

# Our Opinions

## IS THE DRESS CODE FAIR?

By: Warren Davidson

Most students at Albritton Middle School think that the dress code is too strict. I think that the dress code is a little strict but not too strict. The most debatable thing is the belts in the dress code policy. A lot of people forget to wear belts anyway, so in my opinion, belts should just be removed from the dress code entirely. The school is also having trouble with people not tucking in their shirts. A way to solve this would be to just remove tucking in the shirts altogether. It would increase the comfort of the dress code and it would also solve a minor school problem. This would also decrease the amount of people breaking rules, resulting in a more positive school environment, which is what the PBIS thing is going for anyway. Lightening up the dress code can benefit not only the students, but also the teachers.



### What do you think?

## STELLARIS, A GAME OF CONQUEST AND WONDER!

By: Muhammadali Rajabi

Explore a vast galaxy full of wonder! *Stellaris* is an evolution of the grand strategy genre with space exploration at its core.

Featuring deep strategic gameplay, a rich and enormously diverse selection of alien races and emergent storytelling, *Stellaris* has engaging challenging gameplay that rewards interstellar exploration as you traverse, discover, interact and learn more about the multitude of species you will encounter during your travels.

Etch your name across the cosmos by forging a galactic empire; colonizing remote planets and integrating alien civilizations. You can choose to be pacifist or militarist; loving aliens or hating aliens and much more; all to achieve galactic supremacy. Will you expand through war alone or walk the path of diplomacy to achieve your goals?

Due to its amazing replayability and its diversified storylines, events, and a multitude of game-enhancing mods, I would give this 6 out of 5 paw prints.



## LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

By: Keara Brennan

In 1904, a young boy by the name of Bruno came home from school to see his maid packing up because his father got a job promotion and the family decided to move to Berlin. Across the back of their house, there was the Auschwitz Death Camp. Behind the long wired fence, there were young and elderly men. The people on the other end were all wearing striped pajamas. This is the story of Bruno in [The Boy in the Striped Pajamas](#) by John Boyne.

Bruno would visit this camp almost everyday and he met a young boy named Schmuell to whom he brought food and games. Then one day he asked for spare pajamas. He put them on and crawled under the fence. It felt different. You will have to watch the movie to find out what happens next.

I think that others should definitely watch this movie. It teaches you the dangers you could get into if you are not certain of something. If I had to rate this movie from one to five I would give it a four and a half. It was depressing and serious. It also shows what happened at this Auschwitz Death Camp and about a child's life in this period of time.



# Paw Prints

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## A GREAT EVENT FOR THE QUARTER

By: Joshua Watson

The students of Albritton Middle School had been waiting for the PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support) event which was on Friday, February 8. The students had been collecting stamps to reach the goal of 166 stamps or more during the qualification period. On the day of the event, the eligible students could participate in a dress down day. During the actual event, students choose to either watch a movie and have a snack or play competitive games to win prizes. There were several movies playing and the games were Chair Basketball, Race to the Middle, and the Egg Relay. Students formed teams to rotate through all of the games. Chair Basketball challenged students to score points while sitting in chairs. During Race to the Middle, teams ran to the middle of the cafeteria competing with the best joke, best team dance, and so on. The egg relay was a bit of a challenge due to the wind, but students raced backwards, three-legged, and some even participated in a Bird Box relay. All in all, it was an afternoon of fun!



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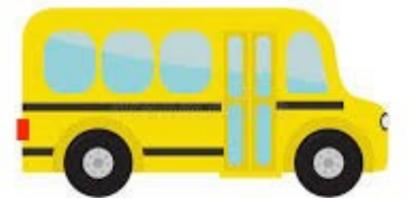
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## EXPLORATION OF E.E. SMITH

By: Dylan Wells

The eighth graders of Albritton Middle School went on a field trip to E.E Smith High School to experience a high school campus and see what the high school offers first hand. When the eighth graders arrived at E.E Smith, they first went into the auditorium where some of the teachers and students did a presentation and talked to us about all of the classes that E.E Smith offers. Then some of the JROTC students came in and told the students everything they would do in the JROTC program. After that, the fire academy students came into the auditorium and showed the eighth graders a demonstration on how to help

a person that has lost consciousness. Next, the choir, orchestra, dance, and marching band performed. The teachers then asked trivia about everything they shared. Lastly, the eighth graders were separated into groups for a tour around the school.



# GIRLS BASKETBALL COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER

By: Alanis Sanchez

Girls' basketball is a sport that every girl can participate in even if you do not know how to play. James Naismith invented basketball in 1891. Basketball is one of the most practiced sports in the world with more than 450 million players. Albritton Middle School won two games against Spring Lake and Hope Mills. Cerenity Ballard, one of the team members, said they won because they knew how to communicate with each other. The girls are like a family and the family stays together in the good times and the bad times and if they lost games it was a good way for them to see the mistakes they made and learn from them. Good job girls!!!



# PENNY WARS SMACK DOWN

By: Mackenzie Sims

PTA declared a Penny War on Albritton students! The rules were that by adding pennies and dollar bills to your grades' jugs, you increased your grades' score (total amount of money). By adding silver coins to a rival grades' jugs, the rival's score decreased. The winning grade level of the Penny Wars won an ice cream party. The results of the Penny War were surprising! The seventh graders brought a lot of bags of coins and put them in the other grades' jugs. The seventh-grade teachers helped, too. For a long time, the war was very close between the seventh and eighth grades. The eighth grade ended up with 397 points, but the seventh graders blew it out of the water with 5,319 points for the win!



# KIDS OF THE NILE

By: Jada Halsey

The sixth graders have traveled back in time to 332 B.C. Egypt. They came back with many interesting facts and pieces of information. The students learned that the Nile River is 4,160 miles long and it flows into the Mediterranean Sea. Egyptian foods like kushari, mah-shi, shawarma, macaroni bé-chamel, and molokhia. They learned about all the pyramids, including Giza and the process of mummification. The sixth graders said they liked learning about the history and learning about all of Egypt's features. Other students said they would like to try Egyptian cuisine.



# IMAGINE NOT BEING ABLE TO IMAGINE

By: Eleanor Sullivan

Imagine an apple. This apple is perfect. Its red and it has no bruises at all. Now close your eyes and imagine that apple. On a scale from 1 to 10, how clear is the image you see? This may seem like a silly question but for many, myself included, we see nothing. Our mind's eye is blind. This condition is known as phantasies and it was first proposed by a scientist by the name of Francis Galton in 1880. It was widely ignored by the science community until 2005 when a college professor named Adam Zeman was approached by a man who lost the ability to visualize after surgery. Soon after, Zeman discovered this, he was approached by many people who claimed to have this condition. I never knew phantasies was a thing until November when I came across a YouTube video regarding this topic and I was shocked. All my life I never knew that when I was told to visualize something, most people actually could see something, but I could not, all I saw was nothingness. I found this super interesting, but I was also kind of jealous. I felt deprived of something that sounds so wonderful. I asked all of my friends about this and they all seemed to be able to visualize all of these incredible things. One of my friends asked if I could imagine things and I am able to,

I just can't see a physical image of what I imagine. For instance, if I was told to imagine my mother's face, I could think about it, but I wouldn't be able to actually see it. After finding out about this, I started to think about things that I had never thought about in the past. When you are told to count sheep, are you supposed to actually see sheep? When you imagine what a character in a book looks like, do you actually see it? These things fascinated me and I encourage you to research this topic to learn more and if you can visualize things don't take it for granted because it's a true gift.



# ARTFUL ADVICE FOR BLOOMING ARTISTS

By: Lillian Christiansen

**-YOU SHOULD NEVER COMPARE YOUR ART TO OTHERS**

This isn't always basic knowledge for many new artists, but if you constantly compare your art to other people's, you won't be able to get anywhere. Nobody can master a skill in one day, and many people with amazing art skills started off just like you might have.

**-EXPERIMENT**

If you're starting off in art, you might not be comfortable with the way you draw or the mediums you use. Always experiment with new things and find what you think is right for you.

**-PRACTICE**

If you want to develop your art style and get better at art in general, you need to practice, even if it's for a couple of minutes a day. Make little doodles or big drawings until you're confident enough to try to make a big art piece.

**-HAVE FUN**

This is the most important rule of art, always enjoy yourself.



Sixth grade science students are planting veggies and flowers in fertilized soil and in non-fertilized soil. Lots of green thumbs!

# The Spotlight's on You!

## FOLLOWING THE PATH OF LITERATURE

By: Jessica Pule

Mrs. Bruscano is the school's Literature Enrichment teacher for all grades. Her passion for teaching all started with her mom. Her mother has been teaching for 34 years. She grew up around the teaching environment with a desire to follow in her mother's footsteps. This is now her 12th year of teaching. If she wasn't teaching, she would most likely be a pediatrician. However, she eventually found out that science wasn't her strongest suit. Her favorite part about teaching others is being able to share her love of books with students. Her dream vacation would be a trip to Bora Bora and would she probably live somewhere in Europe if she had the choice. Keeping students focused is quite difficult. She tries her best to find something they're interested in and engage them in learning. Mrs. Bruscano also looks for hardworking, motivating, and willing students in her classroom. She spends most of her free time with her children and of course, reading books.



## MRS. ELLIOTT

By: Roland Purrugannan

Mrs. Elliott is the seventh-grade math teacher at Albritton. She teaches only accelerated math, which is more ability-based than a regular math course. Students are tested to see which course they are best-suited for and then they are placed according to their abilities. In Mrs. Elliott's time off, she likes going to the beach. The beach she would go to is anywhere in the Dominican Republic. Mrs. Elliot does not play sports, although when she is at home, she watches sports with her kids.



## WHO IS MRS. POZ-ROB?

By: Ana de Nicolas

Mrs. Poz-Rob is a science teacher who has been working in Albritton Middle School since Aug. 2005. Mrs. Poz-Rob likes having the opportunity to teach military kids and watching kids learn and using their skills. She has always enjoyed the world, nature, and its wonders. That's why she became a science teacher. Mrs. Poz-Rob wanted to be a teacher since kindergarten. The university she went to is Framingham State College where she received her Masters Degree and her undergraduate degree. The biggest problem for Mrs. Poz-Rob is trying to balance school work with home life, but her passion and dedication makes her an amazing teacher! Everyone should learn to love science like Mrs. Poz-Rob who said, "Science happens every day in our lives and prepares you for the future. Science is all around us in one way or another."



## UN POCO DE HISTORIA SOBRE LAS MOLAS DE PANAMÁ

By: Zulyann Velez



In the 8th-grade Spanish class, students were working on Panama Molas. The Panama Molas is originally a piece of art from the Kuna culture. The Panama molas are hand made pieces of culture. People started making molas at a very young age and it's a way to relieve stress. To make a Panama Mola, get a piece of any type of material and start sewing with different types of colors. You can make any design, but most of the time the center piece is an animal or flower and around it, there are shapes, stripes, and patterns. In the classroom, the students made the molas by getting a black piece of construction paper and making their center piece and patterns with different types of vibrant colors. Doing this project taught the students to learn about a different culture.

## MOLDING AMERICAN HISTORY

By: Kaleigh Murrill

If you're in the eighth grade, you know that you're working on the Landmark Supreme Court Project. The project explains historic decisions made by the Supreme Court. Some cases include U.S vs. Nixon, Brown vs. The Board of Education, and Loving vs. Virginia. The aftermath of the U.S. vs. Nixon case limited the power of the president after

the Watergate Scandal. The Brown vs. The Board of Education is really important in history because it was the case that overturned the "separate but equal" school settings. The Loving vs. Virginia case made it possible for interracial marriage to be legal. All of these cases made an impact on American history and effect our world and society today.



## IT'S LIT!

By: Brady Mullins

Literature Enrichment (Lit Enrich) is a class where you read and discuss books. After you finish reading your book, you develop a project. You have many options for projects in which you can express yourself such as creating a movie poster, a game board, a cos-

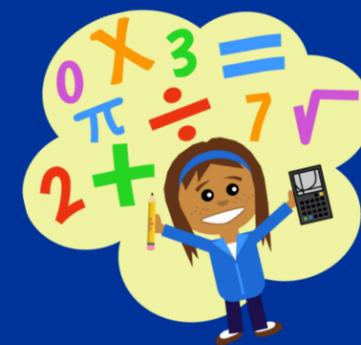
tume design, a character speech, an interview, or a music playlist. Students do a lot more than reading in Lit Enrich class. It's like a of book club, but for middle school kids where you talk about the characters, the events, and the problems in the book. You also get

snacks! Mrs. Bruscano allows a lot of freedom when students are working on projects. Once the students are finished with their projects, they can showcase it for the rest of the class.



## LET'S GO MATH!

By: Conner Kirkpatrick



Ms. Luedtke has been the advisor for MathCounts for one year. She chose to sponsor MathCounts to introduce students to math concepts they may have never been introduced to and to give them a chance to compete with other students. MathCounts is a competition between multiple schools on multiple types of math topics. Each school is allowed to bring seven students to the competition. On February 16th, our school went to their first regional competition. During the competition, the first round is the Sprint. Sprint is a round in which a student answers the most of thirty questions they can in forty minutes. Next is the target round. For this round, students answer two questions in six minutes and there are four sets of two questions. Third is the team round in which the students compete in groups of four answering ten questions in thirty minutes. Finally, the competition ends with the countdown round in which a student from each school gets placed in a bracket to see which student won. Our mathcounts team did not place well since their team was all 6th grade and a seventh grader up against an all eighth grade team.

# Superb Scholars

By: Cerenity Ballard



Eleanor Sullivan



Jakayla Martin



Elanieta Tamanalevu



Jessica Pule



Zofia Osterman



Rachel Pule



Maddy Rudd



Sydney Britt

## What characteristics do you have that qualified you for the Student of the Month?

Rachel Pule: My personality and helping others.  
Sydney Britt: Being nice to people and helping others.  
Zofia Osterman: Helpfulness  
Elanieta Tamanalevu: Cooperation and being a teammate  
Maddy Rudd: Kindness, caring and helpful.  
Eleanor Sullivan: I'm a pretty nice person, creative, helpful and I work hard.  
Jessica Pule: I'm hard working, I pay attention in class, and I help others with their work.  
Jakayla Martin: I am a nice person and help others out.

## What activities do you participate in afterschool?

Rachel Pule: N/A  
Sydney Britt: Basketball  
Zofia Osterman: Odyssey of the Mind, girls soccer, competition cheerleading  
Elanieta Tamanalevu: Volleyball  
Maddy Rudd: Volunteering  
Eleanor Sullivan: Musical theater  
Jessica Pule: NJHS  
Jakayla Martin: Softball

## What is your dream vacation?

Rachel Pule: Going to a quiet, peaceful beach.  
Sydney Britt: California  
Zofia Osterman: On a cruise to the Bahamas.  
Elanieta Tamanalevu: Hawaii  
Maddy Rudd: Germany  
Eleanor Sullivan: England or Scotland  
Jessica Pule: Somewhere on a tropical island.  
Jakayla Martin: Hawaii

## What is your motivation in school?

Rachel Pule: To make my mom happy.  
Sydney Britt: To make good grades.  
Zofia Osterman: My amazing teachers.  
Elanieta Tamanalevu: To make good grades.  
Maddy Rudd: To make my parents proud.  
Eleanor Sullivan: To be successful when I grow up because I want to do good in life and succeed.  
Jessica Pule: To make my parents proud.  
Jakayla Martin: To make good grades.



Garrett Hartley



Kaleb Ball



Lee McMooain



Keegan McFadden



Talon Alexander



Kayden Wendorf



Riley Lewis

## What characteristics do you have that qualified you for the Student of the Month?

Lee McMooain: Kindness  
Kaleb Ball: Kindness and respectfulness  
Talon Alexander: Kindness and I care a lot  
Logan Costandse: Respect  
Garrett Hartley: Honesty and kindness  
Keegan McFadden: Kindness and hard-working  
Kayden Wendorf: Paying attention in class  
Riley Lewis: Kindness

## What activities do you participate in afterschool?

Lee McMooain: Mathcounts and Tolson  
Kaleb Ball: Football  
Talon Alexander: NJHS  
Logan Costandse: Lacrosse and Track  
Garrett Hartley: Baseball and football  
Keegan McFadden: Jazz Band  
Kayden Wendorf: Soccer  
Riley Lewis: Baseball

## What is your dream vacation?

Kaleb Ball: Oklahoma  
Talon Alexander: Australia  
Logan Costandse: Hawaii  
Garrett Hartley: Island of Fiji  
Keegan McFadden: Australia  
Riley Lewis: Hawaii

## What is your motivation in school?

Lee McMooain: Good grades and showing my parents I can do good in school  
Kaleb Ball: To get better grades  
Talon Alexander: To go to college  
Logan Costandse: To get good grades  
Garrett Hartley: My parents  
Keegan McFadden: So I can make something out of myself  
Kayden Wendorf: To make my parents proud and get good grades  
Riley Lewis: Getting good grades

