

# THE BLUE & WHITE

December 2017/Issue 1



## Heard it in the Halls

- "Those are some nice ears boy"
- "That's quite a graham cracker"
- "Of course it says I'm the gay best friend"
- "HEY! KEEP YOUR SHOES ON"
- "Autocorrect changed body to meatball"

## Clubs and Activities: Merrill Middle School Student Council

by Crey Abbas

Recently we interviewed Henry Gonzalez, who ran for 8th grade student council president with a running mate of Isabelle Brace for vice president.

Speaking with Henry led to the discovery that there have not been many people running this year for the election. "I am trying to have a smoother election this year, and get more things done with my campaign," said Gonzalez.



Ms. Nolan, the director of the student council program was also interviewed. We asked her why there weren't many people running. She said "Well, we had a meeting just today and we are trying to put up more posters in the halls to gain more publicity," said Ms. Nolan. When asked about speeches, she replied with "The speeches are just people saying why people should vote for them and why they would be good on student council... the speeches will be written, and will be posted in the hallways and my (Ms. Nolan's) room." The student council elections were held on November 13th.

The results 8th grade election were as predicted. It turns out that Henry, Isabelle, and Jamison were the only people on the ballot. Students were allowed to write in votes, but it is obvious who won the different roles. There also ended up not being any speeches, due to the lack of candidates for the election.

## What's Happening in Our World? Current Events Spotlight

By Precious Morgan

Women's rights attorney Gloria Allred held a press conference in New York City with Beverly Young Nelson to announce the accusations. She told members of the press she met Roy Moore when she was 15, and she said he assaulted her when she was 16 years old. She kept this secret for over 40 years, fearing ridicule if she decided to share, seeing that her assaulter was then the mayor of Alabama.

However, the moment Nelson decided to share her story with the world, multiple victims came forth and confessed their experiences with sexual harassment and assault as well. An entire movement to empower victims erupted across the country and around the world—exposing an underlying problem that has been hidden in shadows for much longer than most would like to admit.

These type of criminals around the U.S. have been targeting people of all ages for a long time. From 2009-2013, Child Protective Services agencies substantiated, or found strong evidence to indicate that, 63,000 children a year were victims of sexual abuse. 82% of all victims under 18 are female.

What the evidence proves is assault can happen to anyone, anytime, and anywhere and it will continue happening until the victims and supporters alike, stand up to it and say enough is enough. No matter who you are there will always be someone willing to listen to you and your problems, and help is always available if needed. This year thousands of people have been coming out with their stories all over different platforms. People have embraced their status as politicians, leaders, actors/actresses, or social media fame to step up and share what they have experienced and have given courage to others to do the same. The #metoo movement online has triggered a domino effect of support that was once seen as impossible.

One place that offers help to victims of sexual abuse is a website called [getthepowerback.org](http://getthepowerback.org). It helps people evolve from victim to survivor, and if you need such help, they are a wonderful resource. The ultimate message to remember is that no matter what, there are vast resources available to help if you or someone you know has been a victim of someone else's actions. The bottom line is, victim or supporter, it is in each of us to choose to do something about this problem to make sure the way we interact with one another NEVER crosses the line again.

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## Entertainment Reviews

*Super Mario Odyssey* by Eliza Tutty

A proper entertainment column would be incomplete without mentioning the newest and most revolutionary installment in the Super Mario franchise, *Super Mario Odyssey*.



I recently interviewed a game enthusiast that completed the game in two days, former Merrill student, Noah Tutty. "It's an amazing game", said Tutty, "the gameplay is new and interesting, but is still, in a way, a throwback to games such as *Super Mario Galaxy*, *Super Mario Sunshine*, and *Super Mario 64* that are so dear to our hearts."

The game is played as everyone's favorite protagonist, Mario, as he works his way through numerous kingdoms, just like every other Mario game. The difference is in the graphics and his new companion, Cappy. With this living hat, Mario can possess his enemies, and use their traits and abilities to his advantage. To both experienced players and newbies, it is a new "old" world of fun.

*Stranger Things* by Lulu Rongerude

Stranger things have been a huge hit on everyone, everywhere, of all ages. First, season 1 premiered on July 15th of 2016. Later the highly anticipated second season was released into the U.S. on October 27th of 2017. Stranger Things features a group of young actors. Starring Finn Wolfhard as Mike, Millie Bobby Brown as Eleven, Noah Schnapp as Will, Gaten Matarazzo as Dustin, Caleb McLaughlin as Lucas and later introducing Sadie Sink as Mad Max. These actors and actresses were quickly introduced into fame.

## Comedy Corner

Tweets about the first day of school selected by Lilly Galvin



[#firstdayofschool](#) when you and yo bff gotta act like y'all don't know each other so the teacher don't separate y'all

RETWEETS  
345

LIKES  
462



[#FreshmanAdvice](#) if you see someone getting roasted don't laugh too loud or you'll be next

6/3/15, 4:26 PM

1,902 RETWEETS 1,526 FAVORITES

## **Blue & White Advice**

By Eliza Tutty and Pascal Patton-Amani

Blue and White staff here.

This is basically your average advice column; you send us questions, and we answer them to the best of our ability. Everything we do is 100% confidential and so ask away!

### **Q: My best friend is mad at me and I don't know what to do.**

Pascal's Perspective: Well I think the best thing for you to do is to try to talk to them attempt to understand why they are upset.

Apologies don't go very far- Instead of just saying "IM SORRY, IM SORRY!" Try showing them you're sorry by explaining in depth why you're apologizing or you could try explain your side of the story.

Time is the best healer- Give your friend space, allow them time to think over why there mad at you. I mean a few days not 3 months.

Eliza's Insights:

Well, I would ask them, then mutual friends to figure out why your friend is mad, and if you still can't figure it out, then I would just be honest and tell them that you are confused and sorry and hope for the best. Then, if they were still mad, I would give them some space and time. If after all of that, they remain cold and upset, then, I'm sorry to say, they might not be your friend in the first place.

### **Q: People make fun of me and I don't know what to do can you give me any tips on how to deal with this?**

Pascal's Perspective: Ignore them and surround yourself with people that care about you and support you. Their insecurity shouldn't affect you- They might be upset with themselves and that's why they are insulting you and bullying you. Ignoring them can work, but confronting them can too. Although confronting them can work, be cautious. The best thing to do is tell a trusted adult to help you figure out the best plan for YOU.

Eliza's Insights: Hey, we've all been there! I think what I would have wanted to know at that point in time, is that it's not you. People take out their own problems on others, and those who are their outlet often blame themselves. While, at the time, it may suck, and you might feel like you were targeted for a reason, but really, truly, it has nothing to do with you.



We would like to invite our editors, students, and staff to express themselves in each issue. If you have anything you'd like to share, let us know!

~Blue and White Staff

From the desk of Precious Morgan...

Merrill is a school full of diversity and rich in unique cultures, but have you ever noticed that often the different ethnicities stay to themselves and form cliques? Don't get me wrong; Merrill is very accepting and open, but it's very evident that different races tend to stick together. In this school many people notice the separation of racial friend groups and the fact the some races, cultures, and ethnicities seem to always be together or apart from other races. Some might be confused by why this always seems to happen, but ultimately, it may just be human nature. When people have things in common, they tend to have more of a connection then when they have less in common. Also, when you share similarities with your friends you tend to relate and have a level of familiarity when you're around them. Much like your friends, if we all work to accept and respect this school and all its people, we can all be completely comfortable and familiar and kind towards each other. **BE KIND!**

## We Tried It...

### ...So You Don't Have To!

The Blue & White staff is going to dedicate trying new things each month together as a group. DIY crafts, new fashion trends, social experiments, recipes, and much more.

We will bring you the results of our experiences so you can decide what things YOU can try!

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This month, our staff walked around the school with hats and hoods on, and counted how many times we were asked to remove said hats and hoods. Overall, we discovered that while the response was not always immediate, ANY student wearing a hat or hood in the hallways would eventually be reminded of the school's expectation of no hats/hoods.

To begin, one member walked down both hallways on both levels once before and once directly after the last bell before first period, and passed every teacher. She was told exactly twice to take it off. Another team member went to all of her classes with her hood on, and only was told once to remove it. Another hall-walker went through and got 3 teachers to tell her to take it off. The last one of us that performed this experiment had a bit more consistent results, as every teacher reminded him that hoods are not allowed at Merrill. In summary, while some of us did not very constant reminders of the school rules, as a whole, any kid walking through the Mustang halls will eventually be told to remove a rule-breaking article of clothing.

So remember to keep your hoods and hats off your heads!

## Equality for All

By Alex Davis and Lilly Galvin

Equality – the state of being equal, especially in status, rights, opportunities. (Merriam Webster Online Dictionary)

Today, as on any given day, equality is very important. Whether it has to do with race, gender, religion, sexuality, or any other matter, without equality bad things would happen. Such as protests/boycotts, economical crashes, and rebellion. Even though these demonstrations and chaos are a risk in our daily lives, many people STILL aren't treated as equals.

Often the people who receive the backlash of the chaos and conflict, are the people of the LGBT+ community. People treat them differently because in those people's eyes, they are different, not just people. Some think they are sinners, others think it may be unnatural, that they choose to be that way. But this is not the case, that's almost saying you can choose to be straight. People that are part of the LGBT+ community get harassed every day because they choose to walk down the street with the one they love. This usually happens with gay and lesbian people, whereas bisexual and pansexual people don't experience this problem as much, because they like the opposite gender as well as others, though it is still a problem they face.



By becoming more informed and learning the stories of others, we can all learn to become more accepting of the differences that make our world more diverse and stronger. The first step is gaining knowledge. The following definitions of the sexualities/genders are as follows:

Lesbian – Girls liking girls

Gay – Guys liking guys/ girls liking girls

Bisexuals – Liking two genders

Pansexual – Liking everyone

Asexual – No romantic attraction

Straight – Liking only the opposite gender

Cisgender – Identifying as the gender you were born as

Transgender - Identifying as the opposite gender that you were assigned at birth

Gender fluid - Not identifying or sticking to a specific gender

Non-binary - Not identifying as any gender