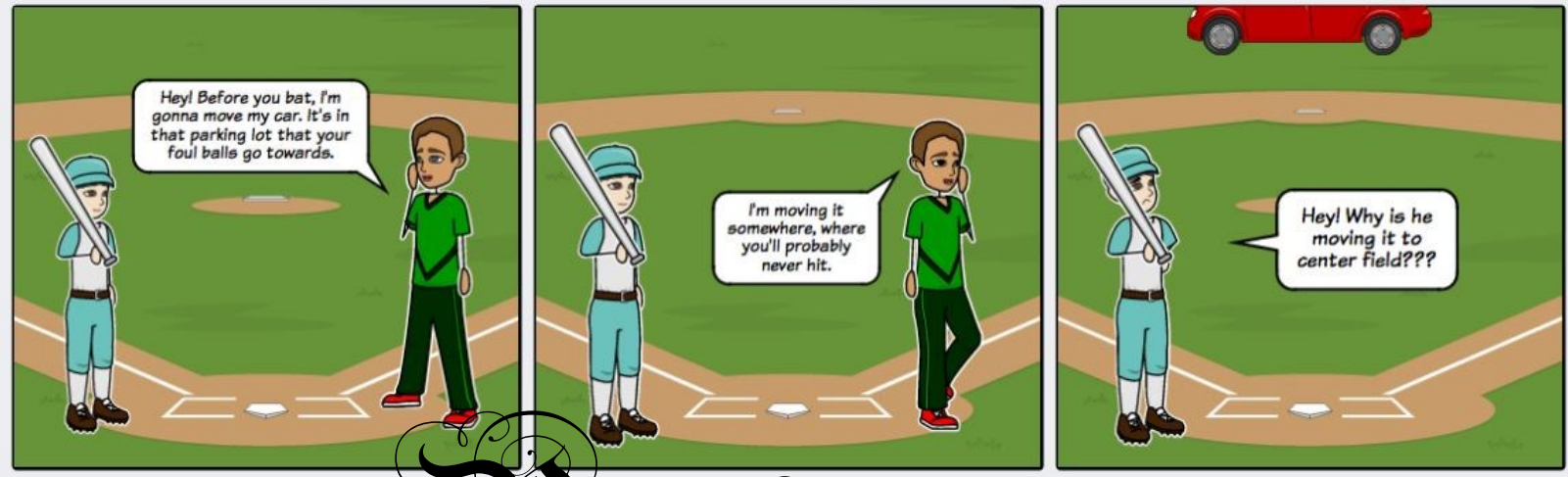




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COMIC
WRITTEN BY JACK E.
"STORYBOARD THAT"
DESIGN BY ANGELENA M.

Parchment departments

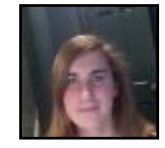
MISS KNOW-IT-ALL'S COLUMN OF TRENDY THINGS
BY MISS KNOW-IT-ALL

With the New Year starting, a lot of new trends have hit the list of things to write about, but one of my favorites are the shoes with light-up soles. These chic things are super-cute with a modern twist. They also come in many different styles and colors. For example, some people might have metallic silver shoes, while others might have solid black ones with blue lights. No matter which type of light-up shoes you wear, they're all part of the same fun trend!

FEBRUARY ART & POETRY CONTEST

Our **February contest** is for original art and poetry **all about love and chocolate**. Your art should be on plain, white paper (no notebook paper, please!), and your poem must be neatly printed or typed. Turn in poetry and artwork to **Ms. Rohlf-Hill** rohlf-hille@mtnbrook.k12.al.us by **Friday, February 17th**. Include **your name, grade, and homeroom teacher**. We look forward to seeing your creativity, and the winning pieces will be published in the February edition of the paper!

As always, any student in any grade is welcome to participate.



THE ROLY-POLY POLAR BEAR

BY MOLLY M.

We know the polar bear as the Arctic bear, but what else do we know about this phenomenal creature? The ursus maritimus (scientific name) lives north of the Arctic Circle, in a colder climate, which the polar bear is made for. When I mean made for the cold, I really mean made for the cold. The polar bear is white so he can blend in to his environment. When it snows, you can't see them. How do they stay warm? With only the white fur, they couldn't stay that warm,

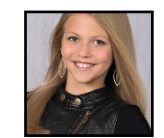
but if you look beneath the covers, you'll see black skin! Black can attract light, and this can keep the polar bear warm. How long do they live? The average polar bear lives for about 25 years, or on rare occasions they may live up to 30 years old! How do they hunt? Well, these animals have a diet where they have to eat seals. Now that's an appetite! So, polar bears have to go on ice to catch their prey. Now, an average male polar bear weighs

1700 pounds, so they have to be pretty agile on the ice, or they might break it. The polar bear is a really fascinating creature, but this animal is in danger. Ice is basically their fridge, but there is a shortage of ice, and it's getting harder for polar bears to hunt. It's tragic, but polar bears are in danger of extinction. More polar bears starve each year, especially during the summers. With melting ice, their habits are disappearing. There are only about 20,000 left on earth.



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MAKE IT A YEAR TO REMEMBER



BY KENDALL C.

How can you make 2017 a year to remember? 2017 is going to be the best year ever, or one you'll just want to forget. It is up to you! You are the decision maker. Let's make some goals to help you make 2017 a life-changing year!

What are some problems that you think 2016 had? What can you fix? How can you fix them? You can even encourage your family to set a family goal together. This year think about helping around the house: do the dishes, take out the garbage, clean the fish tank, or anything that is a part of your family life.

When you make goals, make sure you stick to them. Hang them up around your house or in your room. When you achieve your goals, check them off. Not all goals may be achieved, but it's okay. Making goals is just one of many ways to make 2017 great!

MBE WELCOMES NEW TEACHERS: A SERIES



MS. SWANN: A NEW FACE AT MBE

BY CROMWELL E.

Say hello to a new teacher, Ms. Swann! Ms. Swann was a student teacher last year, and this year is her first year being a full teacher. She loves MBE!

Ms. Swann's mom was a teacher, but she herself did not decide what she wanted to do until she was in college.



She can teach kindergarten through sixth grade.

Ms. Swann lives in Homewood, and she has several hobbies. She loves to hang out with family, and she is an Alabama fan (she even goes to games!). Ms. Swann also likes to listen to a band called Red Hot Chili Peppers. She listens to Adele, too.

She has one dog, a chocolate lab named Luke. Luke is named after Luke Skywalker from Star Wars.

Ms. Swann teaches second grade, so go on upstairs, and see her! Let's welcome our new teacher, Ms. Swann, to MBE!





HABIT FOCUS FOR THE MONTH: SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND...

BY CAROLINE F.

The habit focus for the month is "Seek first to understand, then to be understood." You can seek first to understand by **listening** to whomever is talking. For example, if you are sitting in class, and you have a question about what you are learning, the teacher may answer it while you are waving your hand up in the air, worrying about that one question. By the time he calls on you, he may have moved on and says, "Were you listening? I answered that question 10 minutes ago." Here is another example:

The MBE 6th graders are trying out for the school play, High School Musical, Jr. You are very nervous because you really want the role you are trying out for and have memorized the lines perfectly. As soon as you step on stage, a fire drill sounds, and you never had time to audition. You feel angry because they said you could audition again after the drill, but they forgot to call your name. They call the person behind you instead. At this point you are really mad because you think they lied to you, so you storm off the stage. At the moment they correct the error you are already off stage and angry. You get an email from the judges, but unfortunately they say they have already chosen all of the lead roles.

This could happen if you don't seek first to understand, then to be understood. When the judges made an error, you should have politely spoken with them if they didn't fix the problem on their own. Then, they would have allowed you to audition. Don't be the person in the example who worked so hard and never even got to audition--and maybe could have been the lead role!



WACKY WEATHER

BY BRANNON V.

This school year's weather has been up and down for months now. For a while we were in a Stage 4 drought, with no precipitation for almost two months.

We had a very warm Halloween, and an awfully warm "not-so-winter" break with temperatures in the mid 70's.

At the end of December and for a small part of January, we had long, hard rains.

Soon after that, on January 6-8th it was icy, and it snowed!

Now it's starting to warm up again to the upper 60's with a small bit of humidity. Our weather will probably be going up and down for while!



TEACHER'S PET: THE DOGS OF MBE

BY CROMWELL E.

Say hello to Sam and Lucy, Mrs. McCombs's dogs! Sam and Lucy live in Trussville, Alabama.

Sam is five years old, and his birthday is November 14th. Sam loves to play with toys and sleeps at the end of the bed at Mrs. McCombs's feet.

Lucy is nine years old, and her birthday is August 8th. Lucy loves to sleep. She even lies down to eat! She sleeps at Mr. McCombs's feet.

A cool thing about Sam and Lucy is that they have NEVER gone to the bathroom in the house. Their favorite thing to do is play chase around the pool. Additionally, their favorite treat is Cheerios. Mrs. McCombs says that they are like built-in security systems.

She loves Sam and Lucy. I hope you do, too!



Dear Friend,
You shouldn't be worried. Since she's new, she might be a little shy, so don't worry. She'll come around soon, and you might not be best friends, but you can still be friends. For now, be nice to her, and make her feel at home here at MBE.



her feel at home here at MBE.

Sincerely,
Miss Know-It-All



ASK MISS KNOW- IT-ALL

BY MISS KNOW-IT-ALL

Dear Miss Know-It-All,
There is a person in my grade who is so mean to me. They correct everything I do wrong and yell at me every day. Sadly, they are in my home room. Please help!

Sincerely,
Annoyed,
6th Grade



Dear Annoyed,
I REALLY UNDERSTAND why you're so annoyed. They should watch what they say. Try to be calm, confident, and collected when

they are mean to you. Tell them something that will silence their rudeness but won't offend them, such as, "Everyone makes mistakes, even you. I don't think you would like it if I corrected everything you do wrong. I would like to do things my way." Remember, you're the boss of yourself, not others!

Sincerely,
Miss Know-It-All

Dear Miss Know-It-All,
I don't know if some of my friends are really my friends, or are just being nice to me and secretly don't like me. I try to be nice to them, but I don't know if they want to hang out with me. What do I do?

From,
Snackless, 4th Grade

Dear Snackless,
It sounds like people are faking friendships on you. I've learned to just ignore it. Even if they don't like you, be kind to them. If that doesn't work, the best thing to do is be nice, but find somebody else to be your friend. Or, your friends might be true, honest friends. Even if they're not, be kind to them, and always do what's right by them.

Sincerely,
Miss Know-It-All

Dear Miss Know-It-All,
I am friends with everyone in my grade but this one girl. She is new, and she won't talk to me. I want to be her friend. Help!

From,
Friend, 5th Grade

MBE SPORTS CENTER



DOWN GOES DAK

BY OLIVER S.

The Dallas Cowboys played the Green Bay Packers in an NFC divisional.

The Cowboys were down 13-28 with 5:38 remaining, the Packers threw an interception, and they drove down to score with 1:38 left in the quarter.

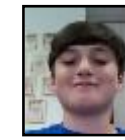
The Packers fumbled, and the Cowboys returned it to convert the two-point conversion. The Packers



drove down the field and made a diving catch at the 50.

With three seconds left on the clock, Sidney Crosby lined up for a 56-yard field goal, then timeout was called by the Cowboys. They came back out, and Crosby stepped back, wound up, and kicked it right thru the uprights!

The Green Bay Packers won and are going on to the NFC Championship.



PLAYOFFS AND THE NEW YEAR'S BOWLS

BY JACK E.

In the biggest bowl games of the year we had some great games.

In the first playoff game, the Peach Bowl, Alabama beat Washington 24-7. Alabama's running back Bo Scarbrough rushed for 180 yards and two touchdowns.

In the other playoff Clemson beat Ohio State 31-0. Clemson quarterback Deshaun Watson accounted for 316 yards and three touchdowns.

The New Year's six bowl games started off with a big one when Florida State beat Michigan 33-32 in the Orange Bowl. Oklahoma beat Auburn 35-19 in the Sugar Bowl. In the Rose Bowl USC beat Penn State 52-49 in a shootout. In the Cotton Bowl Wisconsin beat Western Michigan 24-16.

These six bowl games kicked off the New Year and closed down football season.



PLAYER PROFILE: TRENDON WATFORD

BY WALKER R.



Trendon Watford is a 6'8" sophomore guard for the Mountain Brook Spartans basketball team.

Watford is the younger brother of former Shades Valley High School and Indiana University star, Christian Watford, who hit the famous "Wat Shot" to knock off number one Kentucky.

Trendon is ranked number three overall on ESPN for the class of 2019.

Watford really opens up the floor for the perimeter-oriented Spartans offense. He can pull up from deep, put the ball on the floor and drive, drive and kick it outside, or post up down low. He also grabs a lot of rebounds to get the Spar-

tans' fast-break game started.

Watford is averaging 23.8 points, 11.2 rebounds, 1.5 blocks, and 1.2 steals per game.

Watford's mere presence on the court helps out the Spartans. Whenever he goes inside, everybody on the defense converges on him, and he can kick it out to sharpshooters such as junior guards Britton Johnson or Sean Elmore.

Watford has been the predominant force for Mountain Brook ever since he transferred from Shades Valley his freshman year, and it looks like he will continue to be for the rest of his high school career and far beyond that.



NFL WILDCARD: MOST INTERESTING GAME

BY PAYTON S.

In the first quarter, the Green Bay Packers' quarterback was sacked two times, and the New York Giants were up. Then, during the second quarter,

Aaron Rogers threw a Hail Mary, and Randle Cobb actually caught it, putting the Packers up 14 to 3. After halftime, they kept scoring, and won 38 to 13.