

THE THUNDER *Gazette*



In this Article

- Anonymous Column (11)
- Apple vs. Android (10)
- Bad Effects of Vaping (4)
- Book Reviews
- Clothing Trends (15)
- Comics (20)
- Community Events (2)
- Daylight Savings (5)
- DHHS Musical (13)
- HOPE Squad (3)
- Israel-Hamas War (7)
- Longer Breaks (6)
- Pictures (18)
- Washington Events (16)
- Popular Shows (11)
- Short Stories (19)
- Swim Team (12)

Wondering what current events are taking place within our community? Been gone for a few weeks on vacation? Out sick? Here on Thunder Gazette, we can fill you in with all that's been happening!
(Continued on page 2)

DHMS

LATEST IN THE DHMS COMMUNITY

Arabella Knowles

Wondering what current events are taking place within our community? Been gone for a few weeks on vacation? Out sick? Here on Thunder Gazette, we can fill you in with all that's been happening!

Let's start with our school sports, now that our fall sports are coming to an end, we have our swim and wrestling teams which have already started and track and girls/boys basketball which is upcoming. Our final football game took place October 20th, 2023 at 6 pm and Our 4A volleyball team ended the season taking 3rd place in state on October 26th, 2023.

Moving on from sports, here is a little bit about our upcoming breaks and quarter marks! We have our Q2 midterm on November 17th, 2023 and then heading into our thanksgiving break from November 22th - 27th, 2023 we have our end of Q2 term on December 20th 2023. Then starts our winter break from December 21th - 31th 2023 through January 2nd 2023.

Parent teacher conferences are starting November 1st - 2nd and we have our all state Middle school band auditions on November 14th, 2023 so if you are interested in auditioning you might as well start practicing! December 8th-9th is the Middle School Honor Band nominations.

And lastly some of our upcoming band, orchestra and choir concerts. We have a choir christmas concert on December 11th, from 6pm-7pm, and an orchestra winter concert December 12th, from 6pm-7pm, There will be a DHHS-DHMS winter percussion & jazz concert On December 13th, from 7pm to 9pm and lastly our DHHS-DHMS winter band concert on December 14th from 6:15 pm - 9 pm. These will all be taking place in the DHHS auditorium. These are the upcoming and past events from October 2023 - January 2024, Have a wonderful New Years and see you next year Desert Hills!



HOPE SQUAD

Izzy Miller

The Desert Hills Hope Squad is a hard working group of middle school students. They help students stay positive and are great motivators. In order to join hopesquad you either have to sign up or talk to Mr. Pollock. Mr. Pollock is in charge of Hope Squad and can be found in the counseling office. Hope Squad's main purpose is to provide a place for students to go to if they need help in any way.

Every month Hope Squad has about two members that go around and talk to homerooms all over the school. They tend to talk about suicide prevention, mental health awareness. Each time they give the students either a QR code to scan and/or an app to download. These resources are helpful for students that need easy access to help. Mr. Pollock is also great at sending out anonymous surveys to see how our school is doing as a whole.



ARTICLES

VAPING AND WHY IT'S NOT WORTH IT

By Christian Palatino

Vaping has recently become very popular and many people have taken part in vaping. Both smoking and vaping make people addicted. They both have long-term effects and can reduce your life expectancy. Many side effects come with vaping and smoking, such as heart and lung diseases. Many people who smoke or vape usually regret it after a few years. Many people vape for many years once addicted. Most people have many troubles trying to quit vaping or smoking. Coughing, dry throat nausea, headaches, lung disease, seizures, nicotine addiction, and cardiovascular disease are all possible side effects and long-term effects.

People who vape are likely to start drinking eventually. Addictions to anything are bad and these “harmless” devices can heavily impact someone’s life. Nicotine addictions can harm children’s brain development, which continues to impact them in their early to mid-20s. Children who use e-cigarettes at an early age are more likely to smoke cigarettes in the future. Vaping and smoking can make you more likely to get lung conditions such as asthma and even organ damage. There's evidence that nonsmokers exposed to secondhand vape aerosol absorb similar levels of nicotine as people exposed to secondhand cigarette smoke. Along with nicotine, non-vapers are also exposed to ultrafine particles from secondhand vape aerosol, which may increase the risk of cardiovascular disease. A study relating to vaping shows that vaping can increase your blood pressure. High blood pressure can increase the risk of strokes or heart attacks. Smoking and vaping both cause teeth and gum discoloration, smoking usually will turn your gums brown and teeth grinding. Over time, bruxism can cause jaw pain and sensitivity, teeth flattening and cracking, and headaches. Nicotine, along with other chemicals found in cigarettes and e-cigarettes, causes dehydration and affects your body's ability to regulate hydration. All of these are great reasons to never try vaping or smoking. Remember, just say NO!



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS - FALL INTO A REWARDING SLEEP SCHEDULE

Eliza F.

Two times a year, schedules change all over America as the clocks shift - an hour forward in the spring, and an hour backward in the fall. Mornings are chaotic for the first few days, especially in the spring when we adjust to waking up an hour earlier. This crazy action of changing the time seems pointless, but what's the true reason behind it?

The idea of daylight savings dates back to the 1700s when Ben Franklin made a teasing suggestion about getting up earlier in the morning. No one took it seriously, including Franklin himself. In 1908, a small town in Canada used daylight savings to make the most of daylight throughout the year and save energy. Eight years later, World War 1 was raging and Germany switched their clocks to save energy. In World War 2, the United States switched to daylight savings to conserve energy. They called this "War Time".

As of now, many states, including Utah, have proposed bills and solutions to ending daylight saving time. Since we have electricity instead of candles, it is easier to work late at night because we are not using up valuable resources such as wax. One big reason is that daylight savings time makes sleep schedules change every spring when Americans lose an hour of sleep. This disrupts the circadian rhythm, which is the human body's internal clock.

Here are a few suggestions that can be effective as we get used to the change:

- Start changing your wake-up and bedtime alarms earlier (or later in the fall) by small increments to help ease the shock
- Get good sleep leading up to daylight savings (especially in the spring)
- Get sunlight in the mornings. This will help you wake up easier!

OPINIONS ON LONGER BREAKS IN SCHOOL

Chloe Christensen

I've talked to a few people here at Desert Hills Middle School about having longer holiday breaks. So far the students I have talked to have agreed that they would benefit from longer breaks. I asked Maylee Garner, Arabella Knowles, Colton Hopper, Victoria Gourley, Kamrie Fliton, Emrie Anderson and Taiya Woods. "What is your opinion on longer breaks? Do you think you would benefit from them, why or why not? If you want longer breaks, how much longer would you prefer them to be?"

Maylee said that, "I would like longer breaks and yes I would benefit from them because the longer the break the more sleep I get. It's also better to have a longer break so that our brains can have a break from learning and we can regroup! And I would say about a week longer." Arabella Knowles states that, "I think that students should have longer breaks and that it would benefit the children by giving them the time to properly recollect themselves, and take the time to be stress-free and to be relaxed for a little bit longer from school and the pressure it puts on many students with busy schedules who go to and from practice everyday with little to no time to get all their assignments completed."

Colton Hopper also says that, "Yes I would like longer breaks, I would benefit from them because it's a better refresh from school and not only two days. It also would give time to see families that live farther away without missing school and so you can see them throughout the year and not just in the summer. I would want the holiday breaks to be around two-two and a half weeks long." Victoria Gourley says that, "I would very much appreciate longer breaks, and I would much benefit from them. I need more time to relax, and be free from the stress of school and all the assignments." Also Kamrie Fliton, Emrie Anderson and Taiya Woods have agreed and said similar things as well.

So far multiple students have stated that they would benefit from longer breaks, and that they would help them a lot to have longer breaks from school. All of this would help students and teachers a lot, but the school year would be longer and there would be less summer and less of a break for teachers as well. My personal opinion is that I see the good and the bad of longer breaks for me. I love summer and traveling and having that long break from school, and to be away from all the drama and being social! But also throughout the year I would benefit from longer breaks for my mental state and just taking a few days just to be stress free for all the assignments. Another point of view is that the teachers have more time to grade and they will even have time to be stress free as well because everyone needs that. Also staff that work in schools will get more time with their families, and students will as well. All in all many agree that longer breaks would be very beneficial and appreciated throughout the year.



ISRAEL VS. HAMAS

Gia F.

In the past, the United States has been indestructible, but that is not the same for all other countries. Such as the country of Israel, which has recently begun a war with Hamas. Hamas is a terrorist group located within the Gaza strip. Hamas has six main leaders. These leaders are named Ismail Haniyeh, Yahya Sinwar, Mohammed Deif, Marwan Issa, Kaleld Meshal, and Mahmoud Zahar. These men are responsible for over 1,400 deaths and 3,800 injured in Israel. The leaders launched over 5,000 rockets in only about 20 minutes at around 6:30 am on October 7th. To Israel, this time is now referred to as "the dark hour". This was the first attack this year that led to war, but this was not the first time Hamas had attacked Israel. The first known attack was in October of 2001 and the second in February of 2002.

But Israel is not entirely innocent.

They have actually killed more people in this war. The death count in Gaza is recorded at 3,478 and the injured amount as high as 12,065.

Recently Israel has struck back again, killing dozens at a time, pushing the death count up to more than double. This count most likely will not stop growing for both countries. However, this does not excuse what Hamas is doing and how bad the war really is. The six leaders are awful people and reviewing past information proves they always were. Ismail is considered the overall leader; he was imprisoned by Israel for three years. After his prison time was over he was exiled to a no-man's land with other Hamas leaders.

A year later he came back to Gaza and was appointed head office leader for Hamas. Yahya is the founder of Hamas security service known as Majd. He was arrested three times and after his third sentence was sentenced to four life terms in prison; his salvation was being let go through a prisoner exchange. Mohammed Deif was arrested in 1989 in Israel. Once he was released he helped engineer and construct tunnels that allowed Hamas fighters into Israel from Gaza. Mohammad is also responsible for bus bombings and killing Israeli soldiers. Marwan Issa is known as Mohammad's right hand man or the "Shadow Man". Issa was arrested and served five years; He is thought to have planned many terrorist attacks. Kaleld Meshal is known to be one of the founders of Hamas. He became head of the group's political bureau abroad. The last leader is Mahmoud Zahar, born in 1945 and considered Hamas' most prominent leader. Zahar was put into prison after Israel discovered he founded Hamas and was sent to a no man's land. He is known as one of the worst men, charged with plotting a number of bomb attacks. All of these men are on Israel's most wanted list and deserve to be. Israel has about 650,000 active soldiers while Hamas has only about 300,000. These are considerably big numbers for Hamas since the Gaza strip is 25 miles long in comparison to the entire country of Israel which is 290 miles long. Gaza and Israel are right next to each other. They are not the same country but the Israeli military has protected and helped keep Gaza a safe place.



The leaders and the people that follow Hamas are ruthless and evil people. These soldiers live cast their killings and attacks on innocent civilians. People in Hamas don't usually start out wealthy, they use horrible tactics to get money. This includes robbery, smuggling, kidnapping and much more. While these countries might be at war, Israel is still giving people the chance to get out. Israel gave out 1.1 million flyers to northern Gaza telling them to evacuate. Crime in the world has boomed and wars have too. Not only between Israel and Hamas but also between Russia and Ukraine. The world has never been a fully safe place to live but with all the crime and wars, people are starting to create a world that is a no man's land on their own. Just because Hamas and Israel are at war right now does not excuse the way people are behaving.



Apple Vs. Android

By Ella G.

Americans tend to believe that iPhones, and other Apple devices, are better than Androids. Statistics show that in the United States iPhone has a 57.9% market share, while Android has 41.6% market share. But globally, Android has a market share of 69.7%, and Apple, 29.6%. In other words, iPhones are more popular in the US, while Android is favored above Apple worldwide.

Some of the countries that the iPhone dominates are North Korea (99.49%), Japan (65.88%), Norway (61.94%), and Canada (57.84%). Androids are preferred in India (95.33%), Indonesia (89%), Brazil (81.66%), and China (78%).



Android

Pros: First, Android doesn't change their chargers as often as Apple does. There are more app choices for Android phones.

They have expandable memory. Some might say that the widgets are better, having more information. There are more "diverse" phone options, because they are popular around the world, and they have a greater price range, meaning that they have both expensive and cheap phones. They are also often less expensive than iPhones, \$200 being the average cost, and iPhones costing anywhere from \$429 to \$1,199.

Cons: Second, oftentimes they aren't as high quality. For example the hardware tends to not be as well made, iPhones work more smoothly and quickly. There are more ads than Apple phones have, which can be annoying. Android phones have bloatware, which is "unwanted and potentially harmful software preloaded onto new devices," according to Norton. The user also must have a google account to access many things on an Android phone.



Apple

Pros: First, iPhones have a high quality display. They also have advanced cameras.

Some say that they are easier to use.

Swappie says that "all apps are launched from the home screen. All settings...can be found under one menu." Apple phones tend to have better performance. Apple Pay makes buying things more convenient and much faster. Apple phones have safer information security. An anonymous student at Desert Hills says that iPhones look better because they have a cleaner design.

Cons: Next, iPhones are usually more expensive, but that is because they work better in most cases. iPhones don't have removable batteries, which could allow the user to change their own batteries, and have extra batteries. iPhones are more fragile than Androids because of the way they are designed. Harshal Yadav, a Mobile expert, says, "Since iPhones are very sleek and slim, they have less durability." There isn't expandable storage, which is very useful so people can download more apps and other things. The chargers change pretty often, which can be annoying to iPhone-users because they have to buy more chargers.

In conclusion, neither phone is necessarily better, because they have different advantages and disadvantages. iPhone-users often have brand loyalty, and only buy Apple products, while many Android users don't seem to care as much about what brand they are buying their products from. What phone someone should buy is up to them, depending on what they need; whether they want a more expensive, but nicer phone, or a less expensive phone that is still good quality.

Anonymous Column

Q: "I get overwhelmed easily in class. What are some things I can do to calm myself down?"

A: Hello there! I have been through the exact thing during class! It is hard to always be relaxed in school but there certainly are ways you can cope with an over stimulating environment. For example, I would ask my teachers if I could take a walk then simply explore the halls until I feel better. If I am still feeling upset, then I like to walk to the counselors office and see if they are available or when I could talk to them. I hope this helps!

Popular Shows

By Samantha Spencer

Most of the students here at DHMS watch a lot of T.V.. Some watch their favorite shows with their families and friends. Others may watch all alone with a tub of ice cream. I asked 16 students here at DHMS which was their favorite show out of Outer Banks, Stranger Things, and The Summer I turned Pretty. These were the results.

NONE:3

OBX:4

STRANGER THINGS: 6

Summer I Turned Pretty: 3

As you can see from this poll, Stranger Things is very popular. Stranger Things is, so far, a 4 season Netflix original. It is about a group of friends that face strange situations in the rural town of Hawkins, Indiana. Another interesting fact shown in the poll is that three students do not watch television all together. If you are in need of a new show to binge, these are great options!



Swim Team

By Jonah S.

The swim season is on with the first dual swim meet with CCHS completed! The team has been practicing from 7:45 to 9:30 at night every weekday (excluding Friday when practice is 1:30pm to 3:00pm). Swimming competitively has 4 strokes. Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke, and Butterfly stroke. Freestyle is the most common as it is simple and fast. For backstroke, swimmers look at the sky and turn to the ground when they are about to flip turn. In breaststroke, swimmers do a "pull, breathe, kick, and glide" cycle. And for butterfly, swimmers do a synchronized dolphin kick, while pulling their arms to their head above the water.



Interviews:

What I asked

“How long have you done swim for?”

“How do you like swim?”

“What is your favorite swim stroke?”

Matthew Pickett

“A couple months.”

“Fun.”

“Freestyle”

Jeffery Olsen

“5 years.”

“Was really fun, I had all my friends on it.”

“Butterfly stroke”

Lucas Fotheringham

“3rd year.”

“It’s pretty fun.”

“Freestyle”

McKinley Morley

“1 year.”

“It’s nice.”

“Breast stroke”

Beauty and the Beast: Life of a Pit Musician and Actor

Written by: Andrea Angeles

Desert Hills High School is proudly presenting the musical Beauty and the Beast, opening night on November 14th through the 18th. Over 100 students from 9th to 12th grade (including younger! Who else would play Chip?) are involved in the huge effort, with stunning singing and acting performances from lead actors and dancers, and technicians putting on an amazing display of lights and sounds, and don't forget the pit orchestra providing the soundtrack. All the ingredients are put together through tiring and grueling hours of rehearsals, and out comes the magic.

These musicians and actors have been working hard since August, when auditions took place, and haven't stopped since then. The matinees (a performance that takes place during the day and therefore during school) have kicked off the show this week, and have excited everyone involved. I would know; I have had the luck to be chosen to play in the pit orchestra as a violinist and have experienced all the highs and lows that come with it. It requires many hours of practicing and sacrifice, missing school, and perseverance. The last rehearsals (dubbed "Tech Week") took place the week before the performances, having students stay at school from 3 all the way to 9 pm, even having dinner at school! My friends and I were less than thrilled over so much work (and missed sleep!).

But as the experience starts to come to an end, I realize it is one of the funnest and most wildly fulfilling things I have ever done. I would 100% try out again next year and be heartbroken not to get to do this again.

The beast behind the beauty of the show is obviously the hard work, and here are a few opinions some students shared on Tech

Week. Claire Butler, a 9th grader who plays the euphonium (a smaller version of a tuba) for the pit, says that what's really made her enjoy the pit is the people in it and playing professional music (Broadway-level stuff!). The keyboardist, Logan, adds that the time and stress spent on this runs high but "you don't get to do anything like this (referring to the experience as a whole) ever in music, even if you go professional." Doing something like this in a high school is an incredible opportunity, and a no-brainer to sign up for. He speaks from experience, having been in last year's show Tarzan. Brianna McGary, a 9th grade French Hornist highlights the physical aspect of the pit, in that it is physically exerting and draining, especially for brass players like herself. She talks about balancing school work with pit, trying to use the little time left on homework. Favorite songs to perform include the Prologue, wherein the narrator tells the Beast's tale and the play on lights of bewildering blues and sparkling whites combine with the magical music to create a mystifying start to the show. Another favorite (and I very much agree, it being the best song of the whole show) is If I Can't Love Her, the last song of the first act. I won't spoil much (so go to the show and experience it live!) but I will say it has a triumphant French Horn ending that leaves me in chills (good ones) every time.

My descriptions can barely do the extravagant show justice, so come experience it for yourself! Tickets are available and students have a discount!

Trending Now at DHMS

By Skylar A.

Clothing and shoe trends are always changing, and they can be a fun way to express your personal style. In recent years, some popular clothing trends have included high-waisted jeans, oversized graphic t-shirts, and athleisure wear. High-waisted jeans are comfy and flattering, and they come in all sorts of colors and designs. Oversized Graphic t-shirts are a cool way to show off your favorite bands, movies, or interests.

Athleisure wear is a mix of athletic and leisure clothing, perfect for both working out and hanging out.

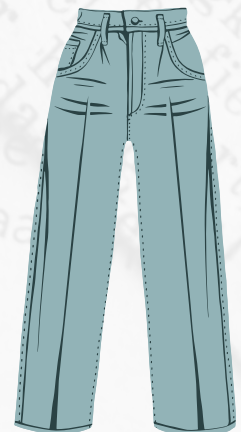
It's all about being comfy and stylish at the same time.

When it comes to shoes, sneaker trends have been huge in the fashion world. Chunky sneakers with bold colors and designs have been a hit. They're not just for sports anymore – people wear them with all sorts of outfits.

Another trend is platform shoes, which can add some extra height and style to your look. And don't forget about the classic white sneakers; they never go out of style and can be worn with almost anything.

So, whether you're into high-waisted jeans, graphic tees, or sneakers, there's always a clothing and shoe trend that can help you show off your unique fashion sense.

Clothing trends are a huge part of teenage culture. From Lululemon to converse, there is a huge variety of trends. Some of the most popular brands in Desert Hills are Nike, Lonely Ghost, LuluLemon, and Converse. There are some pieces of clothing that it feels like everyone has. I interviewed Isabella Miller and asked her what she thinks is the biggest clothing or shoe trend here at desert hills middle, she said, "I think the biggest trend for girls here is either cargo jeans or mom jeans." I also asked Jonah and he said, "I think the biggest trend in boys here is to wear Nike shoes." Some other big trends include Vans, Zara, Billabong, Pacsun, and Birkenstocks.



What's going on in Washington UT?

By Lexi E.

On October 23, a severe ambulance-involved crash took place at the intersection of Mall Drive and Riverside Drive. This ambulance was responding to a nearby call, its sirens and lights on, when a Chevrolet Cruze LT crashed into the passenger side of the vehicle. It is still being decided and details have not been completely figured out. St George News states, "The Chevrolet's driver told responding police officers she had the green light when entering the intersection..." We wait to hear any new information.

Moving on to another story, there is controversy over cougar hunting. Nonprofits argue that year-around cougar hunting violates Utah's constitutional rights. On May 3, 2023, a law was passed stating it is legal to hunt cougars. People say their right to fish is violated if cougars are over hunted. Wildlife preservers are keeping an eye out to analyze the new laws' impact.



The Book Blog

Written By: Kara Blakely



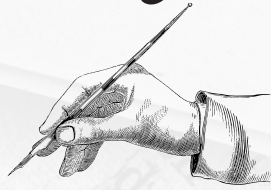
Hello everybody, and welcome back to your monthly source of book recommendations! This month's book club will be held on the last Wednesday of November- which is the 29th- and it starts at about 2:45. Written by award-winning author Karen Hesse, this month's book is called *Out of the Dust*. It's a beautiful work of historical fiction, set during the time of the Dust Bowl.

The Dust Bowl was the period of time when a terrible drought occurred, causing severe dust storms that wreaked havoc throughout the American prairies for 6 years, and greatly damaged ecology and agriculture. *Out of the Dust* is written in free verse, something that sets it apart from the beginning from other historical fiction books. Free verse is poetry that doesn't have any strict meter or rhyme scheme. Due to the free verse format, *Out of the Dust* is a fairly easy read. If complex books aren't your thing, this is a great simple one to try out.

This riveting read takes place in Oklahoma and starts out in the 1920's, when the main character Billie Jo was born. Growing up during the Dust Bowl, she faces many hardships in the book, including some that change the way she lives her life forever. The most enjoyable part for me was probably Billie Jo's character development near the end of the book. She changes a lot to overcome her challenges in life, and despite the numerous trials, ends the book with a newfound hope for the future.

There aren't any negatives that come to mind after reading this book, but if I were being especially picky, this book does seem a bit simple for many middle schoolers. However, that could be a good thing for students who don't enjoy reading that much, or even for those who have a hard time concentrating on a long, wordy book. If this is something you would like to read, give it a try, and make sure you come to book club to share your opinion!

Short stories



This story has been sent in by
an anonymous 9th grader

Two Lovers

One day, a woman, let's call her Tama. She was talking to a friend, let's call her friend Lacy. They talked and Lacy said, "You should try to go on a date with my cousin, Cody!" Tama laughed and then agreed to go on the date. Cody and Tama met up for dinner, and it was nice, but Cody only said a couple of words.

They then both went to a rodeo and Cody still said only a couple of things.

After the date, Tama told Lacy, "I will never date one of your cousins again!"

The next day, she met a guy named Dan. Dan and Tama have been happily married for 18 years now. And the funny thing is, Dan was Lacy's cousin!

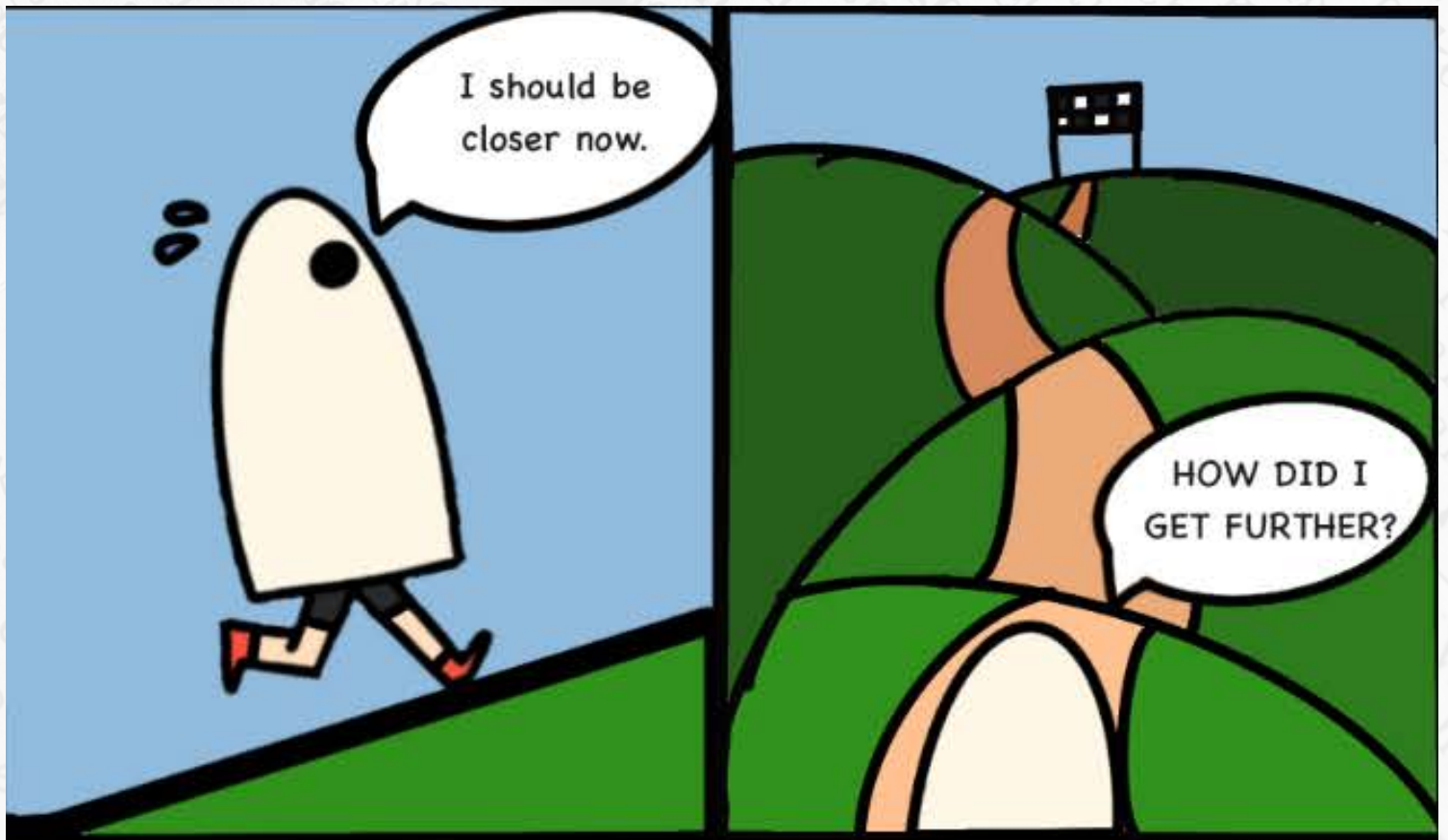
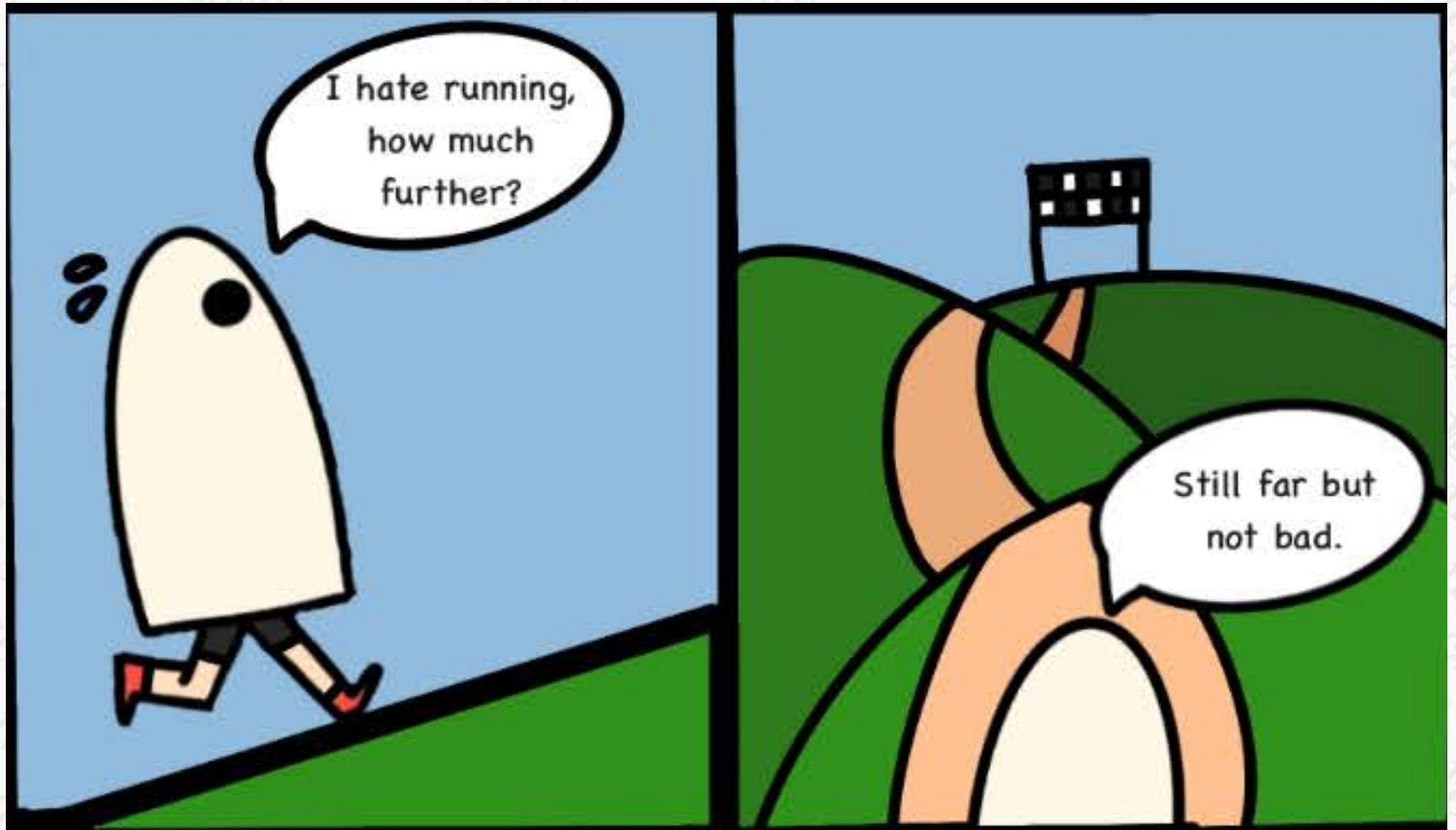
December writing prompt

It's December first and your life has just begun. you are a snowman. it's fun at first but as the months move on, you realize your life is coming to an end. write about how you will survive.

Email us your story at
27carlsaud@washk12.org
by December 5th

Running Illusions

by: Audrey Carlson



Thunder submitted photo section

These are photos that are normally submitted by students or people around our school. Anyone is welcome to email pictures to me via the email below!

I will be choosing 8-10 photos per issue to be placed into this section :)

Also names will be displayed if given permission. This month is from Caitlin Dunn & Ella Gallagher



Pumpkins Taken by Ella Gallagher



Taken by Ella Gallagher



Rabbit Taken by Ella Gallagher



Rabbit Taken by Ella Gallagher



Sky: Taken by Ella Gallagher



Sunset: Taken by Ella Gallagher



Taken in Kanab by Caitlin Dunn



Also taken in Kanab by Caitlin Dunn

Created by Caitlin Dunn
Please email pictures to
27dunncaie@washk12.org
to be featured in next issue!