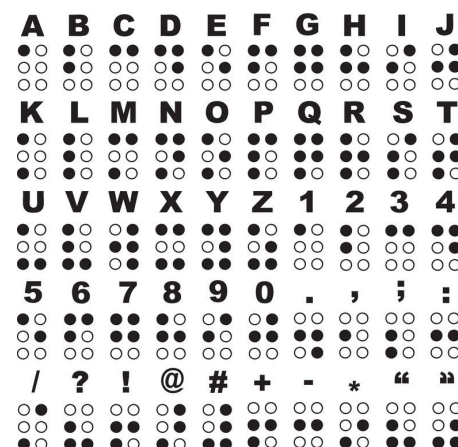
### Braille is

#### Everywhere

Take some time to look around and find braille in your daily life.

Braille is very common. It's on everything from bathroom signs to ATM keypads.

*Photo from  
vectorstock.com*



## Urine-Powered Energy Generator

In 2017, four teenagers from Nigeria, Duro-Aina Adebola, Akindele Abiola, Faleke Oluwatoyin, and Bello Eniola, were able to create a generator that uses urine to generate electricity. The idea behind this generator was that the urine would be converted into water, nitrogen, and hydrogen. By separating these chemicals, the teens were able to create a generator that uses hydrogen to make electricity. One liter of urine is able to produce six hours of electricity.



# BENEFITS OF GAMING

As we've progressed into the 21st century, we've seen the accessibility of video games rapidly increase. No longer are we forced to coordinate a time to hang out to play these games with each other; people can finally go on a multi-dimensional adventure in their own living room! This has allowed a multitude of games to spawn, mainly those that center along functioning as a team to accomplish a task. Although you may hear many people scream at each other trying to win a game of "League of Legends" (LoL) or "Counter-Strike: Global Offensive" (CS:GO), I've found that these new video games have helped to promote better communication and teamwork skills.

I've had a lot of experience the past four years with online gaming. The group I play with, known as the MWoF, Meat Wagon o' Fun, typically incorporates me into the CS:GO scene, where I've learned a lot about how to work with others to achieve our goal through a grueling one hour long match, each time. CS:GO simulates a high-profile mission assignment, where you have five players on a SWAT team try to stop five opposing players from performing nefarious deeds, such as planting a bomb or keeping someone hostage. Both teams purchase in game firearms via a circulating economy to stop the other. This situation lasts until someone wins 16 out of 30 rounds, or the game ties 15-15, and is available to be played on a whopping 11 (somewhat) balanced maps. This creates a scenario where every

## A Gamer's Perspective

By: Jessie M.  
Queen Bee/Editor  
in Chief



Dust II  
*Probably the most popular competitive Map played on CS:GO, Dust II is (arguably) the most even map in the game.*  
Photo from polygon.com



Teemo  
*Teemo is a small, rodent-like character In "League of Legends" that is very diverse. He can play basically anywhere, but is mainly used as a top laner.*  
Photo from riftherald.com



Crazy Antics  
*Another popular multiplayer game is "Duck Game", which allows you to play as one of four ducks performing crazy tricks in an attempt to win.*  
Photo from playlab.uta.fi

person on the team has to keep track of everyone else's money, skill with whatever weapon they use, how much each side has won (as there are monetary rewards and compensations depending on each), and map surroundings. Needless to say, things can get extremely complicated, ridiculously quickly.

This makes it a necessity to use clear verbal or written commands and directions with others in order to get everyone where they need to be for a round. No one can be some generalized figure on the playing field, everyone has to have a role. For example, in CS:GO you'll have the "sniper" or the "entry fragger", the guy that runs in before everyone else, and in LoL you'll have a top laner, a tank like character, as well as two bot laners, a support like role that not only heals the team, but allows them to see enemy positions. Communication goes fairly fast, as the game can change as soon as single death occurs. This makes it so you'll have one person barking commands, and the rest follow the general idea, making slight adjustments to compensate for the situation at hand. According to Matt Barr, Glasgow University lecturer, "Modern video games often require players to be adaptable and resourceful, and finding multiple ways of accomplishing a task. The way games are designed often encourages critical thinking and reflective learning." Promoting the idea that everyone has the capacity to be useful, no matter the scenario, video games are





becoming increasingly beneficial in teaching both older and younger audiences how to collaborate.

This isn't to say competitive video games aren't fun; there are a plethora of players out there that use video games as a platform to have fun and make friends. Some people make it a goal to use the most roundabout way to achieve their goal, leading to many unexpectedly funny times. "I love the jokes, the commentary, and the trash talking towards the other team," says fellow senior, Attilo C. Every new game is unique, and provides players with a chance to make more interesting circumstances. I personally think it's intriguing to find someone new that you can relate to over games, make a connection, and then when you feel comfortable, add them as a friend on the gaming service. It's not uncommon, and can lead to long lasting relationships. When asked if he's met any new friends through video games, Josh C. said, "Yes indeed, I met my man Adrian (follow him on Instagram @flipflopsnsocks)."



Inferno  
*This is another popular map in CS:GO, featuring a fun and Italian-based color scheme.*  
*Photo from redbull.com*



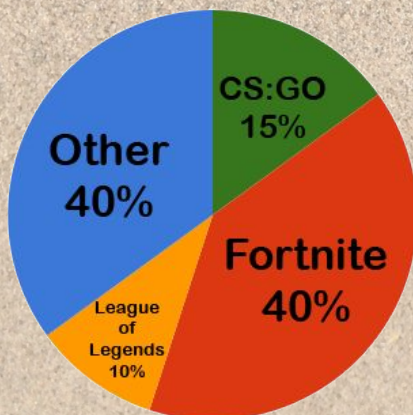
The Nexus  
*The main objective in League of Legends is to destroy your opponents' Nexus, which is this bright blue object.*  
*Photo from : leagueoflegendsaddicts.com*

Abby H. also said, "It's great to open up and use the internet to create friends and memories."

Video games now provide people with the chance to expand and meet new people. At the same time, they can further develop their communication skills. For instance, people are taught that their own role in a system is imperative, and that proper teamwork can accomplish any difficult task. These skills can be used in the future when at a job, or at a serious project in college. Video games have been instrumental in the modern day with teaching people new ways of interacting with each other.

"Modern video games often require players to be adaptable and resourceful, and finding multiple ways of accomplishing a task. The way games are designed often encourages critical thinking and reflective learning."

Video Games Alfred-Almond Students Frequently Play



I conducted a brief survey to see which games were the most played among Alfred-Almond Junior-Senior High School students, and unsurprisingly, Fortnite was extremely popular.





# YOUR GUIDE TO SUPERCROSS

By: **Matt Ingalls**  
Staff Writer

If you search anything about supercross or motocross you will most likely find names like Ricky Carmichael, Ryan Villopoto, James Stewart, and Ryan Dungey, some of the most successful riders that have ever competed. Everyone sees their success, but many don't know how they got to be so great at the sport. All of these riders began riding at a very very young age. Motocross isn't a cheap sport to participate in. The bike, the helmets, the gear, and the gas to go to the tracks is all very expensive. The parents of these riders had everything into their sons riding career early on in life, putting all of their money and time into it hoping that one day it would all pay off in a racing contract with a professional team. Some riders have made videos, and written books that tell their story.

To earn the chance at riding for a professional team you have to prove yourself as an amateur. All of these riders showed that they were dominant at a young age, and it carried through motocross and supercross. Motocross and supercross success comes from years of dedication in the youth. There are some risks that come with motocross and supercross, though. Riders often experience broken bones and many other injuries. It is one of the most physically demanding sports that you can participating in. So, if your looking for a thrill and a chance at the pros, this is what you will need to get there.



**James Stewart**  
Professional rider James Stewart waves to the crowd before his supercross race *Photo from Youtube*



**Ricky Carmichael**  
Carmichael has been classified as the greatest mx rider of all time *Photo from Youtube*



**Ryan Villopoto**  
Villopoto won four straight Monster Energy Supercross titles, three straight 250 AMA motocross titles and two 450 AMA motocross titles. *Photo from Youtube*



**Ryan Dungey**  
Dungey won four supercross championships and three motocross championships before retiring at age 27. *Photo from Youtube*





The steps for getting to the top of the moto world.

### Step

1

You're going to need a racing bike if you want to race motocross. Yamaha, Honda, KTM, Kawasaki, and Suzuki are the very popular makes. Husqvarna is also an upcoming make as well. You can get a used race bike for prices that range around \$2,500 to a brand new bike around \$10,000. You can get them from individual owners or from the maker themselves.

### Step

2

You're going to want to go to some training camps to learn the basics of motocross like how to set up for jumps and landing jumps. Some of your local tracks (names in step three) offer riding schools that you can enroll in. They are around \$150 per riding lesson depending on where you go for the class. To do this, you will need to buy racing gear such as a helmet, pants, jersey, boots, gloves, goggles, and a chest protector.

### Step

3

If you want to have a career in motocross you're going to have to perform well as an amateur. This involves winning races at your local tracks. Around here, the local tracks are Miles Mountain MX in Elkland PA, Area 51 MX in Batavia NY, and Silver Springs Moto Park in Silver Springs, NY. You shouldn't expect to win your first few races. Motocross isn't a sport that you're just going to be good at right from the beginning. It's a very physically demanding sport that you will have to get in shape for and get comfortable with your bike and tracks. Lots of running and balance exercises are some things that you can start with.

### Step

4

After you start experiencing success at your local tracks, you are going to want to travel to larger, more challenging tracks like the ones the pros race on and race in the amateur races. Tracks that the pros race on that are somewhat local are Unadilla MX in New Berlin, NY, and High Point National near Mount Morris, PA. You are going to want to race in the AMA Amateur National Motocross Championship. This is the biggest amateur motocross race in the United States. This is where the best amateurs race for their spot in the pros. To get into the championship, you must first finish high in the area qualifier, then in the regional qualifier. To find more information about these races, click this link <https://mxsports.com/events>

### Step

5

You're also going to need sponsors if you want to be successful. You get sponsors by racing well and winning. These sponsors pay you to use their brand or have it on your bike. If you don't obtain sponsors you may not be able afford the traveling, bikes, parts and all the other things that come with racing motocross. Your bike will most likely be the most expensive thing, but you have to consider transportation, gas, race fees, memberships, and all the other things that you have to pay for. Popular sponsors include fuel companies, tire companies, and energy drink companies such as Monster, Rockstar and Redbull.



#### Top Brands

These are the bikes that are well known in the motocross and supercross world *Photo from Vital MX and srvhs.org*



# Boredom Busters

By  
Samantha  
Quick  
Editor in Chief

Summer has two sides, the fun outdoors on hot days, and the days indoor during storms. This requires you to find something to do inside and out to bust some boredom. Here are a couple of ideas. These ideas are also good for people who are babysitting this summer with younger kids.



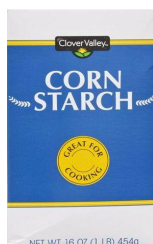
## OUTDOOR: Chalk Bombs



This activity is a fun way to color the sidewalk and still have fun. The old way of coloring with chalk on the sidewalk has been improved with chalk bombs.

Materials: (prices from [Dollar General](#), click price for direct link)

- ☐ Water balloons ([\\$1.00](#))
- ☐ Empty pump action soap dispenser ([\\$1.00](#))
- ☐ Corn starch ([\\$1.00](#))
- ☐ Water (tap)
- ☐ Food coloring ([\\$2.70](#))
- ☐ Sidewalk chalk ([\\$1.00](#))



### Steps:

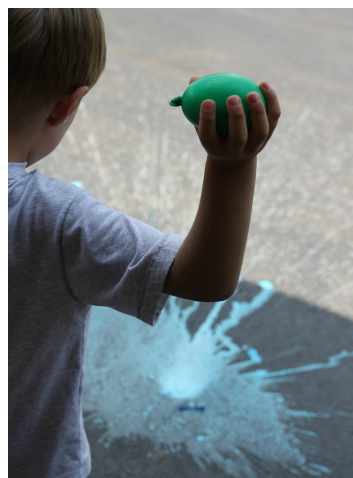
1. Mix **one cup of water** with **two tablespoons of cornstarch** in the empty soap dispenser. (You can add food coloring to the substance now or wait till later.)
2. Fill the water balloons with the mixture until they are an acceptable size to you. (Now you can add the food coloring if you want.)
3. Have the kid(s) draw targets on the sidewalk, and bombs away!

### Fun Time Tips:

- Make the color of the chalk a surprise to the kids
- Draw some hard, medium, and easy targets beforehand



**Bombs Away**  
*Targets are not needed but are a fun way to engage their brains.*  
*Photo from parents.com*



**Color Time Fun**  
*Let those colorful chalk bombs fly. They are a good way to color your sidewalk in splatter patterns that otherwise would be hard to get.*  
*Photo from readingconfetti.com*





# INDOOR: Toilet Roll Racers

Creativity has the most potential to soar during the summer. Help that occur by making these simple racers that can be raced anywhere you want, indoors and out.

Materials: (prices from [Dollar General](#), click price for direct link)

- ☐ Toilet paper rolls or paper towel rolls
- ☐ Acrylic paint in desired colors (\$[3.75](#))(8 ct.)
- ☐ Paint brushes (\$[3.00](#))(6 ct.)
- ☐ Separate piece of cardboard
- ☐ A knife or scissors to cut the cardboard
- ☐ Ruler (\$[0.50](#))
- ☐ Small prong fasteners



## Steps:

1. Paint the rolls in the desired colors. Be sure that the total paint coverage is completely opaque or the car could look a little odd.
2. Measure out circles on the separate cardboard sheet with a minimum diameter of 4 cm. Cut out the circles, making sure there are enough for your cars. You may want to do this step beforehand. (HINT: multiply your number of rolls by four to figure out how many wheels you need)
3. Paint the circles any color you would like, but black is possibly the best idea, because black matches with any color and resemble real life tires.
4. Cut out a small square on the top of the toilet paper roll to fold back like in picture 3 below.
5. Paint desired pattern on the roll using whatever colors the kids want. This is where the most creativity occurs.
6. Assemble the wheels on the car using the fasteners.
7. Violá you are done! Now race the cars and see who wins.



**Step #2 and #3**  
The wheels below are a good example of what they should look like when completed. Of course, the wheels may not be a perfect circle.  
*Photo from handimania.com*



**Racers Start Your Engines!**  
Now race your toilet roll racers and see which one wins. You can make it a fun game by providing a reward for the winner of the race.  
*Photo from handimania.com*

**Step #1**  
Opaque coverage means that you are unable to see through the paint. The picture above is a great example.  
*Photo from handimania.com*



**Step #4, #5, and #6**  
The fasteners can be seen in the middle of the wheel that is then attached to the designed car bodies.  
*Photo from handimania.com*





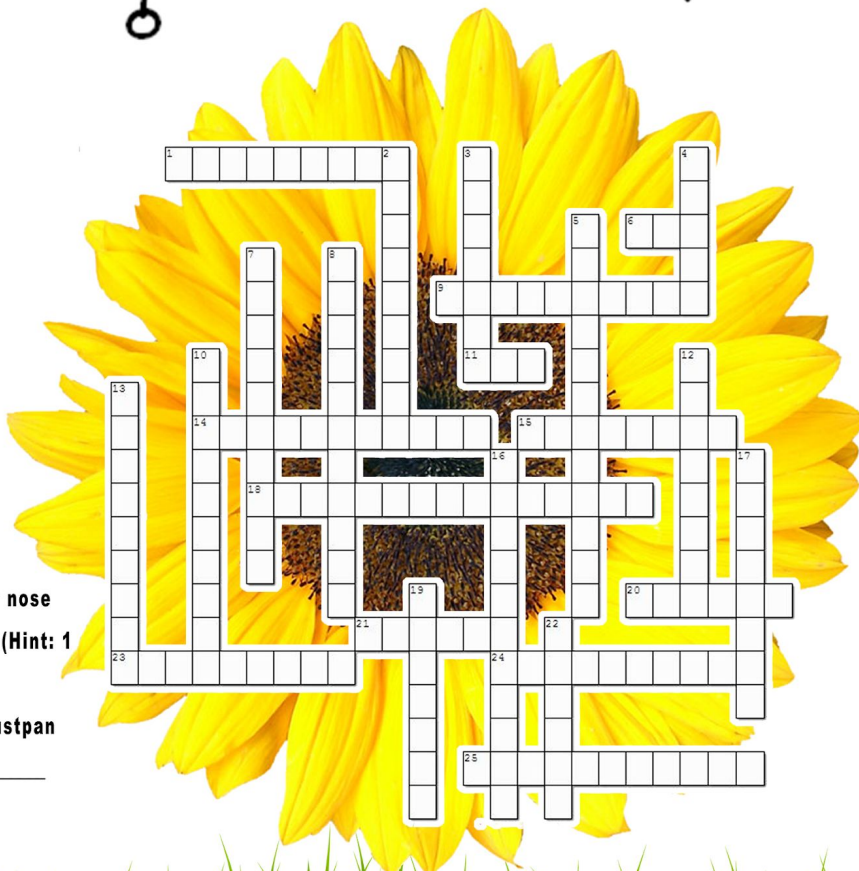
# Games Page

## Spring Crossword Puzzle



### Down

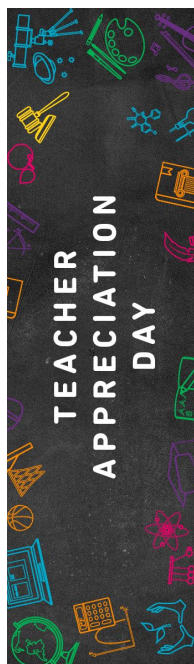
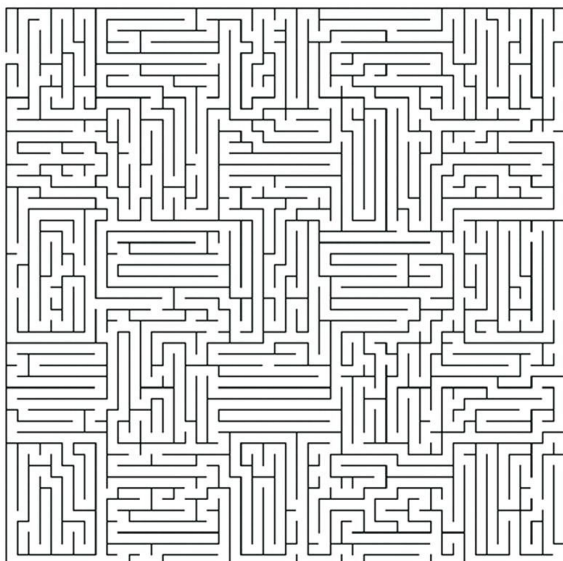
2. Flower that follows the sun
3. Rabbits eat these
4. Floppy and hops
5. Basketball (2 words)
7. Mom (2 words)
8. Dance (2 words)
10. Hunt for these (2 words)
12. On this holiday, Jews go without bread
13. Coughing, sneezing, stuffy nose
16. Girls wear these (2 words) (Hint: 1 piece, 2 piece)
17. Grab your mop and your dustpan
19. April showers bring May \_\_\_\_\_
22. Holiday



### Across

1. Footwear used for the beach
6. WARNING: May cause skin cancer!
9. Holy Thursday, \_\_\_\_\_, Holy Saturday (2 words)
11. Freshmen and sophomores take the PSAT, while juniors and seniors stress over this
14. A blessing to students (2 words)
15. Before seniors graduate, they go to this (Hint: Bash)
18. Time to save time (2 words)
20. Jump into \_\_\_\_\_
21. With this in the air, you'll start to sneeze
23. Used to protect the skin
24. Cap and gown
25. Animals come out of this deep sleep

### Use the Force to solve this Maze #Maythe4thBwithU



The mystery staff member from pages 4-5 is... Mr. Bialecki!  
Photo courtesy of Morgan Giglio





# Acknowledgements

If you would like to make an acknowledgement for the next issue, please contact a member of *The Observer* staff or fill out this [form](#).

Thank you **AP teachers** for all the hard work you've done in your classes!  
-All of the AP students

Thank you **Miss Carretto and the Class of 2019** for making prom an awesome time!  
-All of the people who went to prom

Thank you to the **Senior Trip Chaperones** for making the trip safe and fun!  
-The Seniors

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-Mr. Mac

Thank you **Mr. Bialecki** for his heroic behavior!  
-Brady H.

Thank you **Kilroy** for all his determination and fluffy fur!  
-Amber W.

Thank you **AA's Music Department** for taking all of their students to see *Phantom of the Opera*!  
-All of the music students

