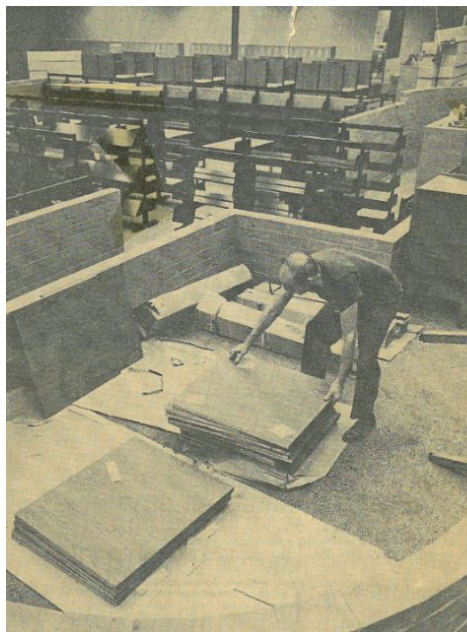


# Firebird Feed

Volume 1, Issue 2  
December 16, 2016

## The Former Friendship

By: Ryan Allegretti and Deanna Al Dakka



*This is a picture of the old Friendship library being restored. You can see how it is a bit sunken underground.  
Photo courtesy of Mr. Lavine*

Founded in 1973, Friendship Junior High has been an addition to our district's community for about forty-five years. Every morning, our school greets people, making it difficult for some students and teachers to picture the building's set-up any differently. However, when Friendship was first established, the arrangement of the school looked nothing like it does today.

During an interview with Mr. Lavine, Friendship's longest continuous working teacher, we learned that our school classrooms have taken drastic changes to its look since 1973. Mr Lavine states, "The whole concept was part of what was called 'Affective Education' which was made to deal with the idea that how students feel about themselves is just as important as the curriculum that they're learning." This involved taking down



learning barriers, such as walls, which led to wide classrooms. The classrooms, now in pods of four, used to be completely open without the thin white walls to divide the learning spaces. In the middle of the large room was a diamond shaped storage room. This system lasted for about seven years before the walls were put up due to noise issues that lowered the focus of students.

Mr. Lavine also told us about how the FJHS learning center used to look. The rooms used for technology support, the World Language classroom, and the counselor offices used to be used as the main office, nurse's office, etc. The library section of the learning center underwent one of the most significant changes. When Friendship was first built, the library

*Continued on page 3*

## Hey! All Are Welcome At GSA

Written by : Jovana Oreskovic

Think about this: 20 years ago people were scared to come out as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. Now we are embracing these differences by coming together via clubs and friendships. Friendship's new club, The Gay Straight Alliance (or GSA for short), does exactly that.

Over the course of these past few years, many students have had the courage to actually come out as bisexual, gay, or lesbian. What comes after that? Well, most of them just go on with their lives, but there are 4 out of ten kids that are scared to either come out of their shell or that they won't have anyone to be by their side for support. Listening around the school, there were many people that supported the whole idea of the GSA, but some that disagreed.

After talking with Karen Puentes, a co-creator to the GSA, I was able to understand more about how the club may be able to help the kids in our school.

*Continued on page 3*



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### Black Friday Craziess

Is a new tv worth getting trampled?  
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**Vote for Your Favorite  
#FJHSMannequinChallenge  
online under the  
Entertainment tab!**

[www.firebirdfeed.weebly.com](http://www.firebirdfeed.weebly.com)



# Firebird Halftime Report

## Come Support a Friendship Sport!

By: Cecelia Witkowski

Imagine yourself as a player on the court. The eagerness that you have to tip the ball toward your teammate in order to score a quick two point layup intensifies as you see the referee approach you with the ball. You glance back at your ally to ensure he knows the plan. This is the exact setup that all of the boys experience during their first few moments on the court, as members of the seventh and eighth grade FJHS boys basketball teams!

With more than at least one win and loss, they both do a very good job of keeping their spirits high and giving their all to the game. With practices 3 out of the five school days during a weekday, they stay from 2:50 - 4:45 pm.

In some cases, there are games once, twice, or even as much as three times a week that replace practices.

Games last from 3:00 to 5:30 pm and are either away at another school, or in our main gym. The atmosphere in the gym after school while people wait for the other team to arrive and play against them, the crowd goes wild by chanting the songs that the cheerleaders shout, supporting their friends or relatives who are on the team, and lastly by going on the court and trying to shoot threes and free throws.

So far, there have been games against Iroquois, Emerson, Holmes, and Grove. In total there are three games that will take place here. They will play against Grove twice and Lincoln at Friendship Junior High School. In order to stay and watch the games, make sure your phone is away in your locker, and you bring your student ID to enter and to take a break from the game. Hope to see you there!



*The basketball team is huddled up.  
Photos courtesy of Alysa Cobb*



*Josh Bilodeau is taking a free throw  
after the opposing team fouled.*

## Cheers of Firebird Pride

By: Alina Paul

GO! FIGHT! WIN! The seventh and eighth grade girls Spirit Squad cheer both basketball teams to victory! "Go Spirit Squad! Ra! Ra! Ra!" shouts Ms. Bradway, one of the coaches of Spirit Squad.

The team was very excited for their first performances and both coaches enjoyed their spectacular show. "They're doing very well," said Mrs. Blasevich, "What I enjoy the most is getting to interact with kids like I don't see or teach eighth graders so I get to hang out with some of them."

The team works harder and harder each day after school on their cheers and dances. "With my years of experience, I just kind of help them with the cheers and dances and try to get the motions at the right spot and work on timing and things they can't see," said Ms. Bradway.

"It's something I love to do, and

I can be on a sport with my friends and have fun at the same time," said Julia Chumra, one of the eighth grade captains.

Kailey Bouras, one of the seventh grade captains said, "I feel super confident... During the games you want to be loud and smile because it gets the audience excited and the players confident."

They, along with the rest of the



*The eighth grade girls perform their  
extraordinary dance during halftime.  
Photo courtesy of Alina Paul*

team, are very passionate about the sport and strive to be greater at each practice, but also have fun at the same time.

"Spirit Squad played an important role in my life because, if I have a rough day at school, I have to smile to cheer, and it keeps my mind off of things. It's also fun because we get to create our own cheers and we can choreograph and do whatever we want so it's an easy way to play into it," said Julia Filipowska, another eighth grade captain. She believes that Spirit Squad plays a huge role in her life because choreographing dances and cheering on the school keeps everyone active and participating which makes the sport even more fun.

The season has started out as a success for these girls as they continue to amaze the crowd and cheer our teams to victory!



## Former Friendship cont'd...

was first built, the library was sunken lower than the surrounding hallways. Mr. Lavine says, "We used to have a ramp that wound down about half a level so the stacks of books were seven or eight feet below what is currently the floor." And to top it off, no walls surrounded the library. Similar to the large classrooms, the library was meant to be a wide open space, meaning that students were able to stand in the 100 hallway and look all the way over the stacks of books into the 200 hallway. This year, our library boasts new paint, new carpeting, and a new circ desk.

Not all of Friendship's changes have been physical. Many clubs and sports have come and gone, too. Along with the well-known basketball and cross country teams, FJHS used to be able to boast track, wrestling, and gymnastics teams. Although we had to say goodbye to these activities, when our school first began, we did *not* have our more popular sports such as the volleyball and soccer teams.

Compared to the new and improved Friendship Junior High, our original school was incredibly different. We'd like to hear your feedback about it. Visit our website at [firebirdfeed.weebly.com](http://firebirdfeed.weebly.com) to take a poll on which you'd rather have: the old or modern FJHS!



*The old Friendship Junior High School courtyard. It used to be where the current office and small gym are now.  
Photo courtesy of Mr. Lavine*

## GSA cont'd...

She stated that the GSA was not just for the kids who identify as bisexual, lesbian, or gay, but also for the people who identify as straight.

"Hopefully kids will be able to feel accepted, if they are not outside of school or at home, and kids that identify as straight can show their support to their classmates." They plan to be able to talk about LGBT-centered topics that are going on around the world or maybe celebrities that encourage the community. They hope the outcome of this will be able to make a safe environment full of team builders. Every third Thursday of each month there will be a GSA meeting.

By going to this club, the students of Friendship Junior High School will be able to learn about how some students are considered "different" than us and how that should be accepted and not frowned upon anymore. Starting with one school, we can make a difference with the GSA.

## Student Senate Insider

By: Brayden Bobowski

All of Friendship's students have heard of the Student Senate, the organization of students that runs the many events that occur throughout the school year. Exotic posters around the school, crazy clothes with bright colors, themed dances with creative decorations, and fundraisers with sweet treats are just a few of the many things the Student Senate produces, but does everyone really know what goes on in those early morning meetings that decide so much of the school's events?

Well, Student Senate operates like any normal club. Everyone signs in, sits down somewhere, and starts up conversations with the people around them. "Hey. What did you get on that Spanish Test?" "Check out this new video game on my Chromebook." or "Should we do a dress like an animal day for Spirit Week?" While this may sound boring, the interesting part is the meeting itself.

The student senate is one of the few clubs that has always been a part of Friendship Junior High, and it isn't going to leave anytime soon. In order to give students a say and a chance to make decisions here in school, the program is set up in a way that each homeroom sends two students to represent the entire class to weekly meetings. This sums up to be about 60 representatives. While it may sound like a classroom full of 60 students all discussing ideas would be crowded, imagine trying to fit the almost 800 students enrolled in Friendship Junior High into a single classroom! Then, imagine trying to hear someone talk with everyone else in the room talking in small groups! That is why the Student Senate has representatives. This organization also has four officers who are elected by the student body, and these officers lead the meetings with the help of the club's sponsors, Mr. Andresen and Mrs. Osterman.

They help make the meetings productive and also prevent them from becoming off-topic. The reason this club can get so much accomplished in the thirty minutes they have weekly is due to the students generally acting very responsibly, performing well in their classes, being concerned for the school's well being, and having enthusiastic personalities.



## What Curse?

By: Colleen Atonson

Imagine your whole body is building up energy you can't hold in. It's being held down by the impatience you have while you watch the game. Your eyes have widened and your hands won't stop shaking. Then you see on the TV the Cubs won the World Series. That's when you feel the adrenaline. The hope you had for this team was unbelievable, they won!

On November 2, after a 108 year drought, the Cubs broke the "goat curse" and won the seventh game during the extra or tenth inning exactly at 11:47 pm.

To win the world series, the Cubs had to win the the playoffs against the LA Dodgers.

There were six games in total where the cubs won the first two and then won the last game at home in Wrigley field on October, 22nd. Chicago lit some fireworks in the night sky all over, which included here in Des Plaines/Mount Prospect.

Christmas. The world-wide loved and joyous time of the year! Presents, bright lights, snow and a time of giving - or getting. But did you know that there are other winter holidays celebrated around the world? That's right! Diwali, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Las Posadas are a few of the many wintery holidays in the world!

Hanukkah, or Chanukah, is an eight-day Jewish holiday starting on December 24 to January 1, that celebrates the new dedication to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem after the Maccabean Revolt. The rituals include the lighting of a Menorah, a holder with nine candles. Other customs include family singing, exchanging gifts - especially in North America and Israel - and reciting Psalms. It's very sweet!

The Hindu "festival of lights," Diwali, is a five-day celebration starting on October 19, which recognizes the



It was as if it was a sign of new hope. We cheered loudly for the win, but we weren't done yet.

When the Cubs won the world series, that's truly when more than just the city, but the state, went nuts. True excitement and tears were shown on many beloved fans; many W flags were raised. Wrigley Field and bars near it were filled with screams and elation as the places shook from people jumping for joy; parties were long after 1 AM.

Although, the enthusiasm of crowd didn't die down yet. November 4th on the Friday over 5 million people gathered to watch the parade and more.

## Wonderful Winter Holidays

By: Georgeena Mathai

achieving of nirvana by an Indian Sage as well as a death by a Hindu religious leader. The holiday consists of lighting firecrackers, burning clay lamps around the house, playing games, and sharing sweets with family and friends! What fun!



Kwanzaa on December 26 to January 1, is the holiday that honors African-American culture and traditional values. It was created by Maulana Karenga 1966, and presents are exchanged and everyone partakes in a feast! Houses are decorated with art and African cloths, readings and reflections of the African Pledge, and a candle-lighting ceremony with a kinara!

The nine-day, Mexican holiday known as Las Posadas, celebrated

Our own Friendship staff had their way of celebrating the win. Mr. Nickisch, a sixth grade math and science teacher, said, "I cried like a baby because of all the frustration was erased," and Mrs. Fleming, an eighth grade science teacher, had the same reaction. Both teachers have been Cubs fans for a very long time. Mr. Nickisch has loved them since the day he was born, and Mrs. Fleming said that one of her most memorable moments where she knew that she loved the Cubs was when she went to her first game when she was six, "I remember just as a kid, walking up to the gates for the very first time and seeing that sign saying 'Welcome to Wrigley Field,' I'll always remember that." Mr. Nickisch's family was very close to the team, his dad even used to play rookie ball for Cubs. Both have high expectations for what's to come, in the next season. This year the Cubs only had a 13% chance of winning and beat the odds by 87%. Now that's a team full of hope, courage, hard work, and that's what Chicago is all about.

between December 16 and 24, re-creates the Holy Immigration of Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus on their way to Bethlehem. It is usually represented in processions where people dress up as Mary and Joseph and when recognized, they enter a house (the representation of an inn) where the resident sings a song. At the end of each night's journey a feast is presented and children get to break open piñatas to get candy and fruits!

Eid Al-Fitr is an important Muslim holiday that concludes the fasting month of Ramadan. However, before the day of Eid, around the last few days of Ramadan, every Muslim family donates an amount of food to the poor to assure that they will also have holiday food and can participate in the celebration! On the day of Eid, families gather to say prayers and visits to family and friends follow afterwards. What a great time!

Whatever holiday you celebrate, the *Firebird Feed* hopes it's wonderful!

### The Wasteland

By: Jean Luis

It's as if the bombs dropped yesterday. The memory fresh in my mind, the screams and the noise filling my ears through the cracks of my underground bunker... staying underground for a year taught me that silence is a virtue. We've been at war for as long as I can remember; gunshots, and the eyes of my dying friends, are still very fresh in my mind. Putting on my red hoodie, I grabbed the old tattered black bandana to put over my mouth and nose, keeping away the impending dust out on the wasteland. Walking up the seemingly never ending flight of stairs, I was excited yet scared of what I would see out there. Am I the only one left in this barren world? Or are their other mutated creatures out there, being changed by the massive amounts of radiation that the bombs exerted when they landed? Opening the hatch, I was blinded by the big ball of light that still radiated the earth. Quickly adjusting my eyes, I was met with something I didn't expect...a town was built in the far distance, maybe just a few acres away, and it seemed to have people living in it. I trudged forward, having stayed in that bunker for longer than expected; the sun warming my skin was relaxing as the only light I had was a candle for many years.



*Digital drawing by Olivia Fila  
Find more readers' artwork on our  
online Entertainment page*

The debris of the numerous battles still remained here and bodies lay on the floor already decayed to the point where it showed bones. It was a gruesome sight to see, but I had to keep my mind on my goal - to go to the town and see what I had missed out on the past few years.

"Oi! Who are you and what are you doing here?" I turned around to see a group of people all stacked up with supplies, more than I had down there.

"I was reaching the village a few miles out. I was wondering if you guys resided in there."

"Yeah wanna come with us? We are headed back there after an expedition."

I quickly nodded and followed them. I was almost there when everything turned black.

"Wade, time for dinner!" *Oh no. Just as I found myself a group.*

Wade grumbled as he took his VR headset off and went down to dinner with his family.

## Firebird Favorites

### Ice Age: Collision Course

Review by: Karolina Maksymowicz

Ever wonder who created the universe? *Ice Age: Collision Course* starts off when Scrat, the squirrel who loves nuts, accidentally discovers a spaceship and launches himself into space. While in the spaceship, Scrat knocks the planets into the perfect universe we know today. Except for one tiny flaw. He accidentally smashes a large orbiting rock, causing asteroids to wipe out the earth every so often. When Buck, a survivor of the previous asteroid, and his friends find out, they go on a quest to change the course of the asteroids, but they only have two days to figure out how, and time is running out.

*Ice Age: Collision Course* is a PG science fiction/action movie that runs for 94 minutes. Since it was released on July 22, you can't catch it in a movie theater anymore but you can purchase a DVD almost anywhere, or watch it on free movie websites. So, grab your family and friends and be ready to take an thrilling adventure back in time! The events will put you on your toes, as the characters battle to save the world. It's a film you definitely don't want to miss! Just make sure you don't accidentally send an asteroid our way!



Check out more lit(erature) on our  
online site!



# Fly With DIY!

## Hershey M&M Pretzel Recipe

By: Aiyanna Hudson

For the past 900 years, the combination of chocolate and pretzels has been devoured and enjoyed by many people. As you read, you will see a recipe that has the delicious duo of chocolate and pretzels, while also representing the two popular colors of this month: green and red.



### What you will need:

- Pretzels (any shape)
- Hershey Kisses
- M&M's
- Cookie Sheet

### Directions:

1. Preheat Oven to 350°F (175°C)
2. Prepare your ingredients and put your cookie sheet on a clean surface. Then start by placing desired amount of pretzels on. (This can use up to as many pans as you'd like)

3. Add one hershey kiss in the center of each pretzel and put the pan into the oven for **no more** than 1 to 2 minutes

4. Moving quickly, add one m&m in the center of each melted kisses and carefully press down with the tip of your finger

5. Once the chocolate hardens, enjoy!

## DIY Gift Ideas for the Holidays!

If you're on a budget, have no idea what to give your friends or family for the holidays, or are looking for a creative way to give to others continue reading because below this paragraph all of your problems will be answered.

### Ice Cream Sundae Kit

This idea is quite simple. All that is needed is a box, mini Sundae cups, and any toppings the person you're giving may enjoy on their ice cream. Adding gift tissue paper in the base of the box and creating decorative labels for each topping will give more of a creative vibe to your gift.



# Firebird Fine Arts

## FJHS Students Conquer the Stage with EGHS

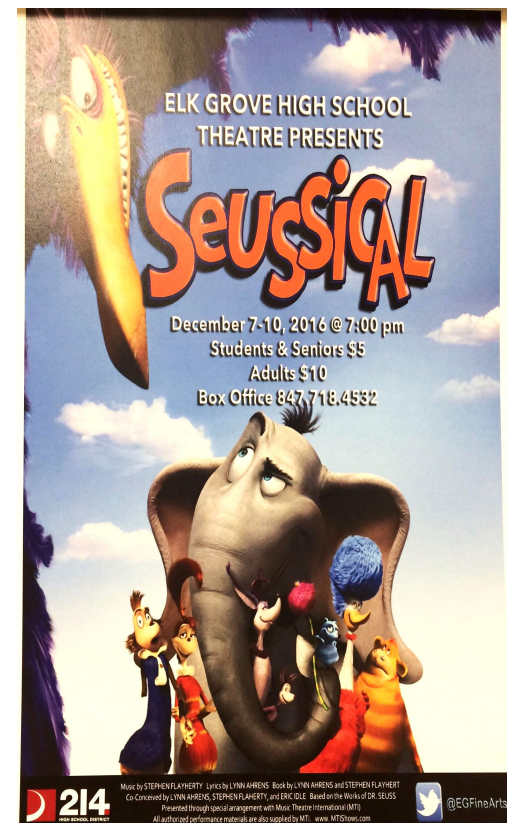
By: Grace Ko

Producing and performing a musical requires a significant amount of dedication and hard work combined with great teamwork, which is exactly what has been put into the Elk Grove High School's *Seussical* starring our fellow Friendship peers. The storyline of EG's *Seussical* is filled with humor, love, joy, sadness, and anger which is communicated through the movements, words, expressions, and music as an integrated whole.

Meeting once a week for rehearsals, the *Seussical* cast worked diligently to prepare the choreography, music, acting, and technical aspects of the musical. The plot is portrayed through the lively dances as well as the cheerful yet negative emotions shown; "The dance kind of represents the fun and happy attitudes of everyone in Dr. Seuss's books and movies," states Brayden Bobowski,

one of the Friendship students in *Seussical*, "but then we start getting into the downsides of living on Who." A quote from the musical, "We're Who's here, win or lose here, struggling to stay alive, each gust propels our dust, how the heck do we survive?" is accurately depicted through the vivid, powerful motions and music. Working in groups to practice the songs and dances, the students from Friendship have fun despite their busy rehearsals. The musical has made many Friendship students unite and get to know each other through the extra down time during the dress rehearsals.

The head director, Mr. Wolfe, as well as other great directors and choreographers, have been putting great effort into this musical from designing the set, leading the rehearsals, choreographing all the songs, and making sure the cast has perfected their part, and with the devotion of the cast and creative team, they will have successfully created a musical loved by many.



## Ask Freddie the Firebird

Dear Freddie,

Lately, my friend and I keep on getting into fights, but then she says, "I am sorry for being mean to you earlier!" Then, she tells everyone that I am mean and that I keep on talking behind her back. We've been best friends since 4th grade and I don't really want to be her friend anymore. What should I do?

Sincerely,  
Conflicted Friend

Dear Conflicted Friend,

It's perfectly understandable why you no longer want to be friends with this girl. You should be straightforward with her, tell her what's bothering you, and why you no longer want to be friends. Remember, if she starts saying things about you out of anger, don't lower yourself to her level. It will go away eventually. I wish you luck!

Sincerely,  
Freddie

Dear Freddie,

I need some help with girls. How do I ask out my crush?

Sincerely,  
Nervous Kiddo

Dear Nervous Kiddo,

It's a good idea to not rush into it. If you find out the girl likes you back, don't ask her out the next day. Get to know her a little better, if you haven't already, and make sure you do it in person. Doing it over text isn't something most girls like. When you're asking her out, have it be simple. Don't use any cheesy pick up lines, just be natural and ask if she would like to go out with you. You don't have to get her any flowers, chocolates, or anything like that. If she says no, don't be immature and start calling her out just because you didn't have it your way. It's a pain when that happens. Good luck!

Sincerely,  
Freddie

## Social Experiment Corner

### Falling Firebirds

By: Alexa Joshi  
and Makayla Stazel-Terpstra



For the past week, we have conducted an experiment that may shock you. We may have uncovered the fact that our Friendship Community may not be so friendly after all! This experiment consisted of three different kids falling in the 6th, 7th and 8th grade hallways.

The students that fell decided to drop their own supplies on the ground during passing periods, and the data observed might be a surprise to the students and staff of the Friendship community. The data recorded was unimaginable in the the 8th grade hallway. Two kids walked past with no one caring enough to help, which may be the result of the short passing periods that students have to switch quickly from class to class. Yet, three people that seemed to have time laughed, and three other people threw and kicked the person's items back at the person. Many of the rude students were males, not just in the eighth grade

experiment, but in all of them. In the 7th grade hallway, the results were no better, four people walked past and one started to laugh! Our data was going south but luckily two generous girls helped the victim and another girl said, "I would help you but I have too much stuff." In the 6th grade Hallway, three kids ran, trying to get to their next class, and four children helped the fallen firebird on the floor, concluding that the sixth graders acted the kindest of all the grade levels.

**This data shows we need to be more considerate and kind towards our staff and one another as we take on the difficulties of middle school.**

Although you may be falling for this weather, catch your classmates.

# Firebird Interviews

## Getting to Know: Mrs. Kuettler

By: Julia Filipowska

Most students at Friendship will have Project Lead The Way as a class for at least one quarter. Because of this, I thought it would be a good idea to get to know Mrs. Kuettler, the PLTW teacher. The following questions were answered via email on Sunday, November 27, 2016.



What has been one of your biggest struggles while being a new teacher at Friendship?

**"I have taught many grade levels and subjects in the past, but probably my biggest struggle would be teaching a new subject. This is my first year teaching Project Lead the Way, but it has been fun learning and trying new things with the students."**

As a child, what career path did you want to follow? Did you always want to be a teacher?

**"As a child, I thought I would either be a teacher or a nurse. I like helping people, so I figured this would be a good path for me. In high school and college, I worked at a day camp during the summer. I really enjoyed working with kids and decided teaching was for me."**

What is one of the most frustrating things a student can do?

**"Probably the most frustrating thing a student can do is not try or put any effort into their work."**

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**[www.firebirdfeed.weebly.com](http://www.firebirdfeed.weebly.com)**

## Friendship Funny Bone

By: George Kouvelis and Stefan Rusev

---Why is there a gate around cemeteries?

--Because people are *dying* to get in

---What do you call a fly without wings?

--A walk

---What do corn and a creepy guy have in common?

--A Stalk

---How do turkeys eat their food?

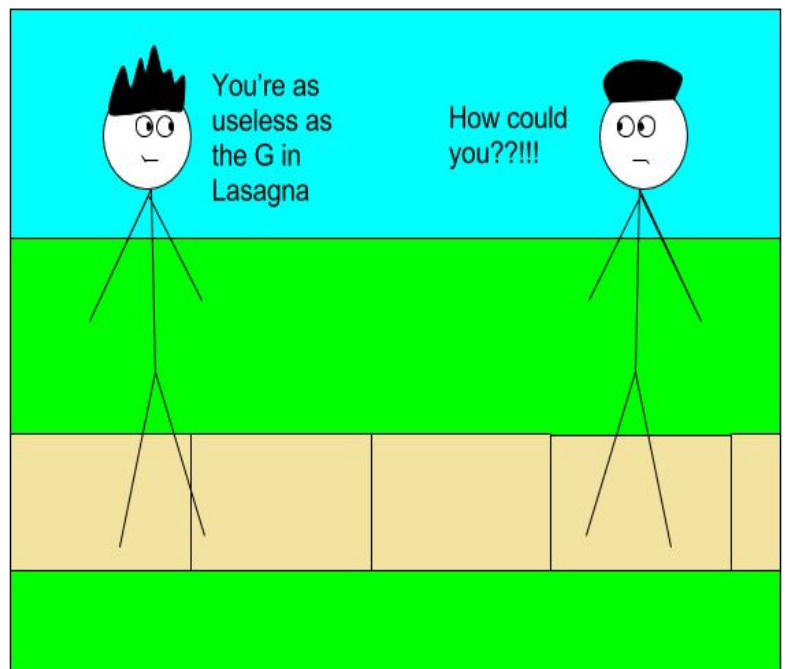
--They gobble it up.

---What did the walnut say to the squirrel?

--Please don't eat me, I am just a walnut, but the squirrel ate him up anyway.

---What do you call an elf who sings?

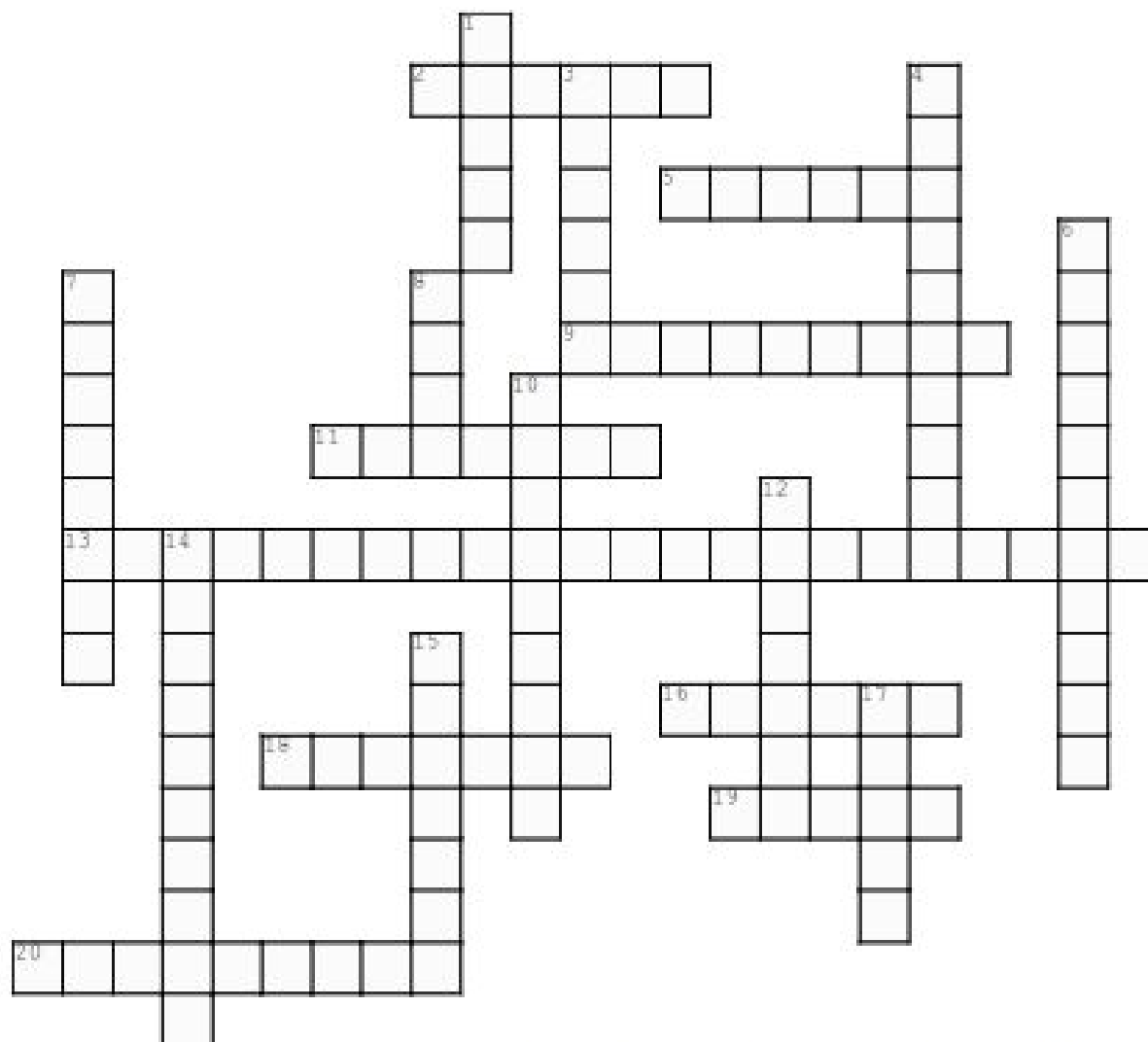
--A wrapper





## Friendship Fun Facts

Complete the crossword below. Many of the answers are in our Firebird Feed articles!



Created with TheTeachersCorner.net [Crossword Puzzle Generator](#)

### Across

2. The color of 7th grade student ID.
5. The last name of the teacher in the 202 pod who has the least amount of hair.
9. The name of the street on which Friendship Jr. High School is located.
11. Name of the camp 6th graders attend in the fall
13. LRC stands for...
16. The color of 6th grade student ID.
18. The last name of the principal of Friendship Jr. High School.
19. Last name of one of the pairs of teachers at FJHS who are married
20. The district of Friendship Jr. High School.

### Down

1. The amount of hours in a standard school day at Friendship Jr. High School.
3. Staff member who has taught at FJHS the longest
4. Age of Friendship Jr High School.
6. name of the new 7th grade team
7. The new PLTW teacher.
8. The theme of the last 7th/8th grade dance in Friendship Jr. High School.
10. Last month's DIY costume from the Firebird Feed
12. 8th grade ELA teacher who just got engaged.
14. Last name of the student senate president.
15. The first name of the mascot of Friendship Jr. High School.
17. The color of 8th grade student ID.

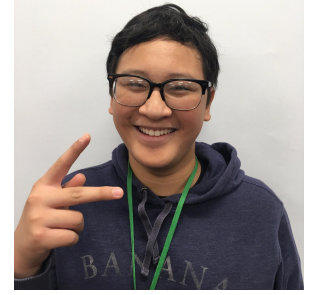
William Klimek-6th

Natalia Skrabanek-7th

Marcus Ramos, Jr.-8th

# 'Bird Box!

Questioned by Xiomara Myles on 11/28/2016



What do you want for Christmas?	A lamborghini.	A rose gold iPhone 7 or a huge, fluffy white stuffed bear that I saw.	A guitar, piano, and shoes.
What is your favorite sport?	Soccer.	Soccer.	Soccer.
What is your favorite thing to do during winter break?	Stay inside and play videogames.	Play with my friends in the snow and drink hot chocolate with a TON of marshmallows.	Spend time with friends and family and drink hot chocolate.

## Getting to Know the "SpoGanEvich" Team

By: Om Bhatt

Imagine a group of teachers who helped you learn while allowing you to have fun! The teacher group named "SpoGanEvich" is just that. Mrs. Regan, Mrs. Blasevich, and Ms. Spoerlein have come together to provide their students with an excellent education.

The teachers in this group work very hard to fit in the curriculum for the week into four days, so that every Friday can be used to engage in STEM activities and Teamwork Challenges, such as constructing buildings that can support the most weight, looking for partial fractions in the real world, and writing descriptive works using their senses. "Our students really care for each other now and truly help each other," says Mrs. Regan. "We're finding the teambuilding challenges are really bringing them together." This arrangement is set up so the students are only allowed one "elective" class (classes such as creative tech or art) and the second of which is an additional period of math. Students that are part

of the SpoGanEvich team are assigned a social science block rather than separate social studies and science classes, and they spend a few weeks in science for both periods then they switch over to social studies. "This setup is really fun, but I also learn a lot while having fun," says James, a student that is part of team SpoGanEvich. "I really look forward to every Friday so I like to get all of my work done during Mondays through Thursdays."

You might be wondering, How can I get into this awesome class? We asked Ms. Spoerlein this commonly queried question. "There is really no way to get 'in' this class, other than for the scheduling to work students to only have one 'elective' class. For example, students who were signed up for a world language and band could not be scheduled onto this team," she said.

Make sure to follow team SpoGanEvich on Twitter @TeamSpoGanEvich!



*A group of Team SpoGanEvich students posing after a Friday activity.*



*SpoGanEvich students conducting an experiment*

Paper layout designed by Xiomara Myles and Olivia Sibb. Read more about the FF staff on the About Us page online!