Wreaths Across America: An Insider’s Look
By Gianna Del Verde
I had the honor of being a part of the Wreaths Across America ceremony. My partner Emilia had a view of the outside portion of the ceremony and I had a view of the inside ceremony. Today, we are going to tell you all of the details, what happened, who was there, and how the organization works!

8th Grade Winter Formal
By Kara Gallagher
The first annual 8th Grade Winter formal was a tremendous success! Thorne’s gym was transformed into a winter wonderland for the formal, which took place on Friday, January 24th. The 8th Graders were whisked away to an icy world, with decorations including an ice sculpture, winter trees, sparkly lights, and snowflakes. The formal was run by Mrs. Mess, Miss Morizzo, and other student activity helpers. They did a fabulous job.

Wreaths Across America: Outside View and Information
By: Emilia Koenigsmark
I was outside when it happened. My partner Gianna was inside and had an inside view and I had the outside view.
Wreaths Across America was one of the most amazing things we did here at Thorne Middle School. The kids at Thorne middle school went outside and waved flags when the people from Wreaths Across America arrived. It was snowing when it happened, so everyone had so
To begin, as the outside ceremony was happening, I was inside a part of the band, waiting for everyone to come in. The people there included; parents, veterans, vet families, b-naturals, the Medal Of Honor band, the student government, and the play participants. We had to sit and we got to play on our phones, hang out, and wait for our time to shine!

Once people started coming in, the eighth graders filling the bleachers, and people from MAST technical performed a flag placement, and then the play began. We had former Thorne Middle School students Ava Giglia and Sam Cusson returning to be the stars of the play. The play opens with Ava and Sam exploring their grandmother’s attic and finding old letters, pictures, and artifacts from every war.

Throughout the play, lots of talents were displayed. There was dancing, singing, and even tap dancing by Ayden Pardue! Every time Ava or Sam would find something from the boxes in the attic, they would freeze and an act reminiscent of the time would come on stage to perform. They also had people performing as Jay Leno and Robin Williams between segments as people behind the stage were changing into their next costume. Overall, organizing this event. Over 165 people attended, and everyone was dancing the entire time. There was a DJ, multiple photo booths, an amazing food display from Applebees, Outback, and Texas Roadhouse, and many other fun elements! Thank you to all of the teachers who also donated food and desserts for the party! Students sat at round tables decorated with light blue tablecloths, place settings, and centerpieces. Every guest received a favor too! All 8th graders were able to purchase a ticket online in advance or at the door. Students attending were required to wear formal attire such as dresses, and shirts and ties. The dance was a great way to hang out with your fellow classmates without having to do any school work! All in all, everyone had a great time and enjoyed themselves immensely.

The people from Wreaths Across America go all over the world during Christmas time and put wreaths on the graves of people who had died in the war. Wreaths Across America started on December 13, 2008. Over 300 locations held wreath-laying ceremonies in every state, Puerto Rico and 24 overseas cemeteries.

The day Wreaths Across America came here to Thorne Middle School was December 11, 2019. In the morning all kids went there first block class then there was an announcement that all kids could go outside and inside to get ready for the arrival of the Wreaths Across America people.
this play was very well performed and very entertaining!

The Art of VSCO GIRLS
By Athena Tobia
Everything you need to be considered a vsco girl.

1. HydroFlask
Usually, vsco girls own a hydro flask. Hydro Flask is an expensive but efficient brand of water bottles. It keeps your water cold all day. Typically, a Hydro Flask costs about $35.

2. Scrunchies
Vsco girls also own scrunchies. While they are very useful for tying hair, vsco girls tend to just put it on their wrists for fashion, or because when you keep a scrunchie on your wrist, it squeezes it less than a regular hair tie. A scrunchie costs about $2.

3. Shell Necklaces
They also wear a shell necklace. It’s a string with small shells attached to the string that they

They had a ceremony outside with flags and someone was singing the Pledge allegiance. It was very beautiful and everyone loved it.

The Blobfish
by Jaclyn Fealy
Okay, yeah, it’s pretty disgusting. It’s been voted the ugliest animal on earth -of all time. Yeah, it’s not beautiful, but the blobfish is rather interesting. The scientific name for it is the... Psychrolutes marcidus. Don’t ask me how to pronounce it, I’m as clueless as you. Anyways, it lives off the coast of Australia and Tasmania and at the bottom of the ocean,

WHERE IT BELOOOONGSSSSS! Okay, sorry, but have you seen the stuff that hides down there? It’s NOT okay. They’ll eat basically anything they can get their little, blobby hand things on: mollusks, crabs, sea urchins, whatever. As far as I know, you can’t domesticate them, so that means a ‘no’ for pets, sadly :’( They have very little muscle structure so it’s just a goo animal (I would love to touch one, btw). To be honest, the blobfish looks like a middle-aged melted bald dude. If I had to guess, I would think it would taste like a chewy, hard, tasteless gross thing. That’s my article about the Blobfish, and I hope you enjoyed.

Former students Ava Giglia and Sam Cusson finding old war artifacts!

At the end of the play, Ava’s dad came home from war. Once this happened, the band began to play our memorial song “To Absent Friends” featuring solos by Tessa Boehler, Ava Sigrist, Madeline Curcio, Adrianna Lisotto, and me! Our song was live-streamed on twitter so parents and friends could watch us perform. After that, they played a compilation video of soldiers coming home to their families, and it was very emotional. I definitely cried!

After the video, names were announced of veterans that were in the crowd, wreaths were given to every veteran. Then, Mr. Canter won an award for being a
veteran teacher, and the band went wild! Everyone was so proud. Finally, once all of that was over, everyone left, and the hardest part came.

Eighth graders went back to their classes block 3! I went back block 5 because we had to help clean up, and bring all of the band equipment up to the stage for the concert that was the next night. To conclude, this service was beautiful and I hope that they come back to Thorne soon!

Deja Vu by Jessica Acker

Middle school ranges from certain ages from when you are 11 or 12 in 6th grade and when you are 15 or 14 in 8th grade. There is one thing in common with the ages that they have. Each one is over 10 years old. And I know ten years? Why is that important? Well within those 10 years is a decade about the ages of born for our grade is 2004–2008. So everyone was alive during the 2010s year and that was at least everyone’s childhood most people are almost or are 13 and that’s when you become a teenager, so almost it’s like your childhood has passed. But this is not meant to be depressing here is a 2010 to 2019 recap of the decades of music.

Music (some – Also all of this is from google) (2010)

wear around their neck. They are around 7-8 dollars. That’s pretty much it for shell necklaces.

4. Crocs

These are a popular brand of shoes that are also considered vsco. They are wide and have round holes in the top. They typically cost around 20-30 dollars.

5. Oversized T-shirts

I think this one is pretty self-explanatory, vsco girls wear oversized T-shirts, in the summer they wear shorts under it and it often appears that they are wearing no pants since the shirt is covering it.

If you had all or most of these items, you’re probably a vsco girl.

Anyway, that was pretty much a guide to being a vsco girl. Thanks for reading!

Middletown Historic Essay

By Katherine Pecora

This fall, Many students had the choice to enter an essay contest held by the Middletown Township Historic Preservation Commission and the Middletown Township Historical Society. This was also assigned to others. This contest was in honor of Middletown and how it was one of the oldest European settlements in New Jersey. Our records go back to the 1600s!

The essays submitted had a set of guidelines and rules that it must follow. The Essays theme is “Middletown’s Impact on History.” Students are to then, (with the help of parents/teachers or by themselves) write a two-page essay, double spaced, about one occurrence in Middletown history that had a big impact on history! This could describe a person, place, or event that had impacted the community. Some of which are Penelope Stout, The Nike missile
Everyone has a different perspective on the world. Each individual sees the world in many different ways. This all depends on how they feel and what they have to deal with every day. Some people have a harder time getting through the day because they have obstacles that they are either overcoming, battling, or hiding. These obstacles that people have to deal with come with many different emotions; these emotions are often hidden under their colorful, distracting disguises. So remember that when you meet someone, there might be more to them than you see.

Blinded By The Eyes
By Kyle Klinsky

Penelope Stout was known for being the first female white settler of Monmouth County, New Jersey. The ship she traveled aboard from the Netherland made her husband, and several others get off at Sandy Hook due to illness. Not wanting to leave her husband, she stayed with him as they were abandoned on their way to New Amsterdam. Right after they got there, they were attacked by Indians on that very beach. Her husband was killed and she was led to flee to a hollowed tree-trunk where she stayed until she, due to hunger, decided to make herself known to the Navesink tribe. They bound up her wounds and after some recovery, was then released to the Dutch at New Amsterdam, now New York City.
(2014)
Meghan Trainor All About That Bass
Nicki Minaj Bang Bang
Sia Chandelier
Ariana Grande Problem
Mark Ronson Uptown Funk
Maroon 5 Animals
Iggy Azalea Fancy
Iggy Azalea Black Widow
Dierks Bentley Drunk on a Plane
Taylor Swift Blank Space

(2015)
Wiz Khalifa See You Again
Justin Bieber What Do You Mean?
The Weeknd The Hills
Selena Gomez Good for You
Shawn Mendes Stitches
Twenty One Pilots Stressed Out

(2016)
The Chainsmokers Closer
Justin Timberlake Can't Stop the Feeling!
Calvin Harris This Is What You Came For
Twenty One Pilots Heathens
Shawn Mendes Treat You Better
Logic Sucker for Pain
Meghan Trainor NO
Sia Cheap Thrills
The Chainsmokers Don't Let Me Down
Ariana Grande Side to Side
Little Mix Shout out to My Ex
Pink Just Like Fire
Meghan Trainor Me Too
Clean Bandit Rockabye
Bruno Mars 24K Magic

(2017)
Ed Sheeran Shape of You
Coldplay Something Just Like This
Imagine Dragons Thunder
Kendrick Lamar DNA.
Taylor Swift Look What You Made Me Do
Ed Sheeran Castle on the Hill
Demi Lovato Sorry Not Sorry
Ed Sheeran Perfect
P!nk What About Us
Maroon 5 Girls Like You
Blackbear Do Re Mi
Miley The Chainsmokers Paris
Cyrus Malibu
(2018)
Cardi B I Like It
Marshmello Happier
Janelle Monáe Make Me Feel
Lewis Capaldi Someone You Loved
Halsey Without Me
Panic! At The Disco High Hopes
Marshmello FRIENDS
Shawn Mendes Lost in Japan
Ava Max Sweet but Psycho
Janelle Monáe Make Me Feel
5 Seconds of Summer Youngblood
(2019)
Lil Nas X Old Town Road
Shawn Mendes Señorita
Justin Bieber I Don't Care
Billie Eilish bad guy

TONES DANCE MONKEY
Billie Eilish bury a friend
Arizona Zervas ROXANNE
maroon 5 Memories
Sam Smith How Do You Sleep?
(2020)
Nothing yet for the year but that was most of the top songs of the decade hope you enjoyed
"Hey! H-hello? Ground Control to Mar! Come on, answer your radio! Don't scare me," a metallic voice cried out, piercing her skull.

She stirred in her slumber, pulling her eyes open. "What?" she asked sleepily. "This is not the time to sleep, Ms. Mar!" the voice replied. The voice sounded like it came from a young man.

"What?" Mar asked again, shaking her head.

"That's a very intelligent response for an astronaut. Do you not remember anything? At this point, I know more about you than you know about you. Just to fill you in, you're Marisa Mar, famous astronaut and every science-y profession that relates to space. In fact, that's where you are right now, Ms. Mar. In space. Floating around. Your tether broke, kiddo, and your ship left a long time ago. You have about three days left before you run out of oxygen, or if someone saves you. Too bad I'm on Earth."

Mar inhaled sharply, her eyes meeting nothingness. "It's dark out here."

"Wait, you're really Marisa Mar, right? This isn't a joke...? Yes, space is dark, Ms. Mar. Get used to it."

"I know that, it's just... I don't remember anything back until a month ago when we launched."

"Oh. Well, enjoy the agonizingly slow pace at which you are moving from your previous velocity!"

"What's your name, Mystery Man?" Mar asked, her snarky sense of humor finally recovering from being lost in space.

"How about Ripley? Yeah, call me Ripley!" the voice exclaimed.

"Not your real name, eh?" Mar asked.
"Nope. My code name, actually!" Ripley said.

She was sent out to collect samples from a passing asteroid, but the line connecting her to the shuttle snapped, leaving her alone in space. Mar's suit went into power-saving mode shortly after, forcing her body into a sort of hibernation.

"Why hasn't my crew rescued me?" Mar asked Ripley.

"That's the problem, see. They're all mutineers. Cut your line on purpose."

Mar cursed them under her breath. "Those guys looked pretty shady. Earth doesn't ever have enough astronauts, it seems."

"I'd go out there to save you, but we don't have a ship at hand to send out," Ripley said, pouting slightly. "So I'm here to essentially make the last days of your existence as comfortable as possible!"

"So I'm... going to die out here?"

"Unfortunately, yes. You seem to be taking this well."

"Strangely, I'm okay with this," Mar said, shaking her head. This wasn't a dream. "What's stopping me from pulling my helmet off right now, anyway?"

"If it's anything to put into consideration, I wouldn't have anyone to talk to until my shift ends. I couldn't bear being lonely!"

"You're so needy," Mar joked, laughing under her breath. Fatigue began to overtake her again, her eyelids leaden as she drifted off.

"Your vital signs are slowing down on the monitor here, so you're falling asleep. I'll wake you up in eight hours, alright?" Ripley said nervously, pressing his fingers together. He didn't receive a response, meaning that she was fast asleep. "Sleep tight, kiddo." Ripley leaned back in his chair, taking his headset off and placing it carefully on the table in front of him. "Nobody else wants to take this job. Why me? Why did I want to make friends with someone with an expiration date?" he sighed, closing his eyes tightly.
"Goooood morning!" Ripley shouted into his headset precisely eight hours later.

Mar yelped, awaking with a start. "I'm awake! I'm awake."

"Great, because you have a very busy day filled with doing positively nothing!" Ripley shouted again.

"Don't remind me," Mar muttered. "You don't seem to have much better to do either, radioing me constantly. Why'd you take this job?"

"I wanted to do something interesting," Ripley replied instantly.

"Hm. Is that really your reason? Maybe you have an issue that you don't want to confront, and you have no one waiting for you at home? Maybe you killed all of you fam-"

"That's enough," Ripley said in a low, deadly voice.

"Maybe they-"

"I. Said. Enough," Ripley growled through his teeth, promptly turning off the radio.

"Ripley? Hey! Ripley!" Mar shouted into her helmet's microphone. "No, don't leave me..."

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People
By Brynne Burkhard

People can be so weird. It's strange how we function. At one second we could be the definition of confidence, and the next we want to end it all.

People can be so dumb; so ignorant. We have so much technology to help us find out what we need, but still we choose to be dumb. We can make amazing things when you put in effort, but we could work for months and come up with something that can kill, or is just plain stupid.

People can feel too. We feel and do things we end up regretting. We act upon feeling, not upon action. Sometimes, people don't know how to feel about things, so they feel lots of things. They come up with silly names for things they are feeling like sad-mad to hide the pain they have in their hearts. They feel obligated to
stuff it way down inside of them as to not worry others, but they end up never getting the help they need in the end.

People can be fake.
You could be so alone in this world to the point anyone wanting to be your friend, you would take it. But not everyone is to be trusted. One minute they provide laughter, joy, and company. But the next day you could have had a rumor spread about you by that person. That person could have bullied you the next day. You can’t just get a feeling about someone by the way they smile. They can sense you only look with your eyes. They see you are blind and oblivious to the fact they are tricking you into liking them. You have to look into their soul and how nice they’re being to you, sense a fake smile, see a fake gesture.

People can learn from mistakes
People can learn from mistakes they made in the past. They can say sorry and show affection to try and patch the wounds they made. They are always sorry in the end for hurting you. Even the evil people when they die, they learn their lesson. When nobody shows up to pay their respects, they learn it.