

The Wells Street Journal

June 2020



Literary Edition



Forward

This first issue of The Wells Street Journal is not typical for a school newspaper, but this is not exactly a typical time for our students. The students had planned to write articles about school events and happenings. Current events unfortunately rendered moot many of the students' articles that they spent so much of their personal time on, so they have elected instead to publish a literary magazine containing creative work. Please celebrate and enjoy those students who contributed to this publication through their flexibility and imperishable spirit.

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Special thanks to our collaborative cartoonist for the clip art images!



Creative Writing

Sorry

by Fatima Faal

Sorry

Sorry for not being there when I was needed

Sorry for being there when I wasn't wanted

Sorry for never thinking about you

Sorry for always only thinking about me

Sorry for always making things all about me

Sorry for never thinking about how it may affect you

Sorry for never thinking about your feelings and always thinking about mine

Sorry for never realizing that I'm not the only person in the world that gets hurt

Sorry for always making my problems seem bigger than yours

Sorry for always making you comfort me

Sorry for not allowing you to open up to me

Sorry for making you hide your feeling

Sorry for being too close or far away

I'm sorry for all those little and big things

I know I'm a big burden that you can't ignore

But all I have to say is

Sorry

Creative Writing

Different

by Anshi Purohit

All of our qualities, flaws,
Imperfections that make us who we are.
Keeps us floating on our own clouds,
Connected by a billowing rainbow,
Reaching for the stars,
All existing,
As a particle in this world.

Being whole and all our own person,
Being a “somebody,”
Can lead us to have unique ideas,
That creates a journey,
And they guide us to realize what it really means,
To be alive.

An offroad trip to the sights we could never see,
If we all had the same eyes,
A path only one person can take,
A secret meant to be shared with the whole world,
When we need heroes.

Difference brings a special diversity that is the foundation of civilization,

The way we share cultures with one another,
Traditions, customs, a way of life.

Something we can never run from,
Give in to,
No matter how hard we try.

Because we can't share differences,
Only help others find it in themselves,
Cleanse their soul,
Help them see beyond what is in front of them,
That the universe is a puzzle,
And we are its pieces.

Creative Writing

Fish in a Tree

by Anonymous

Meg curiously looked down at the fish, struggling to hold a straight face. This was the animal who had been perfect. She laughed at the thought. The young fish pleaded with Meg. "All I want is the prophecy, before I get a hold of my fate."

Meg glanced around her shack, no better than the standard witches' nook, or perhaps one belonging to an evil sorceress. A small cauldron, books of magic, and the ball of prophecies were among some of her possessions. No other animal was good enough, except for the fish. This fish, she thought to herself, was just right. Swimming in his tiny bowl, the fish looked her way.

"What are you hiding, Meg? What do you want to prove so badly, that you take me from my home?" Meg placed her hands against the window pane and sighed, her heart filled with regret.

"Oh fish, I don't want you! My life is on the line because of myself, and I have to do this! I know this doesn't make any sense, but being nice won't get you anywhere." She brought the ball of prophecies and spoke once more. "Your fate is to become reborn, to suffer; and the more you suffer, the more my power grows. And I will be accepted again-you see, fish, you have everything I need. You have a strong will and a strong heart-everything I want to have." The fish rolled his eyes, wondering how he got himself into this situation.

"Strong heart? Literally, or metaphorically?" With that, Meg sighed and everything went dark.

"Alice, come here! Your father awaits your arrival!" The fish woke in a bowl, but not of his own. Everything was white. He was in a laboratory. Alice's father, the head scientist, tapped on the glass.

"Isn't this little one a fine specimen!" the scientist said. Alice rolled her eyes as she entered the room.

"Don't put the fish in misery dad." So this was the fishy's fate. He swiveled around in the water to see a mirror. The fish had turned into someone different, or rather someTHING different. Claws protruded out of its face making it egg-shaped. He suddenly felt the urge to gasp for air, and came up, finding a slit under his lower lip opening and closing.

"No more gills I see. But how can it hold its breath underwater for so long. It still looks like a fish, doesn't it Alice?" The head scientist tapped on the glass once again while Alice tapped her finger to her chin.

"I guess I should name you, little fella. How about 'Mr. Pointyfins?'" And so the fish accepted a new life, a new look, and a new name, by gasping for air.

Creative Writing

Meg skipped down the road and into a forest hidden from the naked eye to the sorcerer school for young sorcerers. A nearly shredded sign hung before it read evil, but it was so scratched up and flakes of paint were peeling off, that one could assume a good sorcerer went there. Meg could never understand why they put sorcerer instead of sorceress, but today she had bigger things to ponder. She, Meg Marshall, had put something in misery, thereby completing her first assignment at the Evil Sorcerer School for Young Sorcerers. Surely she wouldn't be considered a disgrace by Teacher Mary or her family. A tiny bit of her kind of felt bad for the fish and her favorite quote came to mind. Albert Einstein once said, "If you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid." Sometimes, Meg wondered if she was that fish, by being judged for being nice instead of evil. But those rebellious moments only lasted a few seconds. Now it was too late to turn back. Now she would be praised by everyone.

Mr. Pointyfins was viewed by a lot of scientists, and every afternoon, Alice told him her deepest, darkest secrets. They were quite disturbing, but Alice stated, "As you can't talk, I can relay a lot of information that you'll never remember. It's science you know!" That was why he never talked openly to humans. The fish still preferred being nameless, but nobody called him Mr. Pointyfins except Alice. The head scientist often called him "experiment", or "test subject." Meg had turned the fish's life into a miserable nightmare, and all he longed for was to be normal, and live with his family, but to do that, he had to find Meg. A small fish like himself would confront the sorceress, and make her pay.

Just then, Alice bounded into the lab.

"I'll miss you Mr. Pointyfins. You're being released into the wild because my father has better things to do than study a regular crab. He says that it's a disorder, but even a regular kid like me knows you're a fish. I think he just wants to give up on you. Maybe you are special, but people are ignoring you. Don't tell Daddy!" The fish jumped in and out of the bowl, his heart soaring. He would get revenge soon enough.

Class started with Meg daydreaming about her new class status, friends, and a new wand from her parents. Perhaps her older sister might even take her out to dinner once in a while. Suddenly, teacher Mary brought a ruler down on Meg's desk.

"You! Time for your presentation" Finally, her time had come. Teacher Mary grunted under her breath, a big frown pasted on her face as Meg made her way to the front of the room.

"Hello fellow-"

"No formality!!!" Teacher Mary spat. "What did you put in MISERY!" Her yells were so loud that the walls of the room shook.

"Umm, a fish- I turned it into an ugly-" Teacher Mary cut Meg off and laughed hysterically.

Creative Writing

"You put a tiny FISH in misery! Hah, your parents will be so disappointed in you Meg. They'll never accept you as a sorceress. You're just too nice." Meg burst out of the school, anger consuming her. She didn't know where to go.

Apparently, releasing a fish into the wild meant flushing it down the toilet. The head scientist waved goodbye as the fish was let into the sewer system. Mr. Pointyfins was barely able to gasp for air in the pipes, and his claws kept getting in the way. When he fell into more water, everything suddenly calmed. Maybe he was in a river, or stream, somewhere peaceful, but no. The fish had fallen into murky sewage, which didn't look too promising. He was able to get a good look around to see a girl running through the forest, half invisible. Meg. So, could a fish like him live on land?

All she was was a sorceress who took everything in a nice way. She was too naive to realize that putting a fish in misery wasn't good enough. Meg tried to run out of the forest, but as she was running, she tripped over a peculiar looking crab-fish. Oh no. The prophecy was made up after all. Meg was kicked out of her only home, had stolen their prophecy ball, and was trying to make a living. Who knew she would actually need it one day? The fish used its claws to pinch Meg on her calf, and getting very angry, reached for Meg's wand. She thrashed, failing to capture the creature, until her wand zapped the fish, making it as big as a crab.

The fish was about to get its revenge. The girl stole everything from him, but instead of focusing, he saw a tree. Meg had climbed up the tree, but fish couldn't climb trees. Could they?

Meg stared in bewilderment as the crab-fish-thing began to climb the tree. She had been right all along. She wasn't meant for this life. Soon, when the fish was level with Meg, he stared into her eyes with empathy. "Can you send me home?" Meg again curiously eyed the fish. This was a fish in a tree. She brought out her wand, and before sending him off, inquired, "Do you like Albert Einstein?"



Reviews



MOVIE REVIEWS!

By Kaitlyn Choi



Onward: ★★★★★

This Disney and Pixar movie is about these two normal teenage brothers who find out that they can bring their dead dad back to life for one whole day. They have the magic staff to do it, but not the stone. They are on a quest to find the stone to be able to bring back their dad. They face many challenges like dragons and chasing police. Will they be able to see their dad before sunset? This movie is great for kids.



Stargirl: ★★★★★

Do you like different disney movies? Then Stargirl is for you! This movie is about a girl named Stargirl who comes to this normal and not exciting high school. She is definitely different. People even say she's magical! Ever since she came to this high school, they have been winning their football games and becoming more active. A boy named Leo has a crush on her until Stargirl does something really impactful and becomes the number 1 gossip in the school. Will she stay this hated? Will they find out the truth about her?

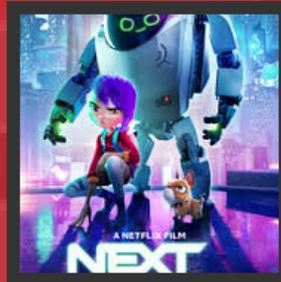




Reviews

Next Gen: ★★★★★1/2

Technology can have a big impact in our lives--. Especially Mai's life. She thinks technology is what everyone focuses on and just makes life more complicated. She accidentally makes friends with a robot and everyone is trying to capture it. The creator of all of this technology might actually be a villain and possibly not human! Is all the technology he created fake? Could it change the rest of their lives? Watch this movie on Netflix to find out.



SCOOB!: ★★★★★1/2

Imagine two of your best friends get kidnapped and a villain out there wants them. In the movie SCOOB, Scooby and Shaggy get captured, but they find out it's not bad where they are. Evil Dick Dastardly is on a hunt for Scooby for some strange reason. Will they be able to see their friends again? Will they find out the real reason why Dick wants Scooby?



The Christmas Chronicles: ★★★★★

Do you have no Christmas movies to watch on Christmas? Then watch The Christmas Chronicles on Netflix. Kate Pierce is a big believer of Santa and makes videos and sends videos to Santa while her older brother, Teddy is the quite opposite. He does not believe in Santa and he is more of a bad boy. Teddy gets in trouble and his punishment is trying to catch Santa on Christmas Eve. They found Santa's sleigh and jumped on it. Santa was quite shocked by their appearance and he went bonkers. His reindeer runs off and he can't find his stack of presents. Will he be able to save Christmas in time? Will Kate and Teddy have the courage to help him?





Reviews

Review Of The Emoji Movie

by Jacob Frias

To start off with, this movie just was not exciting. The movie follows the life of a “Meh” emoji, so it is hard to pull off an intriguing tale worth watching. The array of recognizable apps may have caught viewers’ attention, but after watching you see that it was kind of a big advertising campaign. Another thing that got on my nerves about this movie was the unrealistic emojis. Take either Android or IOS, there is a significant difference between the emojis. Take the “Devil” emoji for example:



This is disappointing. That is an image from the movie. Now take the real emojis from IOS.

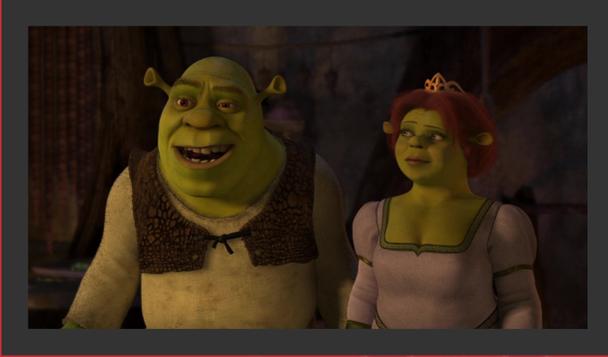


You can also see the eyes do not match, with the movie version having pupils. This is the tragic case for many of the emojis in this movie. The plotline is dry, with the same “boy falls in love with girl” concept. Put all of these flaws together, and you have a Pixar disappointment.

Reviews

Shrek 2

by Ratan Hatte



When most people think about movies making hundreds of millions of dollars, celebrity casting, and being praised to this day, they don't think of Shrek 2. There are many reasons why it is a good movie, like connecting and expanding on the original, having a good soundtrack, and having passion behind it.

This movie's intro is a favorite because it starts as a fairy tale, only to flip the cliché upside down. The movie begins with Prince Charming and the "Big Bad Wolf" from Little Red Riding Hood. Instead of actually rescuing a princess, the wolf tells the Prince that Fiona is on her honeymoon with Shrek.

This movie expanded upon everything that made the first movie so good. The themes of self-worth and changing yourself for others. These are maintained and expanded visually and subconsciously throughout the film with the main villains. The movie also broadened by introducing fan favorites and introducing more insight into Fiona's backstory.

It is the little things in a movie that make me go "of course it's like that" and "it was there the whole time" that turn a good movie into a great one. A display of said details is when they use blimps to seek out criminals instead of airplanes, and the police grind pepper on criminals instead of using pepper spray.

The film crew also expanded their details into references from fairytales, like Little Red Riding Hood going to the visitor's honeymoon house only to find ogres, or Fiona throwing the little mermaid back into the ocean. The detail could be as complex as Shrek being good at evading soldiers because (almost) everybody wants to kill Shrek as soon as they meet him or be as simple as Prince Charming wearing a paper crown after going to the equivalent of a fast-food place and getting the kid's meal. As a whole, the screenwriters deserve credit for the additions to detail. This level of consideration was well worth it, and as a return, this made all the Shrek movies more rewatchable.

The pop soundtrack was initially a jab at the "Disney" era of films where all the characters have a song they sing for a few minutes to explain their feelings/plans. Nevertheless the music is non-diegetic, so they could put some music in the film without any character singing or hearing it. With these boundaries taken away, the music has fewer limitations, opting for mood and symbolism rather than specifics in these songs. "Ever Fallen in Love" works as a love song talking about how Shrek "shouldn't've fallen in love with" Fiona. However, losing her would be worse; they do all this with a song that wouldn't have anything to do with this movie if it weren't for this inclusion.

The "I need a Hero" scene: This scene is everything an action scene in a comedy movie should be. This scene is comical while also being urgent. This scene is comical because it gives the idea that the knights have a milk/foam mixture ready at any time in defense for a giant gingerbread cookie. The dance/invasion are happening at the same time. Add this with how many close calls there are, adding suspense. The directors thought that the song was so significant that this was the only song translated in all countries, despite the original only existing in English.

The chief complaint is how they implemented the fairytale characters. I'm not okay with the fairytale creatures only figuring out about Shrek's situation through a commercial in the mirror T.V displaying the royal ball. I do not particularly appreciate how Shrek becomes the cranky guy he was in the last movie. He now has to learn the same lesson of opening up and being kind to people like he already did. The first movie says that (almost) everybody wants to kill ogres. However, they don't do anything when Shrek turns himself and Fiona into ogres. They dance along directly afterward as if these people aren't the same people who want ogres hunted down. While the scenes leading up to the end were great at hyping it up, the ending was too similar to the first movie's ending to feel substantial.

If you want to watch a movie jokingly while also being entertained by its genuineness and uniqueness, give this movie a try.

Art

Nature Photography by Esther Petersen

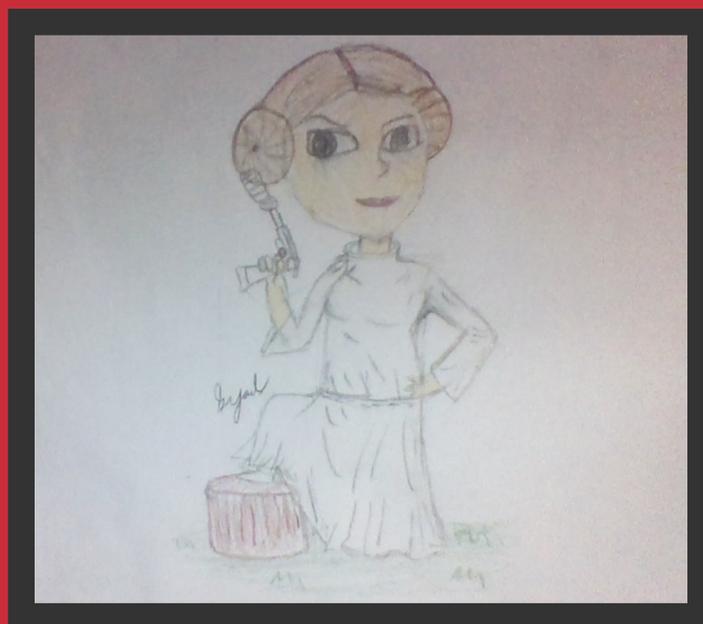


Art

Nature Photography by Esther Petersen



Illustrated by Sejal Regmi



How to...

How To Make Easy Banana Bread

by Sejal Regmi



Ingredients

- 2 cups of flour
- 2 overripe bananas
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ stick of butter or oil
- ¾ cup of sugar (you can add more)
- 2 eggs
- Some yogurt (optional)
- Milk (if needed)
- Vanilla extract

First Step:

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees fahrenheit. Grease a 9x5 inch pan as well.

Second Step:

Mash your banana in a bowl. You can mash with your hands or with a fork. Make sure the texture is smooth with only a few chunks.

Third Step:

In the same bowl add the oil/butter, eggs, vanilla extract, and some yogurt (optional).

Fourth Step:

In a bigger bowl mix together the flour, baking soda, baking powder, sugar, and salt.

Fifth Step:

Mix both of the bowls separately and thoroughly.

Sixth Step:

Little by little, add the two mixtures together and mix well.

Seventh Step:

If needed, add some milk to make the texture a little bit thinner.

Eighth Step:

Mix everything together and pour in pan! Put the pan into the oven.

Cook for 40-50 minutes. Check with a toothpick as well.

YOU'RE DONE!

How to...

How To Quarantine

Article and photography by Esther Petersen



Mountain biking during quarantine is a great way to stay in shape and spend time with friends. I recently went on a ride with my family at a local park called Black Hills. When you're riding, it is easy to stay six feet apart from everyone, because we all ride at our own pace. There are lots of bike trails all around Clarksburg, and some of them, like Ten Mile Creek trail, are very scenic.

It doesn't matter if you have a road bike, mountain bike, or a dual sport bike, because there are places for everyone to go and enjoy themselves, especially during quarantine. The Greenway trail is a great place to ride because it is paved, shady, and accessible to almost everyone. Local parks like Black Hills and Little Bennett also have dirt trails for those of you who prefer shredding. A little farther away, but worth the drive, is the pump track, otherwise known as the South Germantown Bike Park. This park features jumps, trails, and many other obstacles to ride over.

Even if you don't have a bike, you can stop by at Black Hills park, because it has a lake that is wonderful for fishing, kayaking, and picnics. Doing stuff outside is an amazing stress-reliever, and there are tons of places to go. You can walk your dog on trails, skateboard, and also scooter. Don't get stuck inside.



Thank you for reading!



Thank you to every student who participated in Newspaper Club and Journalism Empower Hour this year. The amount of time spent on content, even if it didn't appear in this publication due to current events, was much appreciated.

