PONSONBY INT

The Ponsonby Times

WELCOME TO THE SECOND EDITION OF THE PONSONBY TIMES FOR 2026

INTERVIEW WITH MR. BENNIE

Hello, we're journalists from the Ponsonby Times newspaper team, here with Mr. Bennie. If it's alright with you, we'd like to ask you a few questions about your trip.

Omeeshya – First of all, could you please introduce yourself to our readers? Who are you and what is your job at Ponsonby Intermediate?
Mr. Bennie – My name is Mr. Bennie. I am the deputy principal. This is my 20th year at Ponsonby Intermediate School. I have taught PE, Health and English, also I was once a sports coordinator.
Vyga – On your trip, where did you go?
Mr. Bennie - So I went to 25 different countries in Asia and Europe, and also a couple of countries in North Africa.
Omeeshya - Of everywhere you went, where was your favourite, and where would you recommend for potential trips of our readers?
Mr. Bennie - I recommend Prague, Croatia, and Iceland because of their beautiful landscapes.
Vyga - Along the way, I'm sure you saw some pretty cool things. Please tell us one sight that really stood out for you.
Mr. Bennie - For me, it would be the Douro Valley in Portugal because of its really beautiful landscape and scenery.
Omeeshya - Next, I think all the foodies out there would love to know: did you eat any cultural food on your trip, and if so, please tell us what?
Mr. Bennie - Tagine from Morocco. Vietnamese food was my highlight, particularly the rolls, and some of my favourite food was from Greece, especially Galo.
Vyga - I'm sure it wasn't all smooth sailing throughout your whole trip. What was one mishap or misfortune that occurred along the way?
Mr. Bennie - We almost missed our flight from Madrid to the UK. We got there at the last minute, so we tried to avoid going on flight but instead went on ferries.
Omeeshya - Even though you weren't at school, was there anything you learned while you were away?
Mr. Bennie - I learnt that Europe had a really rich history and that there were a lot of museums.
Vyga - Finally, what did you miss most about New Zealand while you were overseas?
Mr. Bennie - I missed my family, and I also missed all the people at Ponsonby Intermediate as well as the routine of being at school.
By: Omeeshya, Vyga, Delilah and Ada

WHICH FICTIONAL CHARACTER WOULD MAKE THE WORST TEACHER?

What fictional character would be the worst teacher? Now, what you all are thinking is "Emme, you're so stupid! It's obviously Ms Trunchbull from Matilda!" like, come on, but I think there are much worse options.

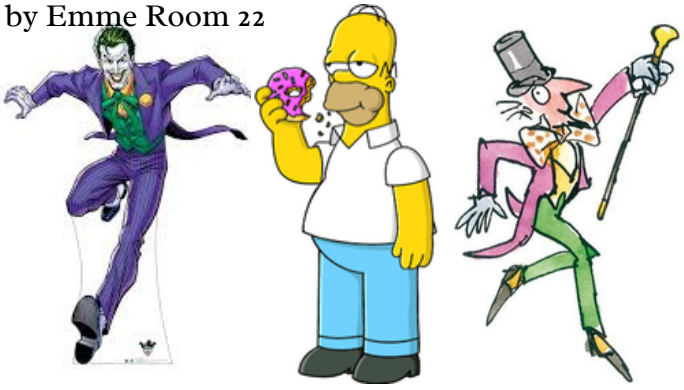
My first one is the Joker from Batman. He would ignore all the kids, steal the chemicals and probably set the school on fire. If he did choose to teach us, he would ignore the curriculum and turn us into his mini army, but it would be kinda cool to fight Batman.

My next option is Homer Simpson from The Simpsons. Let's be honest, he would fall asleep at his desk, steal our lunches especially and make the cafeteria only sell pink donuts.

Willy Wonka from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory: imagine the first day of school, he put us on a bus to the chocolate factory with unlimited chocolate and turned us into Oompa Loompas but we would get so sick of chocolate we would never eat it again.

Now, after that, I think we owe Ms. Trunchbull an apology. So who are you hiring?

by Emme Room 22



NEW TIGER CAT SPECIES HAS JUST BEEN DISCOVERED IN BOLIVIA FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER A CENTURY!

A new species of wild cat has just been discovered for the first time in over 100 years.

This new species only has 1 known individual who has been nicknamed "Tigrino". This new discovery dates back to 2016, when local resident Nor Yungas took Tigrino in after discovering him in a Bolivian forest, thinking he was a domesticated, stray kitten. Nor Yungas cared for and nurtured Tigrino before realizing he was a wild animal and should be transferred into a wildlife sanctuary. After arriving at the sanctuary, researchers decided to analyse the DNA structure of Tigrino and other tiger cat species and found Tigrino not only to look different than other tiger cats but also that Tigrino was a whole new species. It's amazing how so many animal species are undiscovered, and we don't even have to go into places like the ocean to find them.

-Casey Room 23





WHY ARE SOME PEOPLE LEFT HANDED?

Why are some people left handed?

Only about 10% to 12% of the world's population are left handed. This means about approximately 800 million people in the world are left handed, compared to 7.4 billion people who are right handed. So, why *are* some people left handed?



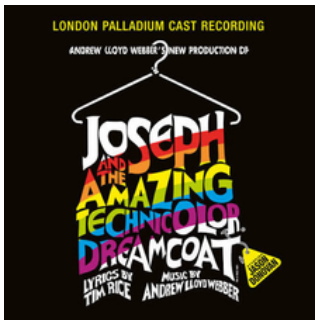
The roughly 800 million people who are left handed are left handed because:

Left handed-ness often runs in the family. Your brain is split into two parts, the left, and the right. If you are left handed, then the right side of your brain would be much stronger than the left, as the right hemisphere controls the left side of your body.

Being left or right handed mainly depends on your genes, but it doesn't guarantee which hand you will use. There is also an International Left-Handers Day, on August 13th , but there is no international right-handers day.

Dhanya Room 15

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT REVIEW



Summary: A dreamer named Joseph who was enslaved, brought to jail, and is promoted to financial advisor and right hand of the Pharaoh because of his talent to interpret dreams.

Joseph comes from the Bible book of Genesis. This musical accurately tells the story of Joseph without being too over the top. Many Catholic schools have learnt from this musical due to the fact that the musical used to be fifteen minutes long.



This musical is a 9.5/10 for me, the outifts, colours and story-telling is amazing but the musical isn't that memorable compared to other musicals. The harmonies in each song are fabulous and the characterisations are immaculate! I recommend to watch the show as it is available for free on Youtube. Fun Fact: I professionally performed with adults in Q Theatre! The cast included Patrick Kelly, an infamous vocal coach in NZ, Elektra Shock and Anita Wiglit from RuPaul's Drag Race, my musical theatre teachers from LnR productions and many more talented individuals. This musical absolutely blew me away with the costumes, lighting, and acting. My time with the cast during the 17 show week period was amazing, even though I only did eleven shows. I was a part of the kids choir who was hand selected by the production and did multiple songs and background and vocals. At first I knew NOTHING about this musical, maybe a few lyrics in some songs but thats about it. I knew I was going to absolutely adore these songs and cast! I truly hope my opinion will make you consider trying this musical out! If it doesn't, oh well, you're missing out!



By Alexine Room23

HOROSCOPES

BROUGHT TO YOU BY *COSMIC COLLINS*

(DISCLAIMER: COSMIC COLLINS IS NOT LIABLE FOR ANY BAD THINGS THAT HAPPEN, HOWEVER, VERY HAPPY TO TAKE CREDIT FOR ANY GOOD THINGS)



DECEMBER 22–JANUARY 19

Read more books.



APRIL 20–MAY 20

STOP PICKING YOUR NOSE. EW!



AUGUST 23–SEPTEMBER 22

You're perfect. Don't change a thing!



MAY 21–JUNE 21

Dance like nobody is watching! They probably are but who cares?



OCTOBER 24–NOVEMBER 21

I dare you to have a screen-free day this weekend!



JANUARY 20–FEBRUARY 18

Wear socks in your shoes. It's gross if you don't. Everyone around you will thank you for it.



JUNE 22–JULY 22

Do you like spicy food? If not, start small and build a tolerance to it. One day you could really impress everyone with how spicy the food is that you can eat!



SEPTEMBER 23–OCTOBER 23

You should probably do your christmas shopping now. You think you're going to get it done in time but you'll put it off, and put it off and suddenly it's December 25th.



FEBRUARY 19–MARCH 20

Try food that you've never had before. It'll be delicious and you never know, it could be your new favourite!



JULY 23–AUGUST 22

Take an umbrella everywhere with you. You never know if it'll start raining cats and dogs.



NOVEMBER 22–DECEMBER 21

You need a pet rabbit. That is all.



MARCH 21–APRIL 19

Go out of your way to help someone. It'll brighten their day and yours!

STRANGE FESTIVALS

LA TOMATINA-SPAIN

Thousands of people gather to throw more than 120 overipe tomatoes in a massive empty street



BATTLE OF THE ORANGES-ITALY

Italy's largest anual food fight, celibrating the 12th century civic rebellion, they use oranges instead of rocks.



AIR GUITAR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - FINLAND

Contestants from around the globe play invisible guitars with more energy than you could imagine!

By Romy Roo 22 :)

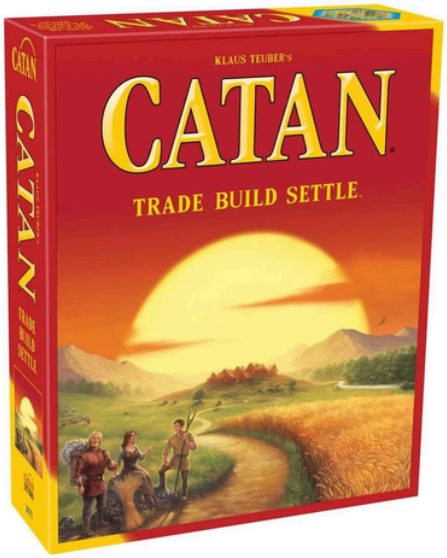


COOKING OR SELLING

By Thomas
Room 23







Catan is an awesome board game with more versions than you can count where you try to build and expand your kingdom until you have 10 victory points which you get settlements and cities to win. To build things, you need to save up materials which you acquire each turn depending on the number that is rolled. If it's your turn, you can also offer to trade materials with other players. Another thing you can buy with your resources is development cards which allow you to do things like gain a victory point so you get closer to winning or build roads so you can build more settlements. Finally, there are bonus cards, if you have one, you gain 2 victory points. An example of a bonus card is the longest road card which you get by getting a chain of 5 connecting roads, but be careful! If someone builds a longer chain of roads than you, they get the bonus card instead.

Set up

6/10

It's fun to set up, it just takes too long sometimes, especially with all of the expansions and it can be easy to lose pieces

Play

8/10

It is really fun, but when I've played it has almost always taken over an hour, sometimes 2.

Versions

8/10

There are lots of cool and interesting versions of Catatn such as original, Dawn of humankind and starfarers, all of them super fun

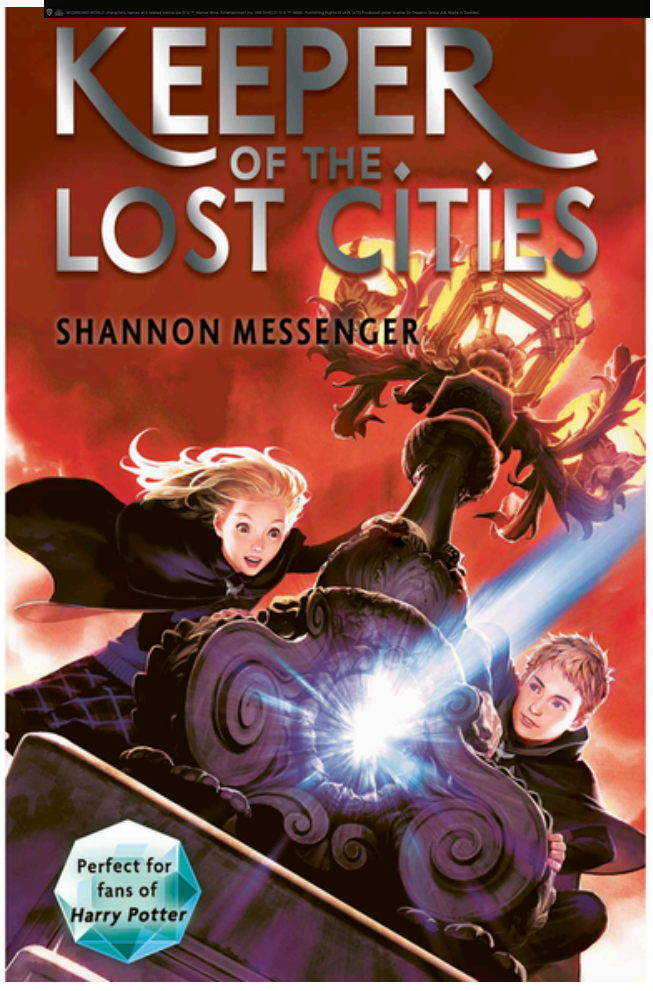


WITH THIS INFORMATION I CAN DEFINITELY SAY THAT CATAN IS COOKING

WHAT FICTIONAL WORLDS THE NEWSPAPER TEAM WOULD LIVE IN



Deliah: The wizarding world of Harry Potter - A book and Movie by J.K. Rowling
Vyga: The Wizard of Oz/OZ - A book by L. FrankBaum
Benja: Diary of a Wimpy Kid - A book by Jeff Kinney
Artem: Phyrria/ Wings of Fire - A book by Tui.T Sutherland
Luka: The Backrooms - A movie by Kane Parsons
Ahana: Wizarding World of Harry Potter - A book and a Movie by J.K. Rowling
Harry: Keeper of the Lost Cities - Shannon Messenger
Alexine: Pokémon - A game by Satoshi Tajiri
Omeeshya: The Land of Stories from the Wishing Spell - By Chris Colfer
Ms.Collins: Downton Abbey (as a rich person) - By Julian Fellowes
Fatima: Cinderella - By Charles Perrault
Dhanya: Keeper of the Lost Cities - By Shannon Messenger
Thomas: Keeper of the Lost Cities(Havenfield) - A book by Shannon Messenger
Finlay: Foundation (Terminus) - A book by Issac Asimov
Jonathan: How to Train Your Dragon - A book by Cressida Cowell
Casey: How to Train Your Dragon - A book by Cressida Cowell
Etta: Keeper of the Lost Cities or Morrigan Crow
Emme: Matilda
Romy: Freddy Fazbear's Pizzaria (Not as a security guard)



Our newspaper team certainly had a long list of fictional worlds they would live in, our top two obviously becoming The Keeper of Lost Cities by Shannon Messenger and The Wizarding World of Harry Potter by J.K Rowling, each of them getting 3 votes each. In the list, there are so many different books and movies that you should definitely watch or read, you never know that might be your next favourite book, movie or even your new favourite game!
By Ahana RM.12



TOP TEN BEST BASKETBALL PLAYERS OF ALL TIME.

BASED ON NUMBER OF REGULAR MVP TITLES AS WELL AS NBA CHAMPIONSHIPS WON, AS WELL AS OTHER CRITERIA

Starting at number ten, we have

10. Stephen (Chef) Curry is an amazing player and one of the best, if not the best, shooters of all time, averaging 24 points per game. He has been a regular-season MVP 2 times and has won 4 championships, therefore making him number 10.
9. Shaquille O'Neal (Diesel) was very tall, 7 feet 1, and was faster than most people his size; this meant he could go and bump massive players like him. Shaquille also broke many backboards, so the NBA had to reinforce them.
8. Tim Duncan was an amazing defender and had amazing footwork to cook other teams. Tim Duncan had 5 championships and was a regular-season MVP 2 times.
7. Kobe Bryant (Black Mamba) is one of the best players ever; he got so good by going to practice hours before and shooting 100s of shots. He also had a game where he had the flu and got 40 points.
6. Larry Bird (Legend) was an amazing mid-range and 3-point shooter, earning names like 'silent death'. Larry Bird is number 6 because he won 3 championships and was a regular-season MVP 3 times, and he is also just super good at basketball.



5. Earvin (Magic) Johnson was a very tall point guard,+ but this meant he could see over the defence and make good passes to his teammates. Magic Johnson was a regular-season MVP 3 times and won 5 championships. he competed in the NBA Finals against Larry Bird many times.
4. Bill Russell was an insane rebounder, averaging 22 rebounds per game and totaling 21,620 in his career. Bill Russell is the only person to get 11 rings (you get a ring each time you win a championship).
3. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (The Captain) was a rebounding machine, and he had 17,440 rebounds in his career. In his career, he was a regular-season MVP 6 times and won the NBA championship 6 times making number an amazing player and number 3 on my list
2. LeBron James (King) is the all-time leading scorer in NBA history with 43,440.points in his career (LeBron James is still playing, so who knows if he will take over Michael Jordan before he is finished).
1. Michael (Air) Jordan averaged 30 points per game in his career. Michael Jordan is 1st because he is literally just the GOAT at basketball.

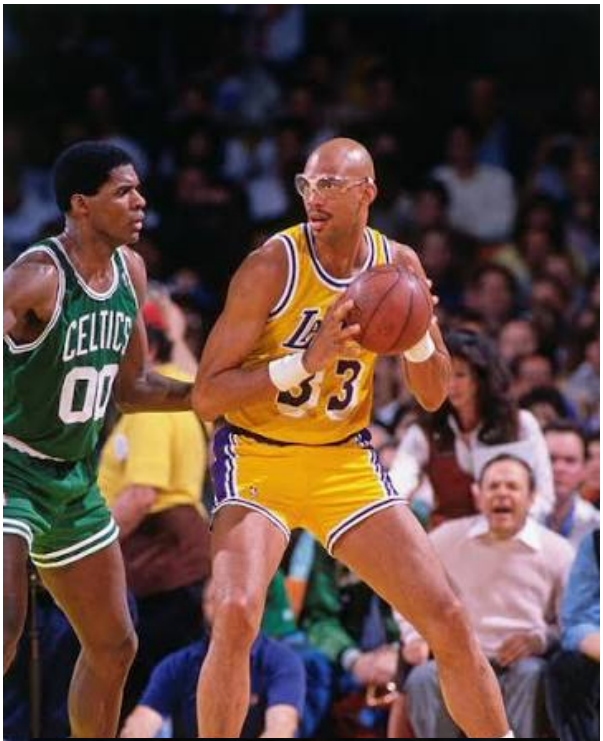
By Luka rm22

BASKETBALL

Basketball was invented in 1891 by Dr. James Naismith who created basketball for his fitness class. In the early rules of the game you could not dribble and moving with the ball was not allowed. From 1967 to 1976 dunking was illegal to stop insanely tall players like Kareem Abdul-Jabba (7 foot 2) from slam dunking. The reasons for this were ruining equipment, hurting people and getting too many points from slam dunking. Also did you know that 3 pointers were only introduced to the NBA in season 1979 to 1980? Looking at all these old rules and facts you can see how the game has really changed since it was first made in 1891.

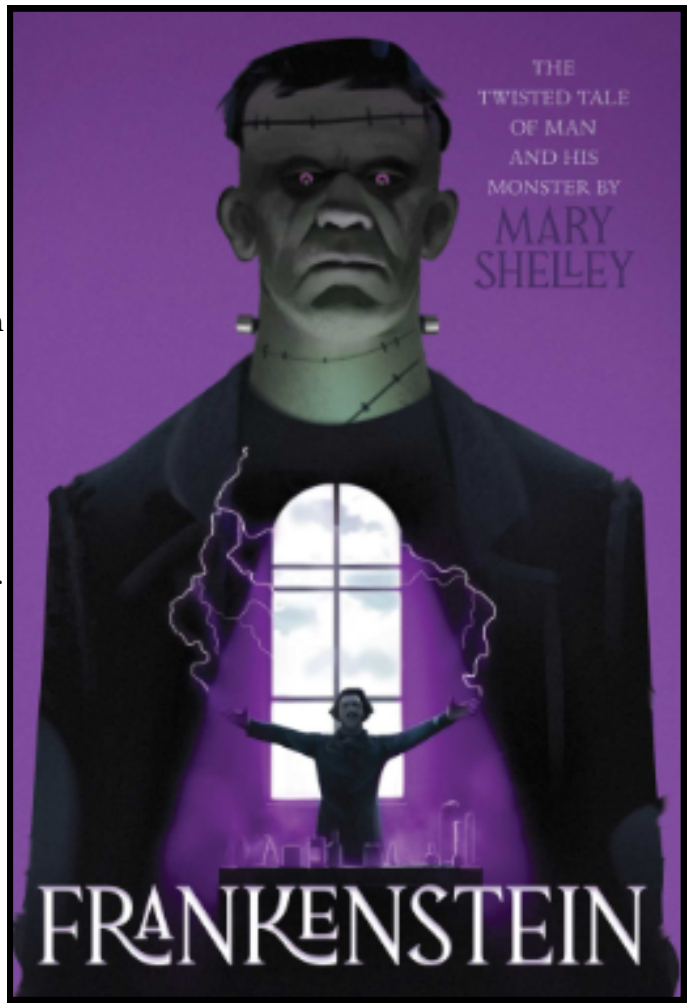




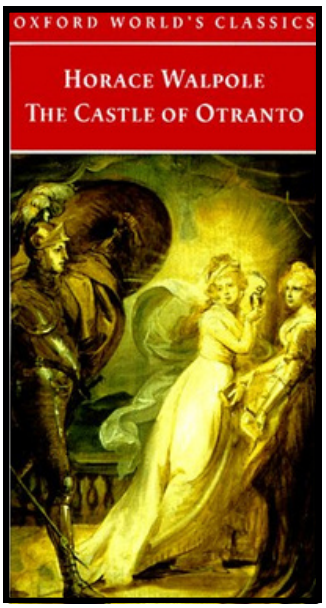




WHY DO PEOPLE LOVE HORROR STORIES?



“There is something at work in my soul which I do not understand.” This is a quote from one of the most famous horror stories of all time, Frankenstein. A twisted story of a scientist who awakens a great beast in his search to create life. But how does this spark our interests in horror stories? They provide a safe, controlled way to experience intense emotions, engage our evolutionary threat-detection systems, and process complex psychological fears. Usually some people naturally crave the intensity and a risky experience, for these kinds of individuals physiological arousal triggers dopamine release, automatically turning fear into fun. Horror stories provide us with danger, violence and aggression without having to get traumatized firsthand and horror stories provide us with a structural framework to look forward to and keep us engaged in the book while keeping a secure barrier between the reader and the dark and twisted reality.

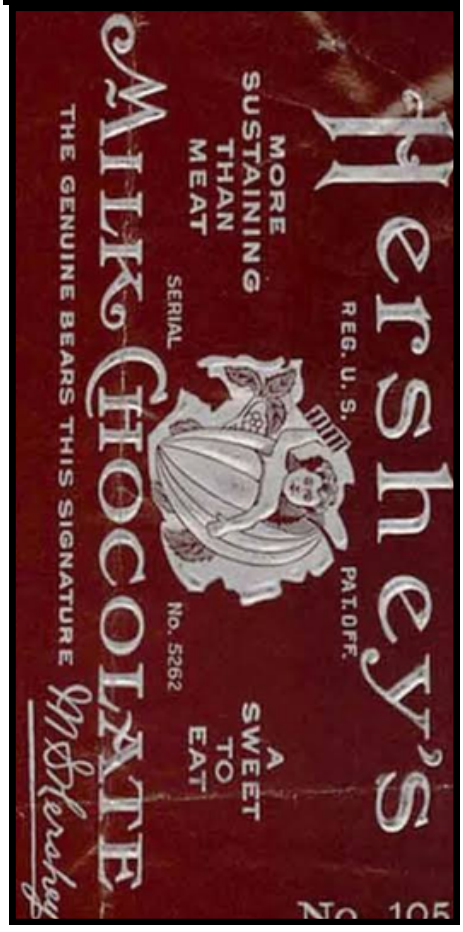


The first ever horror story to be ever introduced was the ‘ The Castle of Otranto ‘ written by Horace Walpole was published on December 24, 1764. It’s about a tyrannical Prince Manfred who is desperately trying to secure his dynastic line but what did people think about it? It was first intended to be a hoax because Horace Walpole claimed that it was a translated 16th-century Italian manuscript from the Crusades era found in a Catholic family's library. Believing it was an authentic historical artifact, readers and critics praised its "translator" for capturing such a vivid, imaginative, and wildly supernatural medieval relic. As you can see not only did people back then liked horror stories, it is still liked up to this very day.

By Omeeshya R22

HISTORY OF CHOCOLATE





Did you know that chocolate once used to be a bitter drink rather than a solid sweet? 4,000 years ago, chocolate was completely different from what it is today. Olmecs, Mayans and Aztecs had their own ways of eating it. It was used in worshipping, as a currency and also as a spicy drink.

In 1528, Hernan Cortes (a Spanish explorer) brought this bitter chocolate drink back to his home country, Spain to King Charles V. The Spanish thought the drink was bitter so they decided to make it sweeter. This way, it also fitted the European taste. For almost a century (which is 100 years), they kept chocolate as a secret. But then, when it started to ship to France and England. Its price was very skyrocketing. Only the richest people could afford the exclusive "Chocolate Houses" of London. Imagine, what kids could buy with their pocket money today used to be something that only rich people could afford a long time ago.

Now things are going to change a little. In 1828 Coenraad Van Houten invented a cocoa press machine that basically separated the cacao powder from the bean, leaving behind cocoa powder which is bitter. So the bitterness of the chocolate is removed. British company J.S. Fry and Sons were the main inventors of the chocolate consumed today. They mixed cocoa powder with sugar and melted cocoa butter to make a moldable paste. Then in 1875, Daniel Peter also added a little bit of touch to the chocolate. He added condensed milk to the chocolate, making it the world's first ever chocolate BAR! You all know Lindt right? It is a very famous chocolate company. Its founder, Rodolphe Lindt invented a conching machine which made the chocolate smooth, melts in mouth texture.

Now we are starting to head towards the era of today's chocolate. In the early 2000s, companies like Hershey's or Cadbury started to make chocolate which turned out to be loved by everyone around the world. Today, chocolate is one of the most liked sweet treats. In my opinion, chocolate is the perfect solution for indulging a sweet tooth (-:

Fatima Ashar 15

FUN FACTS:
A STANDARD CHOCOLATE BAR IN THE US COSTED AROUND 25 CENTS IN 1980!
M&MS USED TO BE A WARTIME CHOCOLATE. IT DID NOT MELT IN SOLDIER'S HANDS AND IT WAS ALSO GOOD.



Fun Facts II

This section will tell you 10 random facts and each issue will have a new topic. This issue's topic is...
Reptiles!

1. Snakes smell with their tongues.
2. Chameleons change their colour according to their mood not to camouflage.
3. Galopagos and Aldabra Giant Tortoises can live Over 150 to 190 years and are the 7th longest living species in the world.
4. Tuataras have a third eye.
5. Reptiles live on every continent except Antartica
6. Did you know that you can roughly tell how old a tortoise or turtle is by counting the lines on their shells (called scutes)?
7. Can live for months without eating.
8. The basilisk lizard uses special fringed toes to sprint across water surfaces to escape danger.
9. Marine iguanas swim in the ocean. Found in the Galápagos Islands, they dive underwater to eat algae off rocks and sneeze out excess salt through special nasal glands.
10. Did you know that there is a World Reptile Day on October the 21st?
11. The Komodo dragon is the largest. Growing up to 10 feet long and weighing over 70 kg.

By Artem Kulediamov rm23 and Luka Babic rm22



K-Pop News !!!!!!

Welcome back to another article on K-pop, but this time I'll talk about the latest news and some new releases!!!!!!!!!!!

Disney and Kakao Collab:

Disney is teaming up with Kakao entertainment in South Korea to expand K-pop across the world with Disney stories and characters (can't wait!!)

Billboard Heroes!!!!:

Straykids, Enhypen, NCT127 and Cortis have successfully climbed their way to the top spots on this week's Billboard World Albums Chart!!!!!!.

Tragic Event:

Fans worldwide are mourning alongside the group after Straykids paid a heartfelt tribute to a 16-year old fan who tragically passed away because of a medical emergency at the concert venue.

Bye Bye JYP ent:

Twice's Jeongyeon and Chaeyoung have officially left JYP entertainment, but they confirmed that they did not leave twice and will continue with group activities and comebacks. Jeongyeon has signed a contract with VARO Entertainment to pursue her acting career (I can't wait to see her movies and series)

Cancelled concert?:

Mamamoo's concert in Jakarta was unexpectedly cancelled due to a local volcanic activity. However their concert in Australia was scheduled to kick off in Sydney.

Rose's new Collab?:

Her new song NEW TRICK is a banger like always, but it's a collaboration with Apple, Rose collabed with Samsung so did she betray Samsung??? (LOL I'm just joking, she likes both brands, I think....)

STRAYKIDS NEW ALBUM!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Like I said in the first issue Straykids are my favourite group and will remain that way FOREVER (IT WILL NEVER CHANGE, STAY FOREVER) just when i thought THIS&THAT would be the last album for this year, I was wrong (But that's Fine) Straykids are releasing their 4th japanese mini album called SUIATSU, which is scheduled to release on NOVEMBER 25 2026. I AM SOOOOOOOOO EXCITED.

More Straykids (because why not?)

They released a new song called November 11, which is also when pepero day is on. And November 11 will be one of the songs in their new mini album :)

Grammys Fiasco:

BTS announced that they will not submit music for the 2027 grammy awards, because of the new category for Asian pop. They believe that there is no need for another category for music.



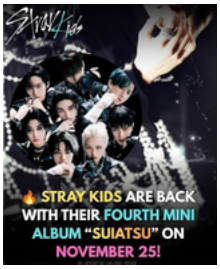








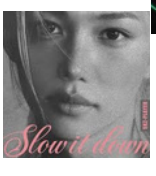












There is so much going on in the k-pop world, it's hard to keep up. From new Debuts to devastating disbandments. Now let's talk about new releases

Rose released New Trick and I loooovveeee it. Lesserafim also released a new song called MADE MY NIGHT and it's actually very good, they also have a collaboration version with EJAE (who voiced Rumi in k-pop Demon Hunters) . It's amazing. EJAE writes most of the songs for Lesserafim so it's nice seeing them collab.

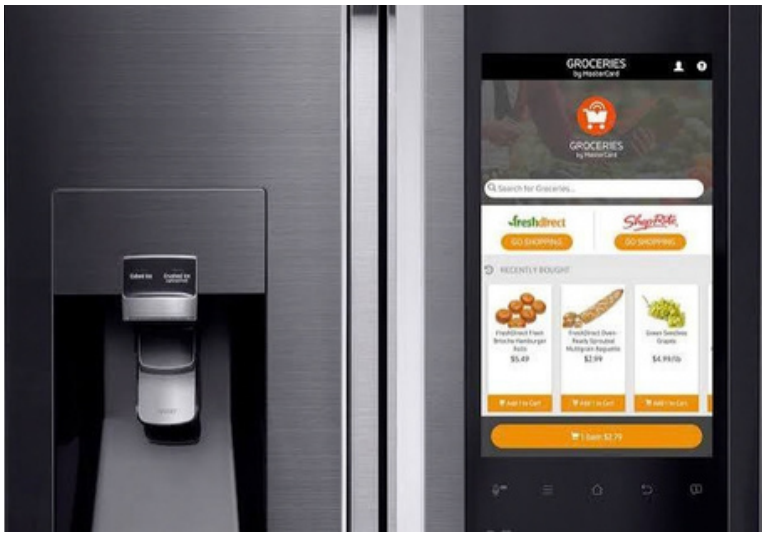
That's all for today see you next time in the next issue (Bye Bye)

By: Serah Room25

TECHNOLOGY WE PROBABLY COULD LIVE WITHOUT

In today's world, there is lots of unnecessary technology such as fridges that order food and coffee machines with WIFI (can't you do all of that from your phone?) What about light that you clap for it to turn on? It's more convenient but the simple flick of a switch does the same job and we could definitely live without that in our world. Navigation apps like GPS are easier to use but you can also use a map or ask someone directions. Also, what's the point of a doorbell? Can't you just knock on the door in front of you it's pretty easy? The last piece of technology we can live without is a dishwasher. Dishwashers make you waste way less time but we can wash the dishes ourselves can't we? In conclusion, I hope you now know about some technology we can live without and the reasons why.

Luka Room 22



WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF BEES DISAPPEARED?

If bees disappeared, the world food supply would shrink fast and food prices would go up very quickly due to the high demand for them. Not only that, but the global economy world lose billions of dollars. We would likely survive, but our food will become more expensive, especially anything with honey. On top of that, outside of bees themselves, there is no other creature, including us, that can pollinate with the quality of the bees.

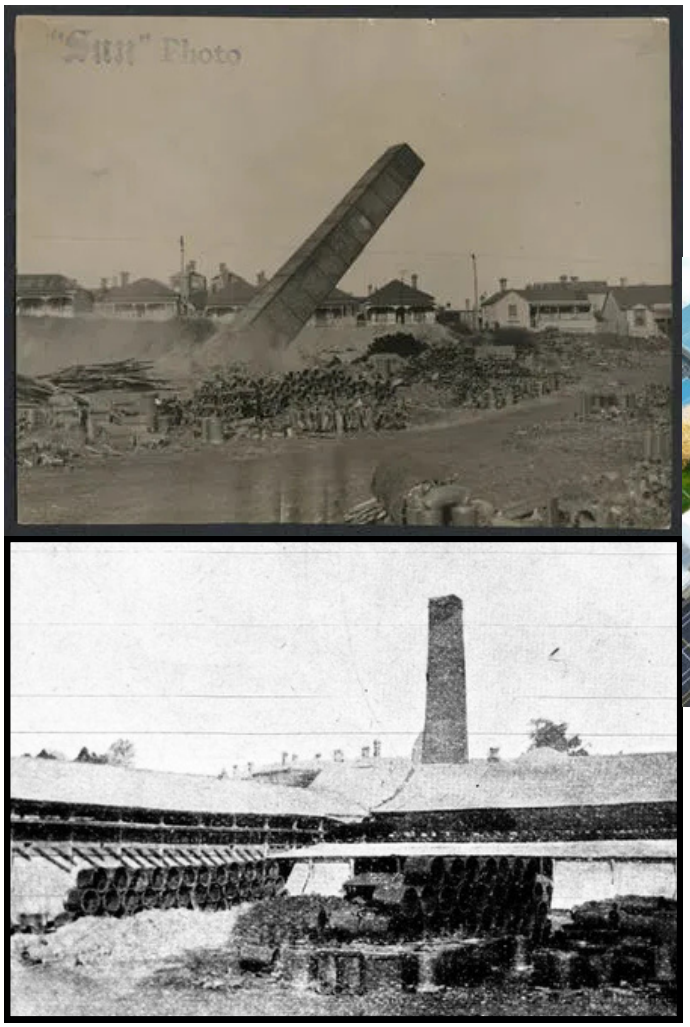


by Benja Room 21

THE HISTORY OF PONSONBY INTERMIDIATE

You're sitting here reading this new paper but did you know that where you are right now there used to be a 19th century brick works where people dug clay out of the ground horses towed it away. Then that clay would be given to highly skilled potters and they would mould and shape it. After that, the wet pottery would be placed inside a 70 ft chimney that reached temperatures up to 1,000 degrees to dry out. Then they would be taken out of the chimney and shipped of to who ever ordered them. In early 1930, the factory started to get taken apart and it went out of business. When the factory was gone, there was one thing still left standing: The 70ft chimney, so on July 8th 1930, the chimney was blown to smithereens. Then 30 years later in 1960, Ponsonby Intermediate opened.

BEFORE



AFTER



OBSCURE PHOTOGRAPHY.

By Fatima 15 and Dhanya 15.

Obscure Photos.



EASY

?



MEDIUM

??



HARD

???

Answers on the next page.

OBSCURE PHOTOGRAPHY.

By Fatima 15 and Dhanya 15.



The basketball court cover/roof/shade.



The corner of the wooden bit in the Tech Dome.



The bottom right corner of the Mural on the wall outside Rm 11.

NOW FOR THE BIGGEST FUN FACTS SECTION OF ALL

WE HAVE ...

EXTINCT (AND ENDANGERED) ANIMALS !!!

By Jonathan room 22 and Benja room 21.

Starting off at number 10, we have the Glyptodon. These huge Armadillo cousins had giant round shells to protect them from predators. They were about the size of a small car and lived around 3.2 million years ago.

9. Next we have Tullimonstrum, or The Tully Monster. This was the one creature that baffled scientists in every way possible. It looks like a squid with eye stalks, and a long snout that was likely used for eating. Why were they so weird? Because no one had any idea on whether it was an invertebrate or a vertebrate.

8. Now for something that still exists today: The Maui Dolphin in NZ! Like the Vaquita, it is a very small marine mammal. Sadly, there are only about 60 of them remaining. Apparently, similar to Anglerfish, Females are bigger by approximately 2 centimetres. In other words, males are 1.5m and Females are 1.7m.

7. Now let's go back to the past; all the way to the so-called "age of fish" to find a giant armoured fish. It's none other than the Dunkleosteus. Did you know that people originally thought they were about 9 to 15 metres but turned out to be 3 to 4 metres? That's still quite big. For context, a giant rug is about the same size. The Dunkleosteus had no teeth, but it had large bony plates for "teeth" that could bite up to 1,600 PSI. That's a hundred more PSI than an Alligator snapping turtle can bite, and that wraps up top 7.

6. Remember the Paraceratherium? It has a worthy opponent in size. There was a straight tusked elephant that was 4 metres tall. Apparently, the Paraceratherium was also 4 metres tall. Sadly, like most other giant animals, it died as the earth cooled down.

5. Now for creatures starting with the Iguanodon! This dinosaur's name meant "Iguana tooth" because of the way its teeth looked like that of a modern iguana. What's cool about it, you ask? It was one of the very first dinosaurs scientifically named.

4. We have bats, birds, planes, superheroes, but what about lizards? We know about gliding snakes and lizards, but who was the biggest? None other than the Quetzalcoatlus. Aptly named after the Aztec god, Quetzalcoatl, the Quetzalcoatlus was nothing less than a lizard the size of a giraffe with wings. Another cool fact? Due to the time it lived in and where it lived, people believe that it could have been challenged by the mighty T-rex.

3. Another animal we all know: the dodo! We know they're extinct, but why? When sailors found Mauritius, dodos were around, and they were greeted with weaponry. They also were driven out by introduced species, such as cats, dogs, and more. Even though they're extinct, they still live on in our hearts.

2. Technically not endangered, but known for an amazing event: Aldabra Rails! Here's a short explanation on why they're on top 2: Long ago, a group of migrating Indian Rails got lost, and found aldabra atoll. It didn't have any tall trees or predators, so the rails settled there and eventually became Aldabra rails. Eventually, the island got flooded and the Aldabra rails died off. A few years later, a new group of Indian Rails encountered aldabra atoll and it was still the same. This was how the Aldabra rail came back from extinction.

1. And our number one animal goes to... The predator that was king in ancient waters... The Megalodon! Not only the largest shark to ever live, but also the animal with the strongest bite force, with roughly 10.8 to 18.2 tons of force! That could crush pretty much anything, and as if that wasn't enough, scientists believe that because of where it lived and the time it lived in, it could have been challenged by the mighty Livyatan, a prehistoric sperm whale that hunted other whales for food.

by Benja Rm21 and Jonathan Rm22

THINGS KIWIS TAKE FOR GRANTED



Unique landscapes. Beautiful wildlife. Safety. Happiness. But where? That's right, New Zealand. The Land of the Long White Cloud has been inhabited by humans since 1250-1300 CE. But could we have underestimated how great our country really is? Maybe we have only skipped over just how lucky we truly are. Sure, we've all heard the rants about how wonderful New Zealand is but what exactly have you heard?

Maybe the impressive wildlife. Maybe the unescapable beauty. Or maybe the almost absolute safety of this magical haven. But what else is there? If we dive deeper what else can we find?



First of all, New Zealand has such a great reputation. For example, we have so many world records. We were the first to allow women to vote, we have the Southernmost capital city in the world and our Blue Lake in the South Island is home to the clearest water on Earth, just to name a few.

And it's not just our country that's brilliant, our residents have also proven themselves to be stand-out against the rest of the world. Sir John Walker (Runner), Hamish Kerr (High jumper) and Valerie Adams (Shot putter) have all proven themselves in a range of professional sports, earning New Zealand a wonderful reputation.

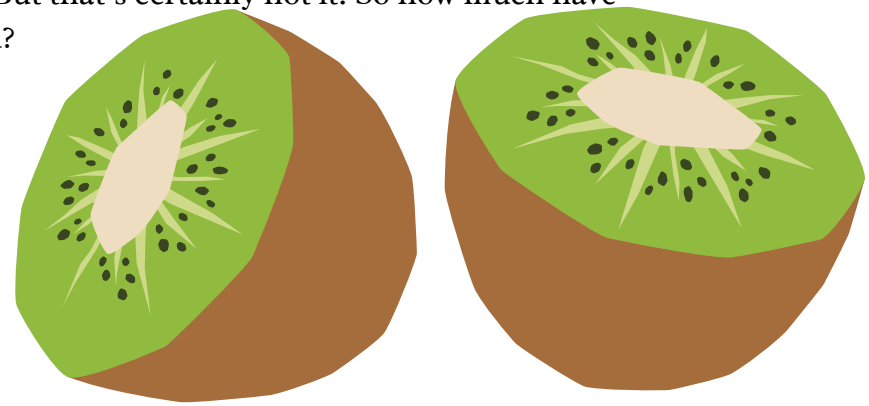


You may think we have 2 official languages. But even though Maori and NZSL are technically the only official languages we have one more that is unique, prominent and so very fun. Have you ever heard someone say words like "Yeah nah," "Sweet as," or "Choice"? Well, these are all examples of New Zealand slang!

Finally, our food is truly one of a kind. With meat pies and the iconic Maggi soup kiwi dip, our nation has definite originality.

So yes, New Zealand's unique. Yes, New Zealand's beautiful. Yes, New Zealand's safe. But that's certainly not it. So how much have you taken for granted?

-Delilah rm 17



THE PSYCHOLOGY OF EMOJIS

Have you used an emoji before?, I bet you have. I mean who doesn't right?.....right? Anyways by reading this essay, hmmm no, story. No, it's not fictional. Yes it's a true story.

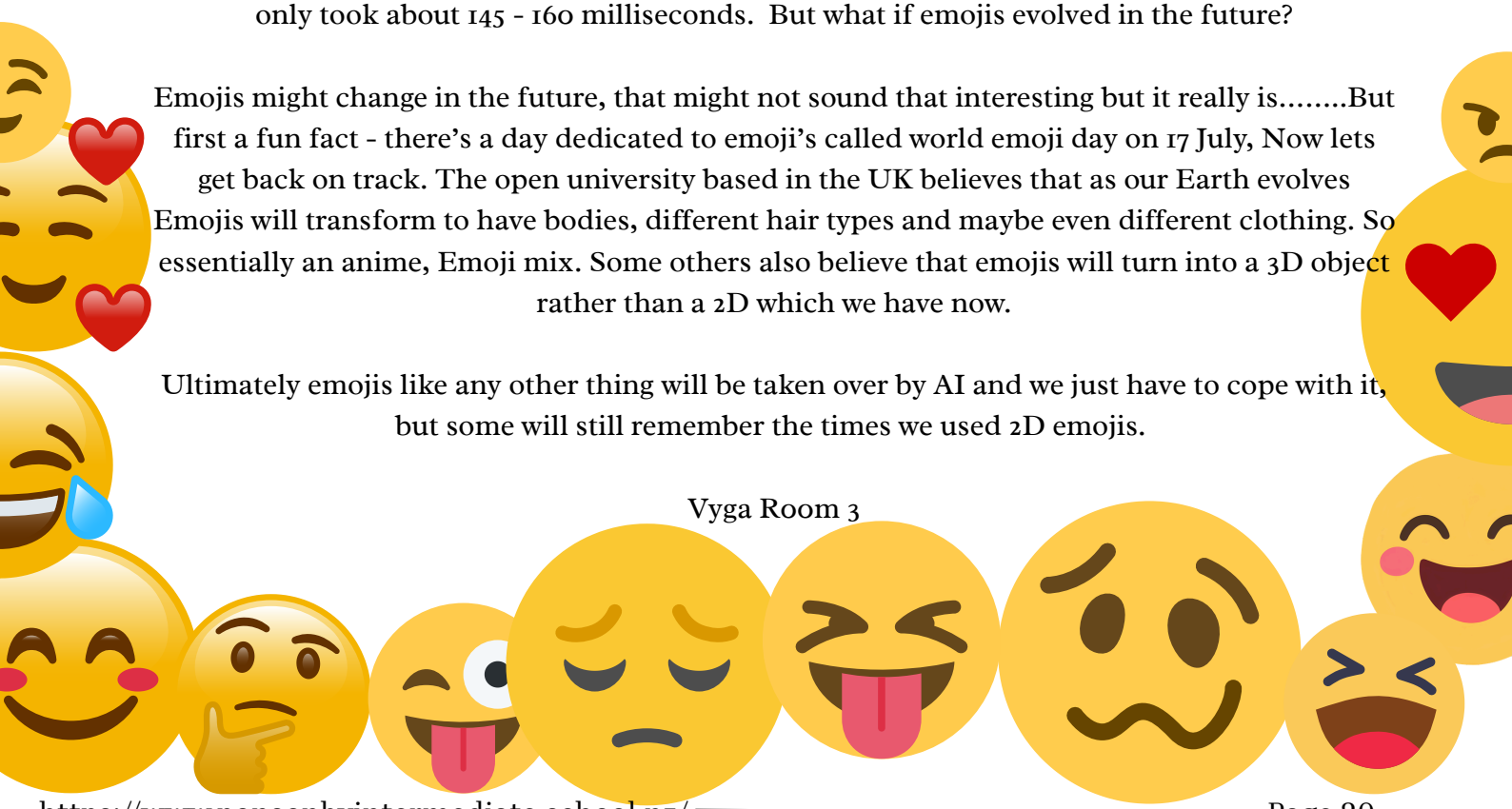
Emojis were first created by a Japanese interface designer (a person who focuses on how visually appealing a product is) in 1999 while working for a mobile carrier called NNT DoCoMo, his name was Shigetaka Kurita. This amazing creator wanted to make an eye-catching interface to carry information simply on an early mobile internet platform. He got inspo from Japanese manga (symbols that represent emotions), street signs, weather forecasts, and Chinese characters (kanji). Shigetaka Kurita's first set consisted of 176 characters, which included weather symbols, numbers, and basic facial expressions like smilies. If you think you don't know how to speak Japanese think again, because the Japanese word emoji is made of two words e - pictures and moji - characters but haven't you always wanted to know how it affects you and why you keep using it.

Have you ever made a face when you had to eat veggies or when you were getting to the highest point on a roller coaster, like this 😫 or this 😓. Well you're using your facial expression to convey a message like that you don't like your veggies. Facial expressions are a very important part of human socialisation. A study was conducted on this and people were split into 2 groups, one were shown human images while the other set were shown emoji's. They concluded that emojis may function as meaningful emotional signals during online chats in Whatsapp. A cool fact was that the brain was very quick at responding to both the human faces and the emojis, it only took about 145 - 160 milliseconds. But what if emojis evolved in the future?

Emojis might change in the future, that might not sound that interesting but it really is.....But first a fun fact - there's a day dedicated to emoji's called world emoji day on 17 July, Now lets get back on track. The open university based in the UK believes that as our Earth evolves Emojis will transform to have bodies, different hair types and maybe even different clothing. So essentially an anime, Emoji mix. Some others also believe that emojis will turn into a 3D object rather than a 2D which we have now.

Ultimately emojis like any other thing will be taken over by AI and we just have to cope with it, but some will still remember the times we used 2D emojis.

Vyga Room 3



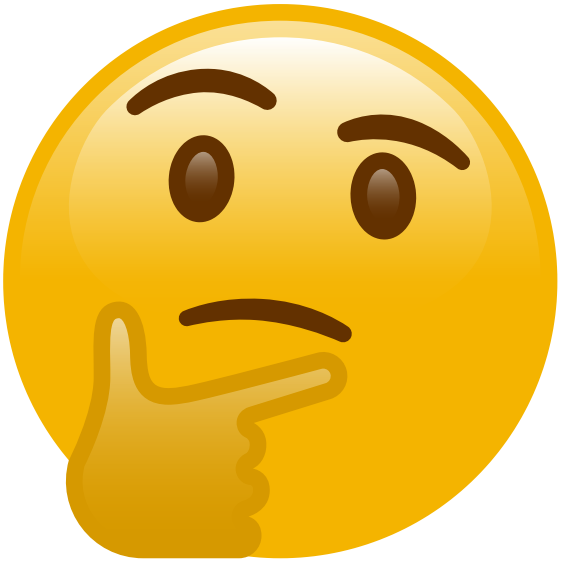
WOULD YOU RATHER?

Today Su and I (Ada) went around the school during options time and interviewed four people Anderson, Katana, Julianna and Arthur. We spoke to them about would you rather questions. All of their answers were unique in their own ways and it was very interesting to hear their point of view. The first question we asked was “would you rather know the date of your death or the cause?" The answers were half and half with Julianna and Arthur going for knowing the date and Katana and Anderson knowing the cause. The second question we asked was “would you rather be a side character in a horror movie that survives and gets 0 credits or the main character who dies and gets all the credits?” The answers were split again with Anderson and Julianna choosing to be main characters and Arthur and Katana choosing to be the side characters. The third question we asked was “Would you rather travel 100 years into the past or the future?” This question was the only one where everyone did the same thing. Katana, Jullianna, Anderson and Arthur all wanted to travel 100 years into the future because they wanted to see what happens. The last question we asked them was “would you rather be able to talk to animals or be fluent in every language?” Arthur and Julianna picked to be able to speak with animals and Anderson and Katana chose to be fluent in every language.

By Ada Room 22 and Su Room 22











HISTORY YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

By Finlay room 28

Tornadoes. The spikes that come out of the sky and rips through the earth. We all know what they are, but this one is different.

Bridge creek-Moore tornado, 1999. One of the strongest tornadoes ever recorded in history. It swept through hundreds of houses and killed 41 people and injured over 580 people. It all happened on May 3rd, when a supercell thunderstorm formed at around 3:30PM CDT. At 4:15PM, The local weather service issued a severe thunderstorm warning. However, this would get far worse than just a severe thunderstorm. 6:23PM. The tornado touched down south-west of the township of Amber, Oklahoma. Then, at 6:54PM, a mobile weather radar had scanned the tornado and recovered extremely high winds of up to 517 km/h. That's faster than a maglev train, and it's not just going straight, it's a wind rotating that fast while carrying rain, hail, cars, caravans, roofs and maybe even entire houses(even though it would've been shredded to pieces anyways). Almost the entire town of bridge creek got flattened. But the tornado kept on going.

At 7:10 the tornado hit another town called Moore, this one was hit just as bad and the tornado had not weakened at all, and this time, it wasn't just a small neighbourhood. 11 people died just in that area, and many many more were injured.

At 7:48 PM, it had finally dissipated, a monster that carved through the earth disappeared as if it was a drop of ink dissolving into an ocean of water, and it didn't even leave a trace.

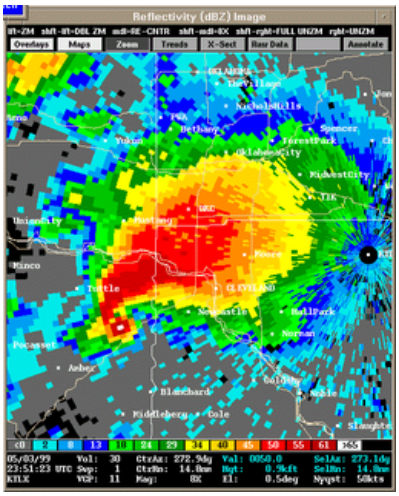
But the damage was already done.

Two airports were destroyed, hundreds, maybe thousands of homes flattened to rubble, over 1 billion USD were spent in recovery, and a little 10 month old baby got ripped out of her mother's arms, who had slammed into a tree near their house. Later, the baby had been found caked in mud, miraculously survived.

Never hide under a highway overpass.









MEME OF THE MONTH: NOVEMBER 2026

By Finlay Xu Room 28

Our newspaper team has done a poll on what should be the next meme of the month, and the result was...

Dust storm dog!

This is a popular meme going around about Mike Wazowski from Monsters INC being stuck in between two dust storms, and many people use it as an expression to describe the feeling of being stuck in the middle of two giants clashing against each other, and you're the only one taking all the harm. The first photo on the top is a haboob swiping through Phoenix, Arizona with a dog's head photoshopped on it. And for those who don't know, a haboob is an extremely strong dust storm that forms along with a thunderstorm, making it look like a wall of dust sweeping through anywhere it goes. The second photo, however, is less known about and all the information I could find on that one was that it is a strong thunderstorm hitting Singapore, with a husky face on it. The third photo has almost no origin, since there are no scenes in the 2001 movie monsters inc. that features any dust storm! also the fact it's not mike wazowski's face at all! That was Sully's face! Mike has only one eye! And this took me hours to realise!





Hottest places people live

By Finlay Room 28

The Earth is vast, some places are cold, some places are hot, and I mean REALLY HOT, Just like Jacobabad, in Pakistan, where summer temperatures average out at over 45℃, even though it isn't really in the middle of a desert but that is far from the worst, as for the next one goes to Ahvaz, Iran. None of these are a particularly great place to live, especially this one, since it is filled with metal refineries and oil fields with temperatures peaking out at 54°C in 2017! and even worse, if it wasn't bad enough already, that day was really humid, pushing the actual heat index to 61°C, but this is far from the worst.

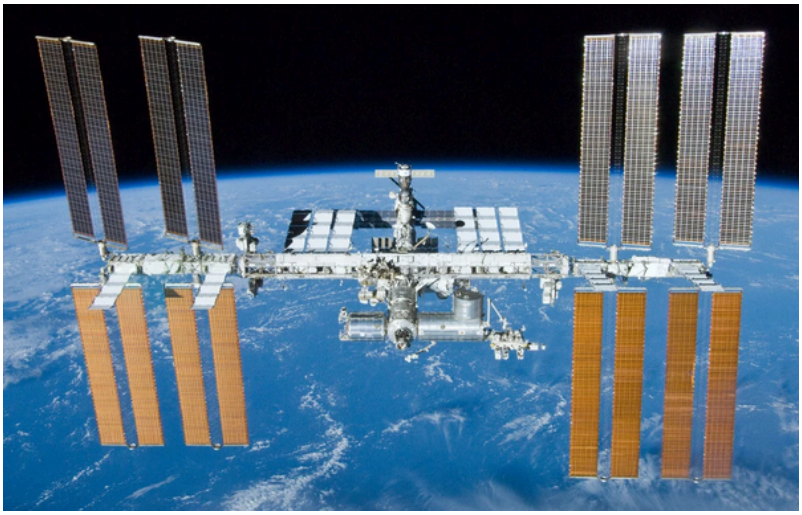
This is furnace creek, death valley in california. The hottest place on earth, and people live there! Not much, only 136 people, as of 2020 and most of them are local staff at the national park and the local hotel. This place had the hottest air temperature record of 56.7°C on July 10, 1913. And that's just the air temperature, the ground temperature, however, got to a staggering 94°C in 1972. I have no idea how people manage to live there.

BUT that was just on earth, there are people living in space as well. Since in space, there is no air to cool you down, the only way is radiating heat away. That's why in direct sunlight, the exterior of the ISS gets baked up to 121°C ! If a normal human got exposed to that kind of temperature, they'll die instantly and the proteins inside that person's body will cook and break apart within seconds. That's what the ten massive radiators on the ISS are for!





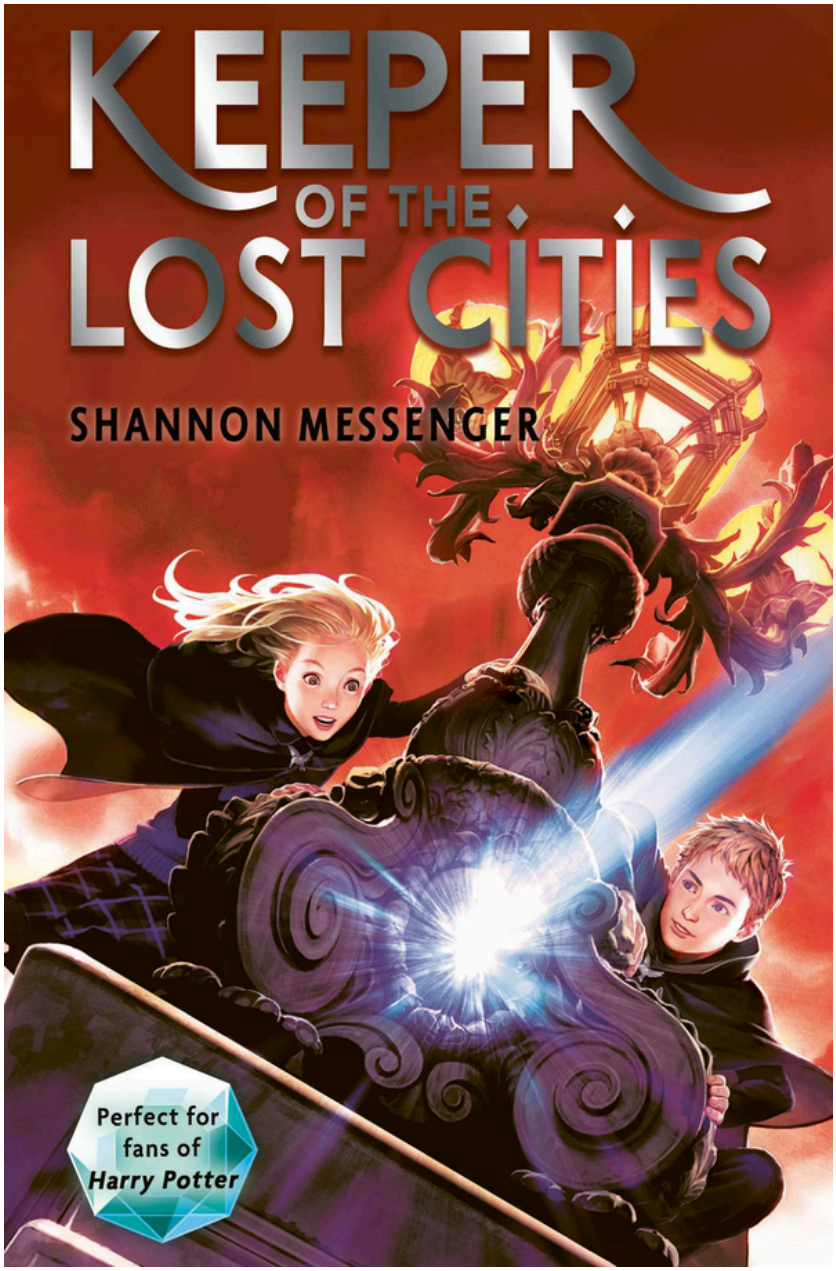




REALLY GOOD READS

By Thomas Room 23

Keeper Of The Lost Cities by Shannon Messenger



Keeper Of The Lost Cities is a book series currently consisting of 10 books. It follows Sophie, a young girl that can read minds that discovers the world she lives in is a lie. She is not a human, but an Elf created by a mysterious rebel group known as Black Swan who hid her amongst humans. At first she struggles to fit in with the advanced elves that can travel on beams of light to get to places, levitate, use telekinesis on objects and have many powerful talents like hydrokinesis and vanishing. She missed her human family that she had to leave behind, but she adjusted to their society. Well, until that day of the incident.

MY TOP 5 CHARACTERS

5. Sophie Foster, I like how she makes lots of mistakes and doesn't always beat the bad guys, also her powers are really cool
4. Dex Dizznee, I like his personality alot, he is a creative inventor and alchemist and he is a really good friend
3. Elwin Heslege, he is a kind and skilled doctor, with cool pajamas and lots of loyalty
2. Della Vacker, I didn't like her that much as first, but after I saw that she was willing to defy the law and master self-defence, I started liking her alot

Ai Vs Etta

By Etta
Room 30

Hi people! One of these stories is by me, one is by AI. In form-time do the form and say your favourite story. Was it story one? Or two? Also say which one you think was written by AI. (my next article will wrap this up)

Story one

Monday... sigh, the most boring day of the week. Normally, the classroom buzzed with the low, restless hum of students trying to shake off the weekend, but today was different. There was no one acting like a chicken to try to make Lizzy—the most popular girl in the class—look at them. Today, there was just silent anticipation. There was a new kid. Now, that might not sound interesting or strange, but at Oakwood, all the kids had been there from the start of term one, year one, and it was now year seven, so there were no "newbies," as Lizzy called them.

Lizzy was the undisputed Queen of the class; her talent in all subjects and demanding disposition made people instantly do what she said. And if she doesn't approve of something, it must go instantly. If she does not like someone, then they, too, must go. No one has ever told her no. She's not spoiled, exactly—just proper and always right. Lizzy has never had a best friend and doesn't want one.

One day, a new girl arrives; her name is Isis. She is Egyptian, and she is a quiet, calm girl who has no friends and dislikes water very much. Lizzy loves water and is a natural swimmer. One day, Isis is sitting by the pool, not even dipping her feet in. A member of Lizzy's group, Natasha, trying to impress Lizzy, walks up quietly behind Isis and gives her a shove, and Isis falls screaming into the deep end. Lizzy, watching on in horror, runs to the pool, throwing herself straight into the icy water. Pulling Isis out of the pool, Lizzy gets a sharp sense of fear. Why would Natasha push a girl who is unable to swim right into the deep end of a pool? Lizzy, her eyes full of rage, turned on poor Natasha, and her voice trembling with anger, she almost shouted, "Natasha, why would you do that? You know Isis can't swim, so why push her in?!"

"I'm so, so, so, so sorry," Natasha replied, trying to keep her cool but failing. "I just wanted you to like me and look at me."

Lizzy stared at her in shock, her brain running round in circles. Why would people try to impress me? Why am I that important? From that day on, Lizzy lost her cool demeanour and became what she was all along: a normal schoolgirl. And she chose Isis as her best friend, and life went back to how it was—no one the best or more important. All was all.

The End

Story Two

Lizzy was excited about starting at her new school. She loved meeting people and making friends, but she wasn't sure who she would sit with at lunchtime. On her first day, she noticed a girl sitting alone under a tree. The girl had beautiful dark hair and was reading a book. "Hi, I'm Lizzy. What's your name?" she asked. "I'm Isis," the girl replied quietly. "Do you want to sit with me?" Lizzy asked. Isis smiled. "Sure." As they talked, Lizzy discovered that Isis had recently moved to New Zealand from Egypt. She spoke two languages, Arabic and English, and celebrated different holidays from Lizzy. "What's it like celebrating Christmas?" Isis asked. Lizzy explained how her family decorated a Christmas tree, exchanged presents and ate a huge Christmas dinner. "That sounds fun!" Isis said. "In my family, we celebrate Eid. We visit relatives, wear special clothes and share delicious food." Lizzy had never heard of Eid before.

"What's Eid like?" she asked. Isis's face lit up as she described the colourful decorations, family gatherings and sweet treats they enjoyed. Lizzy realised that although their traditions were different, they both loved spending time with family and eating delicious food. The next day, Lizzy had an idea. "Would you like to come over to my house after school?" she asked. "We could make something together!" Isis agreed, and the girls decided to make a traditional dish from each of their cultures. Lizzy helped Isis make Egyptian basbousa, a sweet cake made with semolina, while Isis helped Lizzy decorate cupcakes. At first, Lizzy struggled to pronounce some of the Arabic words Isis taught her. Instead of laughing, Isis patiently helped her practise. "Shukran!" Lizzy said proudly, remembering that it meant thank you.

Isis laughed happily. "You're welcome!" Over the following weeks, the girls became inseparable. They shared stories, taught each other new words and discovered that having different backgrounds made their friendship even more interesting. Lizzy had once thought that making friends meant finding someone just like herself. Now she understood that friendship wasn't about being the same. It was about being curious, respectful and willing to learn from one another. As Lizzy and Isis walked into school together one morning, Lizzy smiled. She had come to school hoping to make a friend, but she had discovered something even better: a whole new world through someone else's eyes.

The End