

THE BLUE EAGLE BULLETIN

BY STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH DR. KASKEY: MEET OUR NEW SUPERINTENDENT!

By Ella Schellenberger 


IN THIS ISSUE:

SCHOOL NEWS

- Exclusive Interview with Dr. Kaskey (1-2)
- NAMS Spelling Bee (2-3)
- Spring 2024 Events (4)
- Field Trips (5)
- NAMS's Favorite Pizza Restaurant (6)

ENTERTAINMENT

- Black History Month (7)
- Valentine's Day Fun Facts (8)
- Last-Minute Valentine's Day Gifts (8)
- Chocolate Popularity Poll (9)
- Groundhog Day (9)
- Leap Year Birthday (10)
- Color Association (11-12)
- Comics (13)



In case you didn't know, the Nazareth School District recently introduced a new superintendent, Dr. Kaskey. He is the key decision maker for a school district. Superintendents oversee all the elementary, intermediate, middle, and high schools. Their four main responsibilities are to identify needs and policies, develop regulations, provide leadership, and manage the day-to-day operation of the district. A superintendent has the majority of the responsibility in communicating with the school board. The board's job is to provide strategic direction for action, and the superintendent's job is to implement the decisions of the board.

Dr. Kaskey has been in many previous school districts. He said, "Nazareth has a lot of pride in things like sports and arts." He quickly recognized that in Nazareth the staff, community, and students work well together. "Most people want to come down to Nazareth, as it is an attractive school. As you can see, Nazareth definitely stands out. Go Blue Eagles, right?"



Dr. Kaskey

“MAKING A MISTAKE
IS LEARNING HOW
TO GROW.”
-DR. KASKEY



FEBRUARY 2024

We asked Dr. Kaskey what some of his goals are for the district in 2024. He said, “Safety and security of students and employees, and inclusive empathetic environment for students. School police force and safety. Build trust by clear and direct communication. Working with the director of human resources, Mr. Amato, to make the district as attractive as possible so that teachers and families are attracted to our district.” Those are just a few of the goals.

The Blue Eagle Bulletin welcomes Dr. Kaskey to Nazareth, and we look forward to seeing where he will lead us going forward.

NAMS SPELLING BEE: LAST MAN STANDING

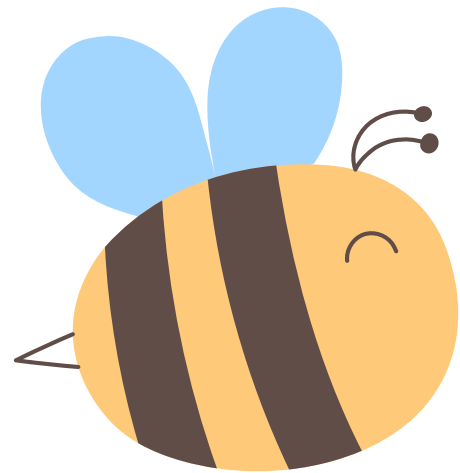
By Abby Cowan & Chloe Shive

This year opened a new chapter for the NAMS Spelling Bee with two new organizers taking over: Mrs. Musto and Mrs. Ehrlicher. They will be running future spelling bees because the previous organizer, Mrs. Reiss, retired.

Following the newfound responsibility, we asked them how they were feeling about stepping into this role. “I was really excited about it. I have always held a mini-spelling bee in the years I have been teaching, so I was very excited to be on a different side of it with other teachers... and I love a good competition,” Mrs. Musto commented. Mrs. Ehrlicher said, “I was excited and a little overwhelmed, but I’m just happy it went well.”

Many people are wondering about the level of difficulty of the school-wide spelling bee. “About a four to an eight,” Mrs. Ehrlicher answered. “The words in the bee start out easy and increase in difficulty as you progress.” “I think they are challenging but doable, so around 7 to 8,” Mrs. Musto noted.

Both teachers have enjoyed the new experience. “Definitely,” Mrs. Musto added. “It’s been really fun. I loved working with Mrs. Ehrlicher.” Mrs. Ehrlicher mentioned, “I really enjoyed getting together the little prizes for the team winners and the overall winner.”



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A great deal of work goes into running a spelling bee at this level. Mrs. Ehrbacher said, “There is a good amount of work that goes into it. It involves organization and planning, which Mrs. Musto and I are really good at. We started in September, so we were excited when it all came together.”

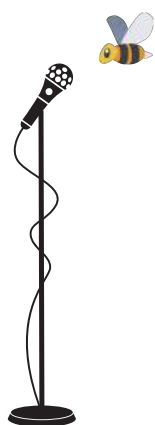
Mrs. Musto had a similar answer, but she said, “There was a lot of work behind the scenes. We had to register the nominees, pay the fee, gather everybody's winners, and sign up the winners for the state and final spelling bee. We have been doing it since late September.”

The spelling bee itself was a very competitive one, and like any other spelling bee, there is a winning word- the word that the winner of the bee spelled correctly for the victory. This year, the winning word was “commandments,” spelled correctly by Arjun Garg, who took the top spot. Meera Mody took second and Nick Knight third. Gift cards were awarded to these top three spellers. First place received \$150, second place got \$100, and third place \$75.

The next step for the winners is Regionals, where they will travel and compete with the winners from other schools. Then the winners of that bee will move on to States, and the winners from that will go on to the Scripps National Spelling Bee, where they will compete with other students from all over the country. The winner of the national bee will win a grand prize of \$50,000.



NAMS Spelling Bee Champion Arjun Garg (center) with Dr. Bauder (left) and Mr. Fidelibus (right)



Congratulations!

FEBRUARY 2024

SPRING EVENTS: TESTS, TRIPS, AND MORE!



by Ava McCartney

Since winter is practically over, it's time to think of spring. As we all know, we had many winter activities such as the Winter Formal, Color Wars, and more. This upcoming spring we are going to be experiencing a lot, but the ones to be thinking of are the Spring Formal, PSSAs, our middle school musical, and Eagle Olympics.

The Spring Formal will be held on May 10, and has the same dress code as the Winter Formal. It should also be a great time, especially with warmer weather coming soon.

Testing season is upon us! We also have PSSAs coming up in April, and all students will attend a meeting about how to prepare for these standardized tests. Speaking of standardized tests, 8th graders will be taking their Keystones in the beginning of May. We will also have our benchmarks 3 and 4 in the last two quarters.

Our school's theatre troupe will be performing the musical *Matilda*, and Ava Semos will be playing the lead role as Matilda this year.

And lastly what most of the 8th and 7th graders can't wait for is Eagle Olympics. Eagle Olympics is a school-wide event that occurs over two days, one for 7th grade and one for 8th grade. There will be numerous activities spread throughout the inside and outside of the school, and students will be put onto teams to compete with other teams. In the end, the top teams will compete for the overall championship.

Overall, as we go into spring, we may experience some stress from the testing, but it will be overshadowed by lots and lots of fun.



FEBRUARY 2024

A TRIP INTO FIELD TRIPS: WHAT'S THE LOWDOWN?

by Riley Williams



Field trips are easily some of the most exciting aspects of school, with students and teachers taking a trip to somewhere fun for the whole day! Whether it's a trip to a theme park, sports game, or a movie, field trips are a hallmark of school. With that being said, this leads to a huge pool of possible places to visit this school year. So far there's only been one major field trip at NAMS, with seventh grade taking a trip to Blue Mountain. However, 7th grade will also attend an Iron Pigs game during spring.

So what does that leave for 8th grade? Some of the most wanted field trips range from theme parks like Dorney and Hershey Park, or baseball games and zoos. With so many options to choose from, it's pretty unlikely that the field trip you want the most will be the one selected, so I've decided to talk to people who decide what our field trips will be to see if I can convince them to accept the field trip that students want the most!

After consulting with our assistant vice principal, Mr. Fidelibus, we were able to narrow down the choices to Dorney Park, Hershey Park, and Knoebels. Now, if you haven't seen it already, there is currently a Google form available on Schoology to vote for which park 8th grade will visit. So 8th grade won't be receiving 2 field trips this year, but I think the options more than make up for it. All that's left to do is to wait until the final results of the voting are in. One thing is for certain...it is nice that our school has given us a voice. Now is our opportunity to use it!



HERSHEYPARK

Dorney Park

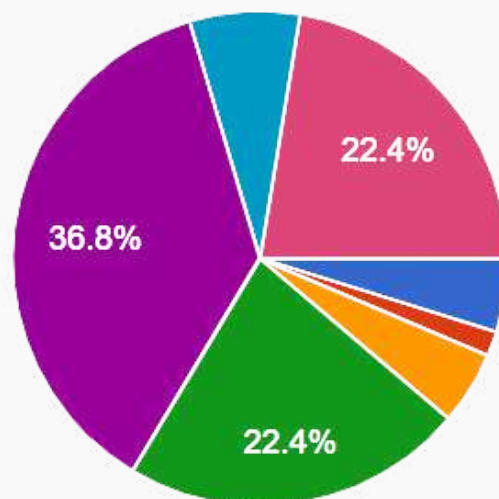


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NATIONAL PIZZA DAY IN NAZARETH: WHAT'S OUR SCHOOL'S PICK?

by Addie Bensing

Three billion pizzas are sold in the USA every year. That's a lot of pizzas! February 9th is National Pizza Day, the day to celebrate all these pizzas being devoured by hungry Americans each year. We are lucky to have a great variety of pizza shops in Nazareth, with many different flavors and kinds of pizza. Out of all the terrific pizza shops in Nazareth, everyone has their favorite. A survey was sent out from the *Blue Eagle Bulletin* to get feedback on NAMS's favorite Nazareth pizza shop, which will receive a certificate of appreciation from *The BEB*. All Nazareth pizza shops are loved, but Sicily Pizza was awarded the most votes and will receive the certificate sometime in the coming weeks! Sicily's pizza is truly great, and the restaurant is within walking distance of the Middle School, which is why many students like to hang out there and grab a bite after long days of school. Sicily Pizza has proven to be a NAMS favorite for many years now, so we are very happy to finally be giving this wonderful, family-owned business the recognition it deserves.



- Bella Napoli Trattoria
- Leo's Pizza (Talamy)
- Nazareth Pizza/Pino's
- Pizza Joe
- Sicily
- Tony's (Stockertown)
- Tuscana



Every Nazareth pizza shop received votes in our poll, but Sicily came out on top.



FEBRUARY 2024

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: A RICH HISTORY TO RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE



by *Chloe Shive*

Each February we celebrate Black History Month, but few people know how this observance came about. According to *npr.org*, it was Carter G. Woodson, who is known as the "father of Black history," who in 1926 first proposed a set time period to promote and educate people about Black history and culture. In 1976 after many Black students protested for Negro History Week to be changed, President Gerald Ford turned it into a month to celebrate all African-Americans and their heritage everywhere!

But why February? Why not December, or January? February was chosen because both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass have birthdays in the second week of February. These are two historical figures revered in the Black community. Woodson originally created Negro History Week around the two birthdays as a way of "commemorating the Black past," according to Association for the Study of African-American Life and History (ASALH).

Each year, Black History Month has a specific theme. ASALH decided that the 2024 theme is "African-Americans and the Arts," showing the many impacts black Americans have had on visual arts, music, cultural movements, etc.

There are many ways to celebrate Black History Month. You can support Black-owned businesses, watch a film that involves the participation and/or representation of Black people, read a book by a Black author, and so much more. Even though I usually don't celebrate it, I still like to read a book by a Black author in February. It doesn't sound like much, but a little can go a long way to celebrate a culture that has done much to contribute to this country.



FEBRUARY 2024

MY FUNNY VALENTINE: 5 FUN FACTS ABOUT VALENTINE'S DAY

by *Natalie Reagle*



Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate the emotion of love and thank the people around you whom you love by getting them a card, flowers, a treat, or even just saying "thank you." Here are five interesting facts you may not know about this special holiday.

- Teachers receive the most valentines.
- 85% of Valentine's Day cards are bought by women.
- Candy hearts used to be used as medicine.
- The saying "wear your heart on your sleeve" is a result of a custom where a man would draw a heart on a woman's sleeve to symbolize their love.
- Valentine's Day is named after Saint Valentine.

LAST-MINUTE GIFTS: VALENTINE'S EDITION!

by *Sophia Dollak*

Are you trying to find that perfect gift for that special someone? Well, you're in luck! Here are a few last-minute gift ideas that are perfect for Valentine's Day. First, if you're looking for something more budget friendly, flowers are an amazing option. Chocolate covered strawberries are also a great choice. A more trendy gift would be a bae basket. A bae basket is a new gift that's been showcased on TikTok throughout the previous holiday seasons. Some items you could put in include heart-shaped candies, chocolates, balloons, blankets, gift cards, hand-made cards, etc. If you don't want to spend any money at all, there are a bunch of things you could do! Anything like writing a poem, writing a song, or even going on a sunset walk. Lastly, if you want to go somewhere to spend some time together, a good activity to do with your partner would be to go mini- golfing, see a movie, go ice skating, or get a bite to eat. But no matter what gift you get for your special someone, they will greatly appreciate it!



FEBRUARY 2024

CHOCOLATEY CHOICES: WHAT'S POPULAR?

by Shay Negrao



<input type="radio"/> Nestle	5 votes
<input type="radio"/> Lindt	22 votes
<input type="radio"/> Hershey	93 votes
<input type="radio"/> Ghirardelli	21 votes
<input type="radio"/> Mars	5 votes
<input type="radio"/> Cadbury	4 votes

Our poll results

With Valentine's Day right around the corner, everybody is giving out sweets to their loved ones. There are tons of chocolate companies out there, but we asked NAMS for their top three. Hershey's Chocolate is number one, with 93 votes. Hershey's Chocolate was established in 1894 by Milton Hershey. Coming in at number two is Lindt, which was given 22 votes, beating third place by one. This company was created by Rodolphe Lindt in the year of 1879. Last but not least, Ghirardelli, who was chosen by 21 students. This chocolate company was created in 1852 by the founder, Domenico "Domingo" Ghirardelli.

Regardless of what company you prefer, I think we can all agree that chocolate makes the world a better place. Happy Valentine's Day!

PHILLING OUR MINDS: THE DIRT ON GROUNDHOG DAY

by Kaley Heredia



Many people know this classic tradition we hear about every year: Groundhog Day. If you're not aware already, the story is that on February 2nd of every year the groundhog will come out of hibernation and predict how much longer the cold winter will last. If the groundhog can see his shadow, the cold weather will last a couple more weeks and he will return back to hibernation. If he can't see his shadow, the warm weather will be near. This year Phil did not see his shadow!

We know the story, but who started Groundhog Day and why? Why do we celebrate it as tradition? Clymer Freas, who worked as a newspaper editor, is credited as the "father" of Groundhog Day. He died in 1942, and today this Groundhog Day celebration is led by a group, the Inner Circle. The celebration was first made for weather predictions, like we still practice today. Freas used his editorial power to introduce Phil, the weather predicting groundhog. Phil's fame began to spread, and newspapers from around the world started to talk about Phil's weather predictions. Nowadays, it remains a popular tradition we still use to "predict" our weather.

FEBRUARY 2024

LEAP YEAR: THE BIRTHDAY EXPERIENCE

by Brie Pacana



As many people may know, this February is a Leap Year and will have 29 days instead of the usual 28. This might not be too exciting for some people, but for others it can be. This will be the 517th Leap Year since it began, and its discovery dates all the way back to 45 B.C. Even though it has been around for a long time, most people don't even know why we have it. So let's date back hundreds of years and try to grasp onto what Leap Year really is and why we have it.

Well, as you know, there are 365 days in a year except, that's a lie! What I mean is that we don't have exactly 365 days in 1 year. It is more accurately 365 days and $\frac{1}{4}$. But we don't account for that quarter day at the end of each year and just have a 6 hour day, so we have a day added onto February every 4 years instead. Because that's how math works... $\frac{1}{4}$ times 4 (the years) is 1. If we never accounted for that one day, the calendar would be so out of whack. After 200 years we would be a whole 50 days ahead without that one extra day. So that is why every 4 years we have the added day in February, called Leap Year.

Now you can see how truly important this one day is to telling and keeping time itself. A question you could have is what would happen if someone was born on February 29, a leap day? Well, luckily I happen to have a brother who was; so I asked him what that is like for him, and here are his answers. He said that his friends are always asking him on what day he celebrates his birthday, which is February 28. People also ask him what his Leap Year age is, which will be 4. Some people might think that this birthday can be annoying, but he says that it is really cool because of how rare it is. In fact, something special happened when he was born. A news crew came into the hospital room and interviewed his mom and dad about having a Leap Year baby, and he made it on the 5 o'clock news!

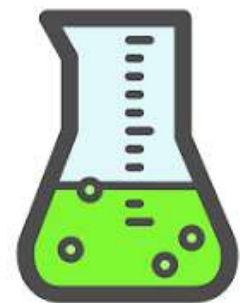
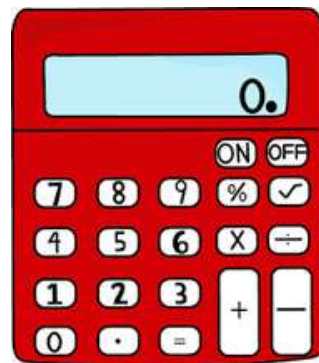
On this February 29th, take some time to appreciate the idea of a Leap Year. It may be strange, but it is certainly necessary. And if you are lucky enough to be one of the .1% of the population born on a Leap Day, just realize how rare your birthday really is.

FEBRUARY 2024

SUBJECT/COLOR ASSOCIATION: A DEEP DIVE INTO A PSYCHOLOGICAL PHENOMENON

by Noah Keys

The psychology of color association is a fascinating topic. Though there are many contexts it can be taken into, one of the most controversial areas is what color the school subjects are. The wide array of passionate answers you'll get if you ask a group of people what color a certain subject represents is astonishing. So, in order to find out our school's definitive answer to this peculiar phenomenon, we conducted an experiment. Some students recently participated in a survey, asking 4 simple questions. What colors are the subjects?



Math is typically the most debated subject of them all. However, most respondents to the survey agree with the general consensus that Math is associated with the color red, clocking out at 54% of answers. Interestingly enough, the majority of people that answered red reasoned with the fact that Math is associated with difficulty for them, and that red represents those feelings of resentment towards math as a subject. For the 37% of people that answered with blue, they noted that it represents ease, or even a sense of calmness. Though red and blue were the primary answers, there were a wide variety of colors (including black, green, white, and yellow).

Next, what color is Science? To no one's surprise, green won this question by a comically large margin. A whopping 73% of respondents said green was their color of choice for Science! Lots of reasons for the response of green included something along the lines of reminding them of nature or chemicals. Green's overwhelming lead over Science is on such a stronghold that any other color is divided relatively equally. However, blue makes the next biggest stand, only coming in at a pathetic 10%. The rest of the colors all only make 15% combined! Green takes this subject with flying colors.

FEBRUARY 2024

Science obviously has the clear answer, but what about Social Studies? Despite the fact that it still has a definitive majority answer, responses are much more equally divided among colors this time. Yellow is the people's color of choice this time around, finishing at 34% of votes. Interestingly enough, there doesn't seem to be a whole lot of reasoning for this color association. However, there is a very close race for the secondary spot! Blue came in at 16% of votes. But purple is at 15%, so even just a few votes could very easily have swayed the results. Social Studies also sees the widest variety of unique responses. Green, gray, and even orange were all frequent answers among the smaller percentages. Ultimately, despite the rainbow of colors present in the responses, yellow still conquers over all other colors when it comes to geography/history class.

Last but certainly not least, ELA. Even though Social Studies boasts the widest set of answers, ELA possesses the most evenly split responses. Red is the most popular answer among respondents, at 28%, but yellow is not far behind at all with 21%. Blue, purple, and green also contain noteworthy amounts of responses, totaling at around 16%, 13%, and 9% respectively. Similar to Social Studies, most don't have a definitive reason; those that answered red say that it represents a book, or a book's power to stir up emotions. However, some noted

something similar to Math in that ELA is difficult or not fun in their eyes. In any case, it seems that red is, once again, the response of choice this time around.



It seems like everyone has a vastly different opinion on what colors they associate with school subjects. Though there is no truly "correct" answer, it is still fascinating that people believe in these associations so strongly, despite not being able to put a finger on exactly why. I encourage you all to go ask your friends what color they think these subjects are; it will most likely spawn a treasure trove of friendly arguments. Thank you to all who participated in the survey a while back, as its results were the data used in this article!

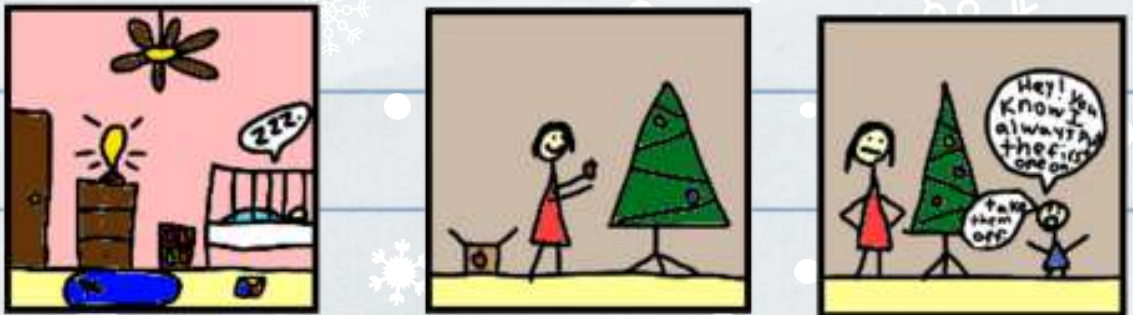
COMICS

by Charles Wagner

Travel Boys



The Baby Life



Barnyard Bash



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