

Lime Kiln Middle School

SEEING SPOTS NEWSLETTER

Edition 1: 20 Years of Excellence

Lime Kiln's 20th Anniversary

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Lime Kiln Middle School. There is a committee that is planning activities for the students, staff and community to enjoy. There are still a few of the original staff members who opened the school in 1999 teaching here today. These people include Mrs. Lucas, the school counselor, Mr. Garner, the tech-ed teacher, Mr. Kelly, the social studies and physical education teacher, Mr. Jackson, special educator, and Mrs. Spillman, the GT resource teacher. Believe it or not, both Mrs. Lublin, the current principal, and Mrs. Mundy, 6th grade English, opened Lime Kiln in the summer of 1999. They later left for other career opportunities but came back home to the Kiln! Lime Kiln is a wonderful school and the staff feels lucky to have the opportunity to work here. Mrs. Spillman said, "I love the students and the community. I cannot imagine working anywhere else. There truly is no other community like our Leopard community."



Front of Lime Kiln: Spring of 1999



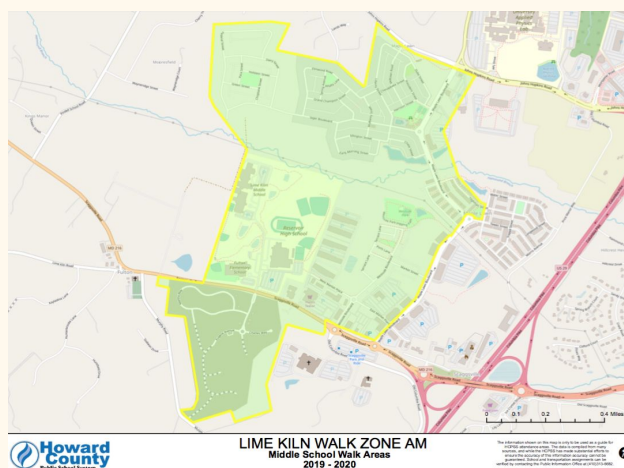
Back of the building



Inside of Front Doors. Guidance to the Left and Front Office to the Left

School Busing Cancelled For Maple Lawn Residents

By: Eli Stettner



On November 1st, 2019, bus services were halted for students living in most areas of Maple Lawn. Students living in these areas now walk across the newly paved path including an asphalt walking trail, a renovated bridge, and guard rails for some sections.

Transport Options This change will leave many students without a bus to ferry them to school. Walking times vary widely between locations, so it is suggested to time yourself walking back and forth from school in order to assess when you need to leave in the morning. If you decide to walk remember to bring an umbrella!

Overall Effects While this was done to lower bus costs and congestion, this will most likely increase the amount of students who are driven to school which could cause multiple problems for the environment and people in a rush. So will the increase in students walking outweigh the problems of carpooling? As far as now, no one knows.

In Conclusion The cancelation of busing to Maple Lawn has certainly been a major change for many LKMS students and the resulting consequences could be a major problem.

Garfield Phones

By: Leo Lim

For more than 30 years, novelty Garfield phones have been washing up on the shores of Brittany, France. It was hard to stop the flow of phones as they continually appear whenever the tide rose. These phones were declared a symbol of pollution by an anti-litter group and they brought attention to this occurrence. It eventually caught the attention of a French man, and he and his friends went to the beach to solve the mystery. They found the holy grail of decaying Garfield phones. The cause of these tabby cats was a cargo container that got lodged inside of a seaside cave. Unfortunately, they're buried under tons of rocks so they will continue to produce phones year after year. However, if you are interested in purchasing one of these phones you could get one on Ebay right now.

Video Games May Not be as Bad as You Think

By: Akiro Licitra

Video games have been a common controversy discussed among younger generations and parents for some time. The majority of these parents seem to dislike their children playing these online games, but are they really that bad?

To answer this question, it is important to look at the benefits and negatives of them. They are obviously entertaining and fun when you get home from school or work and provide a time to relax or unwind (remember that everything is best in moderation).

However, according to various sources, people between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five spend, on average, more than seven hours a week! Additionally, while gamers usually spend one hour and forty-eight minutes a week watching other people play video games, and people who typically watch sports for two hours and twenty-seven minutes per week. Sports are watched, on average, almost half an hour more per week than video games are.

Is Map Testing Worthwhile?

By Isabelle Ives

MAP is an acronym for Measure of Academic Progress. Students in Maryland from grades first through eighth have to take Reading and Math MAP in fall and winter. While MAP is helpful when placing students into classes, it also takes students away from learning since testing takes two days to complete. So the question is, is it, in the long run, worth the time it takes? When asked to students and parents, via survey, the majority, nine out of the ten participants, said that they believed MAP testing wasted too much time to be worthwhile. Some comments about why it is not effective say that “MAP takes too much time” and “I think MAP testing is useless because it just causes more stress to people”. People who think that MAP testing is worthwhile believe that because “the teachers get to learn what students know and what they need to teach them”. So think about it. What is your opinion on the effectiveness of MAP testing?

Thank you to all the people who helped by taking the survey!

What's the Deal With Climate Change?

By: Rahul Goyal

How can one plastic straw cause the destruction of the world? How does one more unnecessary gallon of water change the ocean? Simple answer, through climate change and global warming. Possibly the most dangerous natural event in history...caused by us. But it's not too late to stop it! Here's a few everyday things that you can do to provide a better future.

1. Recycle more
2. Avoid products with lots of packaging
3. Invest in solar panels
4. Eat less or no meat
5. Use reusable products
6. Use energy efficient bulbs
7. Plant a garden or a tree
8. Reduce water usage and waste
9. Spread Awareness!!!

Global warming and climate change are escaping from our hands, and we need to get a grasp of it. Doing these simple deeds can truly make a difference!

Fall activities that you can do right here in Howard County

By Natalie Workman

Ghost tours at Savage Mill.

Savage Mill is known for its spooky heritage, and it gets even more thrilling as a tour guide tells you the tales and paints scenes of horror in your mind. On November 2nd, recurring every Friday in November until the 30th, you can tour homes and view custom artwork. This tour is not for the faint of heart, so be prepared.

Pumpkin Chucking at the Elioak Farm, see how far your pumpkin will go!

Bring a pumpkin of your choice to Clark's Elioak Farm in Ellicott City during the weekend of November 2nd-3rd. Their special catapult will launch your pumpkin across the farm. Face Painting by Carol's Creations and more. Ride Diablo, the mechanical bull- don't forget to hold on tight!

Friday Lazer Tag

Bring a friend, family member, or even host a birthday party. During the month of November, every Friday starting November 8th, Shadowland Laser Adventures is hosting Fab Friday Happy Hours, when Lazer Tag only costs \$6 per person. Up to 40 participants can compete in the same arena! Pizza sells for only \$1 for a slice. The winner of Friday Lazer Tag gets 2 FREE adventures with the unique "Shoot To Thrill" game. More importantly... when you win, you join the "Sharpshooters and Marksman" Club!

Card Games

By Mahir Aziz

In this day and age, card games aren't all that popular, but can still keep us active. Many games have interesting objectives and are exciting to play. In games such as Magic the Gathering, you build your entire deck from scratch. In card games like bridge, rummy, and poker, you design and control half the game at any possible time keeping our mind active, boosting concentration, and to some extent, offers a social outlet for people. Overall, cards are a great pastime that are fun to play, a great break from screens, and are fantastic at pushing your mind to its limit.

World War Ants

By Michael Liu

After World War I, 16 million casualties were estimated due to warfare. In World War II, 50-80 million perished. Combined, 96 million deaths pale in comparison to the number of deaths found in the micro-sized world of ants. There are a million ants for every one person in the world, which roughly puts the ant population around 7,000,000,000,000,000 and they fight constantly, leaving millions dead each day. With the strength of 50 times their weight, these fighting machines are made for war. Equipped with weapons such as mandibles and stingers, they're a force to be reckoned with. They are found throughout the world with around 12,000 different ant species on this earth and are able to live underwater for an entire day. These survivors have roamed the earth for 92 million years and outlived the dinosaurs which were on this planet for 65 million years. They somehow managed to survive an ice age which occurred about 2.6 million years ago. These are Argentine Ants, an invasive species that has formed gargantuan supercolonies across California and the Southwest.

Animore

By Anna Strub

Otakus, unite! What's an otaku you ask? Most people associate being an otaku as a passionate anime and manga fan, and they're right! On January 10-12th, there's going to be an anime and manga convention catered just for them in Baltimore. Animore is going to be hosted in Hyatt Regency Inner Harbor, 300 Light Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202 USA. With a gaming panel, vendors, artist's alley, and cosplay or dance and karaoke events, there's lots to do! If you're not sold on the idea of going, then check out how many funimation voice actors have attended in the past! Besides the shopping and spending, you get the valuable chance of getting to meet other people interested in the same things as you, or just go to a panel to have fun learning about anime or Japanese culture! Wanna go? Then head on over! Animore will be waiting.

Check out their awesome website at <https://animorecon.com/>

NFL Predictions

By Angad Bawa

For many years the NFL has been an unpredictable place. Sometimes people get it right. Sometimes they don't. The things that make it so hard because there are so many factors. Coaching, the talent of players, and those great players who just come out of nowhere. It all depends on the team's and player's consistency, which is never guaranteed. These are my predictions for the current NFL season.

Rankings:

1: The New England Patriots are one of those teams you can guarantee that they can get to the Super Bowl and more than likely, win it! Come on, who is going to disagree? Their offense is great, and their current defense may be the best defense the Patriots have ever had. They have Julian Edelman, who has been an exceptional player and even won Super Bowl MVP!

2: The San Francisco Forty-Niners are undefeated and are rolling. No one knows how to stop them, as their defense is practically unbeatable. Currently, they have the number one defence in the league. They have Nick Bosa, DeForest Buckner, and Dee Ford always coming at the opponent's quarterback. Not to mention All-Pro corner, Richard Sherman. They have arguably the best defense in the league. Their offence has the ability to rush fast and use it's speed against you. Not to add that they are 8-1 at the time of writing this!

3: The Baltimore Ravens are one of the most fun teams in the NFL. They have dual-threat quarterback Lamar Jackson leading the number one rushing team in the league (hence their all-time record of average rushing yards per game). Furthermore, their defense also started to look like the number one defense last year. In fact, they may even have the most talented secondary in the league. The Ravens also have the best offensive line in pass protection. They have a very good tight end trio led by the team's leading receiver, Mark Andrews. Marquise Brown has given Lamar Jackson a deep-threat that he can rely on. They showed how great they were by beating the Seattle Seahawks on the road. It would be great to see how their next games play out!

To Vaccinate or Not?

By Timothy Bussey

A lot of people think that vaccinating their children can cause autism. It is proven that vaccines do not cause autism. However, there is not any evidence that proves that vaccines cause autism. Autism develops in the first few years of a child's life. Vaccines help people build immunity to vaccines, such as the flu shot in which doctors predict what types of the flu will be the most likely occurring that year, which is why flu shots are recommended annually. There are lots of different types of vaccines like tetanus, smallpox, polio, measles, shingles, yellow virus, chicken pox, and rabies. Vaccines.gov. When vaccines are properly made and distributed they won't kill you, but rather help you stay healthy. Just think of it as a prick for a second that will keep you safe. Vaccinate yourself and your kids, and remember that it won't hurt, it'll help!

Are Amur Leopards Going Extinct?

By: Shaunak Desai

Amur Leopards are currently under threat of extinction. What can we do about it? To gain a better understanding of the species, we should have some general information about leopards. They are solitary creatures and are nocturnal, spending their nights hunting rather than sleeping. They have a spotted coat which camouflages them in order to blend in with the trees, where they spend most of their time to help them hunt so their prey doesn't see them. While leopards as a species are not endangered, various subspecies *are*, such as the Amur Leopard and Snow Leopard. Common threats that can harm a leopard are human induced fires, poaching and habitat loss. They are also heavily hunted for their valuable skin, bones, and fur. In 2007, there were an estimated guess of 19-26 wild leopards in southeastern Russia and northeastern China. The Amur leopard differs from other leopard subspecies by its thick fur that is pale cream-colored, particularly in winter. Records from camera-traps indicate that they are more active during the day than at night and during twilight, both in the summer and winter seasons. This activity pattern coincides with activity of prey species such as Siberian roe deer, sika deer and wild boar. Creation of the Land of the Leopard National Park is perhaps the most significant step in Amur Leopard conservation. There are about 200 Amur Leopards in captivity today, and thanks to the breeding programs in zoos, these species are gaining population. To help out with the cause try to be mindful of if what you're buying is environmentally friendly or educate others on the dangers of endangered species really going for good. Endangered species matter for their amazing information that scientists can gather up to make predictions of what the animal's new food diet may be or, which animals can have a relation to others. Leopards are a big species fighting for survival of not getting extinct. Take responsibility for your actions on the environment and help out to the cause, because if we don't start now, the next extinct species could be us.

Silent Waters

by Shubhani Majmundar

It was a dark and stormy night.

Just kidding. No it wasn't.

It was the brightest and sunniest day in the world. Ever. In fact, it was blindingly bright. I couldn't see a single thing with the sun flashing in my eyes. I thought I was going to go blind.

"TJ!" yelled my older sister for what was probably the ten millionth time. "Time to go inside!"

Suddenly the blinding light felt comforting. I didn't want to go inside... because I was waiting.

I told my sister so - "For my friends," I said. "They went out to the lake and didn't come back!"

"So go find them!" yelled my sister. "I'm not waiting all day!"

"Well, too bad!" I yelled back. "Too bad for you! 'Cause I'm staying and I'm not coming inside until they come back!"

"Fine!" she growled. "But be aware, if you stay out here you're going to melt."

"I *am* aware," I shouted, "and that's scientifically impossible!"

"Remind me never to talk to a science geek again!" she screamed.

For some reason our screaming had changed. It was like we were yelling over the *sun*. It was like the light was coming furiously down to the ground, obstructing us until we had to yell to get any sound around it.

My sister noticed it too. "Is the sun making...*noise*?" she said. Actually, she was yelling, but it was *relatively* saying.

Then everything went white.

"Anabell!" I screamed for my sister. "ANA!!!"

"TJ!!!" she screamed back. "Where are you?!"

"I don't know!" I cried. "I can't see!"

I heard my sister yell something, and then everything went dark.

Absolutely dark.

It was like midnight. Ana and I scrambled for the porch before the lights went out. We looked at each other. "What about my friends?" I yelled. "They're still out there! By the water! They could have DROWNED, Ana! Please, we have to go and find them!"

"Okay," said Ana in a very assuring voice. "But first we have to tell Mom and Louie." She ran inside. "Mom? Louie?" she called. "We're going down to the lake!"

"Oh no you're not!" said Mom, rushing down the stairs to where we were. "No, you absolutely will not go. Not until we find out what's going on!"

"Well, TOO BAD!" shouted Ana, and she grabbed me by the arm and pulled me onto the porch. We ran all the way to the lake. It was the fastest I've ever seen Ana run. When we got there, we were both exhausted. We didn't pause, though. We kept looking. Ana was genuinely searching, which I found strange, because she was the one who didn't care at first in the first place.

I turned around, and Ana had disappeared.

“Ana, where are you?” I called.

There was no answer.

“Anaaaa...” I called.

Suddenly I saw something in the water. A harrowing realization came to me. I yelled Ana’s name at the lake. The response was a glow in the water. A mint green glow. Ana’s favorite color.

“The myth,” I whispered. “It’s true...”

The thing in the water was Ana’s pendant. Mint green. And the thing that was beginning to surround it was a beam of light as blinding as a lightning flash.

Slowly a whirlpool formed around the pendant and sucked it in. The lightning began to be absorbed by the whirlpool.

The “myth” that I was talking about goes like this. I whispered it to myself, repeating it over and over again as I watched the cool green glow.

**“Blinding white and silent black,
Lightning of the sun is back.**

**If you glow with every move,
Shattered pieces don’t join back.”**

Suddenly the pendant burst out and shattered to pieces.

To Be Continued

Fairtrade Chocolate

By Tara Vallabha

Several decades ago, most of the world’s cacao trees came from small family farms, and still do. Most cacao producing farms are in Latin America and West Africa. Not many people came to work at these farms, resulting in underpaid workers, forcing kids to work at the farms rather than go to school. Picking cacao beans is dangerous, so is it really safe for kids to do this?

Cacao farmers receive less than 5% of the money from the chocolate from their cacao trees. Most farmers in Ghana and the Ivory Coast live on less than \$1 per day. For comparison, a school lunch costs \$3.25. For many farmers, most of their income comes from cacao farming.

The Fair Trade chocolate program aims to give cacao farmers fair pay and better working conditions. Because of this, Fair Trade chocolate is more expensive, but it’s better than chocolate which was created with low pay, bad working conditions, and child labor.

Green & Black’s Maya Gold chocolate became the first Fairtrade-certified chocolate in the United Kingdom in 1994. Now, there are several Fairtrade-certified chocolates, including Nirvana chocolate, Trader Joe’s chocolate, and Kirkland Chocolate Bark. Help support these reliable and safe chocolate companies rather than ones that hurt the environment. Next time you eat chocolate, think about where it came from.

No More Plastic In Our Oceans

By Barack Grant

Every year 1 million marine animals are killed by tiny plastic debris in the ocean known as microplastic. 150 million tons of plastic is trapped in the world's oceans. Many turtles have been killed by consuming debris; in younger stages of life turtles are very vulnerable to getting entangled in debris. Research indicates that 100% of adult turtles have some amount of plastic in their bodies. Micro plastic are plastic that have physically broken down to be pieces millimeter in size. These small plastics are commonly present in many of the fish we eat.

How does plastic get in our oceans?

1. Plastic being blown away at some point on its journey from the curb to the landfill. This happens a lot because plastic is so lightweight. Once at a landfill, plastic usually doesn't get into the environment, as landfills in the US are generally well managed.

2. Littering. This is the obvious one. Bottles, bags, cigarettes, straws. Illegal commercial dumping also contributes.

3. Plastic Products that dumped down the drain: wet wipes, tampons, cotton swabs, bandages, contact lenses, dental floss, and polyester from clothes released in the washing machine. There are also plastic microbeads, tiny plastic balls added to many hygiene products, such as soap, facial scrub, and toothpaste, as an exfoliating agent (to make it feel "silky"). These microbeads are less than a millimeter in size and pass through filtration systems at water treatment plants with ease and end up in ocean ecosystems.



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