

# The Wolverine Word

Molalla River Middle School, Molalla, Oregon — Friday, December 21, 2018

Volume I, Issue 4

## 7th grade math team gets the win!

### *Math Tournament* *By Christian Zannotti*

On December 8, 2018, students from different schools in Oregon came to Molalla High School to compete in the Perennial Math Tournament. There were 62 teams competing in their grade levels. MRMS had three teams representing their school. The 6th grade team consisted of Colton Graf, Ethan Welle, Lawson Linder, Edison Lucas, and Jackson Blomquist. The 7th grade team was comprised of Caidynce Cann, Marie Mason, Alex Alonzo, Katherine Nunn, and Christian Zannotti. Nate Gonzales and Zackry Chenoweth made up the 8th grade team.

While the 6th grade team and the 8th grade team fell short of winning, the 7th grade team pulled out on top of its grade level with a 1st place finish in the team event.

When the winners were announced and the awards were given out, the MRMS coaches were, "surprised and happy for the team." At first, the team thought they had won third place, but when they walked up to the stand to get their medals, they found out they had won first!

"Our whole team, for the most part, thought we had lost after the solo winners were announced," said one of the members of the 7th grade team. "It was a huge shock when we got first place!"

When asked, Mrs. Greenwood said, "All of the scores were improved from last year in both the individual and team competition!"

The 7th grade team will continue onto nationals in May of 2019 with the coaching of Mr. Michel, Mrs. Greenwood, and Mr. St. Clair.

MRMS  
winning  
7th grade  
math  
team.



### *O Christmas Tree* *By Jessica Langendorfer*

Molalla River Middle School choir students participated in Molalla's Singing Christmas Tree. This year's theme was the Dysfunctional Family Christmas, an original story written by choir director, Tim Friesen.

Tim Friesen, choir director of the middle school, and high school hosted the annual Singing Christmas Tree once again this year. He has been doing the program for 24 years now, and

loves it. "About nine years ago, we started to write an actual storyline with a full script with characters.

Prior to that, it was a simple narration between songs. But yes, I've always written the script, along with the help of Randy Fischer, a former teacher in our district."

Mr. Friesen's favorite Singing Christmas Tree so far has been Christmas in Narnia.

Singing Christmas Tree performances were held Thursday, December 13th, Friday, December 14th, and two performances were held on Saturday, December 15th.

### *Navigating Naviance* *By Kamila Bedolla*

Homeroom classrooms have begun using Naviance at Molalla River Middle School.

Students first logged into Naviance to take a survey about interests and strengths. The purpose of the survey was for students to discover jobs that might suit them. Students were provided with job descriptions, a list of necessary skills, wages, and required tasks. Students were also able to research other jobs that might not have shown up in their survey results.

Naviance has many other activities for students. One of the options is applying to colleges. Students can take a different survey that will match them to a college they would be best suited for.

Students can also use naviance to help build their resumes, which makes it easier for teachers to write college recommendations. With Naviance, students can plan what they want for their futures and how they will get there. Naviance also teaches students how to set and meet personal goals.

Naviance is a great program to help prepare for the future. Mrs. Baug thinks this it is important because it helps students discover jobs within their interests.

"Connecting students' interests to their potential career paths early ensures active participation in their own academic success and opens their eyes to the wide world of career opportunities."

It's never too early to think about the future.

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Caidynce Cann, Claire Wallace, and Katherine Nunn - stuck in a winter wonderland.

## Who's got talent?

By Isabelle Bryant

On November 27, 2018 MRMS hosted its first "Signing Idol," where students from Mrs. Lowell's sign language classes competed against each other to be crowned the MRMS Signing Idol. Students signed their choice of songs using American Sign Language (ASL).

The judges of the competition were Mrs. Thomas, Mr. Nation, and Ms. Schiefelbein. All three judges have had signing experience. Ayden Pagella, 7th grader, was the Master of Ceremonies.



Contestants at the first MRMS Signing Idol competition.

The contestants for the final competition were Lyra Preston, Tyson Ferrell, Zach Clinton, William Hoggan, Anthony Hassing, Cheyenne Getsinger, Jasmin Perez-Cervantes, and Hailey Catlett.

Lyra Preston won first place for signing *You and Me*, by Dove Cameron. The second place winner was Hailey Catlett for *Drop in the Ocean*, by Ron Pope, and third place was Jasmin Perez-Cervantes for performing *Sunflower*, by Post Malone.

Mrs. Lowell says, "I think that everyone should learn more than one language, and that includes sign language. It helps learn new things about your language that you might've never known. You can meet new people, and explore new cultures."

## Let it snow!

By Caidynce Cann

On November 30th, MRMS students Katherine Nunn, Claire Wallace, and Caidynce Cann assisted Mrs. Thomas in decorating a Molalla storefront for the holidays. The students were randomly selected and were put to work on creating a snow globe inspired design in the storefront window.

The storefront is located across the street from the White Horse restaurant and can be viewed by diners and bystanders all day long. The design took a total of 5 ½ hours to complete. The center window is a hand-painted snow globe shape with the other two windows being framed with snow-ess shapes. Corresponding with the snow covered window designs, inside there are lights strung around the frame of the window creating a glowing effect. In the center of the snow globe, there is a tree covered in school supplies with an older style desk placed to the left of the tree covered in various supplies, an older lunchbox, and an older bell with fake snow scattered on it. The arrangement of the different elements were meant to make it look like an actual snow globe.

The MRMS Parent Group paid for all materials needed.

## Floyd Family Orthodontics

By Arisbeth Botello Lopez

On December 3, 2018 Floyd Family Orthodontics presented Molalla River Middle School with a check for \$75. The money will be used to buy prizes and rewards for the MRMS PBIS program.

Mr. Claxton's homeroom class was awarded with a slice of pizza and a cup of soda for winning the Candy Buy Back Competition. Jose Alonzo Perez brought in the most candy for his homeroom. He donated all this candy because it made him felt great, but he also wanted his homeroom to win the pizza party.



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## Foothills Church Backpack Buddies

Because hunger doesn't end on Fridays

By Katherine Nunn

The Foothills Church Backpack Buddies program provides weekend food to Molalla area students who might not have enough food at home.

This program serves nine schools. K'lynn Call runs this program. K'lynn says, "It is a huge blessing to connect with the people in this program."

This program thrives mostly off of donations. There are three teams that are responsible for the Backpack Buddies. The first is the shoppers who buy the food when they are running low on donations. Then there are the packers, who pack the bags based off of four rotating menus. The last team delivers the backpack buddies to the nine schools. The schools that benefit from this program are Molalla Elementary, Mulino, Rural Dell, Clarkes, MRA, RPA, Molalla High School, Molalla River Middle School, and one school in Silverton, OR.

This program started because a teacher at MES was concerned about the lack of nutrition some of the students had and brought this concern to the attention of Foothills Church. Originally the program only served MES, but now it has branched out to serve the other schools in the community.



## Marketing classes take a trip

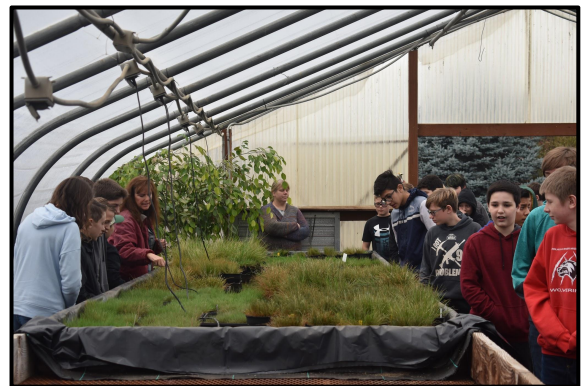
By Caidynce Cann

On Wednesday, November 14th, Mrs. Greenwood's Business and Marketing classes took a field trip to Pure Seed in Canby, Oregon.

Pure Seed is a grass seed business that sells and distributes grass all over the world. The purpose of the field trip was for the class to learn how the business works and for them to get a feel for what happens behind the scenes of a company.

Oregon AgLink, an organization that has a program called Adopt a Farmer, helped in providing the funds needed for the field trip.

After visiting Pure Seed, students got to visit the newest location of Cowboy Coffee in Molalla.



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## Metallica at the Moda

By Josh Livingston

Metallica, the heavy metal band, visited the Moda Center on December 5th. I think Metallica is the best band in the world after Ozzy Osbourne and his band. Comedian Jim Breuer opened for Metallica. One of his routines was about himself and his background as a comedian and how he met Metallica.

The show was supposed to start at 8:00 pm, but the band was still in Washington and arrived two hours late. Waiting for two hours for the concert to start was very boring. The comedian made it a bit more fun, but it was still boring. When the concert started, Metallica started with their new song, *Hardwired*. The song was great and very enjoyable.

Metallica ended up singing, or should I say yelling, 18 songs in all. My favorite song they sang was *Master of Puppets*, which in my opinion, is one of the top 5 Metallica songs.

The Moda Center was hard to get to because it is in Portland. The parking was great because I got there really early. I parked across the street from the Moda Center and only had to take a short walk.

Outside the center, vendors were selling T-shirts. I didn't get one because I already have one, but they looked really cool! Inside, there were concessions all around. They were expensive, but it was good food.

Overall, I would recommend seeing Metallica because it is enjoyable for all age groups. The location was a good choice and they sang a lot of songs. I would also recommend seeing Ozzy Osbourne in July at the Moda Center.

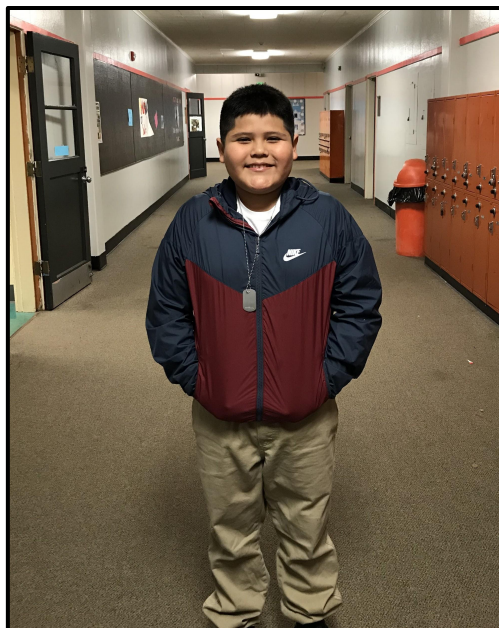
## The face behind the announcements

By Brooklyn Nagle

All students at MRMS know that every morning during homeroom there are announcements, but not everyone knows the face behind the voice of the announcements. The one and only 7th grader, Jose Alexander Alonzo-Perez, speaks every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at the beginning of homeroom.

Alex loves giving the announcements. When he gets older he wants to be an actor and speak in front of big crowds. "I want to have a career in acting, 100%, no doubt about it!" stated Alex. He is starting out small and trying to do more and more public speaking.

If you see Alex around the school be sure to let him know what a great job he is doing.



Mr. Microphone

## Current Events

### 41st President dead at 94

By Tillee Muffett

On November 30, 2018, our 41st president, George H.W. Bush, passed away after a long battle with health problems. His wife of 73 years died in mid-April, 2018.

Bush had a long history of health problems. The day after his wife's funeral he was hospitalized because of a blood infection. The former president also had Vascular Parkinsonism, which is a condition caused by one or more small strokes.

On Wednesday, December 5th, Mr. Claxton, the 7th grade social studies teacher, dedicated over half his class period educating the 7th graders about George H.W. Bush, his good deeds, and his funeral.

### SpongeBob creator passes away after battle with ALS

By Tillee Muffett

On November 26, Stephen Hillenburg, the creator and producer of SpongeBob Squarepants died in San Marino, California.

Stephen Hillenburg was born on August 21, 1961 in Lawton, Oklahoma. In 1999, he created the Nickelodeon show SpongeBob Squarepants. It is the fifth longest-running American animated series. For the show, he received two Emmy Awards and six Annie Awards.

Hillenburg was 57 when he died. He was diagnosed with ALS in March of 2017. ALS is when nerve cells break down. It reduces muscle functionality and there is no cure to the disease.

MRMS Yearbooks  
now on sale!  
\$35



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## WOW Assembly times 2

By Audrey Hamilton

### Tuesday, November 20th assembly

On November 20th a very interesting WOW assembly was held. Mrs. Buckley was awarded Teacher of the Month from Farmer's Insurance and received new books for her classroom library. Mr. Ferguson won the first trivia game, and a new student sat on the WOW Couch.

The leadership class came up with a new game. Trivia! One student from each grade level was selected to play and Mr. Ferguson was the teacher representative. Mr. Ferguson came face to face with the final competitor and won the final question and the donut. Maddasen Allen, a 6th grade student, was nominated by Mr. St.Clair for reaching her math goal, and she got the honor of residing on the couch during the assembly. Great job, Maddasen!

### New schedule for WOW Assemblies

For second and third trimesters the WOW Assemblies will now be every other Thursday during Homeroom. The staff thought it would be easier this way and less confusing for students and their classrooms.

### Thursday, December 6th assembly

There's a new WOW game called Seth Says! It is very similar to Simon Says. The winner of Seth Says was 7th grader, Stephen Nichols. The students who sat on the WOW couch were Jackson Blomquist and Josh Phillips, both for typing goals and Kody Rhodes for winning his supercross championship. Congratulations!

## Molalla Indians Basketball Team

By Gavyn Taylor and Brennen Soderlund

The Molalla Indians 7th and 8th grade basketball team competed in a tournament game at Banks High School and Banks Middle School in Banks, Oregon on December 8, 2018.

There were six teams in the tournament. In the first game Molalla lost 14 to 44. The team won the second game 44 to 29. In the third and final game, Molalla lost 16 to 80. They earned forth out of six teams.

The Molalla Indian basketball team players are Brennen Soderlund, Gavyn Taylor, Andrew Durk, Grayson Kelly, Drew Harrington, Osten Terry, Lucas Berreth, Michael Jones, Allen Simental, Aiden Barnett, and Hurley Baird.

When asked what he likes about the team, Andrew said, "What I like about the team is we're a good team, and we can be together as friends and learn new stuff."

The coaches of the Molalla Indians basketball team are Dave Terry and Dave Kelly. Coach Terry was asked what he likes about about being a basketball coach. He said, "I like being a basketball coach for Molalla Youth Sports because it allows me to give back to the local community that I live in. It also allows me to teach skills that I learned from coaches growing up.



Playing Trivia at the WOW Assembly.

## MYS Girls 7th and 8th Grade Basketball Team

By Emma Walsh

The MYS (Molalla Youth Sports) 7th and 8th grade girls tournament team competed in a Molalla tournament on December 1st and 2nd. The seventh grade girls won all four of their games, putting themselves in first place. The 8th grade girls won two games, ending in third place. The tournament was not a state qualifier, so it was used more for practice, but it was still very exciting for the 7th grade girls to end their first tournament with victory.

There were many highlights within each team's performance. 7th grade team members say one of the coolest parts of the game was the buzzer beater three-pointer that won the championship game. This shot was made by Kadenlee Greer. Although this was an amazing shoot, many also said that the whole team deserved praise because people passed and screened in order to make her open for the winning shot.

Both teams have the same goal this year. They both want to win state, become closer as a team, and have a strong work ethic during practice and games. In order to do this, Assistant Coach Kenny Wood says that the teams need to build trust. Many team members also say that shooting is something that needs to improve.

# Club Corner

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## NJHS Club

By Julie Mametieff and Claire Wallace

NJHS is short for National Junior Honor Society. The NJHS club is about learning how to become a leader through helping out the community. NJHS also recognizes students that have made outstanding achievements in service, scholarship, leadership, community service, citizenship, and character. These fields have been the basis of the NJHS club since 1929.

This is the fourth year that Mrs. Thomas has been the club advisor. MRMS previously had a charter with Beta Club but switched to NJHS this year to reflect Molalla High School's NHS Club.

To be in NJHS students have to maintain a 3.5 GPA or higher, have good attendance and possess leadership skills. NJHS club puts on events like the Canned Food Drive and Quarter Wars. They also went Trick-or-Treating for Canned Foods in October and collected hundreds of pounds of food from the Big Meadow neighborhood. All collected canned foods is picked up by the Molalla Fire Department and the money collected from Quarter Wars is donated to the Molalla Warming Center.

## Design Squad

By Caidynce Cann

On Thursday, December 13, a Design Squad meeting was held. Students in that club are working on making a hydraulic trash compactor. For their hydraulic system they are using two syringes connected with a tube. Although the mousetrap project may have been a fail, this new project may be a very successful project. Most students in the club are either finished or close to finished on the project and the project will be tested very soon.

## Agriculture Club

By Emma Walsh and Brooklyn Nagle

The Agriculture Club met after school on December 17, from 2:30-3:15. 13 students attended the meeting. MRMS Agriculture Club students made center pieces with donations made from Willamette Evergreen.

Mrs. Taasevigen's mother, a worker for Willamette Evergreen, helped direct kids on how to correctly make the centerpieces. There were bells, pine cones, branches, bows, candles, and other things available for students to use.



Hannah Jones, an agriculture club student, said one of the things she was able to take away from this activity was that, "when you make a centerpiece, branches have to go from biggest to smallest and put into the floral sponge at an angle." Mrs. Jones, one of the clubs regular supervisors, said, "It was cool to see the kids' creativity being shown throughout their final products."



Connor Moore and Karli Campbell building their trash compactor.



Mason King, Carson Merten, and Quinten Shaffer working with hydraulics.



# Teacher Feature

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## Keeping up with the Joneses

By Kelsee Smith

Mrs. Jones is one of Molalla River Middle School's office secretaries. She has worked at MRMS for three years now. Prior to working at MRMS, she worked at Molalla Elementary School for almost one year. She worked at Clarkes for one year, and she worked in the mortgage industry for about nine years. She helps care for students that go to the office that need a tissue for bloody noses, an ice pack for hurt limbs, and many more situations. She is also one of the people that gives students bus notes and other important messages.

Mrs. Jones's first name is Casey. She has a husband, named John, and they have been married for 14 years. She started working for U.S. Bank in high school, then went on to be in the mortgage industry right after that. She has lived in Oregon all her life, and she grew up in Aloha. Her role model is her mother. Mrs. Jones says, "My parent are still married. They have been married over 40 years and still live in the same house that I grew up in."

Mrs. Jones has twin daughters, Hannah and Macy, who are in 7th grade and attend Molalla River Middle School.

Her motivation to get up every morning is the children of MRMS because she loves seeing their smiling faces. Mrs. Jones says, "If I could improve one thing at MRMS I would love to have us have enough electronic devices to help support every student here."

MRMS appreciates Mrs. Jones because she helps out the school so much. She is a very helpful secretary at Molalla River Middle School.



Mrs. Jones is Unstoppable!

## Britani Ramos-Anderson

By Jessica Langendorfer

Britani Ramos-Anderson works at the Molalla River Middle School as an instructional assistant. She has been in the district for 6 years and first started working at Molalla Elementary School. "I want to help students positively meet their education goals," states Ms. Ramos-Anderson.

After working at Molalla Elementary she decided to go to Guatemala to do some mission work. After she came back she started working at Molalla High School. "I took time off to raise my kids, and now I'm back here, at Molalla River Middle School."

She enjoys being a part of and watching students grow. Speaking of students, she has two children of her own, Jacob, who is a second grader, and Areina who is in kindergarten. Her favorite thing to do is traveling to Guatemala and having movie nights.

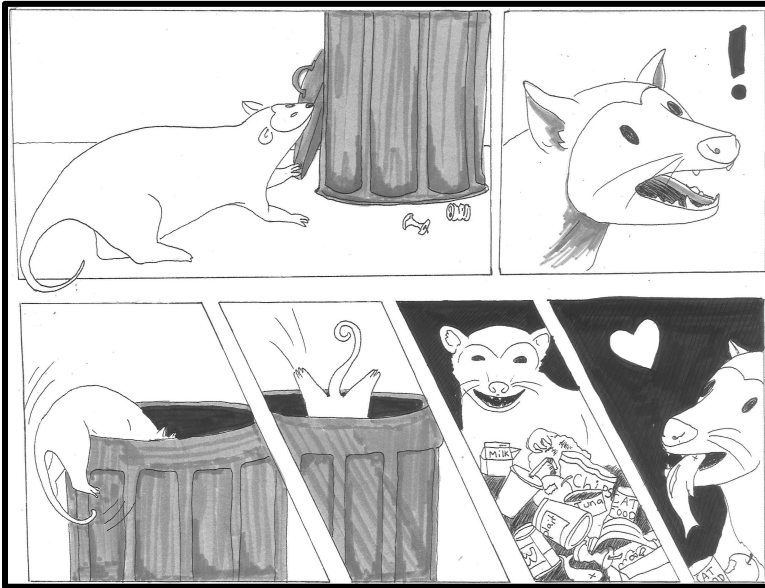
Britani Ramos-Anderson



# Teacher Feature

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An original cartoon by Mrs. Dean

## Mrs. Dean the art queen

By Claire Wallace

Mrs. Dean is the Molalla River Middle School art teacher. She is married and has kids, as well as a cat named Potatoes. Potatoes was adopted as a rescue. Mrs. Dean teaches many different types of art, from graphic design to ceramics.

When Mrs. Dean was 16 she was a science camp leader. She loved it so much that she decided to become a teacher.

Mrs. Dean knew she wanted to work with art, but was told that there was no market for art teachers. Her plan was to also get a minor in mathematics, so if she needed to she could teach that, as well. She was close to getting her math minor but Advanced Calculus got to her. She asked her professor for advice, and he told her to take the classes that she needed and not to punish herself. She then stopped taking Calculus.

She went to high school her freshman and sophomore years, but in her junior and senior years she went to a community college. She had high grades and did well. She didn't have many connections with people and was bullied a lot, so she decided to sign up for a program that would let her go to a community college instead. This gave her the credits to finish high school, as well as earn college credits. Afterward, she did four more years of college and got her teaching degree.

Mrs. Dean loved college. She went from a high school where kids didn't really care, to being surrounded by other young adults who were there to prepare for their own futures. A thing she really liked was that in college she got to select her classes. In her high school there was only one art class and once you took it you couldn't take it again. She took advantage of the variety of classes at college and took every art class she could. Her favorite class was ceramics, so she took it again and again.

Her favorite part about her job is that she gets to help kids who are genuinely invested in doing well. She enjoys teaching kids who know they are at MRMS because they know that school is preparing them for the rest of their lives. The most frustrating part is when kids don't understand the connection between school and their futures.

When Mrs. Dean was a little kid she wanted to be the first woman president. This was her dream until she was twelve. She then realized what it was like to be a president. She also was not very good at "that political schmoozing" they have to do (schmoozing, manipulative conversation), so she decided against it.

Once Mrs. Dean graduated college she got hired right away. She started teaching in 2012. Before that she did one year of teaching. She did this because she was enrolled in the education program in her college, which required her to do student teaching and practical teaching. She taught in Hawaii for almost five years and started teaching at Molalla River Middle School in 2017.





# Student Opinion

Molalla River Middle School, Molalla, Oregon — Friday, December 21, 2018

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## Why schools should hit the snooze button

By Reese Hawkins

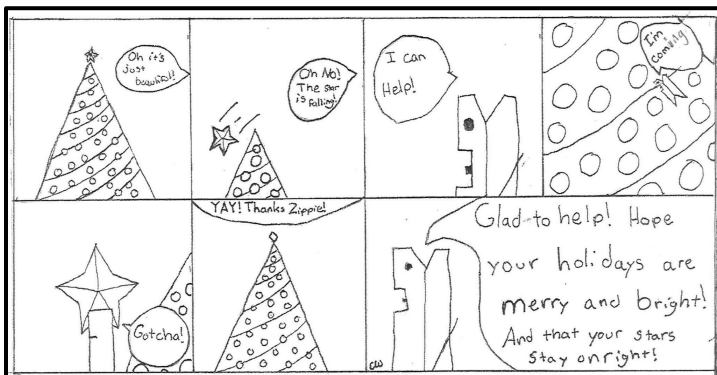
On average, students should be getting 8.5 to 9 hours of sleep a night. Instead, due to most students' inner clocks, they aren't tired until 11 p.m. Social media also affects students and their sleep, by students scrolling through apps like Facebook and Pinterest, rather than trying to rest. If schools were to start later, students would not only get enough sleep per night, but also do well academically. Scientists have been studying this topic for years and found more benefits to students.

A child's brain functions better after 8 a.m. So, if a school district starts at 9 a.m, then not only do academic rates increase, but also attendance, and a decrease in injuries. Students who get enough sleep every night tend to be the brightest and come to school more than those who don't. Injuries would be less frequent because children wouldn't be tired and clumsy in gym class. Later start times would also influence bus/car crash rates because bus drivers wouldn't be as tired in the morning and there would be fewer accidents.

The average span of a teenager's attention is about 10 minutes. More sleep means better grades and participation. All parents want their children to succeed. Later school start times would be one of the best ways to do this.

Unfortunately, schools tend to start way earlier, and people aren't passionate about the case. Many folks aren't trying to make a change because they're used to things working one way. For example, it is easier for working students to make it to their job after school. Students also need time for after school activities, and parents like to drop their kids off before work if they can. People are so used to doing everything in that order, they don't bother to change anything about it. Working together, though, can help make a difference in our kids and our future.

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## Walle the Wolverine Created by Christian Zannotti



Created by Claire Wallace

# Clawsome Fun

Molalla River Middle School, Molalla, Oregon — Friday, December 21, 2018

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## Cracking up Christmas jokes

By: Kelsee Smith

**Q:** Why do Dasher and Dancer love coffee?

**A:** Because they are Santa's starbucks!

**Q:** What do you call a bankrupt Santa?

**A:** Saint Nickel-less.

**Q:** What do snowmen take when the sun gets too hot?

**A:** A chill pill.

**Q:** What does the Gingerbread Man use to make his bed?

**A:** Cookie Sheets!

**Q:** Why did the Christmas tree get in trouble?

**A:** Because it was knotty.

**Q:** Which of Santa's reindeer has the worst manners?

**A:** RUDE-olph.

**Q:** What do you call a shark that delivers presents on Christmas?

**A:** Santa Jaws.



## Christmas Just So You Know

Why do some people say Xmas instead of Christmas?

The X comes from the ancient Greek language where X refers to Christ. So, Xmas simply means Christmas.

Brennen Soderlund

In the Netherlands, Sinterklaas (the Dutch version of Santa Claus) arrives from Spain, not from the North Pole.

And that's not the only weird thing about the Dutch Christmas. Sinterklaas has his little helpers, but they are not adorable hard-working elves. They are known as Zwarte Piet and can steal little children if they misbehave and bring them back to Spain which is, according to the Dutch, a severe punishment.

Reese Hawkins

Artificial Christmas trees were invented by a toilet brush company.

Gavyn Taylor

## Christmas Word Search By Brennen Soderlund

E I P H Q T L P F A M I L Y R W Q M K X  
W H F D U P D Y M O D F K W A N Z A A S  
P R E S E N T S A G S O W R I E E P L P  
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C L Z C N Q R E I F L K N P B T R E C T  
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B W B T F V X S O E N K E I C K P N E F  
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GREEN  
PRESENTS  
GIFTS  
GIVING  
NEWYEARS  
HOLLY  
JOLLY  
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FRIENDS  
WRAPPINGPAPER  
MISTLETOE  
CAROLS  
BREAK  
PARTIES  
KWANZAA  
VACATION

TREE  
LIGHTS  
JOY  
COOKIE  
SANTA

