



# THE FALCON FLIER NEWS

*Our first ever all digital Student Newspaper*

WINTER 2020

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## ABOUT

*The newspaper club meets on Thursdays from 3:45-4:30pm.*

*Please email Mrs. Tippets if you would like to join us on Zoom!*

*Kirsten\_E\_Tippets@mcpsmd.org*

## LAKELANDS PARK

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
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## Distance Learning at LPMS By PRANAVI BHAMIDIPATI

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, many schools have been shut down and have been brought to us virtually. As many of us know, this is called Distance Learning. Many people have mixed feelings about this new type of learning. Some may think it is quite exciting and new. Others may think that it isn't as fun as going back to school in person.

Here at LPMS - we have reached the 2nd quarter of Distance Learning. Since August 31st, we have attended our classes online using certain applications such as Zoom, MyMCPs Classroom, Canvas, Nearpod, and other such tools.

Teachers and students find this whole concept new and interesting. To understand more how people feel about it, let's dive into some interviews.



We have interviewed some 6th grade students, who are new to middle school to hear their thoughts about Distance Learning. "Distance learning isn't fun, but it's the right decision," Anvitha Nakka stated on the day of her interview. Many of us can relate to this statement. Surely, we don't want to be going outside during a dangerous health crisis. Better safe than sorry.

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 2*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW SGA OFFICERS!



President - Sadie Carey, Grade 8

Vice President - Isabella Aguilar, Grade 8

7th Grade VP - Avi Rubin

6th Grade VP- Lila Pierce

Secretary- Nikhita Dass, Grade 8

Treasurer- Preston Cheatwood, Grade 7

## DISTANCE LEARNING INTERVIEWS CONTINUED

However, while staying online for 6 hours straight, we will no doubt face internet issues. Sumedha Ghosh stated that she faces internet problems and that causes her computer to react slowly. This is inevitable, and we just need to cope with them, until they get better.

Viana Haghighat stated that she looked forward to Outdoor Education. It may not be as fun as it was *in person*, but the virtual Outdoor Ed seems like the perfect option and the safest one.

Mrs. Tippets, a 7th and 8th grade teacher stated that Distance Learning may not be as bad as it seems. We have virtual check ins, and should strongly take those ways of gaining help. She also states that the most inspiring thing she has seen is nature and being able to spend more time with family.

So, we should all be grateful for what we have. If we remember

the first month of quarantine, we did not even have school! We are now able to learn virtually, And maybe we can go back to learning in person.

*“Patience is not the ability to wait, but to keep a good attitude while waiting”*  
~ Joyce Meyer

*The Media Center has been having fun contests for students! Check out these winners of the Pumpkin decorating contest!*

*You can also see our new LPMS Cookbook organized by Ms. Weiner on our MyMCPS Dashboard for ideas!*

## Getting to Know Ms. Alvarez, LPMS New Principal

By Deetya Cheerka, Ritika Naik, Olivia L

This year LPMS has a new principal! We interviewed Mrs. Alvarez and asked her several questions and these were her responses:

### Q: What did you do before you came to LPMS?

A: Before I was a teacher, I worked as a consultant for the government and traveled to many countries for the U.S. government. I was working in the U.S. Agency for International Development. Some countries I went to were Honduras, India, Bangladesh, El Salvador, Senegal, Mali.

*Continued on Page 3&4*

<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Winner</b></p>  <p><b>Peril</b> Wings of Fire <b>Michelle Zheng</b> 7<sup>th</sup> Grade</p>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Winner</b></p>  <p><b>Harry Potter &amp; Hedwig</b> Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone <b>Hanna Ariannejad</b> 6<sup>th</sup> Grade</p>	<p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Winner</b></p>  <p><b>Cheshire Cat</b> Alice in Wonderland <b>Cleo Rust</b> 7<sup>th</sup> Grade</p>	<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Winner</b></p>  <p><b>Pinocchio</b> Pinocchio <b>Lila Rust</b> 6<sup>th</sup> Grade</p>
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## Getting to Know Ms. Alvarez, New LPMS Principal Continued



Then I became a math teacher in the High School and Middle School. Then, I became a resource teacher. Then, I was an assistant principal, a principal intern, and an acting intern. I was at Clemente Middle School, Sligo Middle school, and Wood Middle School.

### **Q: Why did you want to become a principal?**

A: I really believed that Middle School is an important time for establishing students' identity. It is important for how the students see themselves and their culture. Middle School is a challenging time both emotionally and mentally, and I wanted to establish a culture where everyone felt supported for who they are. I really wanted to help make that happen. I wanted to be the kind of principal that fostered a culture where everyone feels that they belong. I really wanted to help

make that happen. I really care deeply for students, their families, and staff.

### **Q: What are you most excited about for this year?**

A: So this is a very challenging time, I am most excited to find ways to help make everyone feel successful. I want to see how we can come together as a family to overcome this challenge, so that when we look back, we can remember how everyone came together to support each other.

### **Q: What are some things that you like to do outside of school?**

A: My kids are learning how to cook a lot of meals, and also, with my dogs, we go on walks. My daughter got a driving license and we would go drive around and get Bubble Tea. I spend a lot of time with my extended family. During regular times, I like to dance salsa, and other latin dances, and that's how I met my husband. Latin dancing is a big hobby of mine. I also like to travel.

### **Q: Who is someone you look up to, and why?**

A: There are so many people I look up to. I looked up to my mother, because she was very caring, but also had very high expectations. She was also very independent. She inspired me to be independent and have

high expectations in a caring way.

### **Q: Are there any books you would like to recommend to your student/staff at LPMS?**

A: If you go to my virtual office in the LPMS classroom, in there I have my favorite book called "The Grapes of Wrath". What I love about this book is that it's about being caring about one another. It's about people during the great depression, and the people have to leave their homes to go to California. The point of the book is that we need to be caring, respect each other's humanity and support each other during difficult times.

### **Q: How do you feel about being the principal of LPMS?**

A: I feel so excited and happy. I love it here. This is such a great school. Every student I have interacted with was so wonderful. The staff too, they are so professional and take pride in their work. The families too! Every family cares very deeply about their child's education! From what I have seen, everyone gets along really well and everyone's nice to each other.

### **Q: What motivates you?**

A: You all motivate me. Every morning when I wake up, I think about the students. I think about their learning, and their feelings,

*Continued on Page 4*

# COVID-19, and its Lengthy Effects

By: Sadie F



Like a hurricane, COVID-19 has swept up everything in its wake and slammed us all into unfamiliar situations, unfortunate events and a new, worrisome world. The question is, what has COVID already done to affect us far into the future, good or bad?

Because of Covid- 19, there will most likely be a new normal where awareness of germs and infections is higher. Keeping aware and safe when it comes to bacteria is always a positive thing, especially during a pandemic. This caution may develop in youth and teens as well, causing us to share a similar mindset in our future endeavors. This may help us avoid and prevent an event similar to this.

Another matter that we are all familiar with that has made an impact on our daily life is Zoom. This website has opened a new world when it comes to distance learning, working and

socializing. Zoom is one of the websites that has helped us back to what we recognize as normal. It is possible that in the future there will be more jobs worked efficiently whilst still being able to stay in the comfort of your own home. As a whole, we are becoming a more technically inclined generation. This may possibly help us technologically advance in the future.

Something else to consider is how this will impact our future ability to socialize. As teens, growing up we are easily influenced by the shifting of lifestyles. Going from socializing daily to barely anything at all. How will virtual learning affect youth in their later years, negatively or positively? We have yet to find out.

In conclusion, currently, COVID-19 is difficult when only looking at the present. However, when we think of COVID, we don't always ponder about the long-term effects that could last deep into the future, whether they be good or bad.

## New Technological Products and Advancements from Electronic Giants

By Vasisht Perivilli

Recently, even with the ongoing pandemic, there have been a lot of advancements made by the three electronic giants with phones, Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems, and so on. There was the iPhone 12 event from Apple in October, and events from Amazon and Google in September that introduced us to their new products. The following is a capture of some of the key features of the products launched at these events.

*Continued on Page 5*

### MRS. ALVAREZ INTERVIEW - CONCLUSION

them. I think kids should be excited about school! And that motivates me.

**Q: What is something interesting about yourself?**

A: When I was in college, I learned how to be a white water rafting guide. I lived in Italy when I was a child for 3 years. I like Lady Gaga...I love Iron Age in Rockville. But we don't think that it is safe to go in and take off our masks. Me and my kids daydream about opening a Korean BBQ outside.



## NEW TECHNOLOGY *Continued from Page 4*

The iPhone 12 is the latest version of the iPhone series run by Apple. It has many new features compared to the older editions. According to [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com), one of the new features is its design for 5G, which has faster speeds. It also automatically switches between 5G and LTE when helpful to do so. In addition, it is smaller than the iPhone 11 but much sturdier. The chance of surviving a drop increased by 4x due to its design and the "Ceramic Shield". To add, the photos and videos have an option now to have "Dark Mode". The updates to the cameras will allow users to take pictures with high resolution. It comes in 5 different colors: red, black, white, blue, and green. It is not just more break resistant, it is also water resistant. There are also other versions of the iPhone 12: the Mini, the Pro, and the Pro Max. Each of these versions is available from a starting price range of \$699-\$1099. Also, the iPhone 12 does not come with a charging brick; users can buy a brick or magnetic chargers separately.



Google, during its hardware event, also announced some new hardware including two new phones, Pixel Phone 4a and Pixel Phone 5, both with 5G. While the Pixel Phone 4a has only two updates, which are that the phone is slightly bigger than the Pixel Phone 4 and it has 5G, Pixel Phone 5 has some more updates. They are that the Pixel Phone 5 is water resistant, made of metal not plastic, and that there is wireless charging. The new models come with Qualcomm processors.

The phones' starting prices range from \$499 - \$699. Google also announced changes to Chromecast and a new smart speaker (Nest Audio) which will compete with Echo. It allows you to play music, call people, and ask questions. Lastly in Google's hardware event, it was announced that there will be some updates to Chromecast which will contain access to over 6500 apps now!

Also, Amazon announced many new products and a few new updates. According to [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com)'s coverage of the event, they are Luna (a gaming service), new network routers for Eero, Fire TV Stick Lite, and updates to Echo. The Fire TV Stick Lite is

basically a cheaper version of the original Fire TV Stick and is priced at \$29.99. Luna is a video game streaming service. It will work on multiple platforms and can be used with a specific controller. It will also compete with Microsoft's game streaming services and Google Stadia.

Additionally, there are now two more Wi-Fi routers called Eero 6 and Eero 6 Pro. They work with Wi-Fi 6 which is the most recent "wireless standard" that allows more devices to work efficiently across the same network. The Eero 6 is \$129.99 and the Pro version is \$229.99.

Lastly, Amazon announced updates to Echo.  Echo is a smart speaker that uses Alexa. It now has 3 colors (I don't know what they are) and a sphere-shaped exterior. It also now has better speech processing and contains a couple of speakers, both internally. It uses Alexa's voice. There are also other versions of Echo called the "Echo Dot", the "Echo Dot With a Clock", and the "Echo Dot Kids Version". Echo (normal) costs \$99. All of the other ones (aside from the Echo dot which costs \$49.99) have a price of \$59.99.

In summary, all the hardware and software advancements appear exciting and each  
*Images from Creative Commons*  
*Continued on Page 6*

## NEW TECHNOLOGY

appears to offer its own advantages. Some are cost effective, others are more sophisticated but almost all are more user friendly. Also impressive are the innovations that these companies introduce almost every year. From a personal perspective, I think that Echo, new Alexa, and the iPhone 12 will be the most useful resources for middle schoolers. Additionally, I think that the iPhone 12, Luna, and Chromecast will be the most fun to use because of the variety of options they offer.

## NFL NEWS

By Evan Kaplan

*\*Keep in mind that as of publication, some of the facts might be not accurate\**

The first thing on practically everyone's mind are the most recent matchups . First, let's talk about the crazy things that happened this season. For example, a top running back, and last season's scrimmage yard leader, Christian McCaffrey, is on injured reserve, at least until further notice. In other news, the infamous Antonio Brown is back, and is going to be another offensive component to this Buccaneers offense. The only undefeated team is, to everyone's surprise, the



Steelers, lead by Ben Roethlisberger.

For any Ravens fans, don't get too excited about your playoff chances. Mark Ingram is out, and also has regressed very much this season .He seemingly, will not help the Ravens at all, even if he was not hurt this week.

Also J.K. Dobbins is not an efficient substitute at all, averaging just over 8 fantasy points per game. That may be good for a backup, but not a starter. I would even go as far to say Lamar Jackson's season is much worse than the 2019 season. With only a single game with over 2 touchdowns, and 3 games with more than 200 yards in passing yards.

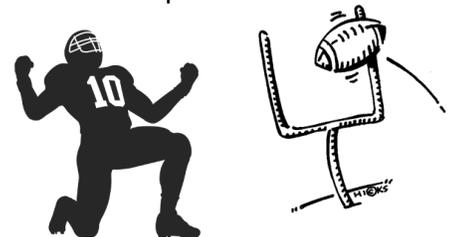
I predict that the Ravens will be the 4th or 5th seed. I believe that there is no possible way that they get the only 1st round bye in the AFC. This is because the Chiefs or Steelers will get that spot. Also remember to keep in mind the new 14 team playoffs.

Also, for any Washington Football Team fans, you aren't getting anything this year. I think Washington will, at best, get a pity 6th or 7th seed in the

NFC, and that's only because the Eagles and Cowboys are just as bad as them. They will most likely not get into the playoffs, but they are 2nd in the NFC East, so if they get a few more wins, and the Eagles get bad luck, they will get that wildcard spot.

`Y'know Tom Brady, TB12. He moved to the Bucs and this is the first year that he is not on the Pats. He has most likely led the Bucs to a wildcard at the very least. Everyone expected the Bucs offense to be the new Chiefs, and they were in some ways, correct with the 2 elite WRs and a veteran TE and QB, but they were not the new best team.hey are more of the wildcard teams. They are doing OK for the Bucs. I feel positive about the Bucs' future, if Tom Brady retires soon, and they get another QB that is decent at passing, that would be crucial for them.

Covid 19 is striking players all across professional sports, but it's different in the NFL, because there is no bubble, so, it is much easier to get sick. Many players have sat out for a few weeks due to Covid, so be sure to check on a sports website, like footballguys.com or any ESPN website for updates.



# How Other Countries are Coping with the Pandemic

By Sumedha G

When you turn on the TV, you see the news of the pandemic. This pandemic has devastated us all, taking some of the lives of people's loved ones. Some people are trying to stop the spread, while others don't care, but we are not alone in this fight.

Let us talk about Europe's countries (Italy, France, England, etc). At the time of this report, the cases in Europe are going up by 40%. The cases in Europe right now are soaring. The number of hospitalizations are going up, and many hospitals are running out of PPE. Some of Europe's countries, like France and Britain have issued a lockdown. This is the second wave of the virus. In the site ABCNews, a doctor talks about the dangers. He is saying that "Europe has lost control over the pandemic," after health authorities said that in one day,

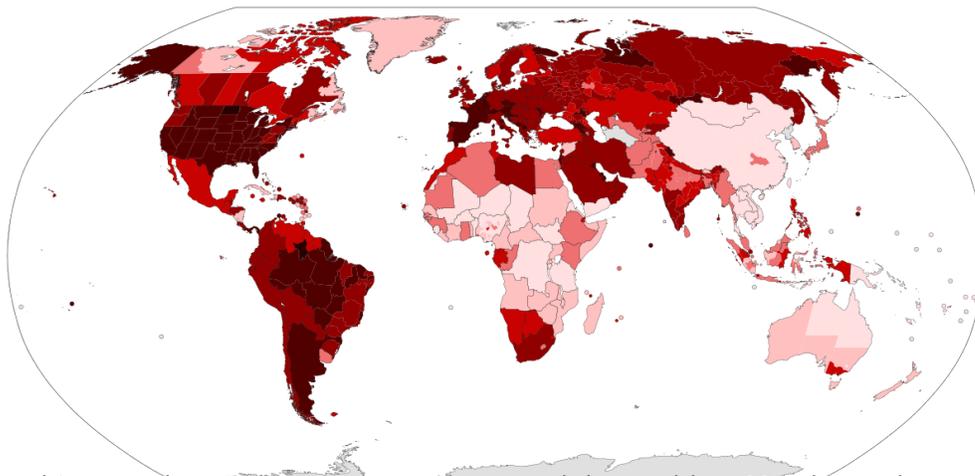
there are more than 52,000 cases. Italy, the hardest-hit country in Europe is now having 20,000 cases a day, with death tolls they have never seen since May. Europe is now a little better prepared, but with the flu season, the high amount of viruses can cause more sickness, and a huge wave that could tear countries apart.

India is in second place for the most cases and deaths. This large peninsula approximately has a population of 1,380,004,385. There are 804 million cases and 121K cases of deaths. In India, there is a different system from what we have here in the US. On some days, there is a full lockdown, and on some days there is no lockdown. India had no choice but to reopen because there are tons of poor people. They need to survive. When Modi, the prime minister of India issued the lockdown,

thousands of migrant workers were stranded far away from home. Some people started to make the long journey home on foot. India's lockdown was effective, but the hospitals were running out of enough hospital beds and PPE. In one period of time, India ran out of testing needs, but they are restored now.

In Brazil are the death toll is the second highest, and has the third highest number of cases, after USA and India. The president said that the virus is not dangerous, and ignored advice from top health officials. Brazil so far has the highest number of cases in South America. But luckily, the number of new cases are continuing to fall, after a spike in the summer. President Bolsonaro's handling of this pandemic has raised some arguments. Some say that the president downplayed the virus as the "little flu," but we all know that Covid 19 is very dangerous.

Excluding the USA, India and Brazil are at number 1 and 3 for the most number of cases and deaths. Europe is a continent, but still all the countries there have tons of cases rising.

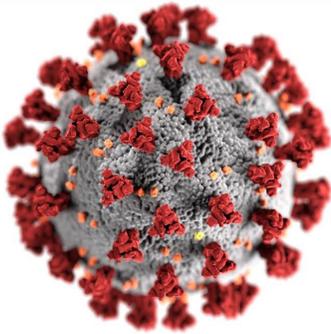


*This map shows coronavirus cases around the world on March 15. The darkest areas had more infections. Source: Wikimedia Commons*

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# Pandemic

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You can't be 100% safe from the coronavirus. It is just not possible. But you can protect yourself from the virus and try to be safe.

Wear a mask, stay socially distanced, about 6 feet, and use hand sanitizers. Also try to stay home, so if you have the virus, you can protect others out of the family and outsiders. If we all follow these simple rules, we might be able to defeat the virus. We need a vaccine, but until then, stay safe and stay home!



*My virtual workspace is made more fun by my cat, Loki's presence. Many students enjoy online school with their pets.*

# Staying Organized at Home

By Asher Lyons

During distance learning, staying organized is more important than usual. When we're not in a structured classroom, the burden is on us students to stay on top of our work. Here are my tips and tricks on staying organized through distance learning (I should probably note that I am in no way an expert on organization.)

**Tip #1** - If you can, try to set aside a room or small space in your home that is your "classroom". You should try to do everything school related in this area: Zoom meetings, homework, classwork, etc. Ideally, this room should be in a quiet area of your house, so there's minimal distractions. For example, I use my mom's office, which has enough room for everything I need for school.

**Tip #2** - Keep your desk organized!!! This is something I spent a lot of time on before school started because it's very important. I went to Staples and bought a few things to organize my stuff. Like paper, notebooks and other supplies. Everything I got is made out of a black wire mesh material that I think looks really good on my desk, especially when it's filled with supplies. These supply

holders make it super easy to keep everything organized and neat, so I recommend them to anyone with a messy desk. For a more affordable option, sites like Facebook Marketplace, Craigslist, and Freecycle sell previously owned objects like desks and organizers for a great price.

**Tip #3** - Use a planner! That academic planner you got at the beginning of the year isn't something that should be ignored, it's really useful. As soon as my teacher assigns homework I open up my planner and jot down when it's due. I'm a forgetful person, so there's no way I could keep up with my homework if I didn't have a place where it was all listed. If you want, you can put non-school related activities in your planner, but I choose not to. You can also use your planner for Extra-Curricular Activities. Just place something you have to do in the section called "After School".

That's all my advice for organization! When you have a neat area to do work, school becomes a lot less difficult. I strongly encourage you to start tidying up your in-home classroom today!

# The Washington Football Team: The Name Change

OPINION COLUMN

By Neel Thapa



Since 1937 the football team in Washington D.C has had another name. During the most recent months the team has been forced to change their name.

Furthermore, 40 years after they first moved to Washington the first push to change their name started. It had been 10 years after the civil rights movement and people had decided that everyone should have equal rights. They then looked to create rights and laws to keep Native American land safe from industrial buildings since they held many memories of their ancestors.

As this progressed through the government, Native American activists started looking at other ways to help the community, such as trying to remove offensive names and copyrights by creating petitions.

A main name that they saw as being offensive towards the Native Americans was Washington's name.

Starting in 1972 the team started changes. From the constant push of the support groups they modified their fight song by removing "Scalp um" since it was seen as offensive. This was the only significant change that happened in the 55 years between 1937 and 1992 but it was seen as a win for the activists.

Furthermore, in 1992 a petition was started to revoke the teams trademark but was unresolved for 17 years until it was ultimately denied. Up until this point in time Native American activists have been trying their best to change the Washington team name, logo, and other offensive aspects of it.

It did not help in 1999 when Daniel Snyder, a longtime fan bought the team. He did not intend to change the team's name since he saw it as history. He further emphasized this in 2013 when he said that he would never change the name of his team. A couple of years before this another petition was filed to the trademark office asking for legal protection of the team's name to be rescinded.

This had been the first try for change created by the activists in about 14 years. However just as the petition 14 years earlier this one also resulted in no change. It seemed as though that the Washington organization had won and that their team name was here to stay.

Until the year 2020 began. This year has been a roller coaster. Starting off in about November 2019 a virus called COVID 19 started spreading, causing schools such as Lakelands to close. Thus, causing us to start online schooling from home. You would think that this was the only major thing that happened this year, but no.

This year a movement has also started called the Black Lives Matter, a protest to end racial discrimination and violence which still goes on. While many were thinking about African Americans they also started thinking about other racial groups as well. They even influenced big companies to share their opinions and strive for change as well, which is one of the reasons why our local Washington football team was forced to change their name to the Washington football team temporarily.

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# The Origins of Halloween

By Sadie F

Many holidays have come and gone by the time this edition comes out. One is the classic childhood holiday of candy, cavities and comical costumes. Have you ever wondered why we dress up and go house to house asking for treats? Below, you'll find out the true origins of Halloween.

It began as a festival called Samhain. Samhain was believed to be a being that could communicate with the dead. The Celtics believed that on the night of October 31st (during the Samhain festival) the world's lines between the living and dead were blurred. This led the Celtics to be fearful that monsters would roam their world on that night.

In a clever attempt to avoid and ward off the ghosts and ghouls, the Celtics would light large bonfires and dress in ghoulish costumes all night long. This later evolved into the holiday that we call Halloween. So, the next time you're out trick or treating be weary, as real ghosts may walk amongst you and your friends.



During this event people started to think about other groups of people.

It started with companies such as Dicks, taking down Washington clothing and memorabilia from their website. This then led to Washington's main supporter, Fedex, who also had rights to their stadium, to force the team to change its name.

Finally it was done, and in the eyes of many Native American activists they had won. While in the eyes of supporters of the team, it was seen as something that they had grown up watching disappear in an instant.

To this day, the Washington Football Team are still nameless. However, with one simple change, Native American activists are pleased, but they know that not only one change will give them the rights that they deserve. Although, it is a step in the right direction.



## Delicious Chocolate Chip Cookies!

By Olivia L



### Ingredients:

1. Two sticks of butter
2. Brown Sugar
3. White sugar
4. 2 eggs
5. Vanilla extract
6. Flour
7. Baking Soda
8. Salt
9. 2 cups of chocolate chips

### Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees fahrenheit

#### *In the first Bowl:*

Mix together 2 sticks of softened butter

$\frac{3}{4}$  cups brown sugar

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup white sugar

Add one egg into the bowl then mix.

Then add one more egg into the bowl and mix.

Add 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract and mix again.

#### *In the second Bowl:*

2  $\frac{1}{4}$  cups of flour

1 teaspoon of baking soda

1 teaspoon of salt

Add to the first bowl

Finally, in the first bowl:

2 cups of chocolate chips

Roll dough into 2-inch balls and place them on an ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake for 9-11 minutes until set.

Makes 20-30 cookies

# WINTER

## Puzzle By Ashley Springer

Created on [www.puzzlemaker.com](http://www.puzzlemaker.com)



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## THE FALCON FLIER STUDENT MEMBERS

*Due to the paper being online, some students elected to have their last names withheld.*

Pranavi Bhamidipati

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Sadie F\*

Sumedha G

Evan Kaplan

Lily Kaplan

Olivia L

Asher Lyons\*

Ritika Naik

Vasisht Perivilli\*

Nishka S

Samuel S

Liam Slattery

Ashley Springer

Neel Thapa

Raaga V

\* indicates Editors

The views expressed in this student newspaper are solely those of the individual author and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the entire Falcon Flier staff or of Lakelands Park Middle School.