



# THE PAW PRINT

Western Middle School

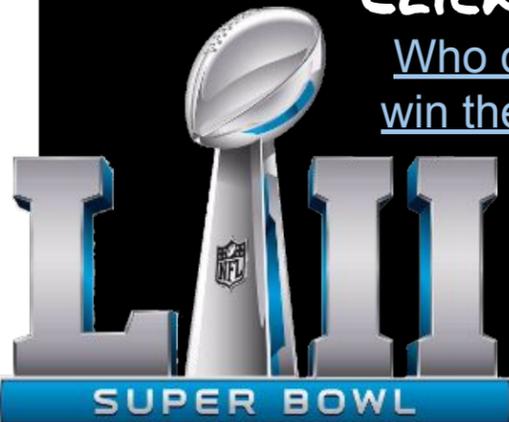


Russiaville, IN

## Super Bowl 2018

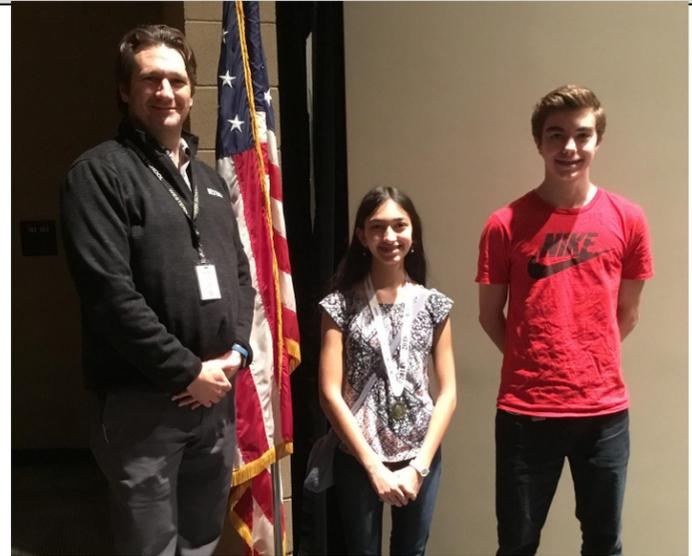
**CLICK TO VOTE:**

[Who do you want to win the Super Bowl?](#)



On this Sunday, the Super Bowl takes place in Minneapolis, Minnesota, at U.S Bank Stadium. The Philadelphia Eagles will face the New England Patriots. This will be the Patriots' tenth Super Bowl appearance, while it will be the Eagles' first ever Super Bowl appearance. For more information, read "Who is it going to be?" in the Sports Section.

## WMS Geography Bee



**Congratulations to 8th grade student Niah Patel, winner of last night's WMS Geography Bee. Congratulations also to Pete Bradshaw, 8th grade student and runner up.**

## The Principal's Corner

**IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A PANTHER!!!**



By Mr. Horrell

One, picture this: 2 miles of swimming in the open water, 56 miles of bike riding through hills and curves, and running a marathon all on the same day. Sounds like fun, right? That event is called an Ironman and it's something that I aspire to accomplish someday. Believe it or not, I've done a Half-Ironman, which is exactly half of everything that I listed. This was not an easy feat. It was something that I had to work at every single day, little by little. I started by training for 5Ks and doing sprint triathlons, which are much smaller distances. Slowly, I added a little more to my training. Finally, I did it. I accomplished a pretty big event.

My training required me to give up some things that I enjoyed in trade for something better. I had to decide each day what was important for me to do in order to inch closer to my goal. I had to evaluate my progress and I had to include some events in between to provide to me some feedback on how my training was going.

School is just like this! How is your training going? Are you prepared? Are you reflecting? Are you giving it your best all the time? If not, there is still time to change your course of action and make a new plan. Now's the time. Your work today will have a huge payoff later. Trust me! The reward far outweighs any of the heartache and frustration you might be experiencing now!

**IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A PANTHER!**



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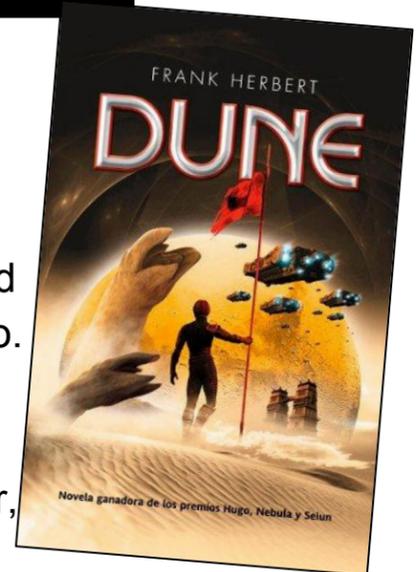
## Teacher Feature: Mr. Ladwig



By Kadin Dempsey

This week's teacher feature is on Mr. Ladwig. Mr. Ladwig is the seventh grade Freedom Hall math teacher. Ladwig attended Kenyon for college, located in Gambier, Ohio.

Mr. Ladwig has been a teacher for two years. Also known as Coach Ladwig, he coaches football, track, and starting this year, wrestling.



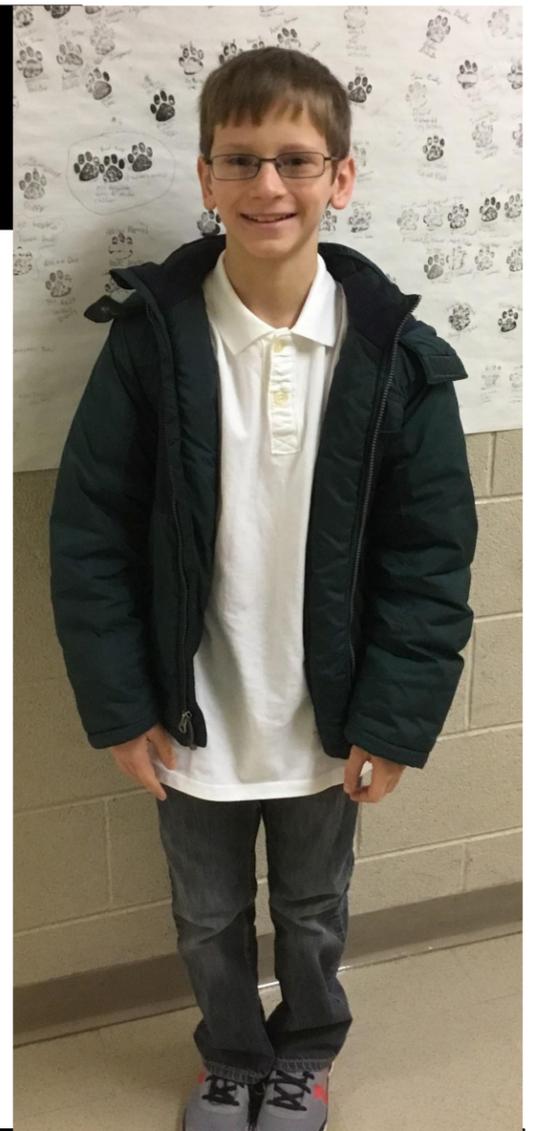
Outside of school, Mr. Ladwig likes to watch sports with friends, read, and travel. Ladwig's favorite book is *Dune* by Frank Herbert. Mr Ladwig's favorite things about teaching are seeing the students problem solving, giving the students an opportunity to learn, and helping students with challenges. Ladwig's favorite sports team are the Detroit Pistons and the Oklahoma Sooners.

## Student Spotlight: Leroy Carter

By Gavin G. Gifford

Leroy has been my friend for about a year. He is very smart and hard working. We like to play with Nerf guns and get the house full of darts. Leroy's favorite subject is math because that is what he is best at. You would probably like what you are good at; why would you pick Social Studies if you aren't good at it?

His friends are Austin Willis, Guy Smith-Knight, and myself.. His favorite sport to play is football because he likes to tackle the players. Also, his favorite sport to watch is football because that is the sport he knows best. He likes the video game Mortal Kombat because he likes fighting and destroying the other characters. His favorite holiday is Thanksgiving because he gets to hang out with family and play games. His favorite color is blue because his eyes are blue. He has three siblings, an older sister who is 13, a younger brother who is 9 and a baby brother who is 2. He is 11 years old and in the 6th grade. When asked about his favorite food, Leroy said, "My favorite food is shrimp because I like shrimp."



## This Week's Top Students

**8th Grade:** Eliza Lutgen  
Abigail Origer  
Gavan Davis

**7th Grade:** Natalie Nutt  
Chioma Ozoigbo  
Jenna Yazel

**6th Grade:** Ethan Fisher  
Braylee Acord  
Lauren Bradley



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# Who Is It??



Who is this adorable child, sweetly posing in his “jam-jams”?

This is a picture of one of the teachers in the middle school building. Can you guess who it is?

Look for a baby picture of a teacher in each issue of *The Paw Print* this year. Your job is to guess which teacher it is each time.

If you think you know, stop by Mrs. Sipes’ room (601) during passing period. The first person with the correct answer claims the reward!

## Previous Baby Pictures: How Many Have You Guessed?

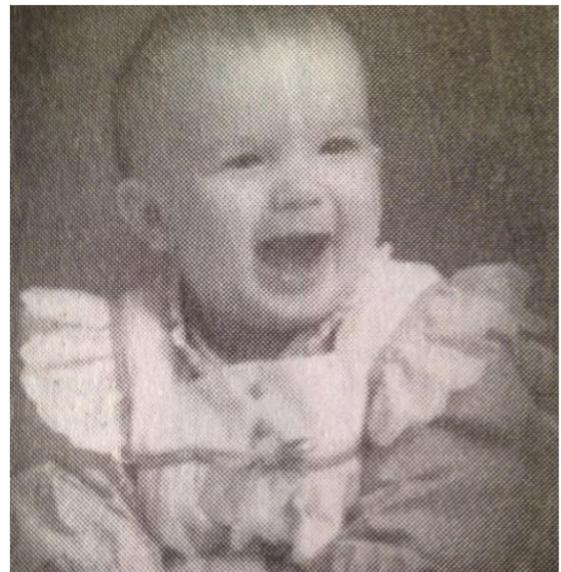
Issue 8: Mr. Abston  
Spanish and World Languages Teacher



Issue 10: Mrs. Coulson  
7th Grade Science Teacher



Issue 9: Mrs. Lee  
6th Grade Social Studies Teacher



Issue 11: Mrs. Burkett  
Art Teacher



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# Local Student is Hero to Little Sister



By L'ena Chapel

My brother's name is Jesse Freeman and he is 18 years old. Jesse is in high school. He graduates this year. He is nice to me and he is a good big brother.

He works at Dairy Queen. He makes food and he works very hard. He works 7 hours a day. On Fridays, he gets a paycheck. Sometimes he works late and gets home late. He is very thankful to have a job.



Photographer:  
L'ena Chapel

Pictured: Dairy  
Queen restaurant  
located on  
Sycamore Street  
in Kokomo, Indiana



## Movie Review: *The Death Cure*

By Charlie Ailor

The movie review is on the third *Maze Runner* movie *The Death Cure*. I saw this movie on January 26, 2018, the day it came out. The movie started at 7:00 p.m.

I extremely enjoyed this movie. I think my favorite part would have to be when they save Minho.



This movie is much like the book. The characters were well developed, and they made it feel like it was actually happening. This movie has a ton of suspense. I think I personally would have to give this movie a 5 out of 5.



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# WMS Award Ceremony for First Semester



By Charlie Ailor

This award convention was held on Friday, January 26. It started at 1:00 pm with the 6th grade perfect attendance, then the all A's and B's and the all A's awards, followed by the lead awards. Finally, the tri-awards were shown and they talked about the ambassadors. The winners of the 6th grade Lead Awards for the Navigators were Caleb Burk, Anna Buch, Chloe Hunt, Chloe Risley, and Emily Smith. The winners of the Explorers' Lead Awards were Madden Wells, Miles Bowley, Elizabeth Mercer, Jericho Parado, and Evan Butcher. Congratulations to all our Lead Award winners!



**GRADES** ★ **ATTENDANCE** ★ **DISCIPLINE**

## WINNER OF THE TRI-EXCELLON AWARD:

*7th grade!*  
88.8% Success Rate

6th Grade	
Attendance:	95.6%
Discipline:	63%
Grades:	96%

7th Grade	
Attendance:	96.3%
Discipline:	73.1%
Grades:	97%

8th Grade	
Attendance:	95.5%
Discipline:	62.5%
Grades:	94%



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# The Sports Section: The Top Reports for the MLB, NBA, and NFL



## WHO IS IT GOING TO BE?

By Kadin Dempsey

Two weekends ago we had the conference championships for the NFL (National Football League). For the AFC, the two teams were the Jacksonville Jaguars and the New England Patriots. For the NFC, the two teams were the Philadelphia Eagles and the Minnesota Vikings. This is the Patriots' tenth Super Bowl appearance. This is the Eagles' first ever appearance in the Super Bowl. The Super Bowl will take place this Sunday, February 4th, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

### *How the Season Went for Both Teams*

The Eagles started the season off with their second year quarterback, Carson Wentz. Wentz was caring his team as the number one team for awhile. In week 14 while the Eagles were playing the Los Angeles Rams, Wentz took a hard fall and ended up tearing his ACL. Wentz would miss the rest of the regular season and he ended up missing all of the postseason. The Eagles' backup Nick Foles came in and finished the season and survived the postseason with the Eagles. Two years ago the Patriots, also known as the De-Flat Patriots, had the Deflategate. The Patriots cheated in the post season to survive the rest of the postseason. Well, last year Tom Brady, the Patriots' star quarterback, was supposed to be suspended. They cut him off with it but held up with it this year. The Patriots only lost one of the four games without Brady. Some say they played weak teams while others say it was due to their head coach, Bill Belichick. This is Belichick's eighth Super Bowl appearance, and he has won five of them. All of them have been with Tom Brady. The Patriots finished the season 13-3, while the Eagles finished also at 13-3. This Super Bowl should be a good one. Who do you think will take it home, Eagles or Patriots? [CLICK HERE TO VOTE.](#)



Pictured: Nick Foles, Eagles' starting quarterback



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# The Sports Section: Drag Racing



By Gavin Gifford



## Drag Racing

Dragsters reach over 300 MPH before you have completed reading this sentence. Have you ever wanted to be in a supercharged drag car? A Top Fuel dragster 500 cubic inch Hemi engine makes more horsepower than the first 4 rows at the Daytona 500. If you want to learn about drag racing, this is the right article for you.

## What is Drag Racing

Drag Racing is a type of racing where you go in a straight line and there are two drag cars racing to the end where they stop. Whichever car gets to the finish line first wins. These supercharged dragsters can go over 300 mph. There are 2 main types of drag cars, dragsters and funny cars. The tracks are



called drag strips because they are strips of track. Drag Racing is the only sport where you go in a straight line and you can go over 300 mph. Some other types of racing are NASCAR, F1, Indycar, Motocross, and Off-Road Racing. These are all different types of racing. In Drag Racing, you don't need a pit crew because it is only a short and quick race. In other racing you have to have a pit crew because you need gas and you need your tires changed after a while or you will crash from a tire blowout. In Drag Racing when you need to stop you don't just use your brakes because you don't even have breaks - you have a parachute that will deploy when you cross the finish line.

## Dragsters

"The National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) was founded in 1951 by Wally Parks, and within the decade two classes of competition had developed 'Unmodified Stock' and 'Top Eliminator.' As the sport grew, the first drag racing superstars emerged. The Albertson Olds and Dragmaster Dart were the cars to beat" (NHRA.com). The fastest drag car in Drag Racing is a dragster. A dragster has a spoiler and a long skinny base so it can go faster. The front and back wing are there so it won't fly off the ground when it goes 300 mph. These cars can go faster because of the fuel they use. The car uses nitromethane fuel. Top Fuel Dragsters can burn up to 15 gallons of nitromethane fuel during a single run. This is the fastest drag car of all the drag rars, mainly because of the nitromethane fuel. CONTINUED ON PAGE 8.



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# The Sports Section: Drag Racing



By Gavin Gifford

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

In Drag Racing, it isn't just race one person and win, it is set up in a series of brackets. How it works is the racers start at the bottom, whoever wins the race goes up to the next section, and the loser goes home. Then, they race another racer who won a race and whoever wins that goes on to the next section until they are in the final section. It is one bracket and whoever wins that is the champion. The thing that stinks is if you blow your engine or there is a problem, it can sometimes catch on fire. It is worse for dragsters because of the nitromethane fuel.

## Funny Cars

"Funny cars began appearing on drag strips around 1964 when race drivers began using Dodge and Plymouth cars with radically altered wheelbases that had the rear axle moved forward by about 15 inches, and the front wheels moved toward the nose by about 10 inches" (Itstillruns.com). Funny Cars have the same horsepower, but they are a little bit slower because the dragsters' bodies are more aerodynamic since they are skinnier and narrower than funny cars. Funny Cars look like normal cars almost. They are wide, short, and have big wheels in the back. "Top Fuel dragsters can burn up to 15 gallons of nitromethane fuel during a single run" (Itstillruns.com). They use mainly nitromethane, but about 15 to 10 percent is methanol. These don't have wings like dragsters do. They race on the same tracks as the dragsters. They both are in bracket racing. They are both likely to catch on fire. Even though they aren't the fastest, they are still really fast.



If you want to learn more about NASCAR, you may read my article by clicking here: [http://wms.western.k12.in.us/images/The\\_Paw\\_Print\\_1.19.18.pdf](http://wms.western.k12.in.us/images/The_Paw_Print_1.19.18.pdf). You will find the article on pages 7-9.



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# HAPPENING AROUND THE WORLD...



## Firehawks!

By Jeffery Raines and Ashton Justice

Has it ever come to your mind that birds can start fires? In Australia there have been many forest fires lately. In the savannah there are birds called the black kite. They have been called firehawks because they have burned 18% of Australia's 730,000 square miles of savannah. Hawks have been spotted picking up smoldering sticks in their claws and dropping them in fresh patches of dry grass half a mile away, then waiting for the mad dash of frightened rodents and reptiles leaving the area. These hawks are making easy meals out of the fire stored in their beaks. Brown falcons also can store fire in their beaks.

According to Bob Gosford, an Australian lawyer and ornithologist, "Black kites and brown falcons come to these fronts because it's literally a feeding frenzy" (NationalGeographic.com). Each year, 75% of Earth's tropical savannahs burn because of these two species of birds. When Gosford first found this, it inspired him to collect firsthand accounts of the behavior, which he has since 2011. People in northern Australia have considered firehawks the black kite (*Milvus migrans*), whistling kite (*Haliastur sphenurus*), and the brown falcon (*Falco berigora*) part of the natural order for some time.



(ABOVE) This bird is a black kite.

(LEFT) The black kite burns down a savannah to flush out its food.

Photos: Joel Sartore, National Geographic.



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## Will He See It?

# Happy Groundhog Day 2018!



By Ashton Justice

Have you ever thought, “What is Groundhog Day?” Well, Groundhog Day is a tradition that started in a town in Pennsylvania and went nationwide. That town is called Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. It is very popular there and the citizens there are very proud and, perhaps, over dramatic about this long-lasting holiday.

In case you don't know, Groundhog Day is a day where if a certain groundhog sees its shadow, it's six more weeks of winter. If not, it is early spring. This tradition in Punxsutawney is now broadcasted all over American on that day. The Groundhog is pulled out of its burrow to be let out for the people see whether there is a shadow or not. What kind of person would rely on a groundhog to tell what season it is?! Groundhog Day is a very strange tradition, but we still celebrate it to this day. I think that we should all celebrate Groundhog Day as a part of Americans' history and traditions.

## 6th Grade Planetary Motion Lab



Photos by Caleb Turnpaugh

On Thursday and today, 6th grade students in Mrs. Moon's science class are kicking off their Solar System Unit by proving Kepler's 3rd Law with the Planetary Motion lab. Check out these students using the scientific method in action!



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# THE PAW PRINT POLL:



## WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE GREEK GOD/GODDESS?

Click [HERE](#) to vote!

By Charlie Ailor

Poseidon - god of the sea; symbol is a three-pointed trident

Zeus - god of the sky; symbol is the eagle

Hera - goddess of marriage, mothers, and families; symbols are pomegranate, cow, and peacock

Athena - goddess of wisdom, war, and useful arts; symbol is the owl

Hades - god of the underworld; symbol is the helm of darkness

Ares - god of war; symbols are a bloody spear and a wild boar

Apollo - god of archery, music, poetry, prophecy, medicine, and the sun; symbols are the lyre and the laurel wreath

Artemis - goddess of the moon, the hunt, and young maidens; symbols are the moon and deer

Demeter - goddess of agriculture; symbols are the torch and corn plant

Hephaestus - god of blacksmiths and fire; symbol is the anvil and hammer

Aphrodite - the goddess of love and beauty; symbol is the dove

Hermes - god of the roadways, travelers, merchants, and thieves; symbol is the caduceus

Dionysus - god of wine; symbols are the leopard and the grape vine



Zeus



Ares



Hera



Athena



Hades



Aphrodite



Artemis



Demeter



Hephaestus



Hermes



Dionysus

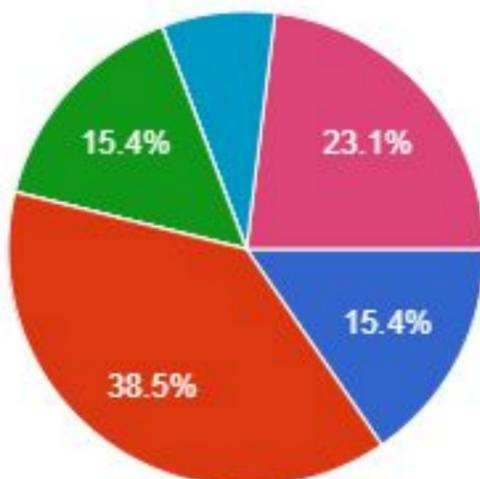


Poseidon



Apollo

Poll Responses from January 19:  
Which is Your Favorite Book Series?



- Maze Runner by James Dashner
- Harry Potter by J. K. Rowling
- Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
- Percy Jackson by Rick Riordan
- Zombie Goldfish by Mo O'Hara
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney
- The Chronicles of Narnia by C. S. Lewis



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