

# PATRIOT PRESS

December 2023

Issue I

## WELCOME!

**By: Mr. Rumbaugh - Principal**

Welcome to the inaugural edition of *The Patriot Press*, Grissom's very own student newspaper! The student editors of *The Press* are thrilled to bring you a publication that aims to inform, inspire, and unite our school community. More than just a source of information, this newspaper is a voice for students. It's a space where your thoughts, stories, and perspectives take center stage.

Special thanks go out to the students and staff who poured their time, creativity, and passion into creating and publicizing this first edition of *The Patriot Press*. What was just recently a great idea proposed by our student editors and is now a reality - a school newspaper we can all enjoy!

I wish our student writers and editors of *The Patriot Press* the best of luck with this first edition and many more to come! I hope this is the start of a great tradition at Grissom Middle School.

## Go Patriots!



# INTERVIEW WITH MRS. GARRITY

## A CLASSROOM LEGEND

By: Sankalp D.

**1. What was going through your mind when you won the bears teacher award?**

WOW! OH MY GOSH! NO WAY! My mind was absolutely blown when I won the Classroom Legend Award from the Chicago Bears! Never in a million years did I dream something like this would happen to me! My heart was truly bursting with pure joy! To know that the families of my students valued me so much brought tears to my eyes. I was overwhelmed in the most wonderful kind of way, and I will forever be grateful.

**2. Why did you choose to teach at Grissom?**

My education journey has brought me to Grissom on two different occasions. I began as a paraeducator at Prairie View when I graduated college back in 2004. I finished out the second half of the year and in 2005, I was offered a maternity leave position that was actually for Coach Chic's sister! From there, I spent several years teaching ELA in what is now Mrs. Talluto's room. When the Art teacher at GMS retired, I jumped at the opportunity to make that room my own. We are all better when we have a creative outlet in our lives, and I LOVED creating with my amazing students. I ended up leaving that room to be home with my children while they were young which were years that I cherish. When the time called me back to teaching, I once again was back at PV, and it was COVID time. I taught remote PE to end the year, and accepted a position for 3rd grade at McAuliffe that fall. Oh, those elementary kids had my heart; so sweet and so funny! Although it saddened me to leave the tremendous staff and students at MCA, middle school once again called me home. My beloved Art classroom was open once again, and I am right where I am meant to be. I owe a genuine thank you to everyone in KSD 140 who has helped me along my path. We are blessed with such amazing staff in all the buildings that I have called home.



**3. Are you a active participant/leader in any out of school activities (Girl Scouts, etc)**

I still actively participate in many different facets in our community. I have led a Girl Scout troop for 8 years with some really wonderful girls in the community. They truly make the world a better place with all of their efforts and kindness. I have been a Team Mom for my sons, Tommy and Shane's, baseball teams as well. I love seeing the team efforts from all the kids on my son's teams and being there to help them with fundraising and team building events. I also substitute teach for St. George's religious education program as needed.

**4. Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in Orland Park, Illinois. I went to St. Michael School for grades 1-8 and Carl Sandburg High School for my 4 high school years. Fun fact! Two other GMS teachers went to the same high school as me. Can you guess who???

**5. What do you enjoy to do with your three kids?**

The time I get to spend with my three kids is my favorite time! What I enjoy most doing with them is going camping and enjoying nature, being creative in the kitchen, and spending time with all of our family including cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents. Family always comes first.

# DID YOU KNOW?

ABOUT OUR  
SCHOOL

## A LITTLE HISTORY

Disclaimer: Mrs. Rumbaugh is not married to Mr. Rumbaugh (Grissom's Principal), but she is married to Mr. Rumbaugh's brother.

Mrs. Rumbaugh was a Grissom student from 1993-1996, then started working here 15 years ago. She stated Grissom was very different: there was no small gym, enrichment hallway, band room and 8th grade hallway. Her current classroom (205) was an 8th grade classroom. Since the building was so small, there were these things called mobile classrooms, where trailers became classrooms. You would walk outside to the class into the trailers. The enrichment classes were very different. There was an enrichment class called Life Skills which is currently the fitness room where you would cook. And another Enrichment was called Foreign Language where you would learn another language. Written by: Ryan M



**THEN & NOW**





# THINK ABOUT IT!



## WORDS FROM GUS

Always be a great person.  
You never have to pretend  
to be someone you aren't,  
Never let someone choose  
your path!!

## 8TH GRADE QUOTES

SOMETIMES SCHOOL GETS A LITTLE STRESSFUL, AND SOMETIMES YOU JUST NEED SOME ADVICE TO GUIDE YOU. TO START OFF ADDISON M. SAID, "STAY AWAY FROM DRUGS, THEY DON'T MAKE YOU COOL." AN ANONYMOUS 8TH GRADER SAID "DON'T START DRAMA." AND LASTLY ANOTHER ANONYMOUS 8TH GRADER SAID, "MAKE THE MOST OF MIDDLE SCHOOL, YOU'RE GOING TO WISH YOU DID IN YEARS TO COME." THESE WORDS OF ADVICE ARE COMING FROM 8TH GRADERS WHO WENT THROUGH THE SAME EXACT THINGS YOU DID. KEEPING GOING AND BEING A POSITIVE PATRIOT!

WRITEN BY: JULIE D.



## WOULD YOU RATHER ...?

WOULD YOU RATHER LIVE IN EXTREME HEAT OR EXTREME COLD?

WOULD YOU RATHER EAT SPICY FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE OR EAT PLAIN FOOD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?

WOULD YOU RATHER BE POPULAR BUT HAVE NO REAL FRIENDS OR NOT BE POPULAR BUT HAVE A TON OF FRIENDS?

Written by: Kristupas S.

# IN THE THEATERS

**MOVE OUT THE WAY WITH ALL THE LATEST  
MOVIE REVIEWS WITH JOSH W.**



## DISNEY NEEDS TO STOP MAKING AMAZING MOVIES

From Elemental to Wish, Disney has definitely upped their game graphic wise. With all of the attention to detail in Elemental, Wish almost felt like a downgrade to me. We already have trailers for Inside out 2. However, Frozen 3 and 4 have been confirmed, so has Toy Story 5. Disney needs to take a break. Every day you are working sunrise to sunset fixing minor mistakes with any graphic issues there might be. Hope these helped you learn a bit about movies and until next time!

## RENAISSANCE: A FILM BY BEYONCÉ, BOP OR FLOP

I would give this movie a total 10/10! This movie is like the Taylor Swift movie, but instead of just the concert she adds a little documentary part. I would love it if we had more from her show. She left out most of her beginning which really deserved at least a small part of her movie. She really deserves the break she is taking after traveling from country to country. One day she's in Sweden then off to Paris she goes. With that I think she is killing the music industry.



RENAISSANCE

in theaters

# ALL THINGS POP

## POP QUIZ WITH JOSH W! ARE YOU UP WITH THE LATEST POP NEWS?

MERRY EVERYTHING! HERE'S WHAT  
IS ON MY HOLIDAY PLAYLIST.

I am a very big fan of Christmas and music, put the two words together to get the best Christmas music ever. Starting us off will have to be Mariah Carey's All I Want for Christmas is You, A cult classic and staple in many playlists. Coming in at my number 2 spot has to be Last Christmas by Wham! I just can't live without this song. Taking my number 3 spot will be Santa Tell Me by Ariana Grandé. Santa told me this was a great Christmas song. As many songs are good I could only give my top 3 in writing.



A YEAR WITH THE POP  
LEGENDS AND ICONS!

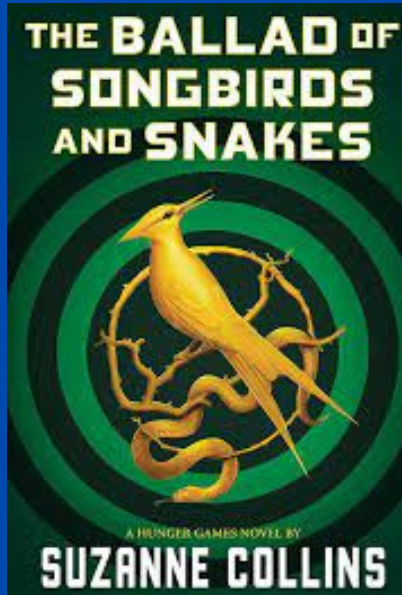
1. Queen Rihanna caused us to speculate about her pregnancy. The most iconic part of February was the Super Bowl halftime show featuring Rihanna. During the Super Bowl everyone watching saw her suspiciously large stomach which caused people to rant on twitter about her possible pregnancy. After the Super Bowl, she confirmed her pregnancy.

2. The summer of concerts. With all of the musical festivals and concerts, this deserves number 2. From Beyoncé to Taylor Swift to the end of the iconic Love on tour, there was always something happening this summer in the music industry.

3. The Kardashian sisters are at war through the whole third season. The most iconic show of the year rightfully deserves my number 3 spot. I mean all the drama between Kim and Kourtney was intense. Especially when they get into a fight with the whole family and Khloe trying to break up the text fight which made it even worse. Have a happy new year and stay tuned with pop culture so you can know the answers to the next pop quiz.

# MEDIA REVIEWS

## BOOK OF THE MONTH



### THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS AND SNAKES

BY: SUZANNE COLLINS

Have you ever read The Hunger Games trilogy by Suzanne Collins? If so, The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes is a great book for you to read! The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes is the prequel to The Hunger Games trilogy, and it is an exciting dystopian novel that follows the story of Coriolanus Snow (young President Snow) during the 10th annual Hunger Games. It is a story about how Coriolanus changes and how his life is affected based on his experiences throughout the Hunger Games. The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes is a very fascinating book because it incorporates romance, betrayal, and action all into one. I recommend this book to dystopian readers, people who have read The Hunger Games trilogy, and anyone who is looking for a book that will keep you on the edge of your seat. In addition, The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes is a movie that recently came out in theaters on November 17th! I hope that you consider reading this amazing book, and watch the movie to see the story come to life on screen!

There's a lot of popular games like were Counter-Strike 2 & GO, Minecraft, Fortnite, ROBLOX, League of Legends, Cyberpunk 2077, The Sims 4, Call of Duty: Modern Warfare II/Warzone 2.0, Valorant, and Baldur's Gate III.all are very popular. Some of these games have world records like Fortnite recently, breaking a huge record. And that record was most players active at once. And with the returning of a loved map original players have came back to play the map. And in Roblox with a game the most visits being (side note this is an old record but the game still has it) 22.7b visit of all time.



**GAMING PRESS – BY: AMEEN J.**



**ANIME – BY: AMEEN J.**

Anime has always been popular like one piece or Dragon Ball Z/Super. One Piece is always breaking records recently a One Piece episode Broke a record for most impact frames in 2 seconds. One Piece was recently on the news in many countries like France. The One Piece onigashima arc has ended (anime ver). And the Egg Head Island arc (anime ver) will start on 1/7/24 (I will hate waiting for the Egg Head Island arc).





## CHOCOLATE DREAM BARS

Makes 2-3 Dozen Bars

### Ingredients:

- 2 ¼ Cups of all-purpose flour, divided
- 1 cup (2 Sticks) Butter, softened
- ¾ Cup Powdered Sugar, plus additional for garnish
- ⅓ cup Unsweetened cocoa powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 4 eggs, lightly beaten
- 4 ounces unsweetened chocolate, melted

### Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Line a 13x9-inch baking pan with parchment paper.
2. Beat 2 cups flour, butter, ¼ cup powdered sugar, cocoa and salt in large bowl with electric mixer at low speed until blended. Beat at medium speed until well blended and stiff dough forms. Press firmly into bottom of prepared pan. Bake 15 to 20 minutes or just until set. Do not overbake.
3. Meanwhile, combine remaining ¼ cup flour and granulated sugar in large bowl. Add eggs and melted chocolate; beat with electric mixer at medium-high speed until well blended. Pour over crust.
4. Bake 25 minutes or until center is firm to the touch. Cool completely in pan on a wire rack. Sprinkle with additional powdered sugar, if desired.

## EASY TURTLE PRETZEL BITES

### Ingredients:

- Small unsalted pretzel twists
- Rolls Candies unwrapped
- Pecan Halves

### Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°. Place a sheet parchment paper on a cookie sheet.
2. Place pretzel twists in a single layer on parchment paper. Unwrap Rolo Candies and put them on each pretzel. Carefully place cookie sheet in the oven.
3. When the Rolos have just barely softened (check often, it doesn't take long! Maybe 2-3 minutes) carefully pull cookie sheet out of the oven. Press a pecan half on top of each softened candy.
4. Let pretzels sit on cookie sheet until completely cooled (or stick it in the fridge to harden some) and then peel the pretzels off the parchment paper. Great to put in gift bags for friends or family or great to eat as a quick treat. Enjoy!!





**MICHAEL G.**

# SPORTS NEWS

COVERING ALL SPORTS, FROM GRISSOM BASKETBALL TO INTERNATIONAL SOCCER

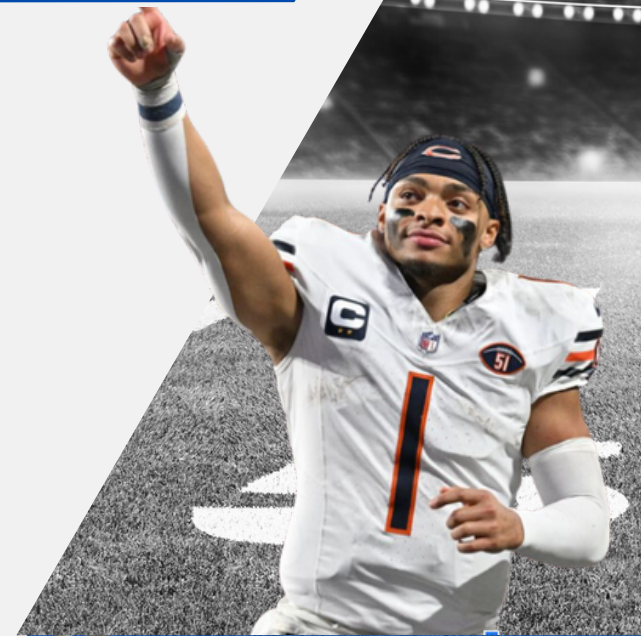
## Chicago Bears "Win Ugly" over the Vikings

### BEARS SHOCK VIKINGS

The Chicago Bears stunned the Minnesota Viking in a shocking 12-10 win. The Quarterback of the Bears, Justin Fields, said this about him and his team, "Let me say something before we end the day," Fields said. "Those two fumbles, I just wanted to say I appreciate you all for sticking by my side and believing in me. Love all y'all boys."

### Opinion: The Bears need to focus on the Offensive Line, Fields

During Monday nights narrow win, we witnessed the Bears offensive line and quarterback Justin Fields cave in to Vikings pressure multiple times. The Bears should not be struggling with the pressure of the defense as much as they are. They need to work on giving clarity to Fields, on when to move out of the pocket, and when to stay in. Fields fumbled the ball 2 times, and was sacked 3 times. He did however, give effort and attempt to ground the ball, which was a good move on his part. However, the offensive line needs to improve and give Fields more time in the pocket. They need to give him more time, because he has the slowest time to release in the NFL. The O-Line, as well as Fields, need to improve on tactics, and speed of ball release, and pocket time. The Bears are however improving on the defense side, with the last-minute acquisition of lineman Montez Sweat. Overall, the Bears are as likely to make the playoffs as I am to find a leprechaun (and his pot of gold, too). This is not their year. However, they are showing improvement from the past 2 seasons.



### JUSTIN FIELDS QUARTERBACK

*Justin Fields celebrates a rare win with his team. The quarterback was sacked 3 times, made 2 fumbles, and threw 0 interceptions. He also was the games leading rusher, at 12 carries.*

### Opinion: Biased referees, Kyler Gordon's Facemask

In the game, Kyler Gordon experienced an equipment malfunction (his facemask was ripped off, and the penalty was not called by the way). He proceeded to take his helmet off, and then was given a penalty for "Unsportsmanlike conduct." He showed the referees his broken helmet, and was called for taunting. The referees should have taken the flag off the field, instead, the penalized Kyler Gordon twice. The Bears had 6 penalties in the first half, and the Vikings only had 1. This clearly showed which side the referees were on. However, the Bears proceeded to win the game, which shows this had little effect on the outcome.

# DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

## ***BAND***

- Concert and Symphonic Winter Concert December 6th, 7:30 PM @ Prairie View
- Cadet & Jazz Band (7th & 8th Jazz Band) Winter Concert - December 13, 7:30 PM @ Grissom

## ***SPORTS***

- November 29-December 9- SWIC Girls Basketball Conference Tournament
- November 29-December 9- SWIC Boys Volleyball Conference Tournament

## ***STUDENT COUNCIL***

- Meeting - December 5th
- Meeting - December 19th

## ***BOARD GAME & CHESS***

- December 19 @3:15

## ***CHORUS***

- Grissom & Prairie View Chorus Concert (December 12, 7:30 PM)
- Practice - Thursday December 7th, 3:15
- Practice - Monday December 11th, 3:15

## ***HOT LUNCH***

- December 5: Winston's Market
- December 12: Skillet House and Sam's. Club
- December 15: Nicks BBQ

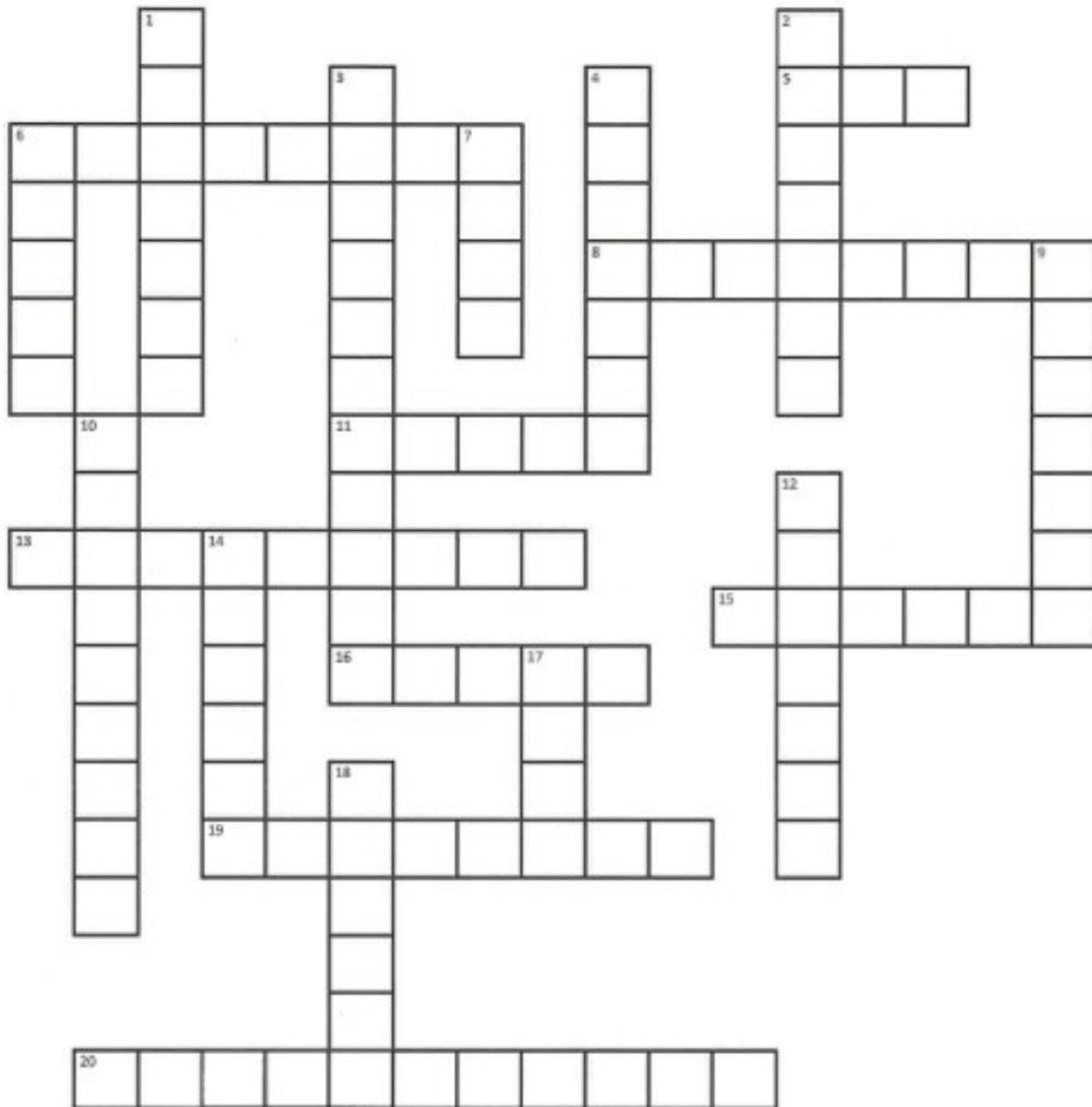
## ***FITNESS CLUB***

- December 5
- December 7
- December 12
- December 19

## ***REMINDERS***

- No School from December 25- January 9th Friday
- December 22 will be a Half Day

# DECEMBER CROSSWORD PUZZLE



## DOWN

- 1 Frosty is one
- 2 A holiday celebrated after December
- 3 A popular song played in December
- 4 Has a flame and sometimes a scent
- 6 A piece of clothing that keeps your neck warm
- 7 Something given by a friend or family member
- 9 A reindeer with a red nose
- 10 A red and white treat
- 12 A fictional character that ghosts visit
- 14 A season that is the coldest
- 17 Usually decorated with ornaments
- 18 A decoration hung on trees

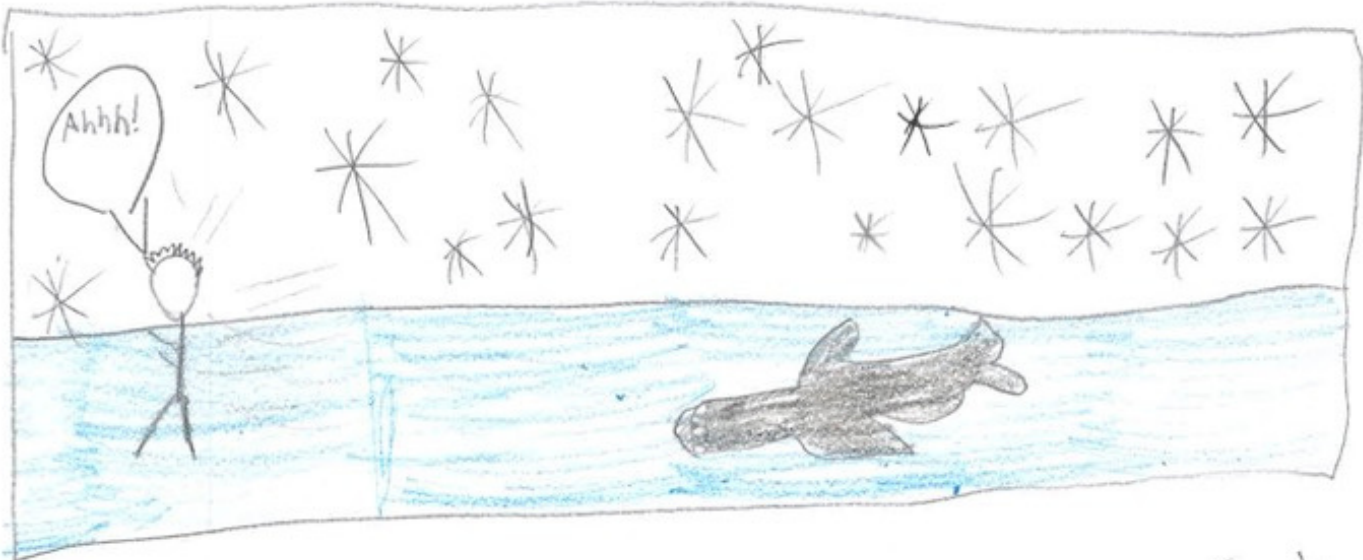
## ACROSS

- 5 Someone that helps Santa
- 6 Hung by the chimney and has gifts
- 8 The month that celebrates Christmas, Kwanzaa and Hanukkah
- 11 An item that rings
- 13 A unique crystal that falls from the sky
- 15 A decoration hung on a door
- 16 A man with a white beard
- 19 An animal that makes Santa's sleigh fly
- 20 A piece of clothing that is normally not pretty



# JUST FOR LAUGHS

A nice day  
at the beach  
During winter



Emilee B.

# RIDDLE ME THIS

- There is a boat with 22 people on it but there is not a single person on it. How is this possible? *They all are married.*
- What has to be broken before you can use it? *A egg*
- I am tall when I'm young and short when I am old what am I? *A candle*
- I have lakes with no water, mountains with no stone and cities with no buildings. What am I? *A map*
- I have many keys but I can't open a single lock what am I? *A piano*

Written by: Kristupas S.