

**20 Years  
of Excellence**

## *Seeing Spots Newsletter*

**Lime Kiln  
Middle School**

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# How is our future going to become reality?

By: Shaunak Desai



Each innovation begins with an idea that takes time, effort, and thinking, the qualities used to develop Virtual Reality or VR. This technological concept has maintained the top position at one of the most popular gaming devices from 1968. And now, VR has just

gotten a whole lot better! Two students named John A. Rogers and Yonggang Huang at Northwestern University have recently designed a brand new prototype of the common system that could completely change our understanding of virtual gaming. What's interesting is that in this new prototype, any player will have a chance to feel an attack or touch that has been placed in the game, as well as having near-field communication (NFC) technology which is used in the phone industry to transfer one piece of data to another. This NFC technology is a wireless power delivery system which doesn't even need batteries! We can all make our own future by creating new things such as VR, so cross those impossibilities and make the future worth it!

## Chick- Fil- A's Mission: How Everyday People Make A Difference

By: Isabelle Ives

Chick- fil- a is notorious for their chicken sandwiches, Chick- Fil- A sauce, and miss- spelling cows, but what most people don't know is that Chick-fil-a also helps people in little ways that make a big impact.

Truett Cathy, owner of the original Chick- fil- a (the Dwarf House), and Sunday School teacher, made it his mission to make a difference in one of his Sunday school student's life. This student, John Starr, had lived in a house with nine people, sharing one bathroom. Cathy gave the key to one of his real estate properties to John Starr's father saying, "This is a key to a house I own nearby. It has four acres and seven bedrooms. I'd like to give it you as an even swap. You take this house, and I'll take yours. The house is paid for."

But this wasn't the only act of kindness from Chick-fil-a. During Hurricane Florence, employees at a North Carolina Chick-Fil-A, volunteered their time on a Sunday to stay and make food for evacuees. They served the hot food at three different shelters.

For more stories about Chick- Fil- A's impact on people, check out their website at the link below!

[Chick-Fil-A's Website!](#)



## Cinder Cat

By: Leo Lim

You think you have a weight problem? Wait until you see Cinder-Block, who weighs a whopping 22 pounds. This cat went viral after a video of her exercising on an underwater treadmill was released. She was so fat that she could only walk a few steps before resting. In fact, hospital veterinarian Brita Kiffney says, "Because she's so heavy, she can't walk more than a couple steps right now". Cinder's extra weight is also too much for her tiny legs to handle and is causing her joint pain. Due to her excess fat, Cinder is at risk of diabetes and pancreatitis because the owner wasn't able to deal with her obesity and hygiene problems. Cinder now continues her rigorous exercise regime and strict diet to lose her pounds but since this routine could lead to liver failure, getting her to a healthy 12 pounds could take up to a year. When the fat cat finally gets better, the hospital's receptionist will adopt her and she can finally live a life of happiness and peace.



ILLUSTRATION BY RAHUL GOYAL

-For more, follow @ragu.art on instagram-

## Team Trees!

By: Rahul Goyal



Six days and ten million trees. On October 25, a new project began coordinated by Youtube stars, Mr. Beast and Mark Rober and the Non-Profit Arbor Day Foundation. The foundation created an organization

called Team Trees that would convert one dollar of donated money to one tree. By January 1, 2020 there was a goal to reach 20 million trees to bring in the new decade with a more green Earth. At the time of writing, this goal had been greatly surpassed with 20,400,000. This is truly an incredible organization that will forever change our future. Go Team Trees!

## Plastic bag fee

By: Yara Aziz

A new plastic bag fee has been enacted in Howard County. Howard County passed this fee on November 4th, during a legislative session meeting, which makes people pay 5 cents per plastic bag they purchase. One cent goes to the business and the other four cents go to the county. The Howard County Council passed a 2-3 vote on the plastic bag fee. Despite the benefits of this new policy, not all citizens of Howard County can afford to purchase plastic bags, so, will it help or hurt our community?

## Juice Wrld

By: Timmy Bussey

Rapper Juice Wrld was born December 2 1998 and blew up with his release of the song Lucid Dreams. He has released many albums of music such as Death Race for Love, Goodbye & Good Riddance, Too Soon..., and Wrld on Drugs. He has also teamed up with a lot of other rappers to release different songs such as Ransom(remix), Ring Ring, and Astronauts. He recently died because of a seizure leaving his fans upset and shocked. His death was caused by an accidental overdose.



## Reservoir projected to reach critical overcrowding in 2021

By: Eli Stettner

The Board of Education's Annual feasibility study, a yearly review of the Health of HCPSS, projected that Reservoir High School will reach the Critical limit of 110% overcrowding in just two years. The Board has no current strategy to prevent this overcrowding at the time of this article. The Board's proposed 13th high school, which will relieve strain on all High Schools in Howard County, is not slated to open until the 2023-2024 school year. Already having six portable classrooms installed, many worry that the only solution could be additional redistricting.

## Antimatter

By: Tara Vallabha

### What is it?

Antimatter is basically a reverse atom. Antiprotons (reverse protons) have a negative charge and positrons (reverse electrons) have a positive charge.

### How much does it cost?

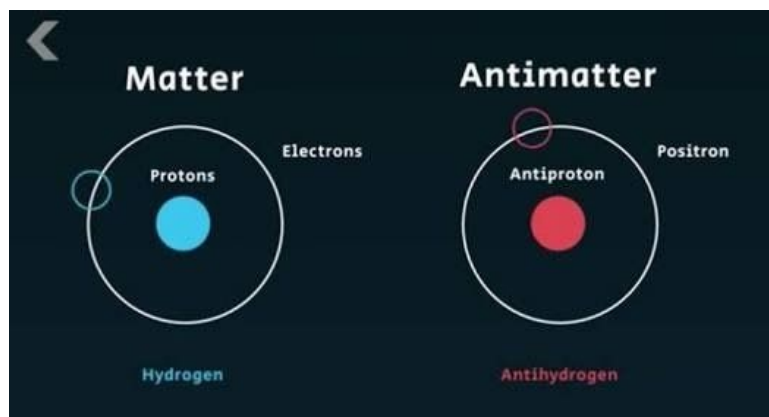
Currently, over 60 trillion dollars per gram.

### How is it made?

Antimatter is naturally created from gamma-ray bursts, explosions in space that have lots of energy. However, humans have only made about 16-18 nanograms of antimatter.

### Why do people want it?

When antimatter collides with matter, they annihilate each other. A gram of antimatter can destroy a city. People want antimatter because it can be used as a weapon.



## Anime's Growth as a Medium

By Mahir Aziz

Anime, a medium of entertainment known for being different and unique has soared in popularity. The genre is excellence at expressing emotion and has consequently gained legions of fans. When done right, anime can induce extreme anger, sadness, or happiness inflicted towards the viewer. With animes increasing popularity, top streaming platform Netflix has created over 45 original anime pictures. Overall, Anime's growth has brought back culture, engaged emotion, and is all-together a splendid genre.

## Seafood Watch

By: Anna Strub

Looking for a way to make sure that the seafood you buy, eat, and/or cook is sustainable and safe for the environment? Look no further! Using Monterey Bay Aquarium's tool Seafood Watch, you can easily look up delicious seafood that's also safer for the environment! You're probably asking "Why should I try to eat sustainable seafood?" and "What's so wrong with what seafood I'm eating now?" More than likely, the seafood you like to eat has been bycaught. Bycaught seafood means that the fishing company that got the fish used a huge net that they scrape across the seafloor, picking up and catching anything in its wake. Besides the net catching the target fish that they wanted, it can also pick up sea turtles, dolphins, sharks, and many more other sea creatures. Therefore, bycatch ultimately threatens species and is overall harmful to the seafloor. Seafood watch not only prevents support for bycatch, but also lets you know what species are endangered. To download the app, it can be found in the Apple App Store or Android Google Play Store.

## **silent waters:part 2**

**by Shubhani Majmundar**

I didn't know what to do.

Suddenly I had another idea. Not a genius, lightbulb-moment kind of idea. It wasn't an idea, in fact. It was a realization.

"Teddy!" I screamed at the water. "Belle! Ron! Irene!"

I saw a red glow.

Teddy. I was right.

The glows began to come quickly - pink for Belle, yellow for Ron, blue for Irene. Then the objects. Teddy's favorite Hot Wheels Car, Belle's favorite necklace, Ron's crafts kit, and Irene's lucky ballpoint pen.

Then something odd happened.

The objects flew out of the water and began to spin as they floated in the air. They were spinning so fast, I thought they were going to catch fire. And I was slowly beginning to realize that I was absolutely right.

Everything was so hot, it was white. And the black hole that was the sun was growing bigger and bigger. I was frozen to the ground.

Then the black hole turned red.

Then millions of pieces of paper rained down from the sky like a snowstorm as the sky flashed rapidly between day and night.

This was insane.

Amongst all of the white pieces of paper, a red one emerged. It flew toward me. Suddenly I knew what I had to do.

I grabbed the red piece. The red black hole turned into a pink hole. I grabbed the single pink piece of paper I saw. The pink hole turned into a yellow hole. I grabbed the yellow piece. The yellow hole turned into a blue hole. I grabbed the blue piece of paper. The paper-storm stopped. The blue hole turned into a black hole again. The little car, necklace, crafts kit, and paintbrush stopped spinning.

Then they drifted into the water and came back - with Teddy, Belle, Ron, and Irene clutching their respective items. I was genuinely thrilled.

But something was still wrong.

"Teddy," I said to Teddy, "are you OK?"

Teddy didn't answer. No one said anything. It was as still as the night. No one moved. I didn't even see anyone breathe.

"Belle?" I said. "Ron? Irene!"

They continued to not breathe.

Then I knew. They were dangerous. They were controlled.

They were robots.

It all started to work out in my head.

"Teddy. Belle. Ron. Irene." I said carefully. "Go find Ana."

They dived into the water, and that's when I knew I had made a mistake.

Amazingly, I didn't even feel a hint of grief.

Then Ana appeared.

I saw the look in her eyes that meant she was alive, but it was a tired look. Obviously something had happened in there that I didn't know about, that was exhausting.

She suddenly snapped to life. "TJ!" she cried. "Watch this!" Her hand extended, and she thrust it out like she was pushing something.

Or someone.

Suddenly the trees in the distant forest began to sway. Then they were lifted out of the ground. A terrifying tree tornado ripped across the forest.

Ana smiled. Then she began laughing. Like I had just tripped into a baby pool. She laughed so hard, I wondered what was wrong with her.

Then I caught a glimpse of the tree tornado. It was heading for me. Ana jumped aside and continued laughing.

The tornado was only about a thousand feet from the tips of my toes.

Ana stopped laughing and grinned. Not an evil grin; just a wide smile. She flung her arm down.

The tornado was inches from my nose.

Ana started cackling like a madman.

It lunged for me.

Without a second thought, I jumped into the lake.

-TO BE CONTINUED-

## The Problem with the School Start Times

By Michael Liu

Every day, high schoolers around the county have to be in class by 7:20 AM. Some buses come at 6:30 am, which means young teenagers have to wake up extremely early after suffering with loads of homework from the night before.

Today the average teenager gets about 5 to 6.5 hours of sleep, but teenagers need about 9 or 9.5 hours. This extremely unhealthy difference could change ones grade from an A to an E.

Parents attempt to solve this problem by making their teenager(s) go to sleep earlier. So, one may assume if their kid goes to bed at 9 pm and wakes up at 6 am, they should be able to get enough sleep, right? Wrong! If you force a teenager to sleep at 9, more than likely, they will simply lay there unable to sleep. Why? Before puberty, your body is set to become sleepy around 8 - 9 pm. However, after puberty, teenagers become sleepy around 10 to 11 pm. So if they fall asleep at 11 and wake up at 6 am, they would still only get 7 hours of sleep.

It is important to collaborate with one another to combat the issue, and change the standards. Sleep is important to teenagers' health, so we should all work together and change the school start time!

**Start Times and Delivery Windows**

	Model One		Model Two		Model Three		Model Four	
School Level	Delivery Window	Bell Time Window	Delivery Window	Bell Time Window	Delivery Window	Bell Time Window	Delivery Window	Bell Time Window
High Schools	15 min.	8:30 AM – 3:15 PM	15 min.	9:15 AM – 4:00 PM	15 min.	9:15 AM – 4:00 PM	15 min.	8:30 AM – 3:15 PM
Middle Schools	15 min.	9:15 AM – 4:00 PM	15 min.	8:30 AM – 3:15 PM	15 min.	8:30 AM – 3:15 PM	15 min.	9:15 AM – 4:00 PM
Elementary Schools	15 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30 AM – 2:15 PM</li> <li>8:00 AM – 2:45 PM</li> </ul>	15 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30 AM – 2:15 PM</li> <li>8:00 AM – 2:45 PM</li> </ul>	15 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:45 AM – 2:30 PM</li> <li>8:15 AM – 3:00 PM</li> </ul>	15 min.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:45 AM – 2:30 PM</li> <li>8:15 AM – 3:00 PM</li> </ul>
Cedar Lane	15 min.	9:15 AM – 4:00 PM	15 min.	9:15 AM – 4:00 PM	15 min.	9:15 AM – 4:00 PM	15 min.	9:15 AM – 4:00 PM
Homewood	15 min.	9:15 AM – 4:00 PM	15 min.	9:15 AM – 4:00 PM	15 min.	9:15 AM – 4:00 PM	15 min.	9:15 AM – 4:00 PM

Howard County Models of optional Future School Start times

# **Special Thanks To:**

## **Teacher In Charge**

Tracy Spillman

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