

The Stinger



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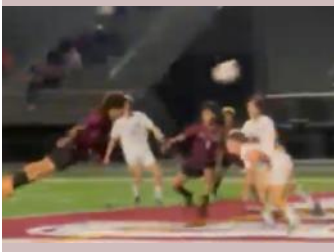
"Día de los Muertos ... is one of the most well known holidays for Mexican families" (page 2).



"we celebrate Veterans Day in order 'to honor those who have sacrificed and served in the U.S. military'" (page 2).



"Super Mario Bros Wonder...is a wonderful game that breaks the staleness of the previous 2-D Mario era" (page 8).



"I didn't expect the video to go viral honestly" (page 12).

Hallway gatherings a success

By Maggie Mae McCarthy
Stinger Reporter

Hallway gatherings are taking place again this year. Mr. Livingston and Dr. Brown give more information on how and why they will be run.

The main reason for the gatherings is safety according to Mr. Livingston. He says, "The safety of our school building is only successful when students go where they're supposed to go when they are supposed to go there. If we cannot have a school day where we can depend on students being in spaces at the correct time, what [we] have is kind of chaos." Hall gatherings are important now due to the expansion of the building, which allows

more space for roaming students. Livingston says that the most important thing is that "the only place students learn is inside the classroom, and [when you are] even 5 or 10 minutes late to class, you can miss pivotal instructional time or points from your teacher, so we want to get you in there as soon as possible." Assistant Principal Dr. Brown says, "Sometimes students will be fully aware of when these Hallway Gatherings will occur, and sometimes, they won't know until they are materializing in front of them during a passing period."

When asked about how often hall gatherings would be occurring, Dr. Brown said, "as many times as it

takes to emphasize that attendance matters for all of us. It's not so much about the number of times we deploy an intervention. It's more about how we teach behaviors and skills." When it comes to the punishments, Livingston says, "The idea is to not punish students. The idea is to teach students the importance and practice of being to class on time and just being punctual." Brown adds, "Students who are involved in hallway gatherings first receive a warning. If a student is involved in multiple events, a varying level of 'loss of privilege' occurs, including a total loss of privilege or social probation for up to the end of...

(Follow to page 11.)

Law requires safety drills

By Samantha Whitlow
Stinger Reporter

Throughout your school career you have likely taken part in many safety drills. But did you know that there are very specific guidelines that our administration has to follow? According to the Illinois School Safety Drill Act, three evacuation drills, including fire drills, and one bus evacuation drill must be conducted annually. Following the previous drills, law enforcement lockdown drills must be performed within the first 90 days of school. For these procedures, law enforcement participation is required.

Simulations, anything mimicking an active threat, are not allowed whatsoever on student attendance days. School administration must warn students, parents, and any school personnel before said lockdown drills. This allows parents/guardians the choice to exempt their student(s). When asked about the importance of these drills, Dr. King, the Executive Director of Safety and Prevention at ZBTHS, said, "The importance of our emergency drills is first, for your safety and second, it gives a template for what to do in case of specific emergencies." These safety

drills have helped us with our most recent safety problems - school threats. Because of the practice that we have put in place, our students have been able to remain calm and feel safe in the environment even when under a threat.

Although most of the safety rules have stayed the same throughout the years, some changes have been made to the school code. Such changes include the way law enforcement is involved. The school safety drill act requires that law enforcement must conduct at least one walk through law enforcement drill rather than one law...

(Follow to page 11.)

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ZBs celebrate Día de los Muertos

By Jairo Rojas-Magallon
Stinger Reporter

After Halloween comes a holiday that is known for its vibrant celebration of life and remembrance, also known as Día de los Muertos (or "Day of the Dead"). It's a time where the majority of the Hispanic population around the world celebrates (from November 1st through the 2nd) the lives of their loved ones who have passed. Some traditions that are celebrated during Día de los Muertos include making colorful altars also known as "ofrendas" (spanish for "offering").

When asked what the school would do to celebrate the holiday, Ms. Martinez, a ZB Spanish and English teacher shared, "We are going to make felt calaveras next week on Tuesday (October 24th)! Usually, they are calaveras de azúcar (sugar skulls) to help represent death and the sweetness of life, but that can get messy at

school. Then next week Thursday (October 26th), we will get together to build the ofrenda. We will set up the various elements of the ofrenda to remember and honor the memory of our deceased loved ones." Students were also allowed to participate by adding to the ofrenda. It will be displayed in the display case outside of rooms 104/106 starting Friday October 27th.

Ivan Galaviz, a student

here at ZBTHS, explains how he celebrates: "We make ofrendas to remember our passed loved ones so that they can come back spiritually throughout day of the dead."

Abigail Bahena, senior here at Zion believes that Día de los Muertos is important because "it is an honorable way to celebrate the lives of those who have passed. It allows families and friends to keep their loved ones' memories alive and things such as ofrendas - which is an altar that includes the loved ones picture, favorite food and drinks, cempasúchil (or marigolds) are used in the ofrendas and graves because they represent a pathway for the deceased to come back to the living world. They are known to represent sun and life-giving energy.

Día de los Muertos is celebrated on various days and is one of the most well known holidays for Mexican families."

Photo credit: J. Rojas-Magallon



The ofrendas are on display in the hallway opposite room 104.

Veterans honored this month

By Megan Galeana
Staff Editor

Zee-Bees have school on Veteran's Day (November 10th) instead of having a day off of school because it is valuable for students and staff to have the opportunity to acknowledge the important holiday. According to the US Department of Veterans Affairs, the importance of Veterans day is to "honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good."

Here at ZBTHS we recognize the need to honor those who served our country. NJROTC is helping the school in celebrating Veterans Day again this year. The way they are

doing that is by having a "color guard for the ceremony." The drill team will have a "drill demonstration" as well, and Taylor Johnson, the XO of battalion, and Kaylee Castellanos, CO of Battalion, are expected to give speeches. ZBTHS has a consis-

tently outstanding NJROTC program, and our students do a great job helping us to honor veterans each November. Anahi Ramirez of the drill team says we celebrate Veterans Day in order "to honor those who have sacrificed and served in the U.S. military."

Photo credit: Anahi Ramirez



The ZBTHS Drill team, which will be presenting at this year's Veterans Day celebration, competed in Marengo, Ohio on October 14th.

Writers' strike ends, shows return

By **Kassie Barbanida**
Stinger Reporter

After five months, the 2023 Writers Guild of America strike finally came to an end on September 27, 2023. While Hollywood writers reached a tentative agreement, a battle remains for actors.

The unions that represent screenwriters and actors, The Writers Guild of America (WGA) and American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA), went on strike after their contracts with Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) expired. The AMPTP is a trade association that represents production companies such as Netflix, Paramount, Warner Bros, Disney, and many others. The WGA

began their strike on May 2, and SAG-AFTRA later joined on July 14. It is the first time both of the unions went on strike at the same time since 1960.

With streaming services and television production flourishing over the past decade, there have been many changes in the entertainment industry. According to an article by Vulture, the strikes are a reminder that “despite functioning as an escape based on creative output for many, the entertainment business is still, ultimately, a business.” To put it simply, entertainment businesses are eager for money and are willing to do anything to pump out more money, even if it has negative effects on its workers.

Company profits have

risen significantly, resulting in writers falling behind. Because streaming has taken over, companies have cut writer pay and made the working conditions worse for writers. A majority of writers that work on streaming shows earn less due to the shorter work periods and show-runners have no writing staff to finish off the season.

Ultimately, the Writers Guild of America (WGA) unanimously voted to strike in an attempt to receive higher wages, improve working conditions, and secure protection from the use of Artificial Intelligence. During that time, the members of the WGA did not write new scripts for shows or movies until the strike ended. Production slowed down as a

whole and caused issues for others who work in the entertainment business.

The WGA and AMPTP finally came to an agreement and ended the strike. The WGA negotiating committee sent an email to the members saying, “We can say, with great pride, that this is an exceptional deal — with meaningful gains and protections for writers in every sector of the membership.” In the three year deal, the basic weekly wages for writers will increase 12.5% overall.

The SAG-AFTRA began to strike on July 14 for the “survival of our profession” and seek similar benefits to WAG asked for in their negotiations, but SAG-AFTRA is still in the process of negotiating a fair deal for themselves.

Conflict in Israel explained

By **Euriah Williams**
Stinger Reporter

Early on Saturday October 7th, 2023, a series of coordinated attacks, conducted by the Palestinian Islamist militant group Hamas, from the Gaza Strip onto bordering areas in Israel occurred. According to NBC News, “In Gaza, supplies of food, medicine and fuel for powering emergency generators are running low. The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, which provides basic services to hundreds of thousands of people, including operating schools turned into shelters, has said it may run out of fuel within days.”

More than 7,000 people, including women and children, have been killed in Gaza, according to Palestinian health officials. In Israel, about 1,400 people have died. At least 229

people were taken hostage during the Oct. 7 terrorist attack, some of them infants and small children.”

President Biden went to Israel to speak with Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday, October 18th in Tel Aviv. Biden’s message to Israel, “I come to Israel with a single message: You’re not alone,” Biden

said. “As long as the United States stands, and we will stand forever, we will not let you ever be alone.” Biden also left Israel \$14.3 billion to go toward defense contracts and facilitating the transfer of weapons and ammunition to Israel from U.S. stockpiles.

Considering the current conflict started over a lifetime ago, it is help-

ful to have some context for the issue. According to Reuters.com the current country known as Israel was “proclaimed the modern State of Israel on May 14, 1948, establishing a safe haven for Jews fleeing persecution and seeking a national home.” Since then, and even before, the areas of Gaza and the West Bank have been fought over by different groups of people (Christian, Jewish and Islamic) who hold that the region is of vital religious importance. Both sides fight to control the region, and often violence and bloodshed have resulted.

Most believe that finding a resolution to the conflict is all but impossible. The issue is both extraordinarily complicated as well as horribly sad. The Stinger staff sends it condolences to all those affected by the recent tragedy.



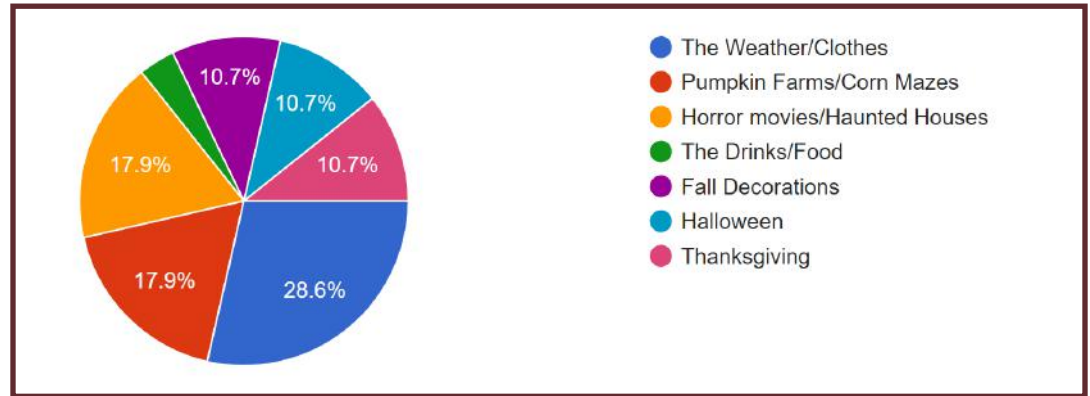
Photo credit: goa.gov

Zee-Bees share fall favorites

By Abbigail McLaughlin
Stinger Reporter

The color of the leaves are changing with the weather, and many Zee-Bees are here for it! After talking with students and staff as well as putting out a survey we learned that the most common fall favorites involve the chilly weather, pretty landscape, and comfortable yet trendy outfits.

Being able to go outside with a light jacket and getting to look at the beautiful changing season is something many look forward to. Not far behind as a popular favorite is going to corn mazes and pumpkin patches as a great way to enjoy the season. The variety of corn mazes such as haunted mazes, themed mazes, and the standard mazes are



Surveyed students share their favorite fall traditions.

always a good time. According to many Zee-Bees, shopping is also a big part of these next two months leading up to Christmas.

As Black Friday and Cyber Monday approach, many students and staff love going out and getting great deals to give gifts to family and friends. Although it can get hectic, it's a perfect way to pre-

pare for the gift giving season come December.

After asking students if they have any particular thanksgiving traditions they or their families partake in, the answers were quite similar. Getting family and friends together is a perfect way to show what you're grateful for. Janalise Jimenez shares how her family celebrates,

"My family gets all together at one of our houses, usually mine or my grandparents, each bringing their signature dish."

Here at ZB we all hope you enjoy this fall season and make the most of it! There's many activities and traditions out there, you just have to pick which one you like best and dive right in!

Popular teen show canceled

By Daniyah Anderson
Stinger Reporter

iCarly, which was originally aired on Nickelodeon in 2007 and ran until 2012, is a teen sitcom that a lot of us enjoyed when we were younger, and probably still do to this day. The series revolves around a teenager, Carly Shay, and her two friends, Freddy and Sam, hosting their own show called iCarly in an apartment that Carly and her brother, Spencer, share.

The entire five-season series quickly became popular among audiences of all ages. It was nominated for the Emmy Award for Outstanding Children's Programming five times. iCarly was a massive success for Nickelodeon, running for six years and bringing on multiple A-list guest appearances like Michelle Obama, Jimmy Fallon,

and even One Direction.

After the final episode iGoodbye, that had aired in November 2012, the show stopped airing. Now we all can enjoy the show on third party apps such as Netflix, Paramount Plus, and Amazon Prime.

Nearly a decade after the original show ended, the iCarly revival premiered in June of 2021. It starred the same cast as

before, the group of the best friends who created the web show that went viral. It was a reboot of the original series that quickly became a favorite for most who had grown up with the original iCarly, and it gave most of us a dose of nostalgia and comfort.

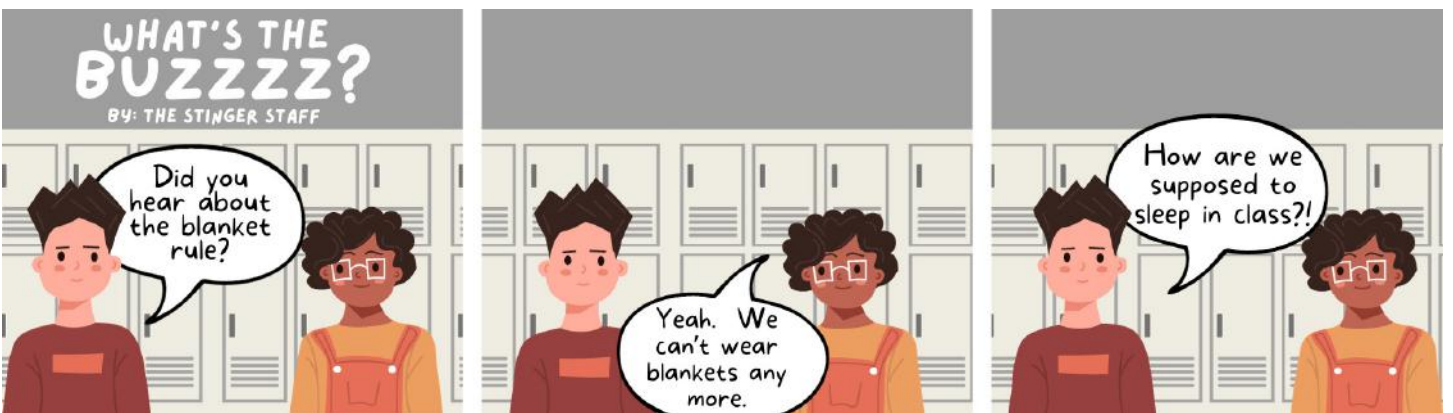
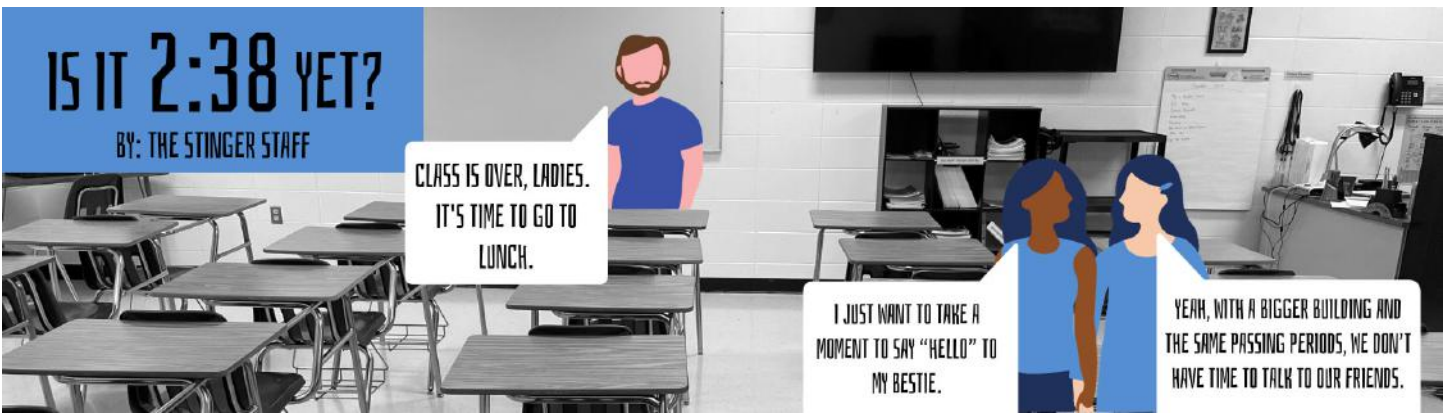
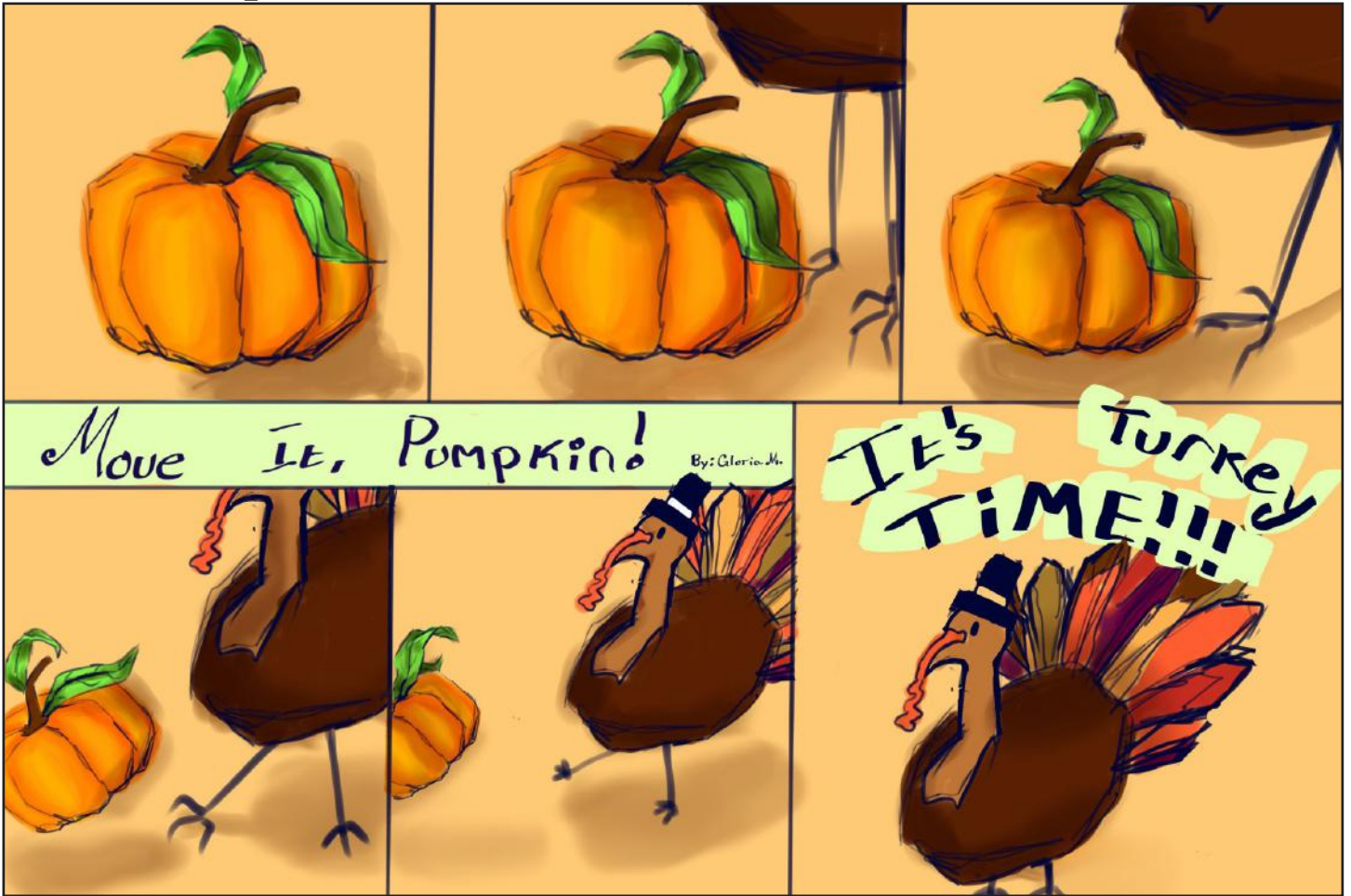
Unfortunately, after only three seasons, the last airing June 2023, the show will not be returning next

year for the 4th season. Many fans are enraged, as the third season ended on a major cliffhanger. Fans are left with the impression that Paramount values financial gain over being true to the show and giving those who have been viewers for years a proper ending. It does seem unfair and unfortunate that Paramount made the decision to cancel it, and other ZB students think so as well. "I am kind of disappointed that there couldn't be a new season, but I'm glad we got at the three seasons we did after that the original show," Destiny Matos, a junior, at Zion-Benton said, "Hopefully we will see a new season in the future, but for now, we have to imagine every ending scenario for the cliffhanger that we were left with."

Photo credit: tvinsider.com



Move it, Pumpkin! by Gloria Myers



November Feature: Literacy

Teachers share favorite books

By **Rebekah Hampton**
Stinger Reporter

Have you ever found yourself scouring the internet for a good book to read, but you've got no clue where to start? The Stinger asked a few of ZB's staff members what their favorite books are. It may be a start in that journey for your next novel experience.

Ms. Slabaugh's current favorite book is *Walt Disney: An American Original* by Bob Thomas. This may not come as a surprise if you've met the lovely Ms. Slabaugh, who is known to be an avid Disney fan. During the interview she joyfully stated, "I've always been interested in the history of Disney World, and I was curious to find out more about who Walt Disney actually was. It was really interesting as well to learn about the history of

film and how he essentially pioneered the cartoon industry." So if you too enjoy the fascinating world of animated movies, you've found your next read.

Mrs. Wilson's current favorite book, from the past five years, is *The House on the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune, a fantasy fiction about a group of orphans with superpowers. During the interview, Mrs. Wilson gushed about her love for TJ Klune's works; she almost couldn't choose which was her favorite. When giving a rundown of the book, she thoughtfully expressed, "I think the theme of it is that it's really a story about discrimination in general against people, why that's so problematic, and it's just such a beautiful story." So if you're looking for a book with a stone cold character learning how to warm their

heart and grow alongside their peers, you've found your next read.

Ms. Grafman's current favorite book is *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, which is a "trashy romance love story set in 19th century England." Ms. Grafman is a sucker for a good love story, and during the interview stated, "I love how the characters have this total disdain for each other, and then they eventually realize that their perceptions were completely wrong. Like all good love stories, there is a happy ending." So if you long for that heartwarming ending, you've found your next read. The possibilities seem endless when it comes to finding a book to invest your time in. So when you receive a recommendation from someone who's read countless books in their life, it's priceless.

Literacy key to student success

By **Trinity Camara**
Editor-in-Chief

Reading regularly provides many benefits to people of all ages, including teenagers. It can strengthen your brain, improve vocabulary, and reduce stress.

According to a study conducted in 2013, it was discovered that, "Brain scans showed that throughout the reading period and for days afterward, brain connectivity increased, especially in the somatosensory cortex, the part of the brain that responds to physical sensations like movement and pain" (www.healthline.com).

Additionally, the same article stated, "Researchers have found that students who read books regularly, beginning at a young age, gradually develop large vocabularies." Reading regularly is useful to students

because it helps grow vocabulary over time.

Also, reading tends to be a good stress reliever. For example, it was discovered that, "reading was found to be as effective as yoga and humor in reducing subjective feelings of stress over a 30-minute period, as well as objective measurements of systolic blood pressure (SBP), diastolic blood pressure (DSP), and heart rate (HR)" (www.psychologytoday.com). It is proven that reading reduces stress by measuring different levels of internal functions of human anatomy.

Mr. Blades, Department Head for English, Reading, and Bilingual Education here at ZBTHS, was asked why he thinks it is important for students to read; he stated, "I know that a lot of kids

don't seek our resources as much, but reading sort of ignites natural curiosity at times." He added that its important that students read "what they love."

Students can grow in multiple ways, mentally and physically through the brain because of reading. There are numerous benefits to reading regularly, which students at ZBTHS should explore and see what benefits it could personally provide.

Photo credit: macmillanlibrary.com



Library Month showcases IMC assets

By Trinity Camara
Editor-in-Chief

National Library and Information Services Month takes place during the month of November. This highlights the importance of libraries and the various resources available. Some libraries offer many types of informational services other than physical books. For example, some libraries offer e-books, access to free internet, computers, and more.

Here at Zion-Benton Township High School, our school library, commonly known as the IMC, has numerous resources for students and staff to use freely. These resources include physical books, daily activities, academic help, reading guides to help students find books, and much more.

Mrs. Will, the IMC Coordinator, said, "The first thing that we provide is access to the text. It's really hard to read a great book if you don't have one. So,

for me, the most important thing to get students reading is to make sure our collection is representative of the students and the staff who work and come to our school to make certain that every student who comes here can find a book that they can see themselves in." Prioritizing text for the students and staff of this school is the main goal within the IMC.

Mrs. Will also stated, "I think a lot of our students don't understand how robust our online collection is. We just launched our new e-book service. It used to be Access 360, but now it's called Boundless, and we'll be able to offer new e-books and audio books that way. I think a lot of students don't take advantage of the audio book option, and they could. It's something that is accessible but it's an extra step. Once they take that extra step they tend to like it, but it takes a moment to do



Photo credit: ZBTHS Yearbook

The IMC is a great location for students who wish to work quietly.

that. So, we also have some other great databases so we are doing research to actually dive in and do some intense research. I think that not all of our students understand how to get there. They see it as too hard and I understand that it is hard. But I believe that our students are fully capable of learning it." She explains the different features that the IMC provides that can be very useful to all students, but it could

take some exploring to figure out the online system.

This feature of National Library and Information Services Month brings awareness to how much ZBTHS has to offer within the IMC that students might not know about. Students and staff have access to these resources anytime. If students and staff have questions about how to navigate through these resources, reach out to IMC staff for help.

Your Two Cents



"The best book is called *Playlist for the Dead* by Michelle Falkoff."

Gloria Myers

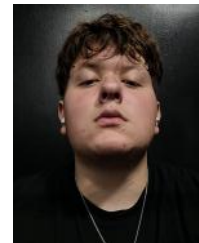


"My favorite book is *A Thousand Boy Kisses* by Tillie Cole because the story had me so involved that I was crying, and it was overall a good read."

Nadia McCabe

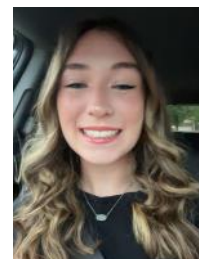


What is the best book you have ever read?



"My favorite book is *Godless* because it is very fun to read, very funny, and relatable."

Tim Gullede



"My favorite book is *If He Had Been with Me* by Laura Nowlin. This book made me feel connected and really emotional the whole time; it's a great book."

Abigail McLaughlin

2-D Super Mario Bros. reborn

By **Donnie Anilao**
Stinger Reporter

Super Mario Bros. Wonder (SMBW), which was released on October 20th., 2023, is a wonderful game that breaks the staleness of the previous 2-D Mario era, fully launching Mario into a new era.

As a brief history, Super Mario the series started off 2-D in Super Mario Brothers in 1985 as a revolutionary video game that saved the gaming industry due to innovative level design, ideas, and fun gameplay. Many popular sequels of the 2-D series spawned, but we've seen nothing for over a decade. It was New Super Mario Brothers, which was released in 2006, that launched 2-D Mario back into the consumer's eyes. However, de-

spite maintaining that very fun gameplay of Mario, it was starting to become stale to fans of the series during the 2010's due to overused ideas and bland concepts. The recent release of SMBW finally commands the respect that the 2-D Mario series deserves.

SMBW has the main gimmick of Wonder Flow-

ers, which introduces a new concept into every level that includes it, concepts like moving pipes, air being water and vice versa, everything being elongated, player transformation, giant enemies, and much more. These wonder sections give every level a special quality of uniqueness. There are three new

power-ups introduced, one being the elephant fruit which turns the player into an elephant. The new character boasts a powerful trunk capable of destroying most objects and vanquishing most enemies in a single swing as well as watering plants with water stored in said trunk. Every character is given nice little voice lines, animations that separate each other, and a special ability if they're a Yoshi or are Nabbit. That's all I'll give to avoid further spoilers. Try it out for yourself.

Overall, I give Super Mario Bros Wonder a 9/10 score, with 10/10 gameplay and 10/10 graphics and music. The only factor holding it back from a 10/10 total is that there isn't enough of it.



Club offers outlet for creativity

By **Esperalda Vara**
Staff Editor

Creative ZB students, under the sponsorship of Mrs. Hicks, a ZB art teacher, can join Art Club. In addition to smaller individual projects, the group also gathers to create large group projects. Most recently, the art club created a window painting of the ZBTHS bee mascot in the famous Barbie car in celebration of homecoming week.

According to Mrs. Hicks, "We're gonna paint another mural at the cafeteria, so we're gonna try and do another one since we were the mural of the year last year. We're doing the really white space near the special hallway, but it won't be done by Halloween."

During the second Monday of November, the art club will have another

meeting to determine if there are any community events that the art club can do something for, or if the club will be making cards for the nursing homes again this year.

During the monthly meetings, Mrs. Hicks tries to have everyone do

a small, fun project while brainstorming ideas for upcoming months and events. The art club is also brainstorming ideas for sticker or shirt designs for club members.

Munnyda Touch, a sophomore and art club member, shares, "Peo-

ple should join art club because it is a fun way to meet new people and show your creativity."

Art club meets in room 223 after school on the second Monday of the month. All are welcome to join in the creativity and fun with their peers.

Photo credit: L. Hicks



Zee - Bee Writing Showcase

Vermillion

A Prologue to a Story by Jordan Lawrence

This story takes place in a far away galaxy known as Aezera on a whole new planet akin to Earth, with multiple fantastical species and a unique twist to how a story can be portrayed to a reader. Colored texts at the end of chapters signify a relationship change with the character from a 2nd-narrative perspective. Read on!

Sirens were blaring in the distance, one dead. Another day, more sirens. Two dead. Three dead. Four dead, five dead, six dead, and seven dead. The devastation in my home, for what this group has done, is inexcusable...

A few hours ago, civilians were struck again, this time, a horrendous execution via arson. Currently at the scene of a burned down house, I had just left downtown of Aezura City. My home, my people, the very structure of our society is being attacked under our own creation of the military force known as **Silent Order 201**, our Kryptonite, as humans would call it. Established in 2012, this was the first ever military group appointed by our presidential head to stop our enemies before they could strike externally or internally at our first steps towards a utopia. In 2089, where we're at now, we are a far cry from what humans and even what we think of when we hear "utopia". Strangely, this is an Earthly thing I have seen happen in the past... Humans strive for the perfect society, but compared to us they are incredibly far from it. This is not Earth, this is Aezerea. A whole different planet from Earth, with a whole variety of species, some

even humans thought were fantasies! Demons, Angels, Robotic droids like me, galore all exist in this once safe haven, now brought down to the bounds of Earthly sin and mistake. We have started to degrade into human-level society, that I will not let stand...

A police officer approached me a week later, with a tired gray look in his eyes. He was an older fellow at 49 with graying hair, and cybernetic parts all around his body that interconnected with him like a separate body in itself. We were in the police department, having a chat in the evidence room.

"So, this is the third strike this month, Orville," said the police officer with a coffee mug in his left hand that said "Aezerea's Best Officer"... I personally don't agree with that statement.

"Afraid so. This military force has been going on for 77 years. I said, looking remorsefully at the large city.

The officer looked at the same structures I was looking at, smiling with a sense of pride. "I am proud of what we have achieved, but what have we left in the past exactly? What has our presidential head been hiding from us all these hundreds and hundreds of years from the public? His reign remains an ironclad."

I took out an electronic cigarette, not like the Earthly harmful addictive crap they give themselves like candy, this one is more akin to a sedative. I took a puff. "I'm not sure, but whatever he's hiding has certainly arisen to bite him in his own ass."

I looked the officer in the

eye, and slowly dug through the depths of my fire-retardant pants. I took out a bagged piece of evidence. "This was at the scene."

It was part of a military-grade uniform. It had the number, in the brightest color of red I've seen, read "**201**". The officer looked at the evidence, his dull tired eyes suddenly jolted with a pulse of fear.

"I...recommend you go speak to the presidential head." He said nervously, looking away.

I looked it over, I questioned so many things about this number. Why this number? Why did our president make up such a military unit? What was their goal? So many questions running through my psyche like mechanical horses let loose from their stable on the racetrack!

"Don't need to tell me twice." I, at last, uttered out. I left the police station and went into The Enea Transit, an advanced hyper-speed subway system on it's way to the next city over; Enea City, the city and train being named after their ancient architect from years back. I hopped on the train, and flew off into the dark depths of the subway system, out into the stars like a sci-fi film.

Oh, and this style of storytelling? Don't count on it to last, there is much more to this world than it seems, much more than me. Me and my team of future team of 9 will guide you through our treacherous journey into unmasking and halting Silent Order's operations once and for all.

Your relationship with Orville has changed: Nostalgic companion.

Are you creative and have a poem or short story you'd like to have published?
Send an email to Mr. Sevensen at jeffrey.sevensen@zb126.org.

ZEE-BEES YOU SHOULD KNOW



Two Zee-Bee seniors, Zoe Barnes & Martin Garrett, were awarded Student of the Month at the Kiwanis meeting on the morning of October 24th. During the presentation both Zoe and Martin “were able to speak a little about themselves and answered questions from the Kiwanis members,” said to Ms. Nikki Poulsen, secretary for the assistant principal. Ms.

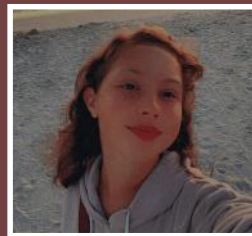
Poulsen, who had the honor of giving the awards to Barnes and Garrett added that the meeting was very special to her: “I also got to see my old principals, Sandy Galgan & Scott Murphy.” Poulsen won the award herself when she attended ZBTHS back in 1999. Kiwanis, also known as Kiwanis International, is a service organization dedicated to work “together

to change children’s lives” (kiwanis.org). Our school has its own chapter of Kiwanis club; it is more commonly referred to as Key Club. The group completes service projects under the leadership of Mrs. Shorey. The Key Club’s biggest events are the blood drives. According to Shorey, this fall they “saw almost 60 kids and gathered 36 units of blood, saving 108 lives.”

ZEE-BEE FOCUS



What are you thankful for?



Angelina Garza

“One thing I’m thankful for is everyone who helped me and supported me to get to where I am today.”



SaMyra Epps

“This time of the year I am thankful for my friends. They remind to not stress over school and that it’s okay to take a break and have fun.”



Cristian Gibbs

“I am thankful for my peace and joy.”



Moira Cook

“During this season I am very thankful to be surrounded by friends and family who care for me in any and all states. They are my biggest supporters and are who I admire most, especially my parents who provide for me in every way possible.”

Local shop welcomes ZB students

By Janalise Jimenez
Stinger Reporter

Kombucha is a fermented effervescent beverage often hailed for the health benefits that are related to long-lasting life and improved gut health. Both good reasons to try it out; that, and it's delicious.

Living Full Kombucha is located: 811 Sheridan Rd STE B in Winthrop Harbor. It's a cozy shop with light-filled windows and comfortable, open space. Behind the glass door you'll meet a cheerful woman, or perhaps you'll meet her equally positive husband (Mr. Davis) or her father (Tim), with a love for kombucha brewing. Lydia Davis said she begun her business in June of 2020, after years of working out details for her shop and finally opened

the doors in August 2023.

When asked what she was most proud of with the opening of Living Full Kombucha, she responded, "...getting to know the community... [and] creating a space for the community to come together..." She shows this in her joyful attitude towards customers as she can be heard laughing with guests and starting conversations. For any students who hope to open a business she says, "I would say your passion only takes you so far, and a lot of consistency keeps you going. With consistency comes mastery..." She shared further about the process it takes to open a business, from plumbing and food licenses to discovering what customers want and educating what exactly kombucha is. Grateful

for the previous brewery shop in the location, it has helped her business move into the community nicely.

You'll also be interested to know Mrs. Davis was originally a teacher, she says she chose to pursue her brewery because, "Personally I wasn't feeling very good, and I was looking for a better alternative for my body. I found the creative outlet of kombucha and it took off from there." Similarly, she recommends kombucha to students for the "feel good" effects and to set up of good habits. Mrs. Davis has accomplished many goals, with more in the future, because of these good habits and consistency. Offering encouraging words, Davis says "just choosing to show up...I manifest so much and I've envisioned this for

Photo credit: J. Jimenez



so long and it happens... This is just phase one and I'd love to open three more locations." As a fan of manifestation, she has chosen a positive outlook, choosing "When it happens..." instead of, "If..." When you're interested in trying their unique seasonal flavors or learning more about what kombucha is, you can stop by Winthrop Harbor or check their website: Livingfullkombucha.com.

Yearbook Memories

By Abbi McLaughlin
Stinger Reporter

The school yearbook is the best way to remember the peers you grew up with. Getting to look back years later to remember the memories, dances, and all the exciting days through the year is more meaningful than you'd think. This year at ZB, our yearbook theme is "Reflection."

Senior Alysha Pimentel came up with this theme. She mentions how this yearbook means different things to different grade levels. Underclassmen can use this yearbook to look at this past year and think of what they'll possibly do the next year. As for upperclassmen, especially seniors, you can look back at this yearbook and reminisce about your last year of high school. Alysha shares, "I know how I

Photo credit: ZB Yearbook



feel about the school year ending as it's my senior year, so I feel like seniors would like to look back and reflect on their senior year." Take this opportunity to make memories, grow as a person, and have the chance to look back and reflect on your high school experience; buy a copy on yearbookorder-center.com (school code: 8258) today! Online sales close on April 6th.

Hallway gatherings a success

(Continued from page 1)

the quarter or semester."

Administration believes that hall gatherings have been successful in getting students to class on time. For example, "When we did our first hall gathering this year, I believe it was about 150+ kids, and the last one we did there was about 20," says Livingston. The hall gatherings are not meant to catch students that may be a few seconds

late to class, but rather for those that roam the building several minutes after the bell rings. Dr. Brown sends this final message to students: "Please don't get caught up in [hall gatherings]. Find an appropriate route to each class and stick to it. Limit the kinds of hallway interactions that may cause you to be late. Study hall, advisory, and lunch count too!"

Law requires safety drills

(Continued from page 1)

enforcement drill that addresses an active threat or active shooter within a school building," said Dr. King. Of course we know that safety is the number one priority in schools, but what are we actually preventing? Mr. Henry, Assistant to the Deans

and Safety, answered the question with "making a critical mistake during an emergency situation!"

As the school year proceeds, look out for more safety drills and keep in mind their importance.

ZB boys soccer header goes viral

By Mia Mitchel
Editor-in-Chief

Throughout this season, the Boy's Soccer team has had a lot of exciting moments. One of these moments was a goal scored by Ronald Bardeles, which was captured on video, and went viral on TikTok through the zbsths.soccer account.

Ronald Bardeles is a sophomore, and has impressively been on the boy's varsity soccer team for the past two years. In the viral video, Bardeles scores the goal with his head, and flies forward in the air as he does it. "My teammate crossed the ball to me, and I told myself 'I was going to score no matter what' in my head; I did it, and I put my body to the ball and scored," Bardeles states.

Emotions were high since the goal was so exciting. When asked how scoring the goal felt for him, Bardeles stated, "It felt very nice since it was my first goal, and the way I scored, it just felt really nice, and it was a great feeling." Based on the shaky camera and loud cheering in the viral video, everyone else on the field and in the stands clearly felt great about the goal too.

As of right now, the TikTok video has nearly a million views, and almost 200,000 likes. The comment section raves with support, with some viewers saying, "W assist, W goal, W edit, W team," and "what a beauty." Bardeles is even being compared to Van Persie, a Dutch soccer player who scored a similar goal in the 2014 FIFA

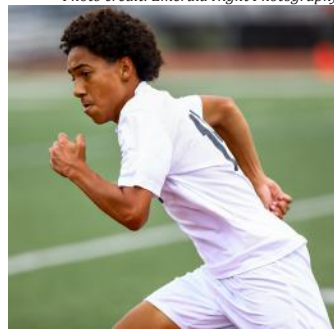
World Cup. "I didn't expect the video to go viral honestly. Then it just kept getting more and more views, and everyone kept telling me about it. I still feel surprised," Bardeles stated.

Overall, the soccer season for Bardeles and the team was fairly successful. Individually, Bardeles says, "The soccer season for me honestly went pretty well. I think I improved because I wasn't a starter, but I worked really hard, and I

became a starter." The energetic video shows how effective Ronald Bardeles is on the field, and shows some of his steps towards improvement. Regarding the team, Bardeles states, "I also think it went really well, we got way better as a team, chemistry, and we just had a good time throughout the season."

Through the energy, chemistry, and skills shown in the viral video, it's clear that not only is Ronald Bardeles an impressive soccer player, but the Zee-Bee Varsity Boys Soccer team is impressive as a whole. Even though the soccer season has just ended, we hope to see more success from the Boys Soccer program here at Zion, and maybe even some more "Flying Dutchman-like" goals in the future.

Photo credit: Emerald Night Photography



Basketball changes with new coaches

By Gabriel Acosta & Jose Zavala
Stinger Reporters

With Zee-Bee fall sports coming to a close, we are welcoming of a new season of winter sports at Zion-Benton. One of those sports is basketball, a favorite for Zee-Bees.

Mr. Worthington's retirement from coaching Boys Basketball last year left important shoes to fill. Mr. Roderick Henry, our school's Assistant Director of Safety, took over this year's Boys Basketball sea-

son as the new head coach and will be coming into the program to continue on improving the Boys Basketball team at Zion-Benton for many years to come.

When asked about what he was looking forward to this upcoming season Mr. Henry said, "Since we struggled last season, I can see how much better we have gotten from last year because the schedules this year are almost identical." With Mr. Henry coaching the Boys Basketball team now as head coach,

he was asked what was his goal would be for program as a whole. He said, "Since 2008 we have not won a conference championship. We have had several good players, even division 1 players, and several good teams. None of the teams have won a conference championship. My goal is to not win just one but several conference championships."

We look forward to cheering on the teams in the coming years and wish Mr. Henry success.

Photo credit: Emerald Night Photography





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