

# The Cistercian Informer

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## HOME COMING

### THE CISTERCIAN EDITION

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# Middle School

## The Cowboys' Road to Glory

*By Cade Burke, '25, who is our only hope*

The Cowboys have not won a Super Bowl in over twenty years, but that streak ends now. This year will be different. The Cowboys got off a little shaky with Ezekiel Elliott facing a potential six-week suspension which would have ruined the Cowboys' hopes for a Super Bowl, but thankfully 'Zeke was found innocent. This puts the Cowboys, and the triplets--Dak, 'Zeke, and Dez--back into action.

Although, who would say the Cowboys wouldn't do great without a solid running game? To say that the Cowboys have an okay passing game would be an understatement! The Cowboys have Dak Prescott, who has a great arm and (I think) is one of the best quarterbacks in the NFL. They also have Dez Bryant, who can "Moss" someone like crazy, and Jason Witten, a great tight end and blocker (which won't get him many Fantasy points though). Last, but certainly not least, Cole Beasley, who is small but can still rack up some yards, will get you some Fantasy points for sure.



And don't forget the offensive line. These guys are the Great Wall of Dallas II; they can open up a hole for 'Zeke as big as the Grand Canyon and can give Dak so much time to throw you could watch the Sound of Music before anyone would have a chance at getting a sack. Admittedly, the defensive lineup might not be ready for prime time, having lost the veteran, Brandon Carr. This will affect the defense, but hopefully not much.

Overall, I think the Cowboys will have a great season. They had a good start by beating New York (BOO, Giants!) week one, but no matter what the outcome may be, I will enjoy watching them play.

***Submit to the MIDDLE  
SCHOOL Section to win  
sweet prizes!***

# The Nest

## The Freshman Mixer Guide

*By Saish Satyal, '21, who carpes those DM's*

The Freshman Mixer is a Cistercian tradition that has been around for almost as long as the school itself. Every year, over 250 girls are invited from Ursuline, Hockaday, and other schools in the area. The ratio of boys to girls is usually 1:5. This might sound fun to you, and if you're socially inclined, it should sound amazing. I mean, everyone loves a fun party! But it shouldn't be the best party ever. You have to entertain over 250 people and make sure they want to come back to Cistercian. That's not exactly easy, but rest assured, it can still be fun.



Normal people provide entertainment by "socializing," and if you want to do that, okay. I won't judge you because you might actually make friends. However, if you don't want to be normal, then I would recommend my way of entertainment. My way is called "The Way of The Dancing Queen." Here are its sacred steps:

**Step 1:** Get energy. It doesn't matter how, just get it. It's okay; I won't discriminate.

**Step 2:** Let go of all your tension and convert your energy into happiness. It doesn't matter how, just do it. This is essential.

**Step 3:** Get more energy. You need to be able to dance.

**Step 4:** Ignore your friends as they laugh at you for dancing. They're just jealous.

**Step 5:** You are now ready to be a dancing queen! You must dance for 3 hours straight so that when it is time to clean up, you won't be able to stand.

(Note: Even if you are trash at dancing, your friends can use you as an icebreaker.)

The Way of the Dancing Queen may sound great. However, if you can't dance, then this path is not for you, and you must socialize (which isn't bad at all). Just try to talk to girls about something they'd enjoy, like their schools or their friends or how awesome the Dancing Queen Saish is. It'll work, trust me.

There is a way to "win" the Mixer, and it comes a week later. After the Freshman Mixer, there is a co-ed volleyball tournament. If you have made friends with a lot of girls at the Mixer, you could invite them. Someone was able to get 32 people to come back to Cistercian. Obviously, he was successful at the Mixer; he made 32 friends and got them all to come back. How? I have no idea. I think you have to be nice? I'm not sure. Anyway, this was my guide to the Freshman Mixer, and if you learned nothing else, just remember that I am the Dancing Queen.

# The Nest

## Freshman Mixer (cont'd)

And now I, the Dancing Queen, will answer your questions:

*Are you sure we should do what you say?*

Yes. I know what I'm doing. I met two people there.

*Will this guide really make me the Dancing Queen?*

No. I am The Dancing Queen. You will be a dancing queen. See the difference?

*Are there really over 250 girls at the Mixer?*

The Ursuline freshmen have almost 200 people all by themselves. Do the math.

*Do we have to decorate the whole thing?*

Yes. We built an altar to the Furby gods. They make great conversation pieces.

## The Freshman Initiation

*By Peter Novinski, '21, who keeps the legacy going*

If you've spent a second on the Cistercian Campus, then you know that this school is seeped in tradition. From the architecture to the curriculum, to the presence of Cistercian monks, we take our customs very seriously. While some people would argue against a few of our traditions, such as resistance to technology, I don't think you will find anyone who would argue against the Freshman Initiation.

The Freshman Initiation is the official unofficial induction of the freshman as Upper Schoolers. After the first varsity football game, there is an after party held at a house with a pool. After conversing with other girls for a while or hiding away with ice cream and small sandwiches (which are both surprisingly popular options), the freshmen are urged to arrange themselves alphabetically on either side of the pool according to their section. The first student then lies down on his back and is picked up by two seniors (who have been extensively trained in child-throwing) before being swung thrice and tossed into the pool while still fully clothed. The newly initiated freshman then waits in the shallow end to be joined by his fellow classmates, cheering for each newcomer by name. Slowly, the pool fills up as more people are thrown in, with some inductions being much more difficult than others. The simpleminded common folk remove all shoes, socks, hats, watches, and glasses before going in while the true party people go in wearing everything they can. Once everyone has gone in, many voices have been lost, and even more photos have been taken it is the Form Master's turn to enter the water.



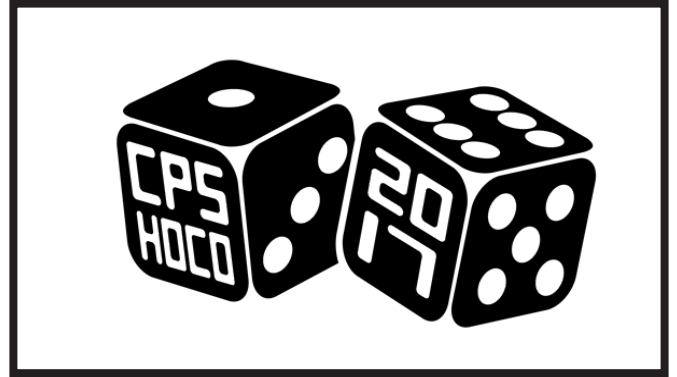
This year the Freshman Form Master, Fr. Lawrence, opted for a jackknife (a dive known for its wide splash radius) in an effort to get as many seniors wet as possible. A few other highlights include a certain student chugging a Gatorade in less than 3 seconds, a conga line (which Fr. Lawrence stopped), and the music mixing abilities of the eminent D.J. A.J. Sklar.

# The Nest

## The DOs and DON'Ts of Homecoming

*By Alex Banul, '20, who is the king of the Freshmen*

Whether you're a freshman looking forward to your first homecoming experience, or you're a senior trying to make your last homecoming the best ever, there are always certain things you should try to do or try to avoid during the homecoming weekend. Here, I have the honor of bringing you a comprehensive list of the DOs and DON'Ts based upon the opinions of faculty and students.



*Ben Sanford* – **Do** dance. **Don't** dance the way you want to dance.

*Father Philip* – **Do** make your own mum. **Don't** comment on how much your date eats at dinner.

*Davis Jackson* – **Do** dress according to the Spence code. **Don't** button the bottom button.

*Jose Alonzo* – **Do** be a gentleman, bring flowers, and relax. **Don't** ditch your date, stress, or take the hottest girl. Take someone you can have fun with.

*Srta. Kennedy* – **Do** dance, like crazy shake ya booty. **Don't** insult your date.

*Kyle Blessing* – **Do** talk to her. **Don't** play cards the whole time.

*Preston Barron* – **Do** offer to help carry anything. **Don't** be on your phone.

*Father Paul* – **Do** have fun. **Don't** be bad.

*Mr. Parker* – **Do** request 80's music. **Don't** ask your friend's girlfriend (also don't wear a burgundy tuxedo).

*Father Lawrence* – **Do** go. **Don't** take the dance for granted.

*Jake Fitzgerald* – **Do** attend the homecoming work days. **Don't** ask your date over text.

*Mr. Joseph* – **Do** take a picture with Father Gregory. **Don't** ditch your date for your friends.

*Anonymous* – **Do** order fettuccine alfredo. **Don't** spill Alfredo sauce on your date's dress.

*Joel Kattady* – **Do** memorize a list of puns before going. **Don't** reference memes every 5 minutes.

*Peter Novinski* – **Do** ask someone you know. **Don't** ask the girl with the least clothes.

*Mr. Graham* – **Do** watch the game at some point. **Don't** neglect your date.

*Jimmy Garda* – **Do** have good time. **Don't** have *too* much of a good time. ;)

*Charles Treadway* – **Do** make your date feel welcomed. **Don't** kill her dog.

*Father Stephen (and Alex Smith)* – **Do** dance and smile. **Don't** think you'll spend the whole time with your date.

And finally, a final recommendation from me, the honorary freshman. **Do** wear a bow-tie. **Don't** wait until the last minute to write an article about homecoming. Hope you all have a wonderful homecoming, and I'll see you there!



# The Nest

## On Fr. Bernard's Return to Hungary

*By Davis Jackson, '20, who isn't Jackson Davis*

Walking around campus, you might have seen Fr. Bernard here at school. He had returned recently to celebrate his Jubilee Mass. It was a beautiful Mass dedicated to Fr. Bernard's work over the past fifty years, which has been a blessing to our community and the community in Hungary. He also celebrated the Mass for the Nuns of Kismaros, then at St. Emery, our sister school in Budapest, as well as his hometown, and at the original church he first celebrated Mass at in Stams. But Fr. Bernard was most excited about the continuation of his ministry: over 2,000 prayer cards were dispatched at all the Masses combined.

However, Fr. Bernard had to leave again on August 30, for our Mother Abbey at Zirc. Before he left, we sat down with him to learn about his mission there:



The Abbey of Zirc is facing difficulties. Only a few monks remain, and the age gap among them is pronounced. The monks are also in a spiritual quandary, needing to live a more devout life according to the rules of the Order. In 1989-1990, after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the reestablishment of the Abbey at Zirc, many young men were admitted into the Order who were not quite qualified and often could not complete their studies.

The Abbot General is concerned, and in January he appointed two counselors to give spiritual and economic help to Zirc. These two counselors are Abbess Olgi Horvath and our own Fr. Bernard, whose appointments have been recently renewed. At the same time, the Superior of Zirc resigned and was replaced by another priest.

So, what is Fr. Bernard's task? He is to act as a bridge between the older and younger monks and to lead them in their everyday tasks, such as leading the Liturgy of the Hours. Furthermore, as he has been doing at the school, he seeks to encourage the graduating seniors (both high school and college) about considering a vocation of a priestly or religious life. Fr. Bernard also hopes that we can form a student exchange program with our sister school, so that both schools may learn from each other, and enlighten each person to find if they have a vocation to the religious life. In these ways, Fr. Bernard hopes not only to rebuild the Cistercian community at Zirc but also lay the foundation for years to come.

Fr. Bernard will return on December 20 for Christmas and then go back to Hungary on January 11, 2018 to continue his work. He plans to come back home on June 20, 2018 to carry on with his work in our own community. We have all been touched in one way or another by Fr. Bernard, and we pray for him in his mission to Hungary. Good luck Fr. Bernard!

***Check out our website, [cistercianinformer.com](http://cistercianinformer.com), for more articles!***

# The Nest

## Ask Kattdaddy!

*What's your favorite food?*

I can survive on nothing but the dew of a single ginko leaf and the energy of the universe. But I like to snack on the occasional bag of Cool Ranch Doritos.

*If I have four apples, and I give two to Sally, how many apples do I have left?*

Not enough. Kill Sally and take back your apples. Now you have four. In honor of my advice, donate the extra to me. You're welcome.

*Is priestlier a word?*

Yes, but only for idiots.

*What is love?*

(n.) A feeling of attraction that may lead to eventual mating in a union referred to as "marriage." This feeling usually reduces the intelligence of lower life forms.

Ooh baby don't hurt me.

*Who are you taking to Homecoming?*

Homecoming is nothing compared to the space hullabaloo of the galaxies beyond. I recommend going to one...unless you aren't able to breathe in space. I'm taking . Privacy is important nowadays, you never know who's reading this.

*What would you dress up as to Homecoming?*

A talking space cat whose intelligence far surpasses any other creatures.



***Submit questions to [kattdaddyinformer@gmail.com](mailto:kattdaddyinformer@gmail.com) to have them answered in a future issue!***

# News

## North Korea - No Laughing Matter

*By Ayden Kowalski, '21, who looks towards the south*

9,053 kilometers from the coast of California lies a nation blanketed in darkness, populated by impoverished masses buried under the ambition of an absolute power. That nation is North Korea, and they are currently claiming it can launch a nuclear intercontinental ballistic missile at the United States of America. Only in momentary flashes can we see the millions of starving citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. To talk candidly to the outside world about their suffering is to be a defector and a traitor, imprisoned within the walls of a labor camp along with all family members. Their leader's hunger for recognition and respect has driven him to irrationality, elevating his nuclear arsenal above the interests of his own people.



The leader of this oppressive collective is Kim Jong-Un, whose family has held power since the Korean War. While he was previously regarded as an international laughingstock for perpetuating absurd claims about his uncle Kim Jong-Il, including the deceased dictator shooting bullseye three times at the age of seven, getting a 38 under par the first and only time he golfed, and altering the course of meteorological events with the power of his mind alone, his nuclear ambition is no joke. His regime conducted fourteen missile tests in 2017 so far, and have begun to fire their missiles into Japanese territory.

Kim Jong-Un's nuclear ambition is just one aspect of his ruthless pursuit of power. He dispatched his uncle, Chang Song-thaek, in December of 2013, as Chang was a potential threat to his rule. He may have ordered the assassination of his half-brother, Kim Jong-nam, in February 2017. He has proudly proclaimed his desire to annihilate America, in various state-wide propaganda clips stating his claims about the nation being inferior and immoral.

What are our options with a world leader willing to unleash nuclear Armageddon upon the United States? We have imposed stronger sanctions, such as capping their exports and expelling their diplomats. We have installed anti-missile technology in South Korea. However, there is no simple solution to the problem. All that these efforts can do is work towards reaching an end to North Korea's nuclear ambition, which would make the world a much safer place, both for us and for the people of North Korea.

**By The  
Numbers**

**Number of bad  
jokes in the  
Informer**

**2**

**Amount of  
power held by  
the Sophomores**

**70%**

**Number of days  
until the  
science building  
is done**

**?**

**Number of  
hours the  
Emmys wasted**

**3**

**Wait where did  
the jokes go?**

**MANY**



# Sports

## Cistercian Cross Country

*By Alex Smith, '21, who XC'd expectations at the last meet*

On September 9, Cistercian had their second cross country meet. It was the usual 5k distance on a rather tough course. Our varsity team finished last in their early morning race, while JV did very well. JV placed tenth in their race, with John LeSage leading the pack.

Coach Roane had us arrive very early in the morning as with any other meet, so we could warm up for the races. One of the more surprising things about this race was the variety of schools there. Cistercian was one of the few SPC schools, with a wide range of public schools. The race was in Southlake, across from very large houses, and this location, to some runners, was far better. Even though the course was harder, the location was a lot closer than previous meets.

From my perspective, this was one of the most chaotic meets I've been in. The amount of people there was insane. As soon as the starting gun was shot, a horde of runners poured into the grassy straightaway. The starting line was a good fifty yards long, and Cistercian was at the direct end of it, far away from the first turn. Although that was tough, we pretty easily overcame this obstacle. Otherwise, the race was smooth sailing. I can say that the majority of the team finished this meet close to collapsing, a good sign that everyone gave it their all.

The following meet was in Flower Mound, and the course was significantly more difficult. There were two hills that left us exhausted, and the trail itself had a significant amount of sand, making the course much more difficult. These were great meets, and we hope to see you at the coming ones.



## John Cooper Game

*By Ben Sanford, '19, who needs to warmup for basketball*

Coming off a victory in their first game of the season, the Hawks hoped to build upon their early season momentum with a victory on the road against John Cooper. The Hawks came out strong with a seventy-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Max Schieferdecker ('18) to junior running back Harry Crutcher ('19), giving them an early 8-0 lead. Later in the half, however, the Hawks gave up a big lead due to turnovers and penalties and exited the half up by just three points.

In the second half, the Hawks eventually pulled ahead thanks to solid defense and some very big plays on offense. The MVP on offense was Harry Crutcher ('19) with three touchdowns. The Hawks also had touchdowns scored by junior Jimmy Garda ('19) and Jack McGuire ('19), McGuire's first varsity touchdown. The efforts on the defensive side of the ball, including Mike Garnett's ('18) three forced turnovers, allowed the opportunity for the offense to be in prime position to come back and win the game in a thrilling comeback.

The Hawks season is looking optimistic and the entire team is determined to make this season better than the last. Although they lost to Trinity Valley on the road after the John Cooper game, they are still in good spirits, as Trinity Valley is one of the best teams in the SPC. They can easily bounce back from the loss to crush all other teams in its way, which they are determined to do.

# Arts

## October Arts Calendar

*By Jake FitzGerald, '18, who knows his stuff*

### Concerts

Harry Styles on October 10 at the Irving Music Factory

Insane Clown Posse on October 12 at Gas Monkey Live

Remix Dvorak American Suite on October 14 and 15 at the Moody Performance Hall

Ravel's Piano Concerto for the Left Hand on October 19 through 22 at Meyerson Symphony Center

Chris Stapleton on October 28 at Starplex

### Theater and Dance

*Miller, Mississippi* on October 1 at the Wyly Theatre

*Samson and Dalila* on October 20,22,25,28, and November 5 at the Winspear Opera House

*12 Angry Men* on October 6 through 15 at the Art Centre Theatre

*TITAS Presents Israel's Kibbutz Contemporary Dance* on October 27-28 at the Moody Performance Hall.

*La Traviata* on October 27, 29, November 1,4,10,12 at the Winspear Opera House

### Art

Nan Coulter Photography (Free) until October 20

Late Night's at the DMA on October 20

### Miscellaneous

Dancing in the Park on October 6 at Klyde Warren Park

Long Island Medium on October 1 at the Allen Event Center

## Can Taylor Swift Save Her Reputation?

*By Jake Fitzgerald, '18, who still believes in T-Swizzle*

Taylor Swift is a musician of changes. Changes in genre. Changes in boyfriends. The one thing that has not changed during her entire career is how the world is fixated on her. From her early days as a country singer up until her release of 1989 she was at the center of the media spotlight, releasing an album every two years. Every album she released shot up to the top of the charts. 1989, her most recent album, even won the Grammy for record of the year in 2015. After this success, she took a step back, finished her tour and did not release any new music except for her collaboration "I Don't Wanna Live Forever" with Zayn for three years, until a few weeks ago.

Obviously her first release in years would send shockwaves across the internet, which it did. "Look What You Made Me Do" quickly earned the record for most Spotify streams in a single day and remains near the top of the charts almost a month later.

Many fans loved the new Taylor, but a large amount of them did not. They thought she sounded too much like other Pop artists like Katy Perry, and that her new song just wasn't any good.

Later that month she released a music video that also became the most viewed music video in 24 hours. Her second single dropped at the start of September and received even more lackluster reviews than the first, but it still remains in a high position on the global charts.

Reputation, the name of her next album, if it has any hope of critical success, needs to be better than the two singles she has already released. My theory is that she will use it to end her beef with Kanye either by releasing a collaboration between them or by releasing the entire, unedited phone conversation Kim Kardashian-West released on Snapchat in July 2016.

Regardless of if you like the "new" Taylor, her new album will be a must listen to on November 10.

# Arts

## October Movies Preview

*By Calvin Step, '20, who has 80% on Rotten Tomatoes*

There are lots of wonderful movies coming out this October, whether you enjoy magical ponies, long-awaited sequels, or some original thrillers. The following are some of the highlights.

**Blade Runner 2049** - A sequel to what was originally a giant flop, cult-classic *Blade Runner* is returning after 35 years and three different incarnations of the same movie. Harrison Ford returns as Rick Deckard to fight more crime and hopefully not die, and Oscar-nominated actor Ryan Gosling stars as the new lead. Add in Jared Leto blinding himself during filming because of “method acting” and Denis Villeneuve, the director of *Prisoners*, *Sicario*, and *Arrival*, and we should theoretically be getting a pretty good movie. Unless it ends up just being a nostalgic callback like so many other long waited 80s sequels. (October 6th)



**My Little Pony: The Movie** - Every brony's dream come true. If you love watching magical ponies learn that friendship is magic, have fun on opening night. If you are at least somewhat sane, go to the homecoming football game instead. (October 6th)

**Happy Death Day** - Blumhouse has had an incredible year with horror movies, with *Split* and *Get Out* being their two biggest hits to date. *Happy Death Day* looks to continue the trend, with a story about a girl who keeps reliving the day she dies until she can solve her own murder. This could go either way, but it will probably be at least a little fun even if it's not any good. (October 13th)

**Geostorm** - Apparently, in the future, there's going to be this giant device in space that controls the weather. Until a bad guy hijacks the system, creating natural disasters, and it'll be up to Gerard Butler to save us all. Some people really love disaster movies. If you like bad weather and explosions, and most likely a lack of interesting characters or plot, this is right up your alley. I'll be waiting for The Rock to save the day in *San Andreas 2*. (October 20th)

**Tyler Perry's Boo 2! A Madea Halloween** - The original *Boo!* was advertised as Madea dealing with zombies and ghouls in a horror movie. The final result was fighting monsters for about 10 minutes and the rest was Madea talking about how her nephew should raise his daughter. Those ten minutes were hilarious. The sequel takes us with Madea and her friends to a haunted lake where creepy things begin to happen. If you already are a fan of Madea and her brand of comedy, I'm sure you will enjoy it. Otherwise, stay away. (October 20th)

**Jigsaw** - The return of the once mighty horror franchise from seven years ago that is somehow all related to this one dead guy, his pig mask, and a puppet who loves tricycles. The trailer seems to suggest some attempt at creating a storyline besides just EVERYONE DIES, but since not a single entry in the series has gotten above a 40% on Rotten Tomatoes since the original, I wouldn't hope for anything special. Besides, there are other things to be doing the day it comes out, such as bingeing the second season of a certain popular Netflix show. (October 27th)

# Puzzles

## SECRET MESSAGE

10 13 19 7 17 24 24 14 17 14 14 19 14 3 11 25 17 26 13 5 23 15 10 16  
13 24 24 13 26 24 10 17 4 15 17 24 25 25 9 4 15 13 26 13 6 19 24 10 13  
2 23 18 18 6 13 11 23 19

If a=1, b=2, c=3, etc., the secret message is:

(Answer at bottom of page, but only use it to CHECK YOUR ANSWER!)

HINT: There are more puzzles on this page than you think  
ANSWER TO THE "SECRET CODE": Complete Gibberish. Or so you think.

## ANIMALS

It's a word-search. Simple as that. Or is it?

H T H E N R U L H O U N D S T  
M C B E E R A S H A R K N S O  
E A A D M N F L O W H A L E A  
B T I O I R H I N O K O E V D  
K P O D R B U T T E R F L Y G  
S S R Y R K I P A K O G E E O  
E A I I O S C A C K R I P I R  
C P H L B C E O R R O R H E F  
L E R R I U Q S C A O A A L E  
B E A R N S O N R V S F N L E  
A N A U G I A E E D T F T E R  
D O L P H I N B P R E E I Z T  
O C E L O T I S I A R Q G A T  
E L G A E W O I V A S P E G E  
Y E K N O M N O C L A F R T C

AARDVARK  
BEAR  
CARDINAL  
COYOTE  
EAGLE  
FALCON  
GIRAFFE  
IGUANA  
MOOSE  
OKAPI  
ROBIN  
SHARK  
SPIDER  
TIGER  
TREEFROG  
WHALE

BASILISK  
BUTTERFLY  
COCKROACH  
DOLPHIN  
ELEPHANT  
GAZELLE  
HOUND  
MONKEY  
OCELOT  
RHINO  
ROOSTER  
SNAKE  
SQUIRREL  
TOAD  
VIPER  
WOLF

Hint at the bottom of the page (but who needs a hint on a word-search, seriously!)

## JOIN THE INFORMER!

We have several high-level staff positions that are unoccupied at the moment. You can also submit articles to [cistercian.informer@gmail.com](mailto:cistercian.informer@gmail.com) to have them published on our website! We are and will always be looking for articles for every section, and we are especially looking forward to Middle Schoolers writing articles for our brand-new "Middle School" section. If you have any interest in art, graphic design, or website development, we'd love to have you on our team too!