

MERRILL 2K16

Edited by Adela Obarcanin, Chealene Yorke, Lauren Mitchell

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF FEATURING MRS. MABLE HARRIS

By Clementine Dejoode, Ellie Miglin

When we got to Merrill in 6th grade, many of us noticed how genuinely kind-hearted Mrs. Mable Harris is and how much she cared and still cares about the students of Merrill middle school. We, clementine and I had the chance to go to a Merrill summer career camp that Mrs. Mable supervised; she was immediately one of our favorites. To do this interview we agreed to meet her at 7:30am. At that time, she has already been here since 6:00am, which is earlier than most staff arrive and about the time many students are starting to wake up. This just shows how much pride she has for her job.

Q: Where were you born?

A: Mobile, Alabama.

Q: What is one of your favorite memories in Alabama?

A: Being around her family doing things together; she couldn't pick just one!

Q: If you could have any job what would it be?

A: If I could have any job it would be a teacher; I love being around children.

Q: How many kids do you have?

A: I have 2 kids and a few grandchildren.

Q: What's your favorite family memory?

A: I loved to play jokes on my Mom and she would always say "I'm going to get you!"

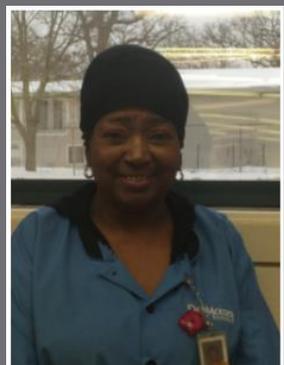
Q: What's your favorite thing about Merrill?

A: I love the environment and how close I am with the students. I also love how the kitchen staff is like my family.

Q: Do you have anything you want to tell the student body?

A: You definitely need to focus on your education, respect your elders, and oh baby, don't do drugs!

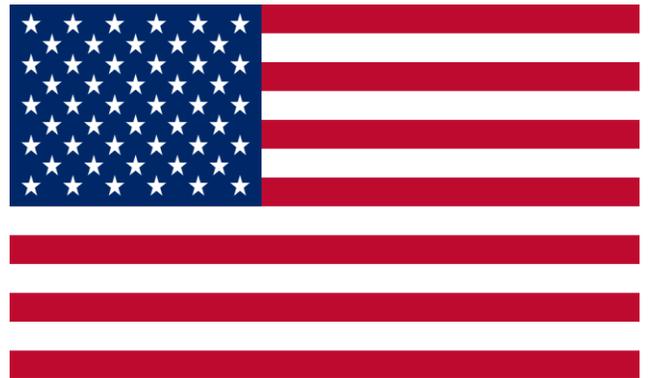
Mrs. Mable Harris



~NATIONAL UPDATE~
POLITICS

By Adela Obarcanin

By now, most of you have heard that Iowa is hosting the first caucus of the elections for 2016. We are proud to say Iowa is taking a big part in the elections. This is such an honor and we deserve it. The Democratic candidates who are still in the running include Bernie Sanders, Martin O'Malley, and Hillary Clinton. The Republican candidates still running for president are Jeb Bush, Ben Carson, Chris Christie, Ted Cruz, Carly Fiorina, Jim Gilmore, Mike Huckabee, John Kasich, Rand Paul, Marco Rubio, Rick Santorum, and Donald Trump. Even though they are all very different in personality and beliefs, they all want one thing, and that is to win president. They all want to make the United States of America great again or continue to make America great. Some people might want some to win more than others, but good luck to them all in the Presidential Elections of 2016!



TELL YOUR PARENTS/GUARDIANS TO VOTE!!!!!!



IOWA ENERGY

Come catch an Iowa Energy game for a great experience.

The tickets are cheap and you get to watch the best rising stars in the NBA D league.

It's a fun time for anybody!

Take your family and friends and come to a game.

Games are at the Wells Fargo Arena/Iowa Events Center.

The Iowa Energy is an affiliate of the Memphis Grizzlies in the NBA.

There are nightly specials on tickets, events, concessions and prizes!

Affordable merchandise is sold at the front entrance to make your memorable experience last forever!

In addition to the games, there are amazing halftime shows where you can see the best acts in Des Moines, Iowa!!

*So grab your friends and family and get
your tickets today!!!*



KICK OFF TO INDOOR SOCCER

There is an amazing new sport offered for Merrill students and it is called... Futsal! It's an exciting combination of indoor and outdoor soccer. The new sport is hosted at the nearby Theodore Roosevelt High School. Games are played on Saturdays from 4-10 o'clock (January 9 - March 5th). There are three main schools involved with this new league: three Merrill Middle School teams, one Roosevelt team, and two Callanan Middle School teams. Proudly representing Merrill include teammates Cesar Figueroa, Samuel Baruthio, Hazer Becic, Francisco Murillo-McKinney, Armin Oric, Walter Gentsch, and Marco Dalay, Sunil Siddiqi, Zenudin Omerovic, Hussein Altaee, Faruk Garibovic, Almin Duratbegovic, and Kushal Rai.

Recently, some players from the Merrill teams were interviewed about their experiences. "I think my team is doing really well so far," says Faruk Garibovic, of Merrill Team 3. "We are playing great futsal, but we all mess up eventually." He later discussed the team's current record and keeping up their fitness levels and Garibovic responded by saying, "We have won one and barely lost our second game. The team keeps up their fitness "by

drinking lots of water, milk, eating protein and low calorie meals." Finally when asked about his inspiration for the sport, Garibovic replied, "A guy named Sean Garnier."

After speaking with a member of Merrill Team 3, Sam Baruthio of Merrill Team 1 talked about the season. "We won our first game six to one," Baruthio exclaimed, "we are doing good!"

Final thoughts came from Cesar Figueroa who credits his cousin for the inspiration to play. "My cousin taught me." With inspiration coming anywhere from the professional players to those closest to them, the Merrill Middle School Futsal team pushes into their season with excitement and hope for great success!



~Zenudin Omerovic and Sunil Siddiqi

MERRILL 2K16 CROSSWORD PUZZLE

S S S P F T Q P E S K I S L E Y
W E C C Q R W C M A T H L Q T T
H D I T R X E A B C Q N W S Q I
C C E M S Y R A N O I T C I D S
N Q N V I T L Y D G C H N X L R
U N C N I N L I M I I Q S Q S E
L W E C A X E P C S N G X S N V
D B L H B I Z R T N N G A C I I
M E R R I L L O F A E L Z E Q D
S S D N E I R F T Q C P F C I Q
Q A D S E Y H S U F D Z C O T P
F P Q F R K U V X F I V D E X B
S W Q L W M O N L M F Y X V B D
U G U G P H O N I A Y T O R E W
Z I R F W E T G C S U P F J H C
V G O L H L M T Q A I O M Y G Z

CLASS

HISTORY

PENCIL

DICTIONARY

LUNCH

READING

DIVERSITY

MATH

SCIENCE

FRENIMIES

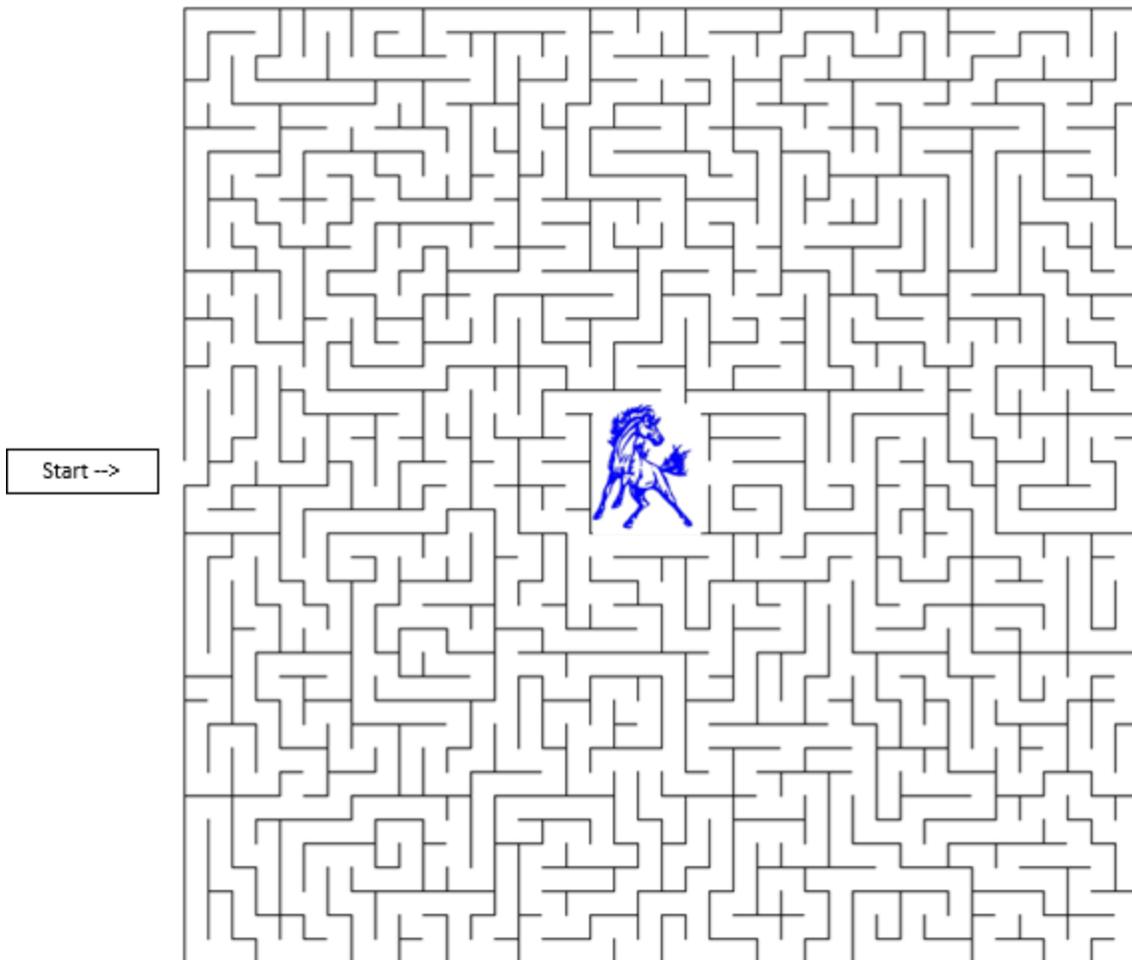
MERRILL

SMARTICLE

FRIENDS

MUSTANGS

~Merrill Maze Runner~



Raise Awareness



Join the fight against breast cancer!

Donate Now!

<http://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/>

Know the Facts:

- ❖ 40,000 women die each year
- ❖ Both men and women are at risk
- ❖ 1 out of 8 women are diagnosed with breast cancer in their lives.

~MUSICAL MUSINGS~

Grammy award winner, Adele, dropped a new single back in October. This song sky rocketed to the top of the charts. "Hello," from her latest album, 25, might have been one of the biggest music moments of 2015. This album has sold over 2,433,000 albums according to Billboard. It also has impacted the students at Merrill Middle School. We recently polled the students of Merrill about their favorite songs. Many responded, "Hello, by Adele for sure!" One interview after another, "Hello" was by far the most favorited song of the Mustang students.

In addition to Adele, Merrill students 6th through 8th were questioned about their other favorite songs and albums released in 2015. Justin Bieber's newest releases "What Do You Mean?" and "Sorry" were also high on the students' favorites list. Bieber's new album, Purpose, was stunning and a best seller for the young musician. Merrill students have a great taste in music and this list proves it!

Merrill Favorite Songs List--Student Style

1. "Hello" --Adele
2. "Sorry"--Justin Bieber
3. "Pipe It Up"--Migos
4. "Here"--Alessia Cara
5. "Sunday Candy"--Chance the Rapper

Along with students, teachers also love music! Here's a few featured favorites by teachers.

Merrill Teachers' Jams

1. "Nothing But a Breeze"--Jimmy Buffet (Mr. Luft)
2. "Mean to Me"--Brett Eldredge (Ms. Jensen)
3. "Your Bird Can Sing"--The Beatles (Mr. Moore)
4. "Kryptonite"--3 Doors Down (Ms. Anders)

~Zoe Hennesey, Evie Sly, Antonio Alzheimer

Star Wars: Episode VII-The Force Awakens

Star Wars: Episode VII-The Force Awakens has been a breathtaking sequel to the last film in the franchise that premiered over a decade ago, Star Wars: Episode III--Revenge of the Sith. This is a must-see movie with a 4 star rating. Everyone, including many Merrill students, were counting down the days until the record-breaking release day. Even Mrs. Johnson, 8th grade Language Arts teacher, was stoked about seeing the latest installment over Winter Break.

"I have never seen the Star Wars movies before, but I was very excited to jump on board and check out this great new movie!" says Liberty Valadez, 8th student here at Merrill. Go check this movie out if you haven't already!

~Zoe Hennesey, Evie Sly, Antonio Alzheimer



~SELF-DRIVING CARS~

From the early Model T to the ideals of flying cars of a futuristic world, the self-driving car is an amazing start in the right direction for the future of automobiles. This car can drive a traveler from point A to point B in near complete safety. Equipped with a sensor to help guide the vehicle through the city, the car can "see" ahead up to two full length football fields (200 yards). The car also is useful for people with physical handicaps, because they would not have to drive, they can simply sit back and relax, letting the car do all the work!

The ultimate in safety features, the self-driving vehicle will reduce car crashes. Did you know that 40% of people don't hit their brake before a crash? With an automated system, the risk would be assessed well in advance, protecting the driver from the panic caused by sudden changes in the road conditions. Lastly, these cars have all been crash tested, and gone through a multitude of courses; passing without hitting any obstacles. While these types of cars are still awaiting real world road tests, the lab results speak for themselves. Hopefully, we as a society can look forward to these cars driving themselves down, and protecting, our roads as soon as the year 2020.



~Kobe Phanthoudeth and Charlie Gaer