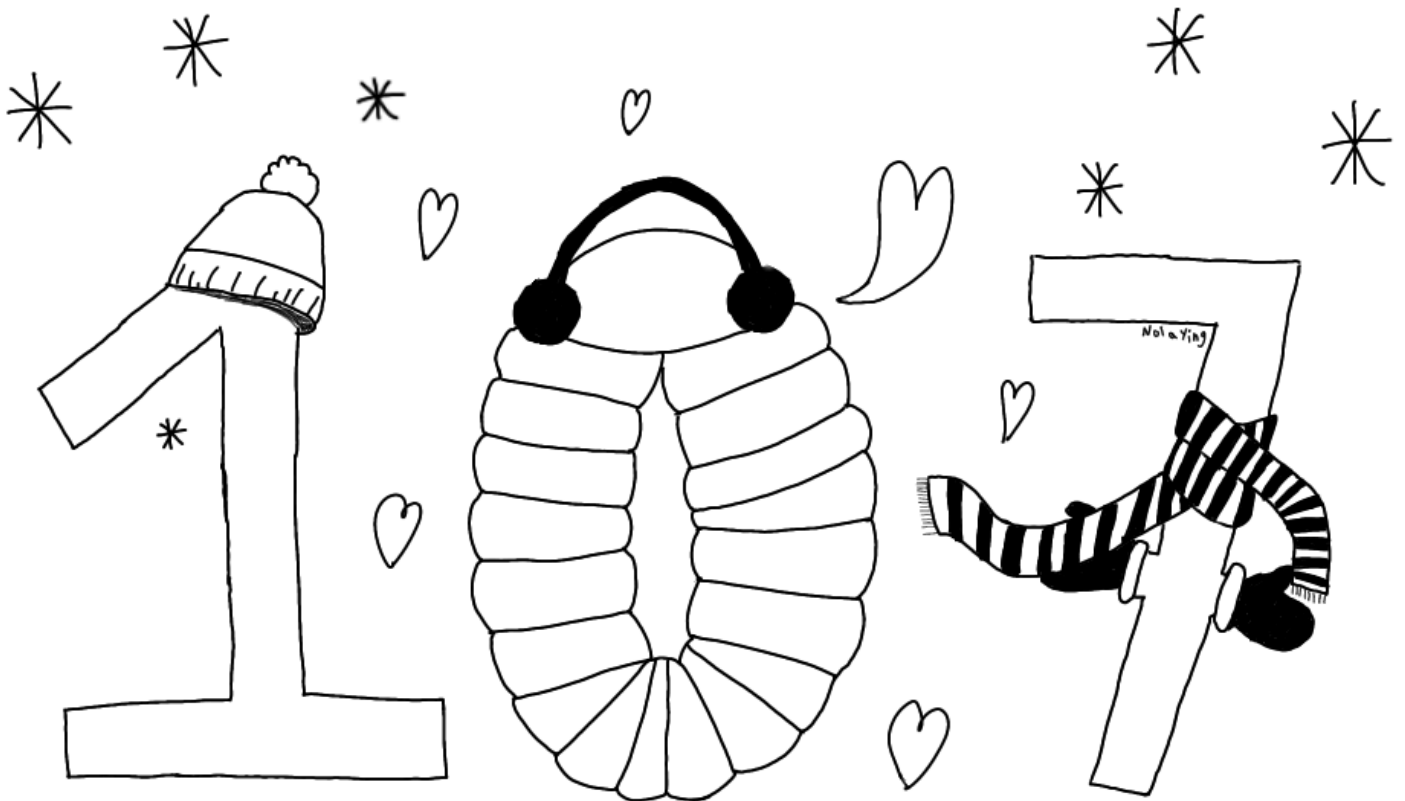


The 5 Day Week

Some part of this issue, whether an article, poem or illustration, will be AI-generated. Your task is to guess which part it is (and submit it along with your response to the survey). By the way, feel free to color in this original cover art by Nola Ying. From now on, we'll include cover art in every issue! Last time, it was unanimous that you should save your allowance. We apologize for only including one side of the debate last issue, from now on we'll have both sides of each debate be written by the same person- so that either it's all late or all on time.



Evanescent

Adjective | ev·u·ne·sent

Quickly fading out of sight, memory or existence.

An evanescent bubble

Ruminate

Verb | ru·min·ate

To think deeply about something.

We sat there, ruminating our life choices.

Amity

Noun | am·it·ee

A mutual friendly & good-willed relationship.

He lived in amity with everyone.

Myriad

Noun | mi·ri·ad

An countless or extremely great number.

A network with a myriad of computers

Did you know any of these words? Probably not!

Learn 15 more 9th grade-level words on page 6!

VALENTINE'S DAY-THEMED POETRY

By Mina Sommer, as usual

'Juliet'

I love Valentine's Day!
I'm much more than okay
I'm ecstatic, in fact,
It's like I'm being attacked
By excitement, by love
I'm flying high as a dove!

In my dreams, he's always there
I say a silent prayer;
Will he ask me to the dance?
Is there even a chance?
No, never, I tell myself,
I shove my hopes on a shelf.

'Love Note'

It's a love note!
Oh my!
I just might want to cry!
From whom might it be?
I wonder with glee
Is it, no, is it from *him*?
The chances are slim
But I have a small whim...



A Letter of Love

By one of the editors

Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
I write this poem,
For I'm into you.

From the moment we met, I never felt dread,
And I hope no one else shall be in my stead.
Your eyes; ones the sky can misplace,
In starfall of emotion I now embrace.

'Romeo'

She's been hinting forever
I guess we *could* be together,
I guess she *is* really pretty
And ever so witty,
She's really so kind,
I just can't get her off my mind

Should I ask her?
We were something, we were,
Can I rekindle that love?
It's already been decided, up above,
So I asked her to the dance,
The answer "no" did not stand a chance.

'Lady Quinzelle'

Lady Quinzelle
Does that name ring a bell?
She's a disgusting old hag
I wish I could cover
Her head with a bag
She has many daft lovers;
Who'd *want* that selfish queen bee
And needless to say
I don't see what they see
someday she will have to pay
For what she once did
But until that day comes
I will remain off the grid

You're simply ideal,
Though love is blind.
In you, there's something ethereal;
It seems intended our fates intertwined.

Roses are red,
And that's enough said.

WHERE'S THE SAUCE? SCHOOL LUNCH PIZZA

By Abby Miller



School lunch pizza

Imagine this: it's Monday and your parents didn't pack you supper because it's pizza for school lunch! When it's time for lunch, you get in line with all the other excited kids. When you get to your table, you and your friends all take a big bite of pizza, but something is off. This would be the infamous, scandalous 'Cheese Bread'.

This peculiar dish, dubbed 'Cheese Bread' is replacing our perfect pizza, making the main topping for the thick bread, just cheese. However, we shouldn't point any fingers at the lunch staff, because it's the Department of Education discreetly making this change, not them.

Now I will tell you what these insufferable impostors are sadly replacing. We've had our share of unusual pizza: pizza on insanely thick bread, charred pizza, pizza with artificial cheese, and pizza on *bagels*, but this has crossed the line.

Currently, the student body is split. Some have shown me slices with hardly a drop of sauce underneath the cheese, and others said everything was as usual, but this uneven distribution only makes matters worse. If there really is enough tomato sauce, maybe it's just all getting soaked into the bread.

All in all, I hope we get our classic pizza back. Whether the DOE really is filled with cheapskates, the loss of sauce is unintentional, or if this is just a Mandela effect, is up to you to decide.

MEET OUR NEW RECESS COACH, STEPHANIE

By Owen Allen

As we all know, we have had many different recess coaches previously, but now, we have the newest addition to our recess staff, Coach Stephanie.

Stephanie always encourages us to play games, but always is fine with us sitting on the sidelines and talking to our friends. This is important because she gives us freedom to do what we want and that makes recess feel like a free period, rather than it feeling like a subject. Previously, we had to line up before recess and nobody liked it, but now we are allowed to just go off and play games.

Both previous recess coaches, and the current ones, encourage us to play games, however, the newer coaches let us do what we want with our free period. In contrast, the other coaches made us line up and bossed us around way more than Stephanie. When asked what inspired her to become a recess coach, Stephanie said, "I love to work with kids and love to play games," I wonder if she coaches at any other schools. Maybe she only coaches at PS 107 because we are her favorite school.

In conclusion, Stephanie is great with kids and many people like her. She even babysits! In my opinion, I think she should stay for the rest of the school year.



DEBATE - SHOULD GOOD ATTENDANCE BE REWARDED?

By Sif Horowitz-Sorensen

It shouldn't be rewarded:

Getting rewarded for perfect attendance is like getting allowance for chores. Now, this could be seen as a good thing. It's motivating. It's perhaps even fair. But at one point, you might think that you will always get rewarded for being on time or running errands. And is that a good thing? Imagine you are a few years older, and for your whole life up until now you have been rewarded at school for getting perfect attendance. Lucky you! But now at your new school it's different. This school doesn't reward anyone for perfect attendance! What a scam! Now you don't see the point in getting to school at a good time, so you lay in bed until it's an hour past you should have been in school. Because for you it doesn't matter any longer, as you don't get rewarded for perfect attendance. Not good! There's another argument against rewarding students for perfect attendance. Coming to school at the same time every day has a lot to do with your commute and your family setup. For some kids, it's easier than others, and for some it's out of their control. Perfect attendance may be a motivation for you to get to school on time, but with your family, it's hard not to be late, maybe even two days in a row. So now your friends are showing you all the rewards they have gotten for perfect attendance. You try to seem happy for them, but you are actually just really jealous or you can't help but feel sad for yourself. Also please stay home if you are sick. Perfect attendance might pressure students to go to school, even when they are contagious.

Learning to be punctual, just like learning to clean your own room and do your laundry, have their own rewards: you feel good about it.

It should be rewarded:

Do you ever wonder why going to school every day is super important? Well, let me tell you something cool: getting rewarded for perfect attendance is the bomb! Seriously, it's like winning a prize every day you show up.

First off, when you're at school every day, you don't miss out on all the fun stuff. You get to hang out with your friends, learn cool new things from your teachers, and maybe even discover a new favorite subject. Plus, being there every day helps you stay on track with your schoolwork. No more trying to catch up on what you missed when you were absent!

But here's the best part: getting rewarded for perfect attendance makes you feel like a superstar. It's like getting a pat on the back for being awesome. And who doesn't love being recognized for their hard work? Whether it's a certificate, a shiny sticker, or even just a high-five from your teacher, it feels amazing to know that your effort is paying off.

And get this – perfect attendance isn't just good for you, it's good for everyone! When everyone shows up to school every day, the whole class can learn and grow together. It's like we're all on a super fun learning adventure, and nobody gets left behind.

So, why should students get rewarded for perfect attendance? Because it encourages us to be our best selves, it helps us stay focused on our goals, and it makes school even more awesome than it already is. So let's show up, have fun, and collect those rewards like the rock stars we are!

THE ORIGINS OF VALENTINE'S DAY

By Rory Piercy

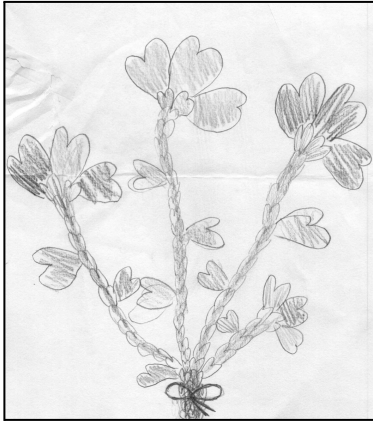
Illustrations by Nora Gallagher

Saint Valentine's Day is a holiday when we can celebrate love, but its origins remain mysterious.

All we know for certain is that someone called Valentine, or Valentinus, lived in a certain time and was penalized for defying an unjust law.

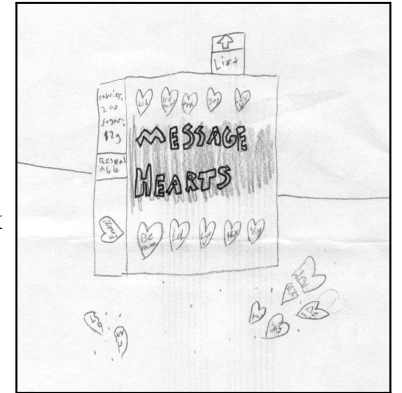
According to one legend, in the 2nd century, an emperor (Claudius II) decided that single men served better in battle than those with families, so he outlawed marriage for certain men.

Valentine, seeing the unfairness of this decree, helped young lovers get clandestine wedding ceremonies. When the authorities came to know of this, Valentine, after being threatened with execution, continued his work.



Another theory suggests that while in confinement for helping prisoners escape during war, Valentine exchanged letters with a woman he fell in love with - who may have been the jailor's daughter - signed "Your Valentine," and "To my Valentine," a phrase we use up to this day.

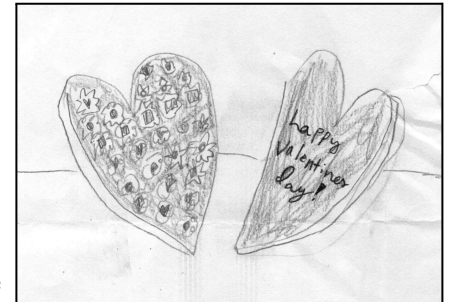
One way or another, the exchange of letters would spark a tradition that lasted 600 years... but why is this tradition in February? Some believe that this was to commemorate Saint Valentine's death, February 14th also may have been chosen for being the beginning of the birds' mating season, which also fits the theme of romance. However, a more interesting story claims that it emerged from the Roman festival of Lupercalia, when Romans were being



'christianized' in the Middle Ages. In ancient times, Lupercalia was a time to prepare for the spring & give offerings to their god of agriculture, Faunus. It was conducted by the Luperci guild, hence its name. But more importantly, a matchmaking ceremony was held during the festival. Cupid, whose arrows are said to make people fall in love with the next person they see, remains a symbol of Lupercalia (Valentine's Day) up to this day.



Valentine's Day became an official holiday as early as the 5th century. The first (or second) recorded Valentine (though many more have certainly existed) was sent during The Battle of Agincourt (1415), where England defeated France and captured a multitude of prisoners. Among them was the Duke of Orléans, who would write to his wife, who awaited his return in France, a poem that called her "my very gentle Valentine" Sadly, the couple would never meet in-person again, for his wife died before he was released.



Whatever its origins, we can still celebrate Saint Valentine's Day for the holiday it is!

VOCABULARY WORDS

Compiled by Maria Minkova, sourced from The Merriam-Webster Dictionary

The English language has about 170,000 words- and the average 5th grader knows 8,000. To enhance your vocabulary, below is a list of 9th grade-level words, explained in simple terms. Use them when possible in essays, poems or even everyday speech to sound more formal and convey ideas with ease. After all, it's better to know one good word for something than to use several simple ones constantly. If you're interested, we encourage you to learn the etymology of some of these words, as well.

Exacerbate

Verb | ex·ass·er·bait

To make a problem, situation or mood worse, usually when trying to fix it.

I tried to resolve the issue, but that only exacerbated it.

Mitigate

Verb | mi·ti·gait

To reduce or neutralize the effects of a threat or problem without getting rid of or fixing it.

First we'll have to mitigate the effects of pollution, and only then can we reverse them.

Appall

Verb | up·paul

To dismay or horrify.

By her expression, I could tell that she was appalled.

Mellifluous

Adjective | mel·li·floo·us

Used to describe a song, voice or words that are flowy and sweet or musical.

I lost myself in her soothing, mellifluous voice.

Sisyphean

Adjective | sis·if·ee·an

Something repetitive and pointless that can never be completed.

The pursuit of perfection is a sisyphian task.

Verdant

Adjective | ver·dant

This word has two meanings. It either means "rich with vegetation" or refers to a specific shade of green (sometimes referred to as emerald green).

The verdant ruins

Her dress was made of verdant satin.

Noblesse

Noun | no·blesse

The noble or wealthy.

The unfair treatment of the noblesse to the poor

Surplus

Adjective | sur·plus

(The amount of) something left over.

They delivered surplus food to the homeless.

Luminous

Adjective | loo·min·us

Full of or shedding light, especially in the dark; glowing. It can also be used to refer to a very bright color. It can also be used as a metaphor to say that something was figuratively glowing.

The luminous dial on his watch

A luminous shade of pink

Her luminous smile

Placid

Adjective | pla·sid

Not easily upset or excited. When referring to a body of water, it can also mean peaceful and without waves.

He was a placid fellow.

The placid lake

Pristine

Adjective | pris·teen

Clean and fresh as if new; spotless.

I cleaned the rusty ring until it was pristine.

Callous

Adjective | cal·lus

Having or showing an apathetic disregard for others

I told him the reason for my suffering, but he remained callous.

Schadenfreude

Noun | sha·den·froid

Pleasure or happiness caused by someone else's misfortune.

Though I felt guilty for it, I experienced some schadenfreude when she failed her test.

Nostalgia

Noun | nos·tal·gia

A feeling of wistful longing for the past; joyed at the memories but sorrow that they've passed.

I was overcome with nostalgia of my childhood

Reminiscence

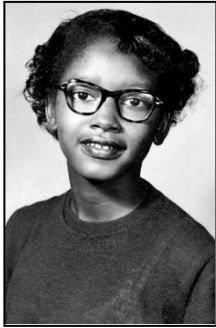
Noun | rem·in·es·ense

A story told about a past event, as remembered by the narrator.

I listened to my grandfather's reminiscence of his youth.

BLACK HEROES

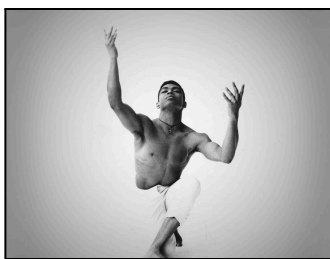
By Jovie Roth



Claudette Colvin was an icon in black history, have you ever heard of Rosa Parks? And how she refused to give up to a white man on a bus? Well, when Claudette Colvin was only 15 years old, she refused to give up her seat too, this happened 9 months before Rosa Parks, and she was 42 years old. But why did Rosa get all the fame? It may have been

because she didn't have "good hair" and she was a teen and was pregnant at the time. But, she was just as important as Rosa Parks, and even got arrested at age 15! She was really brave!

Marian Anderson was known for her amazing musical talents. She is best known for her concert on the steps of the Lincoln memorial in 1939 (The same year Claudette Colvin was born!) She also performed in many other landmarks and places like that. She was born in 1897 and died in 1993. She was often not allowed to perform in big concerts because she was black, but many people said "she has a voice that comes once in a hundred years," She was one of the first black people to ever perform, and even got famous for it!



Alvin Ailey was a dancer who started his own company named after him. Some of you may have worked with the company for your dance performance at school. Alvin started this dance

company so he could tell African American stories through dance. Dancing was one of the most beloved things to him in the world, He is best known for his work "Revelations" Which has been danced by his company since the 1960s.

David Dinkins was the first black mayor of New York City, He made a lot of positive changes to NYC. He helped the homeless by making low income housing, and kept schools open later so that the children could have after school programs like we have today. He reduced crime and helped set up programs to help people that were diagnosed with AIDS. Most of these programs are still around today and still help New Yorkers. Did you know that New York City has only had two black mayors? Mayor David Dinkins and our mayor today, Eric Adams.



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

By Hannah Kwong

What is Black History Month? Well, Black History Month is a month that specializes and puts the spotlight on the Black community. What does it honor though? Black History Month honors the achievements of Black people and how they have positively impacted the United States. One example of a Black citizen that made an impact on the United States is Martin Luther King. Martin Luther King was famous for his inspiring speech, and for being an activist against segregation, Black people not being able to vote, and other civil rights. This made a big impact on the United States and now we're honoring his work and honoring him and other people like him. Not only is he a part of Black History Month, but we also created a special day dedicated to him the day he was born to honor him.

Black History Month is celebrated in the United States, and in other countries like Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, and the Netherlands. Black History Month is celebrated in February. Black History Month is important because there are a lot of Black heroes that contributed to the United States to help make it a better place. We are celebrating Black History Month at PS 107 with special announcements, spirit days, and assemblies.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

By Mira Strenitz

Throughout the year, our calendar is filled with celebrations that honor the rich tapestry of cultures, heritages, and people. From Black History Month and LGBT History Month to AAPI Month and Hispanic Heritage Month, these occasions provide opportunities to recognize and appreciate the diverse contributions of individuals. Among these, Women's History Month stands out as a dedicated time to honor the countless women who have championed various issues, leaving a profound impact on our world.

The History of Women's History Month

In 1978, educators in Santa Rosa, California, marked the inception of Women's History Week with the aim of enhancing awareness regarding women's substantial contributions to society. Their choice of early March aligned with International Women's Day on March 8. Over the subsequent years, the celebration gained momentum, spreading to various cities across the United States.

U.S. President Jimmy Carter played a pivotal role in 1980 by officially declaring the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. In his call to action, President Carter emphasized the often overlooked yet vital achievements, leadership, courage, strength, and love of the women who built America.

A significant evolution occurred in 1987 when Congress passed a resolution designating March as Women's History Month, extending the celebration from a week to a month. Since then, Women's History Month has been a recognized and celebrated observance every March in the United States.

Women's History Month Now

Beyond U.S. borders, the celebration has transcended to include other countries, such as Canada and Australia, recognizing and honoring women's contributions to history and culture.

The National Women's History Alliance annually selects a theme for Women's History Month. Themes such as "*Valiant Women of the Vote* (2020 & 2021) and *Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories* (2023) continue to shape the narrative. Women's History Month isn't confined to its annual theme; it extends the discourse on women and their contributions through various activities. These include museum exhibits, film screenings, and a year-round encouragement of studying women's achievements.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. NICK

By Emma Bonenberger

Mr Nick is a third grade teacher who works with Ms Tamara in class 3-304. He is new to PS 107 this school year, but not new to teaching. Our reporter interviewed him to learn what he thought of working at PS 107.

Why did you want to come to PS 107?

First I read a quote in the newspaper from Ms Joanna and I agreed with a lot of the things she was saying. And I also wanted to move to a school closer to my family.

What do you think of the children at PS 107?

They are very impressive and love to read.

What are your first impressions of PS 107?

The students are impressive, and I like hanging out with my co-teacher Ms Tamara.

What are you looking forward to this year?

I'm looking forward to teaching more about space and multiplication.

What do you like to do outside of teaching? (Hobbies, interests, etc)

I like to exercise, and play board games, and I like to write.



ARE YOU BORED AFTER SCHOOL ENDS? TRY THESE THINGS!

By Freya Nassy

When school ends and you don't have anything to do it can get pretty boring. Hopefully in the article you will find some inspiration.

Ladybird Bakery

I bet you didn't know that Ladybird has been here for more than 2 decades (23 years, to be exact). If you didn't know already, Ladybird is located on 8th avenue, between 11th and 12th streets. Ladybird opens at 8:00a.m and closes at 6:00p.m. This means that you can have a sweet treat before or after school. I would personally recommend the cookies, they are delicious.

Go to the Park

Another thing you can do after school is go to the park. In particular, there are mulch piles on Center Drive. When you run up and down the mulch piles it sort of feels bouncy in a cool but weird way. It's my favorite thing to do when at track we run the modified loop we all love to run on the piles of mulch. If you go deeper into the park you will find Lefrak Ice Skating. In the summer time you can rollerblading or roller skating there, but in the winter time you can ice skate. After school if you still have a lot of energy left you can always go on a bike ride, run, roller blading, skateboarding, and even explore the park on foot.

Make Sweet Treats at Home

After school creating your own concoction is so fun. When you make your own food it always tastes different. When you bake there are always time gaps where you have to let the cake bake or let the cookie dough sit in the fridge for an hour, in these time gaps you can do your homework. Another thing is that when you bake your own food you can always add your own twist to the flavor or just the overall structure of the food you make. Sometimes the food you make takes longer to make than expected. This means that you can then continue the food on another day.

In conclusion, there are numerous fun things to do after school near PS 107!



'MISSING!'; A COMIC

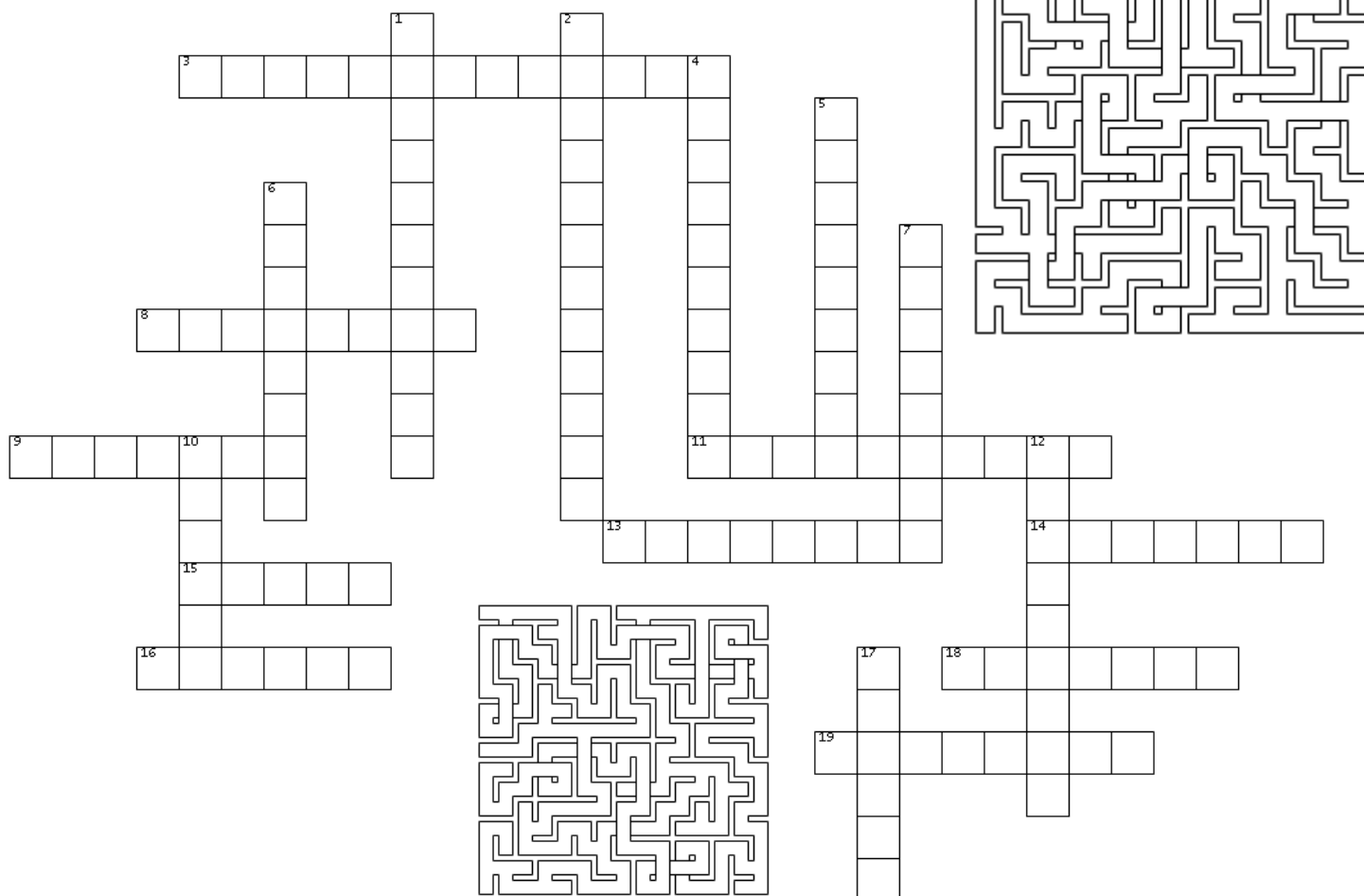
By Emily Levin, as usual

(NOTE FROM MS JOANNA: Kids, do not do this on a field trip!)



PUZZLES

By Maria Minkova



The above is a word search to help you practice the vocabulary words and how they're spelled. Try not to look back at the answers while filling it in. For the mazes, the start and finish are in the top left and bottom right corners.

Across

- 3. Joy over someone else's failure
- 8. Bright or glowing
- 11. Only there for a brief moment
- 13. To make the effects of a problem less severe
- 14. Leftover
- 15. A potential friendship
- 16. Calm and hardly disturbed
- 18. Heart of stone
- 19. Clean and fresh as if new

Down

- 1. Pleasant to hear
- 2. A story told solely on how one remembers it
- 4. To make things worse
- 5. Impossible
- 6. To give something deep thought
- 7. The rich and affluent
- 9. Lush with greenery
- 10. To be disgusted or horrified
- 12. Sorrow over the memories past
- 17. A huge number too large to count

SURVEY

Rip off this page (so that you get to keep the rest of the issue) and hand it to your teacher, who will give it to us at Ms. Joanna's office for analysis. Every question is optional, but respond to at least one if you're submitting your response.

What is your name? Which grade are you in?

Should we include vocabulary words in every issue?

Which part of this issue do you think was AI-generated and why?

Should good attendance be rewarded?

What do you think of the school lunch pizza? Have you noticed any difference?

What is your dream job and why? (Open-ended)