

Methuen Day 2022

by Crystal Castro



On Saturday, October 1, 2022, the people of Methuen gathered to celebrate their city at Methuen Day, which took place from 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Four Corners.

Admission to Methuen Day was free to all. At the celebration, there were numerous food vendors, selling goods such as fried dough, chicken tenders, pizza, desserts, fruits, and more, as well as stands lining the street that advertised their small businesses and different causes. Among these were Relay for Life, the Nevin’s Library, and Methuen Youth Soccer. At these booths, there were wheels to spin, prizes to win, and opportunities to pursue.

Organized by City Councilor Eunice Zeigler, student volunteers aided in the set up and running of the event. Student volunteer and sophomore at Methuen High School, Natasha Vuong, said she chose to volunteer at Methuen Day to connect with her

community, build new relationships, and gain some community service hours, saying, “I’m grateful that there was an opportunity to volunteer at such an amazing event.”

Some of Methuen Day’s best entertainment took place shortly after noon. Entertainment kicked off on a main stage at the end of the street with multiple performances by the dance studios of Methuen, including Studio of Dance Arts, Dance Images, and Center for Performing Arts.

One attendee, Mackenzie “CK” Corrigan, said, “I really enjoyed these performances and think they added to the fun atmosphere!”

After these performances, Zeigler, accompanied by student volunteers, announced the winners of the “What Makes Methuen My Home” essay contest. Students enrolled at Methuen High School were given the opportunity to write an essay about how their experiences in Methuen has shaped them into the person they are today. Two to three winners were chosen per grade level and given gift baskets, and there was also a grand prize winner.

Congratulations to all of the winners!

- Ella Duffy - Grand Prize Grade 9 Student
- Jhudny Pierre - 1st Place Grade 12
- Allyssa Cassidy - 1st Place Grade 11
- Marissa Mahoney - 2nd Place Grade 11
- Joseph McDonald - 2nd Place Grade 11
- Crystal Castro - 1st Place Grade 10
- Michael Holloran - 2nd Place Grade 10
- Maddox Oumret - 1st Place Grade 9
- Joshua Danella - 2nd Place Grade 9

Continued on page 2....

What's Inside

Page 2
NASA D.A.R.T. Mission

Page 4
Hurricane Ian

Page 6
Student Profiles

Page 8
Halloween Costume Trends

Red Ribbon Week

by Jessica Leiva

Red Ribbon Week is a week in October that celebrates a drug-free lifestyle. Every year, schools across America celebrate Red Ribbon week.

Each year has a new theme, with this year's theme being, 'Celebrating Life Drug Free'. Red Ribbon Week is the nation's largest and longest running drug-free campaign.

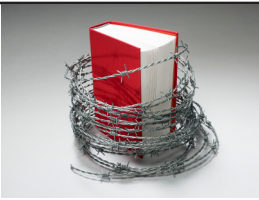
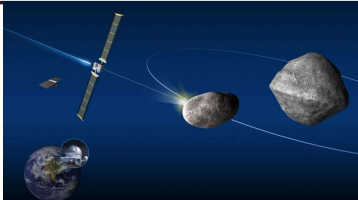
Red Ribbon Week first started in 1985. The campaign was made in memory of Enrique Camarena, a DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) agent. Camarena, in the past, struggled with an addiction to illegal drugs. He thought it would be best if he joined the

DEA, even though his mother disagreed.

On February 7, 1985 in Mexico, 37-year-old Camarena was kidnapped by 5 men on his way to lunch with his wife. His body was found one month later. Enraged citizens wore Red Ribbons as a symbol for the killing and destruction that can be caused by drugs.

The first national Red Ribbon Celebration was in 1988, sponsored by NFP (National Family Partnership). The NFP brings the concerns and plans of America’s families to policy makers on a local, state, and national level. NPF also has a selection on prevent brochures to educate others of drug free campaigns such as; Lock Your Meds, Red Ribbon Campaign, and Red Ribbon Certified Schools.

continued on page 2....



continued from front page...

Methuen Day

After these two events, Mayor Neil Perry came on stage to thank everyone for attending, and addressed the new trash and recycling system Methuen is pursuing. He mentioned that Methuen is one of the largest polluters in the state of Massachusetts and that action needs to be taken.

Methuen Day continued after Mayor Perry’s words and those in attendance shopped, ate, and mingled amongst themselves until the event came to an end at 3:00p.m.

Volunteer and sophomore Jenna Ho described her take on Methuen Day as, “a meaningful event that brings our town together and also gives small businesses an opportunity to showcase what they have to offer.”

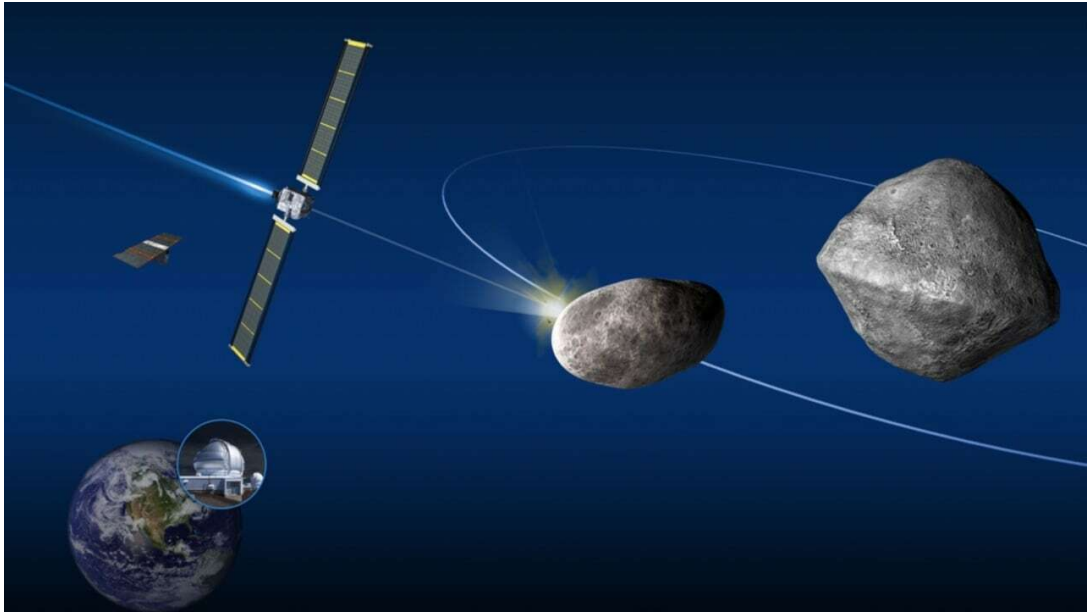
Throughout the event, Zeigler made it clear that she appreciated the help from all those who made the event possible; the vendors, associations, volunteers, and of course, the people of Methuen, and that she looks forward to continuing the event for many more years to come.



Courtesy Blue & White Staff

MHS student Mackenzie “CK” Corrigan showing support for a classmate.

NASA DART Mission a 'Smashing' Success



A digital recreation of the DART mission to reroute an asteroid.

Courtesy of Bing Images

by Livia Lawrence

In November of 2021, NASA launched a rocket into outer space in the world’s first ever test of a planetary defense tactic. It was programmed to collide with asteroid Dimorphous, in an attempt to knock it out of its orbit.

This September, the rocket hit Dimorphous head on, and team members began their work to determine if the mission was successful. On October 11 it was revealed that not only had the orbit of Dimorphous changed, but it had been much more successful than they ever expected.

The Double Asteroid Redirection Test, or DART, was the first mission of its kind. With an estimated cost of \$313.9 million, and a team of 556 dedicated members, this mission was a huge step towards the ability to defend Earth from hazardous objects from outer space.

The mission began on November 24, 2021, 1:20am EST, when rocket SpaceX Falcon 9 was launched from Space Launch

Complex 4, Vandenberg Space force base, California. Unlike other rockets, which were designed to return to Earth, Falcon 9 was intended to collide with an asteroid. Dimorphous, located 6.8 million miles from Earth, posed no threat. This collision served solely as a test, to see if it was possible to change the orbit of an asteroid by hitting it with a rocket.

This mission had to succeed in two ways: colliding with the asteroid, and significantly changing its trajectory. The first success occurred on September 26, 2022, 7:14 pm EST. At this time, the rocket collided with Dimorphous, completing the first step. The impact was live-streamed by NASA until the rocket hit, shattering to pieces.

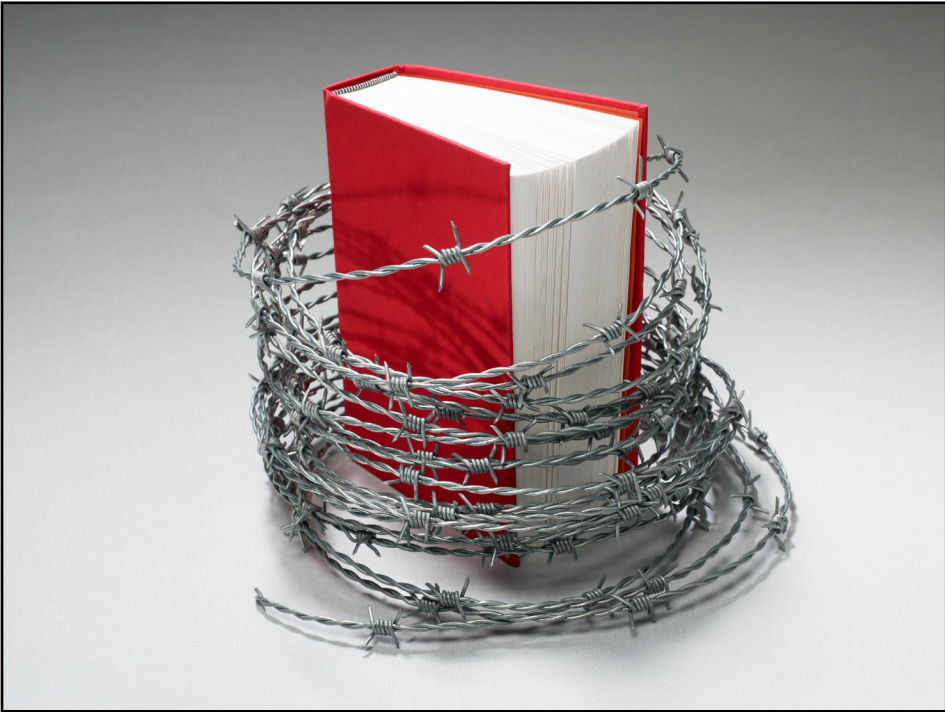
A camera attached to the rocket allowed the team to see everything that was happening, and they could be seen bursting into applause and cheering when the collision was successful. Hugs and high fives were exchanged between members, and reporters on the mission began expressing their views on the great success.

The celebration didn’t last long, however, because the team had to get right back to work. The asteroid was hit, but now they had to determine if its orbit was changed. According to the NASA TOPD (Team of Planetary Defense), the mission would be considered a success if the orbit was changed by at least 73 seconds.

On October 11, they realized just how successful the mission had been. Dimorphous’s orbit had been altered by 32 minutes, 25 times the benchmark amount. With this information, the mission was considered a success, and the team went back to the drawing board to discuss what will come next.

There will be many steps to come, but one is a mission they are currently working on. The team for this mission are developing a new telescope called the Near-Earth Object Surveyor, which will seek out hazardous asteroids in Earth’s solar system. This telescope would allow scientists to know when planetary defense is necessary, if it ever is, and then use a tactic based on the DART to redirect said asteroid.

The Banning of Books Nationwide



Courtesy of Bing Images

Schools and libraries nationwide are seeing an increase in book-banning activity.

by Olivia Clark

Thousands of books in public schools around America have been banned since the start of the 2021-2022 school year, according to Pen America, a nonprofit that focuses on freedom of expression by promoting access to literature.

The bans continue to threaten the students of America’s access to literature every day, preventing specific forms of education that are necessary in the growth of our students'

knowledge of the world around them.

The books facing the most bans in America are young adult books that include diverse sets of characters and deep dives into the large spectrum of sexuality. According to Pen America, 41% of all books being banned either contain a protagonist or secondary character of color, while 33% of all books being banned contain explicit conversations and storylines addressing LGBTQ+ themes.

It is not a coincidence that young adult books, including these themes, a’e being targeted the most, considering teenagers and young adults are still developing and growing, leading them to be exceptionally impressionable.

States like Texas, Pennsylvania, and Florida have been experiencing the most book bans nationwide, facing up to nearly 700 individual book titles being targeted and removed from schools. The banning of the books and the removal of the banned books from schools and libraries is being largely conducted by state officials.

According to Pen America, a recorded 41% of all bans occurring in Texas, South Carolina, and Georgia have been proposed by state officials or elected lawmakers. This indicates that politics are influencing many of the bans taking place which has led to a feeling of unease among educators around the country because this percentage is unheard of. At the core of these book bans inside of schools, the First Amendment is seen at risk by some because of the appearance that government officials are allowing their personal opinions to influence book removals.

Although there is still a long road to go, legal threats made by organization heads have proven to be successful in the mission to get all banned books back into schools and libraries. According to Pen America, nine library books removed from a school in Utah have been put back on to the shelves after an investigation was launched by the state ACLU affiliate.

This information can pose as a source of hope for those who fight for the right to access all forms of education and literature.

War In Ukraine Updates

by James Sugden

Vladimir Putin forever changed Ukraine when he sent Russian forces over their border on February 24, 2022. This started a war between the countries.

The Russians had a huge advantage as they had the more powerful army, but they took the Ukrainians for granted. They wouldn’t go down without a fight. They achieved major victories against the Russian army. However the fight is still ongoing. It’s now been eight months since the invasion. Here is what has been happening recently:

Eight were arrested in Moscow over the explosion that damaged the bridge between Russia and the annexed lands of Crimea.

NATO sent defense ministers to Brussels to figure out ways to give Ukraine more air support. They currently say that Ukraine only has roughly 10% of equipment they need to handle a blitz by the Russians.

A NATO Representative said if Russia uses a nuclear attack Ukrainian allies would most likely engage in physical warfare.

In early October, President Biden said the world is at the closest point to nuclear armededdon in 60 years.



Courtesy of Bing Images

The War in Ukraine continues to rage as winter approaches.

Moscow orchestrated “kamikaze” drone strikes against Ukrainian citizens in the Kyviv region. Residential buildings were shelled in the city of Mykolaiv.

The UN’s nuclear watchdog agency is working on making a safe zone around a Russian occupied Ukrainian power plant. Attacks on power plants are keeping the world on edge as they fear nuclear armededdon looms.

The UN estimates the Ukrainian civilian death toll is currently over 6,000 people in total. It is estimated that as many as 100,000 Russian soldiers have been killed or wounded, with similar numbers possible for the Ukrainian military.

Hurricane Ian

by Madison Chin

The record-breaking, category 4 hurricane named “Hurricane Ian” killed over 120 Florida residents, quickly becoming the deadliest hurricane to hit Florida since 1935.

Data from the Florida Department of Law enforcement shows that the most common causes of death were drowning and inaccessible/delayed medical service.

Hurricane Ian reached landfall in Cayo Costa in Southwestern Florida on September 28th, immediately causing catastrophic damage. The winds reached up to 155 miles per hour and flood levels reached up to 7.5 ft tall. Due to these extreme storm surges thousands of people

were left homeless, needing to reside in temporary emergency housing centers.

Already facing a shortage of affordable homes, a giant increase in housing competition has surged for mainly lower and working-class families. According to NBC News, Hurricane Ian has increased Florida’s already growing housing crisis immensely. Over 850,000 families are still without power, as communities struggle to recover.

Although there are billions of dollars in damages and hundreds of lost lives, Florida residents as well as people worldwide have donated their time and money to help the struggling communities and families.

One foundation is called Savethechildren.org, where you can donate and further contribute to their 2022

Hurricane Ian Relief Fund. This foundation delivers essential items including water, hygiene products, diapers, and other life-saving necessities.

Many other foundations are also providing help to those struggling all around Florida, hoping to provide assistance and support.



Courtesy of Bing Images

Hurricane Ian, with top wind speeds of 155 mph, was the fifth-strongest storm ever to hit the continental United States.

Outrage After The Death of Mahsa Amini

by Alexys Feugill

Mahsa Amini was just 22 years old on September 16th when Iran's morality police, which monitors clothing violations, brought her in for not wearing her hijab correctly.

The morality police kept her detained for three days, after which she collapsed in the detention center due to an alleged heart attack.

She was then transferred to a hospital where she was pronounced dead. The autopsy and eyewitness reports say that she was severely beaten.

A series of protests have taken place since the day that she died. According to the Iran Human Rights NGO, which tracks deaths related to the protests, over 300 people have



been killed due to patrols trying to intervene with the protests. The interventions include tear gas and live rounds. In the most recent escalation, the Iranian judiciary has begun to hand out death sentences to protesters, as well.

The protesters have blocked roads and cut their hair in defiance to the government for what happened to Amini. The protests have spread all across the world, with women in America cutting their hair online to show support.

The recent death of a 16 year old girl named Nika Shakarami, who was also killed by officials in Iran, only added fuel to a raging fire.

Red Ribbon Week

continued from front page....

At Methuen High, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) club represents the Red Ribbon Campaign. This year, the 24-28 of October was dedicated as Red Ribbon Week.

SADD club has also scheduled a spirit day called ‘Wear Red Day’ on Wednesday, October 26. Simple things like wearing red on spirit days shows your care and effort for the Red Ribbon Campaign’s movement.

In the past, Methuen High has had guest speakers and door decorating contest to celebrate and represent Red Ribbon Week

A freshman member of SADD club, Mason Carter, emphasized Red Ribbon Week as an essential part of any drug free district.

“Absolutely,” Mason said, responding to a question about whether Red Ribbon Week is important. “People need to be aware of substance abuse.” And with all of the drug free campaigns we have, change is bound to happen.



Courtesy of Bing Images

Red Ribbon Week is an annual awareness event at MHS organized by SADD.



The retirement of Tennis Icon: Serena Williams

by Lisandra Mejia

Serena Williams, born in Saginaw, Michigan, started playing tennis at the ripe age of 4. Trained by her father on public courts, constant practice led Williams the opportunity to attend Rick Macci Academy in West palm beach. This ultimately led to both of the sisters turning professional within their own respective careers.

Throughout her career, Serena Williams won a total of 39 titles: 29 in singles, 14 in women's doubles, and two in mixed doubles. She has opened a door for new generations of tennis players and she has allowed for vulnerability and strength to be depicted on the tennis court.

In Vogue's September 2022 cover Williams stated, "I'm here to tell you that I'm evolving away from tennis, toward other things that are important to me." Williams expresses that although her love for tennis strongly remains, it's time for her to move on to other opportunities in her life. She stated in the article that she'd like to expand her family and expand her business opportunities.

When asked about her legacy, she stated, "thanks to opportunities afforded to me, women athletes feel that they can be themselves on the court. They can play with aggression and pump their fists."

Williams, who has been on the receiving end of a lot of criticism due to her mannerisms on the court, has opened the doors for women to be expressive and for women to be able to act out of the "delicate" standards they are boxed into. Whether or not she is liked by the masses, her influence on the sport of tennis is undeniable and will continue to be prominent for generations to come.

Student Profiles

Insider on JROTC: Featuring Cadet Staff Sergeant Yanelis N. Serrano

by Caitlyn McGhee

Have you ever wondered about an effective way to start a career in the military while still in high school?

Yanelis N. Serrano, a senior at Methuen High who has been doing JROTC since her sophomore year, has this role.

“JROTC is junior reserve officer training corps, it is it is a military run program for high schools and private schools,” stated Serrano when asked about what JROTC stands for. “I am a drill commander for competitions, I command on a regulation drill and I may be promoted to one of the staff positions or maybe sergeant major.”

Many schools have this program for their students. For example, MHS competes with, “Lawrence, Brockton, and Revere, and we do commands, we March, we do commands and they grade based on if we do them right and efficiently.” Serrano explained. "And they’re crazy because our farthest one is always first so we go on the bus and we make sure that we have an inspection done, so it’s pretty crazy.”

Commands aren’t the only part of competing though. “It does involve academics when we compete in the spring. There's different types of teams, there’s marksmanship, academics, PT, which is physical training, and leadership, so they compete in math and then they do like a whole bunch of other things, so academic plays a big role. If you do not have good grades you cannot be in JROTC.” said Serrano, who does not do Academics but Commands.

Serrano feels as though JROTC isn’t just a school program, but a way to prepare high school students for real life. “It prepares you for life because they give you classes on leadership, on first aid, you get CPR certified, and you know you learn things like how to put splints on, about how to do a resume, [and] what’s the difference between a job and a career.” Serrano would do it all over again if she could, saying, “I would do it again so I could be at a higher rank then I am now.”



Courtesy Blue & White Staff

Senior Yanelis Serrano taking part in JROTC activities

Inside Scoop on Wrestling Featuring Caitlyn McGhee

by Yanelis Serrano



Courtesy of Blue & White Staff

Senior Caitlyn McGhee locked in a wrestling match.

Wrestling is classified as mock combat and 'display behavior'. Historically, males were more likely to participate in wrestling than females, while women were expected to participate in less aggressive activities.

Although wrestling as a sport has been around for centuries, it has yet to be restructured and modernized into a gender fluid sport.

“I started wrestling as the only girl on my team,” MHS senior Caitlyn McGhee states. ”That meant my opponents were most likely men in my weight class.”

Wrestling has formulated a permanent spot in McGhee’s life. She started out participating in Brazilian jiu-jitsu, a self defense martial art combat sport focused on grappling and ground fighting.

“My whole life I've been into fighting sports," McGhee said. "My dad always had an eye for kickboxing and jiu-jitsu, he got me into them at a young age.”

McGhee doesn’t just compete for Methuen High School’s wrestling team. She also travels out of state for Doughboy Wrestling in Lowell.

This provides her chances of competing with girls as well.

“When I travel for Doughboy, I fight more girls than I would at Methuen High.” McGhee said. “Though boys are still mostly paired up with me, there are girls fighting and competing as well which gives me competition.”

Though McGhee would trade wrestling for Jiu-Jitsu, she admits she enjoys the distraction and the ability to enhance her defense mechanisms in a competitive format.

Wrestling not only projects physical lessons, but mental practices as well.

“Wrestling has helped me manage my stress levels in ways that weren’t considered. Though I've always enjoyed self defense sportsmanship, I never thought it would help me maintain mental peace.”

Keeping stress outside of the mat is something McGhee learned with time. Adjusting to balance between school life and defense sports can be a challenge at first. With time, it allows the mind and body to sustainably relax in uncomfortable situations.

Best Fall Coffee Flavors

by **Jelissa Hanley**

Fall is in full swing and that means coffee shops have been releasing their signature fall flavors.

Coffee is the second most consumed drink across the globe. Considering the millions, if not billions, of people who drink coffee, we thought it would be a good idea to interview people on which ‘fall’ coffee flavors they find most delicious.

We interviewed 11 freshmen, 4 sophomores, 9 juniors, 7 seniors, and 5 teachers to see which fall flavor they preferred. The options were: **Toasted White Chocolate Mocha, Pumpkin Spice Latte, Maple Pecan Latte, Apple Crisp Oat Milk Macchiato and Salted Caramel Mocha Frappuccino.**

It was a very close call and was actually tied for a while between Toasted White Chocolate Mocha, Pumpkin Spice Latte, and Salted Caramel Mocha Frappuccino. In the end the winner, with 13 total votes, was Salted Caramel Mocha.

We got a couple of responses about why people chose what

they chose for their favorite coffees. Mrs. Smith, a freshman English teacher who chose Salted Caramel Mocha Latte, said, “I personally love the taste of caramel and I feel like the contrast of the salt brings out the flavor.”

Mr. McKenna, a Journalism/British Lit teacher who chose Pumpkin Spiced Latte, said, “I’ve only had pumpkin spice so by default it wins. It reminds me of fall, it’s my favorite season. I think I might like the smell better than the taste.”

There were a lot of diverse answers from students, as well. Allannah, a Freshman, who chose Salted Caramel Mocha Latte, said “I just like anything with caramel.”

Another quote from a Sophomore who chose Toasted White Chocolate Mocha who has chosen to stay anonymous said, “I love White Chocolate Mochas, they’re so good especially when you add peppermint to it. Without it, it reminds me more of fall but with it, it’s kind of Christmas-y.”

With all these great choices available to coffee lovers, what’s **your** favorite fall coffee?



Malibu Barbie Paytas-Hacmon

By **Caitlyn McGhee**

Trisha Paytas, viral YouTuber and social media influencer, gave birth last month, causing the internet and her five million YouTube subscribers to go crazy over the name decided for the newborn.

Malibu Barbie Paytas-Hacmon was born on September 14th, 2022, and since her birth people have been debating a variety of opinions about the name. Social media influencer @mattxiv tweeted “i actually think malibu barbie is a much better name than mackenzleigh or ampyrsand or xÆ12 or whatever else ppl are naming their kids these days.”

Trisha isn’t the only one picking unique names, though. As referenced in Matt’s tweet, we see the reference of Elon Musk and Grimes’ baby, who is named X Æ A-12, along with their recent newborn Exa Dark Sideræl, who is nicknamed “Y” for short.

Some people are even speculating about if that is the baby’s real name. Twitter user @Lina19_x made the statement that “it’s a fake name. most celebrities aren’t going to put their real babies’ names out there for obvious reasons.”

Many celebrity parents keep their children’s lives hidden

from the paparazzi and the internet, though, like Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds, Kristen Bell and Dax Shepard, and Halle Berry.

Gigi Hadid, another celebrity who prefers to keep her baby Khai’s life separate from the press stated, “Our wish is that she can choose to share how to share herself with the world when she comes of age, and that she can live as normal of a childhood as possible, without worrying about a public image that she has not chosen.”

But while that could be true, many of her fans actually like the name and think it’s fitting for being the daughter of Trisha Paytas. In their hospital bag packing video, which is a common type of YouTube video for influencers who are sharing their pregnancy journey to post, it showed Trisha was wearing a Malibu Barbie necklace, which seems to be an Easter egg about what the baby would be named.

Since Malibu’s birth, Trisha has been posting regularly on social media with her and husband Moses Hacmon.



Courtesy Bing Images

Influencer Trisha Paytas with her newborn daughter.

Halloween Costume Trends

By Jessica Leiva

Halloween is just around the corner, and 2022 has a whole new group of trending Halloween costumes. Some of the most popular among teens are Monster Highdolls and Hocus Pocus witches. With all the new popular media that comes out, though, it can be hard to predict what’s going to go viral next.

Monster High, a fashion doll franchise that includes tv shows and other media, has seen a spike in popularity with the October 6 release of a new film, *Monster High: The Movie*. The characters becoming popular Halloween costumes was inevitable as the movie gained the attention of teens through TikTok.

When the movie’s first thumbnail came out, oldMonster Highfans were angry. Seeing the characters’ designs changed made lots of TikTok’s users mad and demanding they change them back. Despite the backlash, characters Frankie, Draculaura, and Clawdeen

Wolf have become the three most popular Monster High costumes.

Hocus Pocus 2 released on Disney + on September 30, 2022. Ever since, people have been dressing up as the three sister witches, Winifred, Sarah, and Mary. When the news of the movie got out, a lot of people had mixed opinions. Some were happy they we’re getting more content with the famous Sanderson sisters, while others were upset and thought there was no need for a sequel. But, no matter what your opinion on the movie was, the premiere broke the Disney+ record for #1 movie of all time.

Monster High dolls and the Sanderson sisters are great costume ideas, but what if you’re looking for something outside the box? With matching outfits coming into view again, matching costumes will be no exception. Some original matching/group costumes ideas are kids cartoon characters like Sanrio and Teen Titans, band members like KISS or The Beatles, and celebrities in their most known/iconic outfit(s), like Kim Kardashian’s all black Met Gala look. Of course, any match or group of people/characters would work perfectly.

Though trends come and go, there are some that never go out of style. One example of this is the classic witch. A witch is the most popular Halloween costume worldwide. According to Google Trends, around 5.3 million adults plan to be a witch every year.

Album Review: Wasteland

by Jazlen Wood

In 2017, R&B musician Brent Faiyaz dropped his first solo album, “*Sonder Son*”. After five years of working on his new project he finally released “*Wasteland*” on July 8th of this year.

The album debuted at No.2 on the Billboard 200 album charts, mostly due to the anticipation built up since Faiyaz’s last release in 2020. This was Faiyaz's first time breaking into the top 10.



Courtesy of Bing Images
Brent Faiyaz promoting his new album.

Unlike *Sonder Son*, *Wasteland* has plenty of guest artists, such as Tyler The Creator in *Gravity*, Alicia Keys in *Ghetto Gatsby*, Drake in *Wasting Time*, and Tre’ Amani in *Addictions*.

Wasteland describes the journey of success with failure, following Faiyaz’s character as he tries to avoid the upcoming responsibilities of fatherhood. In the skits you hear him cheating and lying to the mother of his unborn child. Eventually, she becomes so overwhelmed with it all she threatens her own as well as the baby’s life.

In “Skit: Wake Up Call” you hear Faiyaz crash his car speeding on his way to her. He continues statements about how “evil” he is, labeling himself a “villain,” an “egomaniac,” a gaslighter who deserves a tragic end.

On “*Rolling Stone*” he sings, “*I’m rich as f**k and I ain’t nothing at the same time,*” which may be the thesis of the entire album.

Bouncing Back After COVID-19

by Virginie Assaf

With the start of the first 'normal' school year in several years, this reporter reached out to students and faculty to see how, and if, they are bouncing back and recovering from COVID-19.

Multiple students and staff offered statements they were willing to share. Some of these students and staff chose to remain anonymous, while others wished to have their names disclosed.

Student 1: I’ve been feeling very stressed adapting again. Hard procrastination has been very frequent but I’m working on it. COVID has affected me in multiple ways socially, so running a few clubs this year has really helped me with regaining my social identity back.

Student 2: It's been getting better, adapting has been hard. Online school gave me no motivation at all and put a damper on my social skills.

Student 3: I've been feeling like going back to a routine is good for me but I feel like I’m kind of stressed. I'm hoping by the end of quarter one everything will work out for me.

Jake Parrington: I feel like I’m stressed. I feel like Quarantine has been a major setback but I’m trying.

Ivan Santiago: it’s been a bit rough at the beginning but after the second day I started feeling that quarantine was just not a good time for me.

Teacher 1: I'm bouncing back. I want to give back to my students the time that they have lost and I was really happy about the decision of non-mandatory masks. I’m a very animated person when I teach my emotions are very clear when I’m feeling something. You can see it clearly.

Miss Martell, Fine Arts Teacher: I’ve been doing well. I'm back at work physically here. I'm able to connect with people better. Covid really put a large stop sign to my creative aspect and I’m so happy to be back. And I agree that openness is key, not only for me but for my students.

Mrs Guthrie, Media Center Specialist: I’m doing well! I think that people are all bouncing back differently and people should be patient with each other as we move on from Covid and get back into normal routines again.

Fall Word search



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



APPLE CIDER
APPLE PIE
APPLES
AUTUMN
BLACK
CHILLY
CIDER



FALL
HALLOWEEN
HAYRIDE
JACK O LANTERN
LEAVES
OCTOBER
ORANGE



PUMPKIN
PUMPKIN CARVING
PUMPKIN SPICE
RED
SWEATER
YELLOW



Newspaper Staff

2022-23

Superintendent:
Dr. Brandi Kwong

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment:
Mr. Ronald Noble

School Committee:
Chairperson:
Mayor Neil P. Perry

Louann Santos
Atty. Jana Zanni Pesce
Susan Nicholson
Ryan R. DiZoglio
Laurie Keegan
Rachael Banks

Principal:
Mr. Richard Barden

Mrs. Sheila Hornby
Mrs. Glenda Javier
Mr. Kevin O'Loughlin
Mrs. Kristen Thomas

Athletic Director
Mr. Matthew Curran

English Department Chairperson:
Dr. Lisa Golobski-Twomey

Faculty Advisor:
Mr. John McKenna

Editor-In-Chief:
Salma Boulal

Digital Editor:
Crystal Castro

Feature Editor:
Virginie Assaf

Sports Editor: TBD
Opinion Editor: TBD

A&E Editor:
Jelissa Hanley

Staff Writers:
Livia Lawrence
Jazlen Wood
Emma Lam
Alexys Feugill
Samantha Lima
Timothy Mullen



Calling All Reporters!

The Blue & White is always looking for new students to help with writing, photography, editing, and design.

Email Mr. McKenna at jnmckenna@methuen.k12.ma.us for more info!



(left to right) 2022/23 Blue & White Staff Virginie Assaf, Emma Lam, Digital Editor Crystal Castro, and Livia Lawrence