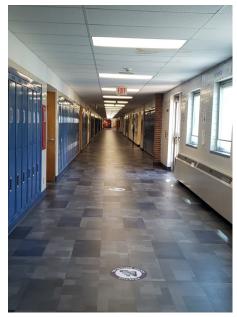


**The Changing of the Seasons** A "Spring" Back to In-Person Learning

#### By Anayis Martir, Emily Mack, Samantha Mack Team 7 Barkers

As of March 22nd, 2021, Northern Lehigh Middle School (as well as the rest of our school district) has reopened for fourday, in-school learning. Two weeks after the anniversary of the school district's fully remote shutdown, the Northern Lehigh School District has opened up its doors to all students who are willing to return. Our school district, as well as many others locally and around the country, has begun to reopen after many months of virtual and hybrid learning. There is an increasing demand to get back to "normal" as soon as possible,

despite the challenges the pandemic continues to bring. Ranging from poor academic progress to social and mental health concerns,



"First Day Back" by Stephen Berry



We have **TWO** Buzzfeed quizzes this edition! <u>"Which Flower Are You?"</u> "Which Spring Color Are You?" there are many reasons why there is a push to reopen. Between the national vaccination rollout and impending herd immunity, cases are finally on the decline, which helps support the notion that schools should return full-time. However, the pandemic is not over: transmission of the virus remains a concern. The question of when to return is certainly not an easy one to answer, making the decision to reopen probably one of the hardest decisions our district had to make.

Currently, Northern Lehigh Middle School has a four day inperson model with a virtual option for those who prefer not to come in. Those students who are virtual are able to still participate

in live stream instruction daily with their teachers and classmates. All students learn virtually one day per week (Wednesdays) and complete asynchronous work for that day; in addition, Google Meets with teachers occur on a shortened schedule as was done all year long. By having students home on Wednesdays, the cus-

#### See School Reopening, Page 2

#### School Reopening, from Page 1

todial and maintenance staff are able to increase their cleaning and disinfection of our classrooms and school spaces.

Locally, some schools are moving into or considering moving into full-time instruction for what's left for the school year.

In fact, nationwide, out of all the districts tracked on "Return To Learn Tracker", 37% are operating fully in-person, 54% are opting for a hybrid approach, and 9% are remote-only. Many would agree that being inperson for learning is optimal above all; however, the question is how do we do this safely? Our school must continue to follow safety guidelines and protocols in order to help make this type of learn-

ing possible. While cases are on the decline, it's important that we all stay vigilant with our health in order to be successful during this transition.

For the rest of the article, we will be sharing several opinions and viewpoints collected by members of the *Bulldog Bark* as well as other students who have spoken with our staff.

Samantha Mack: It has been over a year since we shut down and went fully-virtual. I think we are all smiling under our mandatory face coverings, even if none of us can see them. Most students at NLMS take the bus to and from school (that is, if they do not participate in any sports). Bus rides are a time before school starts where you can wind down, but will this change due to COVID? The bus population has gone up since we have gone back to four days of school per week. Last year, buses would normally transport 66-90 students, depending on bus size and height. Now, things are very different. On the hybrid schedule, the bus would



normally transport 10-20 occupants at most. Now, buses are transporting 20-30 occupants due to transitioning back to a four-day schedule. With increased occupancy, wearing masks is even more essential. Students need to wear masks above their nose and under the chin, which will protect both the other students and the student wearing the mask. These precautions will not only take place on the school bus, but also in the normal classroom and cafeteria as well. In the classroom, students will still uphold the mask rules; however, some rules have changed. When a student needs to take a drink of water, they must step outside of the classroom for their drink. While walking in the hallways, students must stay to the right side, so there will not be

as much close contact with other students. There are many rules that students need to follow, but there is one more rule that students don't particularly like. In the cafeteria, kids who pack their lunches have to sit in a back room that is filled with folding chairs and tables. There is one student per table, but there are two tables aligned next to each other, so these students have social contact. Students who buy lunch make a straight line in the middle of the cafeteria, waiting for their turns in line to get their lunch for the day, and then sit down. This new rule causes many students to be left without any friends to talk to. Considering these rules, along with the rule of only having phones out on a Friday if we are good, most students don't have anyone to talk to. Most people would argue this and say that the students can just make new friends, but it is hard to make new friends when they have kept the same friends for years. To conclude my statements, these new rules and regulations are strict to follow, but all in all, they are helping to get us back on a normal school schedule.

Anayis Martir: I believe that this will make school work easier for students and teachers alike, and while I also believe that some students aren't particularly stoked about waking up early four days a week to attend school, others are because they get to see their friends that they haven't seen in a year or so. While I'm sure the staff may have to work harder, they are probably glad to see all of us back in school! For families, mine believes that while school reopening might make things stricter, it'll get us used to when schools reopen fully! This has also made club meetings easier for some, so instead of Monday-Tuesday students having to come to school on their remote days, they'll already be here and can attend the meetings more easily. Reopening the school may also improve some students' so-

cial skills. Because they'll be around a larger group of people, it will be better for social interaction since they're not just talking to the same five people. While we'll only be doing this style of learning for three more months, it will hopefully be better than our previous style of hybrid learning.

Mrs. Dunham: Teachers, staff members, and administrators are happy to have students return to our building. I am hoping my students will continue to do well academically and engage in some much needed socialization by being in-person. One of my biggest concerns is about the attestation that our district has signed. Only a small amount of cases per building will make us have to transition into the remote model (on a temporary basis). As of this article's writing, two of our other buildings, Northern Lehigh High School and Slatington Elementary School, have had to temporarily close their building due to their number of cases. The goal of getting students back four days is to give students more in-person instruction, but there is always a chance that our building, as well as others, may temporarily close, which is a disruption to learning. Even when we had just the hybrid model, the schedule was difficult for students, parents, and teachers to adjust to. It's very hard for these students, parents, and teachers to plan when there are so many variables and unpredictable elements. I just want as much consistency as possible for my students, so I am hoping that we



can prevent the spread well enough and have minimal interruptions to education.

Emily Mack: This school year has changed many times in terms of what type of schedule we are following. Everyone is concerned, including students, teachers, parents, and administrators. The people who are most affected by this are our students. What do the students think about this? Is this safe? Is this the right thing to do? Will students benefit from this? I went around to different students, asking their opinions on going back to school for four days a week. Student opinions are split. Half are very excited to be going back to school, and the other half would rather have stayed hybrid or virtual. Students who are happy to be back in school are willing to follow all of the rules and procedures in order to be back in the

classroom full-time. They are happy to see their friends and teachers, and to get back to a regular schedule. With being back fulltime, most students believe their grades will improve with the help of their teachers. Hybrid learning prepared students for what could happen full-time. On the other hand, other students enjoyed the relaxed online schedule, and felt that they are more safe at home. After we went fully virtual following the holiday break, many students took a liking to it. Both sides state very good reasons and their opinions are completely valid. The biggest concern here is everyone's safety. Lots of sanitary measures are being taken to ensure the safety of the students and teachers. Things are being wiped down regularly. Everyone will continue to try to social distance as much as possible. It is a new beginning for everyone. Stay safe out there!

The decision to return was not an easy one to make, as there are many implications and considerations. School reopening is a hot topic of discussion not only here, but nationwide; the debate is, at times, divisive. It is important to consider the opinions of all those who are part of the process. Many students, parents, teachers, and school officials are very passionate about their stances. However, it is important to recognize that, in order to successfully return to school, we work together and each do our part to help make this transition be the best it can be. 😤

OPINION

## **Should PSSAs Be Cancelled This Year?**

#### By Aubrey Reinhard, Bella Haydt, and Anayis Martir Team 7 Barkers

As of this article's writing, the PSSAs are still scheduled to occur. On April 19th, 20th, and 22nd, are the scheduled dates for the ELA PSSA for 7th and 8th

graders. The following week will be the Math PSSAs, which will take place April 26th and 27th. For 8th graders only, the Science PSSAs will be May 3rd and 4th. Many students believe that because we have enough stress and are having a hard enough time learning this year due to virtual and hybrid learning that taking the PSSAs would be an unnecessary stressor. Aubrev added

Reinhard interviewed Samantha Mack, a seventh grade student, and recorded her opinion. Samantha states," I think the PSSAs should be cancelled due to the lack of hands-on/in-person learning. We all know that Covid plays a big part in this situation, which makes everything worse. Even when we are home live-streaming via Zoom or Google Meet most internet connection goes out at least once a day. In our school it is not any better that we are on a hybrid schedule which means only two days in school. Taking the tests would be harder due to the regulations and everything else. We also know the stress level in teens is very high and taking these tests would most likely cause more stress." The high stakes of standardized testing is stressful in general, but on top of the pandemic, it seems to be unbearable.

Anayis also recognizes the technical challenges of having the PSSA with virtual/hybrid students. She writes, "As a result of



students going fully virtual in March last school year, we didn't have to do the PSSAs. While there have been online versions of the PSSAs, it would be difficult for teachers to monitor students if they were to have to take the test from home. While there are teachers to monitor our screens while working, students could still use third party devices to cheat, [like a] phone, tablet, home computer, calculator, etc. While hybrid students could have extended time periods for both Group A and Group B students, would the students who come to school the entire week get to advance with their PSSAs? That's not exactly fair to the other students. What

about the fully virtual students? There's no way to exactly prevent them from cheating either. Teachers wouldn't be able to monitor between both the virtual students and the in-person students. In addition to those points, one should also have to consider the student body's well-being, with the stress

of the pandemic and quarantine, studying and trying to get good scores on the PSSAs will only add onto the stress. Due to all of these complications, it would not surprise me if there was some sort of extension or delay."

### Anayis's update as of March 2021:

"We have changed our style of learning from hybrid and fully virtual learning to four day[s] in-school, one day remote, and cyber school (Bulldog Academy and virtual learning) for those who choose to pursue their learning this way. While it is now easier to do the PSSA logistically, I still stand by my opinion that they should be cancelled once again this year due to the stress rate of the student body. Though we are going to go through with the PSSAs this year, I still am against them."

After asking Samantha for her opinion, Aubrey also wanted to get a teacher's perspective on PSSAs this year. Mrs. Dunham kindly agreed to share her **PSSAs**, continued

would understand. I think it's an extraordinarily stressful year, and teachers can find other ways to see what the needs are for students." Bella Haydt, one of our staff writers, interviewed several students. She interviewed Jaidyn Cole, a seventh grader, and he writes, "I think they shouldn't exist because if you challenge a kid's intelligence, it might possibly make them feel bad if it's a bad score." She also interviewed a fully virtual student, Ethan (John) Moore. He states, "For the PSSAs, I think it would be wrong to do it at this time. Because of Covid-19, a certain amount of students have been having trouble with school, and are really stressed and frustrated." Lastly, Melody Lindenmoyer, 7th grade full-time student, writes, "I

am going to skip it; nobody cares about it."

The PSSAs, like all standardized tests we have to take, are generally not always desirable to take. Even without being a global pandemic, testing can be very anxiety inducing to us students. But because we did not take our test last year, and because we've had an unconventional form of education, it's important to help us to show where we are academically. However, it is important that we do our very best as it does give teachers, administration, and staff a clearer picture of what we will need next year to get us back on track and keep us moving forward. Good luck on the PSSAs everyone!

### **Middle School Clubs: Get Involved!**

#### By Emily Mack

thoughts. When asked how she

feels about PSSAs, she responded

by saying, "Because the PSSAs

were cancelled last year, and because education had to drastically

shift so much because of Covid, it's

hard to know where students are

academically-speaking. I think test-

ing, in general, is very stressful;

however, the state, as well as edu-

cators, need to see what students

need going forward. So while I

would love for the testing to be

delayed, I think we need a baseline

so we know what students will

need next year. There certainly are

likely to be deficits because of hy-

brid and virtual learning, so it's a

way for us to see what we need to

do to help our students more next

year. At the same time, if testing

were to be skipped this year, I

Team 7 Barker

Student Council- Our middle school has a student council. Seventh and eighth graders can join. The Student Council helps with bettering and helping out with the school. They do fundraisers, food drives, organizing spirit days, and speaking for their fellow peers. As a member of the student council, I believe that our group is amazing! Our meetings and activities are so much fun. You get to connect and help your fellow students. So far this year the Student Council has done many things for our community. The Student Council has made Christmas cards to give to the Fellowship Manor,

held two food drives for those in the community, held a toy drive for Toys-for-Tots, and held spirit days for Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Saint Patrick's Day. If you are interested in joining the Student Council contact Mrs. Bailey or Mrs. Bariana.



The Bulldog Bark- Are you interested in joining the middle school newspaper? Email Mrs. Dunham! The Bulldog Bark is here to write about everything and anything. The newspaper releases one edition each season. Articles from cooking to politics to school events are included. The Bulldog Bark allows students to write for entertaining and informing students. This year, the Bulldog Bark has released a Fall, Winter, and now Spring edition. As a member of the Bulldog Bark, I highly encourage joining! Our meetings are always entertaining and fun. We are always open to hearing article ideas and ways to improve our paper. Joining the newspaper gives everyone a sense of community and creative outlet. The newspaper would love for you to join!

Yearbook Club- Are you a creative person interested in documenting the school year? Join the Yearbook Club! Email Mrs. Frank. In this club, students will take pictures and create different pages for the yearbook. Students can learn about editing and creating digitally. Students will learn how to grow and thrive during the time they will be creating the yearbook. They will also learn how to speak publicly and be camera operators. Students who have been in the Yearbook Club have loved it! It allows them to be expressive and have fun documenting the year. Yearbook Club is an amazing opportunity to learn and explore! If you are interested in joining Yearbook Club, please email Mrs. Frank.

Foreign Language Club- Are you interested in learning about foreign cultures? You might like Foreign Language Club. The club is run by Mrs. Dunham, if you are interested in joining email her! In Foreign Language Club, students learn about different cultures and languages. Students also get to make and try different cultural cuisine. It is a way to learn about the



world around you. Students this year have now learned about Span-

ish and French. I have talked to a few students in the club and they love it! The club allows students to educate themselves and grow to help each other. Students think that the club is an excellent learning opportunity. Foreign Language Club would absolutely love for you to join! Be sure to contact Mrs. Dunham. Are you ready to explore?



#### DNN: Dawg News Network-

Do you enjoy being on camera, editing, or using a camera? If you said yes, DNN might be right for you! The Dawg News Network is the videos of the daily announcements. DNN keeps students and teachers up to date on current school events. I'm sure most students have seen DNN and found it to look very fun. It is run by mostly students. Students learn how to operate and shoot a video with a camera and also learn how to edit videos. Public speaking is also learned when being an anchor. The students currently in DNN and past members have absolutely loved it! It is very fun and educational. If you are interested in joining the club please email Mr. Reinhard or Mrs. Frank.

National Junior Honor Society-National Junior Honor Society is

a co-curricular activity that has the top academic achieving 8th grade students. Students work on group projects and throughout the community. Students will improve their service, leadership, citizenship, and character skills. Some activities that NJHS does are making and selling pumpkin rolls to sell, forming the "Senior Prom", and doing independent service projects. NJHS is 8th grade only; it is also invited only. Many students who have been in NJHS found it an amazing experience. It helps students learn and grow to prepare them to be amazing people in the community. NJHS promotes students to become future leaders within their community.

Concert Band- Do you enjoy music and would like to learn an instrument? Join the Concert Band! Concert Band is a community of students and advisors with great respect and love for the arts. In Concert Band you will learn how to play an instrument, read music, and become more fluent in musical art. Band is not just about playing an instrument, it is about loving and appreciating music. Concert Band is not just a club it is a community of those with a love for music. Previous students who have been in Concert Band have absolutely loved it. Concert Band is also academic, they get to play, listen to, and learn a great deal about music. Concert Band is starting to prepare for their Spring Concert. A more normal schedule and way of doing things are soon to happen. If you are interested in joining Concert Band, please contact Mr. Carroll.

Library Club- Our middle school and high school has a Library Club. Everyone is technically in it. If you ever see a flyer or get an email from the Library Club feel free to participate. There are writing and creative challenges. Library Club shares their interests, aspirations, and struggles to support each other through community, achievement, and wellbeing. There are many different branches of the club including the Book Club branch, a Movie Appreciation branch, an Anime branch, a Crochet branch, a Mindfulness branch, a Craft & Scrapbooking branch, and a LGBTQ+ branch. There is also a new Dungeons and Dragons group. Past students in the Library Club have had such a wonderful experience! If you are interested in joining Library Club please email Mrs. Tiedeman.

Northern Lehigh Middle School has many amazing clubs to join.

Students should take the opportunity to join one of these clubs and get involved in the school community. Each club has something different to share. At least one of the clubs will pique every student's interest. If students give one a chance, I'm sure that the experience will be worthwhile. Getting involved in school clubs in Middle School is a great idea and can segway into each individual's high school career.

### How Has Covid-19 Impacted Clubs and Activities?

**By Andi Szwast** Honorary Team 7 Barker

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, almost everything has had to adapt in order to comply with national and local organizations' safety recommendations. One of these things is school, in particular extracurricular activities. In order to get a closer look at the changes NLMS clubs and activities have undergone, seven extracurricular activity advisors were asked a few questions about their clubs and activities. First, the advisors were asked what they had done differently this year compared to previous years. Mr. Graver, one of National Junior Honor Society's advisors, says, "Usually, NJHS candidates bake 600+ pumpkin rolls over the holidays to raise money to host our 'Senior Citizen Prom' that is held in May. About 180 senior citizens attend the prom each year...This year, unfortunately, we were not able to do any of it. Instead, candidates are completing their service

hours on their own." Yearbook Club advisor Mrs. Frank adds, "For yearbook, it's very hard to get pictures, because there aren't really things happening outside of the



During this Marking Period in Foreign Language Club, we've made French specialties. So far, we've made croissants, crème brûlée, and this week, we are making chocolate mousse!

school day, plus the 2 different groups mean that any pictures of things happening need to be taken twice to represent the entire student body." Mrs. Dunham, the ad-

> visor of Foreign Language Club, states, "We were not able to do our Foreign Language Club dance where we had food and music from different cultures for the entire school. We also were not able to do our fiesta for members WITHIN our club." Library Club advisor Mrs. Tiedeman answers, "Without the option

for in-person meetings, our clubs have had to get creative when it comes to continuing our usual activities and events without excluding any of our members. We've had to work harder to stay connected and be more aware of our friends who are less likely to reach out." Mr. Reinhard, one of DNN's advisors, affirms, "We have had to run two teams for filming, which has created some issues. With <sup>ge</sup> two groups, consistently getting

#### Covid Club Impacts, from Page 7

things finished efficiently has been difficult." DNN's second advisor, Mrs. Frank, adds, "There aren't really many announcements coming through to DNN, which affects what we can do on the show." Student Council advisors Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Bariana assert, "We have had to have hybrid meetings with some students attending the meetings inperson and some students attending the meetings virtually via Google Meets...We have had to make adaptations to the events we organize in the hybrid environment. Some of them were impossible to have due to the regulations and some of them have been implemented on a smaller scale than usual." Next, the advisors were asked to share what advantages and disadvantages they have experienced in their clubs and activities this year. "The involvement is a disadvantage. It's hard to [be] involve[d] when we have to depend on meetings digitally," Mrs. Frank responds for all three of her extracurricular activities. "As mentioned before, our meetings (informal and formal) cannot be fully in-person. Also, the fact that layout design of the newspaper can no longer be shared by our student staff (it falls on their beloved advisor)," Bulldog Bark advisor Mrs. Dunham responds. "The advantages have been tailoring certain segments specifically for our two teams. The disadvantage is having to juggle two teams and try[ing] to keep them on the same page," shares Mr. Reinhard, one of two advisors for DNN. "Not being able to host the Senior Prom was the biggest

disadvantage," says Mr. Graver, one advisor of National Junior Honor Society. He goes on to add, "There were no advantages this year." Mrs. Dunham, advisor of Foreign Language Club, states, "Obviously, not being able to run the physical activities like the dance and so on. Our meetings not being fully in-person presents a challenge." Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Bariana, the advisors of Student Council, affirm, "One disadvantage of running Student Council this year is not being able to interact in-person with all of our members. Another is that the events have been more challenging to organize and implement with our members only being in school two days a week or some none at all if they are fully virtual. Another disadvantage is not being able to hold some of our events that students always look forward to, such as the school dances, due to the restrictions surrounding the pandemic." They add, "One advantage is that we have found new ways to use technology to communicate with our members, meet with them virtually, and organize our events...Another advantage is that we have been able to focus on organizing events that promote school spirit and positivity which we all need a little more of during this challenging school year." Mrs. Tiedeman, advisor of the Library Club replies, "I really miss being able to see all of my students together in the same place. I miss hosting breakfasts and lunches, inperson game nights that allow us to do hands-on building challenges and food art, creating collaborative projects and having indoor snowball fights, and just being together...This pandemic, this inconvenient learning and living circumstance has forced us to get more creative, to be more purposeful and more driven in our efforts. I don't know if that would have happened in a 'normal' year. Perhaps we are all lacking the usual motivation to focus on school and struggle to feel like learning - or, let's be honest, sometimes anything - is important right now. But to know there are students who are anonymously changing the world in very big ways inspires me." Lastly, the advisors were asked whether their number of members increased, decreased, or stayed the same this school year. Two clubs reported an increase, three clubs reported a decrease, and three clubs reported that they stayed the same. Covid-19 has created expectations for a new "normal." Health regulations have altered people's ways of life, social distancing has citizens craving real, maskless human interaction, and almost everyone is wishing for the pandemic to end. Our daily activities, even the most simple, have been affected by Covid-19, and extracurricular activities have no shortage of differences. Yet, advisors are still continuing to run their clubs so that the student population will have positive experiences to remember from the 2020-2021 school year. So, next time you attend an extracurricular activity meeting, be sure to say thank you to its advisor for continuing to run it, even through all of the hardships the Coronavirus pandemic has brought.

# **BuzzFeednews**

Written by Bella Haydt and Andi Szwast; Quizzes Developed and Edited by Melody Lindenmoyer Team 7 Barkers



We have **two Buzzfeed quizzes** this edition! Click on the links below if you haven't done so already.

## "Which Flower Are You?" by Bella Haydt



"Which Spring Color Are You?" by Andi Szwast



## **Upcoming Movies: At Home and Theaters**

**By Anayis Martir** *Team 7 Barker* 

Hopefully, we'll be less limited during quarantine by the time spring comes around, so

let's discuss some movies that will be coming out this season. First



up on the list is Godzilla vs. Kong; if you couldn't already tell, this will be an addition to both *The* Godzilla series and the King Kong series. The plot of the movie is with the fate of the world hanging in the balance, Kong and his protectors undertake a perilous journey in search of his true home. With them is Jia, an orphaned girl who has formed a unique and powerful bond with Kong. They unexpectedly find themselves in the path of Godzilla, cutting a swath of destruction across the globe. The battle between the Titans, instigated by unseen forces, is only the beginning of the mystery of which lies deep within the core of Earth. Godzilla vs. Kong will be released on demand via HBO Max on March 26th.



*Kombat: Devastation. Mortal Kombat: Devastation,* also known as MK3 is simply described as a live action reboot of the video game franchise. Despite not knowing much about MK3, it will be released to HBO Max on April 16th.



Next up is *Black Widow*. *Black Widow* is described as a continuation to the events of 2016's *Captain America: Civil War*, Natasha Romanoff finds herself alone and forced to confront a dangerous conspiracy with ties to her past. Pursued by a force that will stop at nothing to bring her down, Natasha must deal with her history as a spy and the broken relationships left in her wake long before she became an Avenger. *Black Widow* will be released nationwide on May 7th.

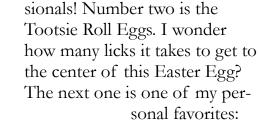


Finally is The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It. The third addition to The Conjuring series is, as always, based on a true case that paranormal investigators, Ed and Lorraine Warren, reveals that shocks even them. Telling a chilling tale of terror, murder, and unknown evil, the sensational case starts with a fight for the soul of a boy, then takes the Warrens beyond anything they'd ever seen before, to mark the first time in U.S. history that a murder suspect has used demonic possession as a defense. The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It will be released nationwide on June 4th. While those aren't all of the movies coming out this spring, I believe these movies will definitely be movies almost all of us can look forward to. 🎽

### The Candy Egg Hunt: Top Ten Easter Treats

By Samantha Mack Team 7 Barker

As you can tell, I like to write about holidays and the most eaten thing around then. Well this article will be exactly that! We are talking about the top ten eaten candies during Easter. According to "The 25 Best Easter Candies That You Need In



sonal favorites: it's the Peeps Rainbow Pop. I know most of you have probably eaten a sticky, chewy Peep!



Number four is actually one I have never heard of: it's Pancakes and Syrup flavored Peeps. I mean who says you can't have marshmallows for breakfast? We're finally halfway! My family loves this next treat. Number five is Reese's Peanut Butter Gold Eggs. Standing at Number six is Starbursts' Jumbo Jelly Beans. Starbursts are a very popular candy, but this is even more unique. Who wants to have just a regular jelly bean? We need jumbo because everything needs to be larger than

> life. Number seven is SweetTarts Soft Bites Bunnies. These gummies are perfect for sharing! Cadbury Eggs are always popular around easter. These eggs will fill the spot of number eight. Number nine is Sour Gummy Bunnies. Last but not least, we have number ten, which is Loacker Quadratini Lemon Wafers. These sweet but sour treats taste

like springtime in cookie form. Now you know the top ten eaten Easter Candies! Which will you eat next?

## **Bright-Eyed and Bushy Tailed**

Pet Adoption Rates are Skyrocketing!

#### **By Samantha Mack** *Team 7 Barker*

could make this sweet treat

to leave this with the profes-

yourself, but I'm sure it's better

So many pets have been adopted during the Coronavirus Pandemic that the shelters are running out! As all of us know, the pandemic has kept all of us at home for long periods at a time. Some families believe this is the best time to get a pet. Multiple shelters and humane rescue groups are seeing double the regular number of requests to adopt/foster dogs since the pandemic hit. Cindy Sharpley, the founder and director of Last Chance Animal Rescue, says, "They're going like hotcakes. We can hardly keep them in stock." Last Chance says their adoptions increased 30-40 percent over the last year! Lucky Dog Animal Rescue in Arlington says they are expected to finish the year 2020 helping 3,385 pets find their home. This is almost double the amount of

#### See Adoption, Page 12

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Page 11

the year before. Kimberly Ross, a 50-year-old woman,

says she put in at least 8 applications to adopt a dog. She finally met Steedle, a mini Pinscher mix during a Zoom call due to the pandemic. "Normally we'd be running to tutoring or basketball," Ross states.

"We don't have our normal activities, so we have more time at home to care for her," Ross says. I interviewed Aubrey Reinhard, a 7th grader at Northern Lehigh Middle School. She has two adopted pets. One is named Rufus, a 3-year-old Chihuahua Weiner dog mix, and Roxy, a 7-8 month old rottweiler mix. She states, "Adopting is important because one it is cheaper than buying a puppy and you can



save an animal from a shelter." Reinhard believes, "Saving from an animal shelter is more important than having a brand new puppy." Even though you would love an adopted or purebred the same, adopting gives pets a second chance. Buying a puppy straight away gives them love as soon as they come home from their litter. Whether you're "Team Adopt" or "Team Pet Store" the number of pets in house-

holds has risen and is still rising. At the beginning of the pandemic, we saw the national pet adoption rate jump over 34 percent. Although I'm sure it makes shelter volunteers and staff leave their hands so soon,

these pets with awful backgrounds are finally having a happy life. As shelter crates are empty, families' hearts are full. While we find our one and only furry friends, they find their fur-ever homes.

**Ten Weird Animal Facts** 

**By Kierra Katen** *Team 8 Barker* 

 The mosquito is the most deadly animal.
725,000 people die every year from mosquitos.

2. Horned lizards can shoot blood from its eyes up to 3 feet away.

3. A group of parrots is called a pandemonium.

4. A panda needs to eat up to 25-90 pounds of bamboo to keep its energy levels.



5. Baby elephants suck their trunks for comfort.

6. Axolotls can regenerate lost limbs and body organs.

7. A flea can jump up to 200 times its body length.

8. Giraffes are the tallest land animal, reaching heights of 19 feet!

9. More than half of all pigs in the world are held in China.

10. A naked mole rat can live in almost zero oxygen atmosphere.

## **Superbowl LV Recap**

By Grady Newhard Team 7 Barker

This year's Super Bowl was one sided to say the least. The yearly contest involved the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Kansas City

Chiefs. One thing I think anyone could say is to never bet against Tom Brady. Most people were choosing the Chiefs to win this; however, Tom Brady always finds a way to pull through and win. At the end of the first quarter, the score was 7-3 in favor of the Buccaneers. The lone

touchdown in the first quarter came when Brady connected with Gronkowski on a pass. The second quarter of the game was very similar to the first; only this time, the Chiefs did not score a point. At half, the score was 21-6. The Brady to Gronk connection came in clutch along with an Antonio Brown touchdown to close out the first half of the game. This year's halftime show was performed by pop artist The Weekend. It was unique to say the least. ing out at half, the Chiefs did not have a lot of momentum and it showed. They only scored a field goal while the Bucs put up a touchdown and a field goal to go along with the points they already had. The fourth quarter didn't

> have any scoring, and the game ended with a final score of 31-9. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers are World Champions! Tom Brady solidified his role as the G.O.A.T. of American Football by winning his 7th Super Bowl. He now holds the record for most Super Bowl wins ever. Patrick Ma-

homes is a young QB and could very well pass his record. I guess we will have to see, but I do believe that the Kansas City Chiefs will be back.

## The Life and Legacy of Kobe Bryant

#### **By Landon Rosado** *Team 7 Barker*

As we are now past a year without Kobe Bryant, I think it's important to review his history and legacy. Kobe Bean Bryant was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on August 23, 1978. Kobe was the youngest of three children. He grew up with two older sisters named Sharia and Shaya.

Kobe was the son of former NBA player Joe Bryant. Kobe's parents named him after the famous Japanese beef, Kobe, which they saw on a restaurant menu. His middle name, Bean, was from his father's nickname "Jellybean."

Bryant started playing basketball when he was three years old. The Lakers were his favorite team when he was growing up. When Bryant was six, his father retired from the NBA and moved his family to Rieti, Italy to continue playing professional basketball. After two years and many moves throughout Italy, Kobe became accustomed to his new lifestyle and learned to speak fluent Italian. Bryant began to play basketball seriously while living in Italy. During summers, Bryant would come back to the U.S. to play basketball in the summer league.

When Bryant was 13, he and his family moved back to Philadelphia, where he enrolled in eighth grade at Bala Cynwyd Middle School. Bryant was recognized as the top high school basketball



He sang a variety of his hit songs

mance. The interesting part of the

show had to be when he was sing-

ing "I Can't Feel My Face" and he

lights. It was really trippy! Com-

throughout the entire perfor-

was in this room with bright

player in the United States while at Lower Merion High School in Ardmore, located in Philadelphia.

Bryant became the first freshman in decades to start for Lower Merion's varsity team. In his junior year, he was named PA Player of the Year. Bryant earned the 1995 Senior MVP Award. He received several awards for his out-

standing performance during his senior year. At the age of 17, Bryant decided to go directly into the NBA.

Before the NBA Draft, Bryant worked out in Los Angeles, where he scrimmaged against former Laker players Larry Drew and Michael Cooper. Bryant was the first guard drafted directly out of high school. Since Bryant was still 17 years old at the time, his parents had to cosign his contract with the Lakers until he was able to sign his own when he turned 18. Bryant signed a three-year contract totaling \$3.5 million.

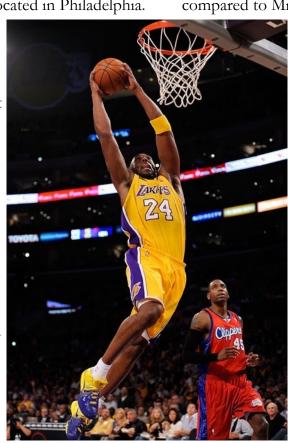
Bryant primarily played as a shooting guard. He was listed as 6 feet 6 inches and weighed 212 pounds. Kobe was often cited as one of the most dangerous scorers in the NBA. Bryant was often compared to Michael Jordan. Like

> 🜌 Jordan, Bryant became most known for shooting a fall-away jump shot. Another of Bryant's most famous moves was the "jab-step-andpause." Bryant jabbed his nonpivot foot forward to let the defender relax, but instead of bringing the jab foot back, he pushed off of it and drove around his opponent to get to the basket. Bryant established

a reputation for taking shots in the closing moments of a tight game. He was noted as one of the premier closers in the NBA. Bryant enjoyed being the villain, which was revealed through being booed and then silencing the crowd with his play. Between 1996 and 1999, Bryant was adjusting to the NBA. At this time he was the youngest player.

In November 1999, Kobe Bryant met Vanessa Laine. The two began dating and became engaged six months later in May 2000. They married on April 18, 2001. Bryant's first daughter, Natalia Diamante Bryant, was born in January 2003. Their second daughter, Gianna Maria-Onore Bryant (Gigi), was born in May 2006. In early December 2016, Vanessa gave birth to their third daughter, Bianka Bella Bryant. In January 2019 the Bryants announced they were expecting a fourth daughter. Their daughter Capri Kobe Bryant was born in June 2019. In the 2000s, Kobe Bryant was an American professional basketball player. As a shooting guard, he spent his entire 20-year career with the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA. Bryant was called one of the greatest players in the history of the NBA. He also had one of the most decorated careers in the history of the sport. They named him player of the decade for the 2000s. He was the Lakers' all-time leading scorer and his five titles are tied for the most in franchise history. He had career averages of 25.0 points, 5.2 rebounds, 4.7 assists, and 1.4 steals per game. He was considered one of the most complete players in NBA history. He was the first player in NBA history to have at least 30,000 career points and 6,000 career assists. His final game was April 13, 2016. The Lakers played against the Utah Jazz and Kobe scored 60 points.

At 9:06 a.m. on January 26, 2020, a Sikorsky S-76 helicopter departed from John Wayne Airport in Orange County, California, with nine people aboard: Bryant, his 13-year old daughter Gianna, six teammates, and the pilot. They were headed to Gianna's basketball game. The helicopter was registered to the Fillmore-based Island Express Holding Corp. The group was traveling to Camarillo Airport in Ventura County for a basketball game at Mamba Sports



Academy in Thousand Oaks. Due to rain and fog that morning, the Los Angeles Police Department helicopters and most other air traffic were grounded. At 9:30 a.m. the pilot contacted the control tower and was told he was flying too low to be tracked by radar. The helicopter experienced extreme fog. At 9:40 a.m. the helicopter climbed rapidly. At 9:45 a.m. the helicopter crashed into the side of a mountain in Calabasas, about 30 miles northwest of Los Angeles, and began burning. All nine people aboard were killed. On Sunday morning, Kobe Bryant died at the age of 41 in a helicopter crash in Calabasas, California along with his 13-year old daughter Gianna Bryant, her teammates Payton Chester, Sarah Chester, Alyssa Altobelli, Keri Altobelli, John Altobelli, Christina Mauser, and the pilot, Ara Zobayan. Bry-

ant left behind a basketball legacy as one of the greatest NBA players of all time and one of its fiercest competitors. He was an NBA MVP, 5-time Champion, 18time All-Star, 2-time Olympic gold medalist, and so much more. Before his death, he had recently become the founder of Mamba Sports Academy, which would help younger basketball players learn more skills. Following Bryant's death, Lebron James delivered a message. He promised to continue Bryant's legacy. On February 15, 2020, commissioner Adam Silver announced that the 2020 NBA All -Star Game MVP Award would be renamed to the NBA All-Star Game Kobe Bryant MVP Award in Honor of Bryant. 😤





Kobe Bryant, 41, and his daughter Gianna, 13, were killed in the helicopter crash.

### Dear Boys... What We Wish You Knew

By Gabrielle Lonberger Team 8 Barker

Dear Boys,

This is a list of what we wish you knew ...

1.) "I'm okay" or "I'm fine" is usually a lie.

2.) When a girl is silent, she's either overthinking, tired of waiting, falling apart, crying inside, or all of the above.

3.) When a girl says "I love you," she means it..



4.) We like it when you tell us what you are thinking.

5.) We may have a lot of crushes, but at the end of the day, our heart really belongs to ONE guy.

6.) When someone says we are pretty, we believe it for a minute. When they tell us we are ugly, we never forget it.

7.) We like it when you make the first move.

8.) When a girl is used to getting hurt, she won't know what it feels like to have a boy appreciate her and will end up pushing him away.

9.) Girls are just as shy as boys about relationships.

10.) Many girls don't let others see them cry unless they are comfortable with that person.

Gabby's Advice for Middle Schoolers

By Gabrielle Lonberger Team 8 Barker

#### Makeup:

- Makeup is okay, but try not to overdo it!
- Lip gloss and light eyeshadow alone can work wonders for a lot of girls. Sometimes, less is more!
- You may see other girls who wear more or less makeup than you. Don't make fun of them! Everyone's style is different.

#### **Boys:**

- You don't have to start dating just because you're in middle school.
- It's okay to have a crush, but stay concentrated on your work and not on a boy.

• Don't let boys control your life. Be yourself, and not who you think they want you to be.

#### Parents:

- Parents don't become uncool when you start middle school.
- Remember that your parents used to be middle schoolers too, so they kind of know what you're going through.
- Don't be unkind towards your parents or siblings. Now is when you need them the most!
- Always be honest with your parents, even if you did something wrong. They're smart and very likely know

already. Make good choices and use common sense.

#### **Physical Appearance:**

- A lot of people get glasses in middle school.
- They're fashionable now, so there's no need to feel insecure about them.
- Most people start getting acne in middle school.
- Wash your face every night before bed (especially if you wear make-up).
- Remember that everybody gets pimples, so don't feel embarrassed by it. You are not alone.

## **Randonautica: Dangers of the App**

By Gabrielle Lonberger Team 8 Barker

Randonautica is an app that sends the user on a random adventure to explore the world around him or her. When downloading this app, a user shares his or her loca-

tion, sets an intention, and follows directions to a random point that the app generates. Randonauts, which refers to people who use this app, are sent specific GPS coordinates to explore. Randonautica has become fairly popular because many Randonauts share their experiences on Tiktok. Unfortunately,

many teenagers have innocently stumbled upon unexpected crime scenes deeming this app as dangerous.

#### Randonautica Story #1: Dead Body in Seattle

During a routine randonauting session, a group of teenagers in Seattle, Washington, came across a mysterious, abandoned suitcase that had human remains inside of it.For those who are unfamiliar with the term, "randonauting" is using a random number generator to come up with specific coordinates in your area to explore. On June 21, one of the teens involved in the incident named Henry posted a video about what happened on TikTok. "Randonaut sent us to this part of the beach ... and we found this black suitcase," Henry said in the video. "We were joking that maybe the suitcase would have money." When Henry and his friends get closer to the suitcase, Henry can be heard saying,



"It stinks, y'all." Once the suitcase was fully opened, Henry said that the smell "was overwhelming." Eventually, Henry and his friends, who were "a little scared and nervous," decided to call the police to see "if it's actually a dead body or if it's just food." Well, as Henry later found it, there was a dead body inside the suitcase. According to a report from Seattle Police News, police found "several bags containing human remains" in the area where Henry and his friends located the suitcase. Naturally, people are dis-especially since Randonautica led him to it. "Okay but the fact that RANDONAUT LED THEM THERE is just insane!!!!" one person said. "Hell nah...this is freaky as hell," another user commented "This is kind of sad and happy. Someone was leading you to find their remains, so they could finally find peace," a third user noted. "A little dark, but a little poetic. "Some TikTok users are speculat-

ing that the dead body is the handiwork of a serial killer in the Seattle area, though the police have yet to comment on this. Click on this video link <u>here</u> to see the news report of this finding.

#### Randonautica Story #2: Asking for Death in Colorado?

There has been speculation of another Randonautica experience gone wrong. A Colorado teen says the Randonautica app

took her and a friend to a shooting scene where a gunshot victim was lying in a gutter. The teen, who goes by Mykena Rae on Tik-Tok, recorded the aftermath of her Randonautica adventure and posted it to the platform. In her TikTok, Rae, who is in hysterics, recalls that when asked what their "intention" was when selecting what kind of adventure experience they wanted, they chose "Death." For more information, you may read the article <u>here</u>.

Hopefully, this article helps you see the risks involved and make the decision to not go Randonauting. I really want you to be safe.

## **Black Lives Matter:** How to Help and Support the Movement

#### By Anayis Martir

Team 7 Barker

A movement started to spread

awareness of the systematic racism and police brutality against black people first appeared in July of



2013 after the deaths of Travyon

Martin and George Zimmerman with the use of the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter which

#BlackLivesMatter which had been brought back to life after the death of George Floyd. Currently, Derek Chauvin is on trial for George Floyd's death, and while the justice system is working, we must be supportive of one another during this time.

Today, I will be telling you how to help out with the movement and other movements that are similar and how to help spread awareness. One way is to use social media hashtags and promote positive outcomes of the moment. Also, one can always attend a protest, although they're most likely not safe to attend at our age or any age due to the use of rubber bullets and tear gas caused by the police forces, along with other weapons the forces may use. You can donate to Black Lives Matter along with other movements committed

to ending mass incarceration and extreme sentencing like Equal Justice Initiative, which provides legal representation to people who have been wrongfully convicted, and National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly In-

## Equal Justice Initiative

carcerated Women and Girls, who



are focused on helping female inmates and ex-convicts. You can donate money to bail funds and donate to a local one using the National Bail Fund Network which lists a variety of bail funds by the state. You can also donate to National Bail Funds, like National Bail Out, or The Bail Project. Or you could donate to other bail funds focusing on specific communities. You can directly donate to families who have lost

their loved ones in these killings by sending money to their Go-FundMe page. Supporting black-owned

businesses could be crucial in helping them stay in operation during the pandemic. VICE has a guide on how to find black-owned restaurants by state, while New York Magazine has a list of not just food companies, but also beauty, clothing, and fitness brands among others. If you can't protest or donate money, but you still would like to help out the community, you could volunteer by providing childcare and food to those attending rallies or sew masks to help protect protesters. Of course, at our age, it would most likely be best to have a guardian to help you with these tasks. A safer approach and a free approach could be to just sign petitions. And finally, we can't necessarily help the situation if we don't educate ourselves on it. 😤



## doghouse fiction



Flower Power

By Lauren Nichols

Team 8 Barker

Zoey was running through the park, screaming, chasing after her best friend, Don. "I'll catch you! You can't hide anymore!" Don laughed and stopped running, glancing at her "Oh yeah? I'll race you to the meadow, then we'll see who you can't catch!" Zoey rolled her eyes, smiling, already running after Don to the meadow.

Zoey sat down in the meadow happily, grinning at Don "Beat you!" Don sighed but smiled, he didn't seem to mind losing to Zoey. "Yeah, whatever, I let you win though!" Zoey was quiet, glaring at him. "I still won," Don smiled and laughed a little. "What? Want a parade in your honor?," he asked, teasingly. Zoey was quiet, thinking, "No. Flowers from this meadow would be nice though!" Don nodded slowly, watching her "Okay, the meadow's right here. Grab some." Zoey

smiled and started plucking the wildflowers, happily. Don sat down, watching her, and grabbed his own fistful of purple flowers. Zoey shoved her flowers at Don's face "Smell them! They're re-



ally pretty!" Don shrugged and sniffed the flowers, before quickly pushing them away, and rubbing his temples, as if the smell had given him a headache. Zoey put the flowers down, "Are you alright? Do you have a pollen allergy?" Don quickly shook his head, "I- I don't think

so..." his tone suggested that he might not be able to remember if he did or not. Zoey nodded, trying to shrug it off as allergies, but this just seemed different, more serious. "Maybe we should just go home," Zoey mumbled, making sure to keep an eye on Don. Don nodded quietly, and started to stand up, walking in the direction of their houses.

Zoey stopped in front of their houses, and glanced at Don, worriedly, he was bent over wheezing, seemingly out of breath. "Don?! Is everything alright?"

Don quickly shook his head, and sat on the sidewalk, trying to catch his breath. Zoey sat down next

#### Page 20

## doghouse fiction

to him quietly, "What's going on? I've never seen this happen to you before..." Don didn't say anything, as if talking had suddenly become too difficult. Zoey sighed and nodded quietly, gently

grabbing his arm, trying to help him up. Don leaned against her, and stumbled toward their houses, hacking up a lung. Don stumbled through Zoey's front door before collapsing on the floor in a heap. Zoey quickly scram-

bled down the floor, in an attempt to help him. "Don!?" Don croaked out a weak, "Hhospital..!" Zoey nodded and quickly grabbed her phone, dialing 911. "Help! My friend is having trouble breathing!"

Don was laying in a hospital bed, unconscious, with Zoey sitting on the floor next to him. Don shot upright in bed, only to be thrown into a coughing fit, small amounts of blood, and a few flower petals coming up. Zoey glanced at him, concerned "Did you eat a flower or something!?" Don shot her a glare, not believing that she would actually ask something like that, before falling back into the bed, a bunch of machines rapidly beeping. Zoey quickly glanced around the room, before hollering out into the hallway "DOCTOR!"



A doctor rushed into the room carrying a medical bag, and rushed over to Don's bedside, before dully announcing "He's dead." Zoey stared at her "W-What!? Whatever happened to him!?" The doctor let out a small sigh, and glanced over at Zoey "We're not quite sure... But it appears as if he were-" He paused for a more dramatic effect, before announcing "Poisoned." Zoey stared at the doctor in shock. not wanting to believe that he'd been poisoned, and besides, she couldn't recall seeing him eat anything that day, and that was the only

way to get poisoned, right? The doctor stood up and walked to the door before glancing at Zoey "If you come down to the lobby we might be able to provide some answers" Zoey nodded

> quietly and followed the doctor, racing down the stairs in an attempt to get to the lobby.

The lobby was filled with doctors, and men in hazmat suits, which definitely wasn't good. One of the doctors

turned to face Zoey "Your friend was poisoned, correct?" he quickly asked, getting a slight nod from Zoey. The doctor nodded and grabbed a clipboard, reading off of it, "It's a possibility that your friend inhaled toxic pollen. It's a new type of flower pollen, and we've been seeing it pop up more and more. We're not sure how it came to be, or how to stop it. So for now it's just going to keep growing, and killing more and more unknowing, innocent people."

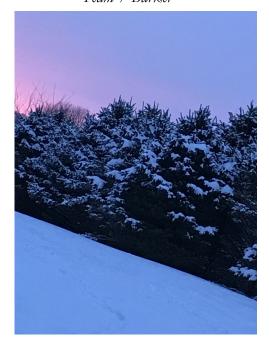
The end...for now.



## Picture Perfect Moments...



#### Photographed by Samantha Mack Team 7 Barker













## Bulldog Spring Happenings...

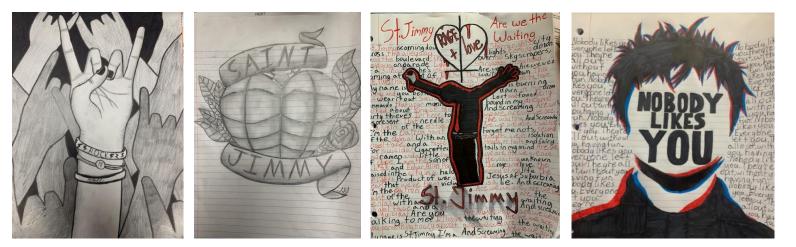


NaNoWriMo Spring Writers' Retreat started April 1st and lasts until April 30th. Anyone can still join the challenge until the end of the month, and there will be a virtual Writing Camp this summer for anyone interested! Contact Mrs. Tiedeman with any

questions or interest!







## LACEY GROOVER'S AWESOME "GREEN DAY" ART!



Mrs. Frank's 8th Grade Integrated Art from left to right: Dekota Barthold, Sarah Garcia, and Olivia Robb

## **Bulldog Spring Happenings...**



#### Hello Northern Lehigh Middle School Students, Faculty & Staff!

Candidates in National Junior Honor Society would like you to know that we are currently working together to help the animals that are being cared for by the Lehigh County Humane Society. We are hoping you will consider helping, too! The Humane Society is in need of specific items for their furry residents as they wait to be adopted. If you are able, please bring any of these items to homeroom between Tuesday, April 6th and Friday, April 16th. Honor Society candidates will visit your homeroom each morning to pick up your donations. At the end of our collection drive, we'll deliver your items to the Humane Society. The animals at the Lehigh County Humane Society thank you in advance for all of your help!

#### Peanut Butter

Wet & Dry Puppy Food (No Red Dye 40) Wet & Dry Cat Food (No Red Dye 40) Wet & Dry Dog Food (No Red Dye 40) Large Dog Chew Toys (Kong Brand) Dog Shampoo Cat Tovs Martingdale Collars (All Sizes) 6 ft Dog Leashes 1 Gallon Stainless Steel Buckets 2 Gallon Stainless Steel Buckets Feline Pine Cat Litter Yesterday's News Cat Litter Dog Poop Scooper Dog and Cat Nail Clippers Towels (All Sizes) Blankets (All Sizes) Puppy Pads Dog Poop Bags Heating Pads





## Letter from the Advisor

Welcome back! Springtime is always a time for new beginnings. It's a season for renewal,

rejuvenation, and reprieve. I can only hope everyone took the break to feel refreshed! It's been, undoubtedly, a very stressful year teaching, learning, and leading in our current pandemic world. Finally, there seems to be a sense of hopefulness in our society. I am uplifted by the people around me; my students, in particular, never cease to impress me with how well they've adapted. We've all dealt with so many abrupt changes to school, but we have tackled the challenges with grace. As our school slowly returns to what we remember, it's important to recognize how far we've come and be proud of all we have achieved.

The Bulldog Bark serves to represent students' voices at Northern Lehigh, so speak up! The Bulldog Bark is always looking for more Barkers to add to the pack; even if you would like to contribute to just one issue.

This paper serves to represent all of us. If you have any article ideas or are interested in writing at any point, please see me in Room 30 or send me an e-mail: <u>bdunham@nlsd.org</u>. Also, if you are a talented artist/photographer, I would love for you to feature your artwork/photography! We have plenty of room to show off your skills.



Hopefully, you're recharged from the break and ready for the Marking Period 4. Let's have a strong finish for our school year!

-Mrs. Dunham

