



Spartan Chronicle

Wheeler Middle School

December 2017



Giving is Getting

By Liliana Kennerly



Did you know that the average kid gets about 20 presents for Christmas each year? Did you also know that some kids might not get any presents at all this year? Millions of kids in America won't get any gifts because their parents can't afford them. With the holiday season upon us, you could help put a smile on a child's face by "adopting an angel" from the Salvation Army Angel Tree of Hawaii. How this works is that children write their wishes on an angel that is put on a Christmas tree, which is located at various malls and stores around the island. You pick an angel and help fulfill their Christmas wish list. The smile on a child's face when they have a gift under the tree is priceless. Christmas is about giving, not getting. If you help other people, good things can come to you in return.

Ice, Ice, Baby!

By Alejandra Gonzalez

This quarter just got a little colder. It is not just because of the winter season but because of this quarter's 6th grade activity!

This incentive is going to be really cool, literally, because it is going to be hosted at the Ice Palace. One of the many great activities at Wheeler Middle School. So get ready to grab your skates and go, go, go!

At the Ice Palace you can "chill" with your friends and skate together. If you can't skate, don't worry because there are people in the rink to help you, and they even have a special rail that will help you skate. If skating is not your thing, there are also video games to play, yummy food to eat, or just hang out with your friends.

You don't want to miss out on this activity. Keep your grades up and don't get into trouble. Let's end 2nd quarter with some "ice, ice baby!"



Floating "Up"

By Eva Salazar

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's...a man strapped to 100 helium balloons? Tom Morgan plays the real life part of Carl Fredrickson on this two-hour expedition! In these incredible 120 minutes, he covered 16 miles of land and floated about 8,000 feet up in the air!

Morgan is the founder of the League of Adventurists, a group of British photographers who's mission statement is to make the world "less boring". He and his group say that the flight was originally supposed to take off from Botswana, South Africa. However, after large gusts of winds popped the balloons many times, the team decided to attempt it from the capital and biggest city of South Africa, Johannesburg.

The adventurer says although the helium flight seems similar to Carl Fredrickson's in Disney Pixar's movie "Up", his idea came from a newspaper article about a helium balloon race in 1905. Morgan and his League of Adventurists hope to add balloon racing to their list of exciting events. He says his trip was "unbelievably cool" and that he would like to try it again. Next stop, Paris!

Uniting the Nations

By: Eva Salazar



Imagine seeing a model, actress, witch, and an ambassador all at once. Have you ever heard of a woman who can kick Voldemort's behind and still

be able to host fundraising events all the way across the world? If you haven't and you would like to, turn to Emma Watson!

Emma Watson's one way ticket to fame might have been becoming a world renowned actress. You might now know who she is by seeing her play the role of brainy and ambitious Hermione Granger in J.K. Rowling's million dollar series, Harry Potter. You might know her because of her beauty. Emma is a model and has been on the red carpet more times than imaginable. However, there is one important reason that Emma is famous today; Emma Watson is a Global Goodwill Ambassador. An Ambassador is a person (male or female) “who

advocates for a specific cause on the basis of their notability.” In other words, ambassadors are people who help raise awareness for a cause and raise funds. She works for one of the most important organizations in the world; UN (United Nations) Women. Emma joined this movement in 2014 to help change our society today. This organization is dedicated to let people hear what they have to say about gender equality and the empowerment of women.

“Being asked to serve as UN Women’s Goodwill Ambassador is truly humbling. The chance to make a real difference is not an opportunity that everyone is given and is one I have no intention of taking lightly... I still have so much to learn, but as I progress I hope to bring more of my individual knowledge, experience and awareness to this role.” Without Emma Watson and all of the women in the UN, our voices wouldn’t be heard and we wouldn’t have the inspiration to make the same social changes. Like Emma says, women's rights are a subject we should “have no intention on taking lightly”.

Freedom is Fading

By Calvin Latimer

Your independence on the Internet may be disappearing soon. Net Neutrality is the principle that Internet service providers do not have the ability to block who you call, what websites you visit, or what you say on the Internet. Ajit Pai, Trump Federal Communication Commission chairman and American attorney, is attempting to shut this principle down with his new proposal to the FCC to get rid of this. His proposal will be voted either for or against on December 14th. Without Net Neutrality, Internet service providers have the ability to charge you for what you do on the Internet, stop you from doing it entirely, and regulate who you speak to. Small business owners may be affected too. Business over the net that endanger an Internet service provider’s power over their customers can have their advertising shut down, or their own website blocked from the public eye. Websites such as “Free Press”, “Reddit” and “CNET” have all been protesting

against Pai’s proposal and other people have been as well. Small YouTubers like “Graham the Christian” and “Philip DeFranco” have all been fighting as well. Places like Los Angeles have been protesting on the street in addition to others online. A short time is left before our freedom is in the hands of someone else.



The Terrorist of California

By Kalista Butler



Over 245,000 acres burned down. More than \$3.3 billion worth of damage. Over 40 deaths. Hundreds of people are still missing. They were the worst fires that the state of California had ever seen, and it has seen a LOT of fires in the past. Entire neighborhoods in California were reduced to nothing but piles of rubble and ashes.

The areas of California that were burning were also extremely windy. The wind blew around the flames, which helped them travel and destroy everything in its path. California is also suffering through a terrible drought, so there was not much water that could be used to stop the fires.

To show support, Guy Fieri, a celebrity chef, set up two different kitchens for evacuees from the fire. He feeds them breakfast, lunch and dinner on the weekends. Along with Guy Fieri, hundreds of people have donated money to the victims of the fire who have lost their homes. Some people have even lent guest rooms of their homes to those in need. Anyone can help North California through the Red Cross, United Way of the Wine Country, Redwood Empire Food Bank, and lots of other organizations. The citizens of North California would greatly appreciate any help.

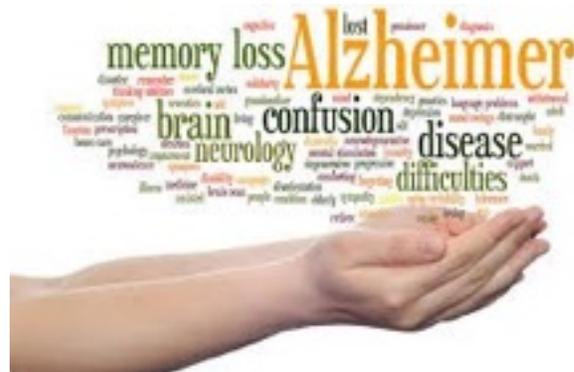
Road to Curing a Killer Disease

By Torrence Tebuteb

More than 5 million people have it. There is currently no cure for it. Bill Gates has recently said that he will invest a hundred million dollars to this disease. What is it? It's Alzheimer's, which is a disease that destroys a person's memory over time and other important brain functions by killing off brain cells. Alzheimer's can affect anyone at anytime but most are above 60 years old.

As of currently, no treatment can stop the movement of Alzheimer's. The most these drugs can do is only kill off some of the symptoms. Bill Gates has said that several of his family members had Alzheimer's, which is a possible reason why he wants to cure it.

Alzheimer's has been around for over a hundred years. More than 400 drugs have been tested and none of them have worked in curing Alzheimer's. Bill Gates is helping work towards a cure. Let's hope a cure is found soon!



Clash of the Tech Giants

By Brandon Altman



Apple and Samsung have been going head-to-head for years to prove which company has a better phone. It is still raging on and with Apple's new releases of the iPhone 8 and X, and Samsung's Galaxy S8 and Note 8, this war is getting really intense. There is no doubt they are both amazing, but only one can be the best. It all comes down to preference. The iPhone uses the IOS operating system by Apple, while Samsung phones use the Android operating system by Google. With Samsung phones, there is a wide variety of phones to pick from and storage is very expandable due to microSD cards. It is also very customizable which can be a big deciding factor if you want to get an iPhone or Samsung. However, Samsung does have its cons. There is a higher chance of Malware on a Samsung phone and has patchy support. With Apple, hardware and software are both controlled and optimized by the same company, Apple, which can give some advantages to the user. Apple also has a brilliant app store and terrific support. But, it does have cons, such as no expandable storage, very limited customization, and a closed platform. There are also a bunch of other factors that play into this. Long story short, it really depends on your preferences. They are both very amazing companies and they both have innovated technology forever.



Wallop!

By Christian Stutler



The long awaited game, Cuphead is here! Cuphead is a difficult, side scrolling, 2D platforming, bullet fury game! For those who don't know, side scrolling is moving to the side of the screen, like Mario, 2D platforming as in jumping on platforms, and bullet fury as in attacks coming from everywhere.

People have been talking about Cuphead, saying how it's the "Dark Souls" of side scrollers, and how it's possibly the hardest game of the year. Cuphead is supposed to be based on Disney-like animations from the 1900s, and it does an awesome job at it. The story of the game is that Cuphead and Mugman lost a deal with The Devil and now have to collect soul contracts from others in order to keep their own souls. In order to collect soul contracts, they have to take it from people who won't freely give it so they take it by force. The run and gun sections of the game are already difficult because there are a lot of things on the screen, but things get worse in the boss sections where you might have an even harder time keeping up with the bosses.

The visuals are amazing, there's awesome animation, and it has very challenging gameplay. If you're up for a challenge, go buy it. But I warn you, things are going to get red hot! Wallop!



Two-Minute Penalty!

By Benjamin Kellogg

Imagine a 6 foot, 200-pound man skating towards you at an alarming rate of 30 miles per hour. All of a sudden, “BANG!”, you are getting body checked into the boards.

The National Hockey League (NHL) season started at the beginning of October and things are already getting heated. Center Jeff Carter for the Los Angeles Kings had cut a tendon on his ankle. The Kings general manager, Rob Blake stated that “He’s out indefinitely”, which is a major loss for the Kings since he plays a huge roll in passing for them.

The Las Vegas Golden Knights have many claims saying that they are the “best” expansion team in NHL history. A new website called “FiveThirtyEight” has stated, “There’s reason to believe the Knights aren’t hovering around the top of the Western Conference standings by accident.” They also stated, “The Knights cobbled up a decent group of players! The Knights entered the NHL with one of the best expansion rosters of the past three decades.”

Will the Golden Knights keep winning to make it to the playoffs? Will Jeff Carter return better than ever or will his injury keep him out for the rest of the season? We will find out as the season progresses.



Alley-oop to the Hoop

By Lorelei Starling, Kalista Butler, Miah Banks, Benjamin Kellogg

They dribble down the court. They shoot...they score! The Wheeler basketball teams had their first game on Saturday, December 9, and every team played their hardest. Alicia Roberts, who is on the eighth grade girls’ team, said “For future games, it would be better if we were less nervous. Also, we need to work on how aggressive we are, and our defense.” According to Brejanae Hunt, a 7th grade player, “The game was hard because it was our first time. Hopefully we can improve.” Tayrece Johnson-Samuels said, “This past weekend, the game went well, but we can improve on skills and working on plays.” All the teams are eager to improve and if they practice hard, then who knows what greatness awaits them.

Colin Kaepernick “knee”

By Elijah Wilkins & Kahlil Wilson



Have you heard of the protest taking place in the National Football League? Players on teams across the NFL have begun a peaceful protest against racism and police brutality by kneeling during the National Anthem in games.

In August 2016, Colin Kaepernick, former San Francisco 49ers quarterback and the player that started it all, sat down during the National Anthem before a preseason game. He explained his actions by saying, “I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color. To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way.”

After his choice to sit, he decided it would be more appropriate to kneel during the National Anthem in order to show a higher amount of respect to former and current United States military members while still maintaining his peaceful protest.

Colin Kaepernick is now a free agent and has not been picked up by a team following his deviation from the San Francisco 49ers, which could possibly be from his political stance on the field.



