

# RJEMS MONTHLY



To inform, entertain, and advocate for the student body.

## Cheetos: Friend or Food?

By Katie Chung

Ah, Cheetos, one of the world's greatest foods. But did you know that it wasn't originally meant to be *food at all*? Cheese puffs in general weren't meant to be consumed by humans at all. They were just a waste product from a corn grinder for livestock. That's right, Cheetos were first industrial waste for *cow food*.

This story begins in the early 1930s, in the city of Beloit, Wisconsin. Clair Mathews had just designed a feed grinder which would break down corn and other livestock feeds into smaller flakes. Why? Because the smaller flakes are easier for livestock to digest. In 1933, Mathews got some business partners and founded the Flakall Corporation, a company that would sell livestock flakes using their patented feed grinder. But what they didn't expect was to create the world's first cheese puff extruder.

You see, two things would happen when they ran the grinder for long periods of time. One, the machine would get hot. Two, it would clog. In order to prevent clogging, every so often the operators would pour moistened corn kernels through the feed grinder to flush it out a bit. If the corn kernels got fed through while the machine was *really* hot, the corn would come out in long, puffy ribbons, similar to the ones we



see cheetleified and packaged. Now this wasn't looked at all too closely, since it was just waste from cleaning the feed grinder. But if history has taught us anything, it's that humans like to eat new things. And in this case, Edward Wilson had the right idea. One day, the machine operator took the puffs home one day, deep fried them, seasoned them with some Wisconsin cheese and salt. Wilson's "Korn Kurls" were such a hit that the Flakall Corporation tweaked their feed grinder and patented a brand new machine to pump out these puffs for human consumption.

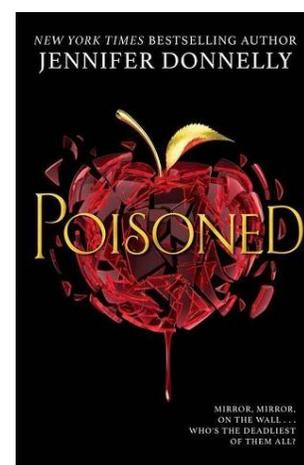
So despite its humble agricultural origins, the Cheeto has found its new purpose as a snack food. I guess the moral here is that no matter where you come from, whether it be industrial waste or high society, you can do great things. Admire the Cheeto, for it deserves all the admiration.

## Book of the Month

By Genna Huisinga



This month's book of the month is *Poisoned* by Jennifer Donnelly



*Poisoned* is a classic Snow White spin-off. Topped with murder, mystery, and of course slightly creepy men in the woods. This tale will rip your heart out, then put it back, then rip it out again. Overall 103 out of 10.

## What's Inside?

This time around we have an action-packed issue.

We will be explaining the importance of Memorial Day, eating cow food, telling you about the TRUE 2024 election, and of course we have the Fun Section.

## COVID-19 Updates- As of May 27th

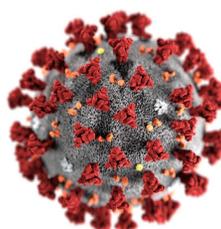
By Katie Chung & Kaitlyn Olson

Cases in U.S.- 33,227,620

Deaths in U.S.- 594,339

Cases in Itasca- 4,532

Deaths in Itasca- 60



Everyone 12 and older is eligible to get the Covid-19 vaccine.  
Fully vaccinated in MN- 2,568,856(45.5%)



## Meet the Teachers

By Ryan Martinson

Many students don't know what a lot of the teachers do in RJEMS. The teacher of the month is Mrs. Lahti. She is a health and gym teacher. As many people know, Mrs. Lahti is retiring after this year. Outside of school, Mrs. Lahti enjoys walking with her dogs, sewing, quilting, picnics and other family gatherings, shopping. When I asked why she wanted to teach she stated, "I had an awesome gym teacher and she inspired me to become a teacher." One of the last questions I asked was, what would you do if you won a million dollars? Mrs. Lahti answered, "I would pay off my house, donate to our schools, and donate to other community agencies."

Some additional facts about Mrs. Lahti included.

- Her favorite foods are Mexican dishes.
- She has also driven a semi truck
- One sport she likes is hockey.
- Her favorite subject in school was gym and science.
- Her favorite color is blue.
- If she had any superpower, it would be to provide happiness to everyone.



## Memorial Day

By Katie Chung

We all know of Memorial Day. Students get out of school, teachers get a day off (probably used for grading homework), and most people take the day off. But what is Memorial Day all about?

Memorial Day was originally "created" by John A. Logan. He celebrated it on May 30, 1868, as a commemoration of the lives lost by soldiers during the Civil War. Since then the renowned holiday has grown to appreciate all Armed Forces that gave the: "*ultimate sacrifice*" as Michael Grant writes in his novel *Front Lines*.

In his novel, we hear the perspectives of three women in the military during an alternative WW2, a medic, an intelligence agent, and one experiencing the front lines. They all have dangerous encounters leaving them inches from death. From the wording Grant uses, we can get a better understanding of how death seems to be looming over these women.

So for a moment, imagine that you are one of the infantry that enlisted. Imagine hearing gunshots so loud that your ears are beyond repair. Imagine hearing the faint boom of artillery as you sit in your foxhole, a small cylindrical hole in the ground that serves as your lifeline. One of the charges (artillery ammunition) lands on top of your foxhole. The metal is searing your arms that you so frivolously threw over your ears to block the sound of crackling shrapnel and burning flesh. You plead for death to be swift, to take away that burning feeling along your forearms.

And then... nothing.

Memorial Day isn't just a holiday, nor is it a vacation we should be taking lightly. Memorial Day commemorates the sacrifice made by over 1,304,684 people in all the wars America has fought in. So the next time you get to relax on the last Monday of May, recognize the lives that were lost, and appreciate the fact that without their loss, you might not be here today.



2024

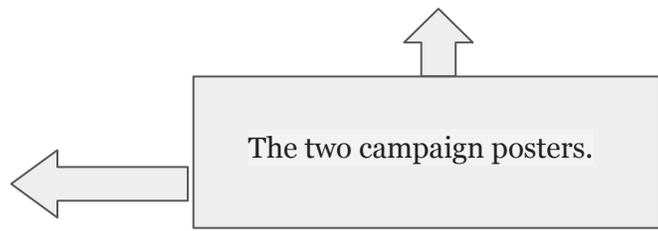
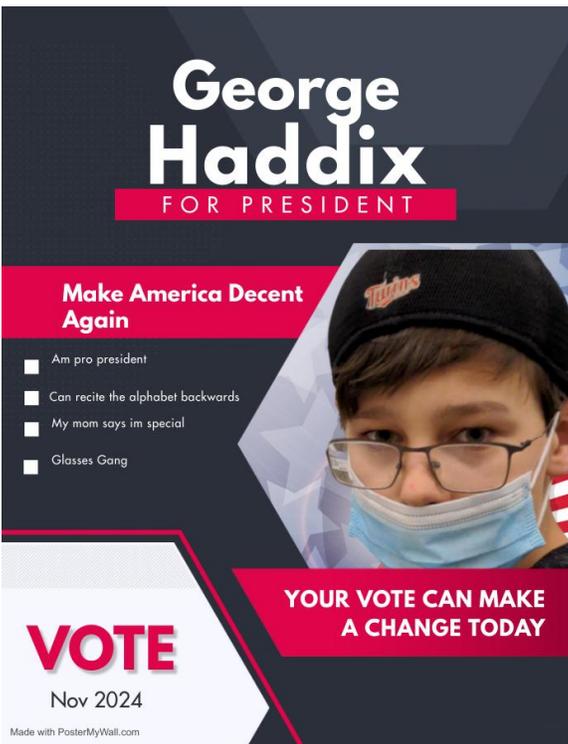
# The TRUE 2024 Presidential Election

By Jack Sonder

Recently, the students at RJEMS have started a “very serious” run for the 2024 presidency. At the moment, there are two main candidates: George Haddix and Ryan Sovada. George’s motto is “Make America decent again.” He says his qualifications are that he is pro president, he can recite the alphabet backwards, he is part of the glasses gang, and his mom said that he is special. His Vice President is Jack Sonder, and he promises to increase the chance of winning the lottery by 5 percent.

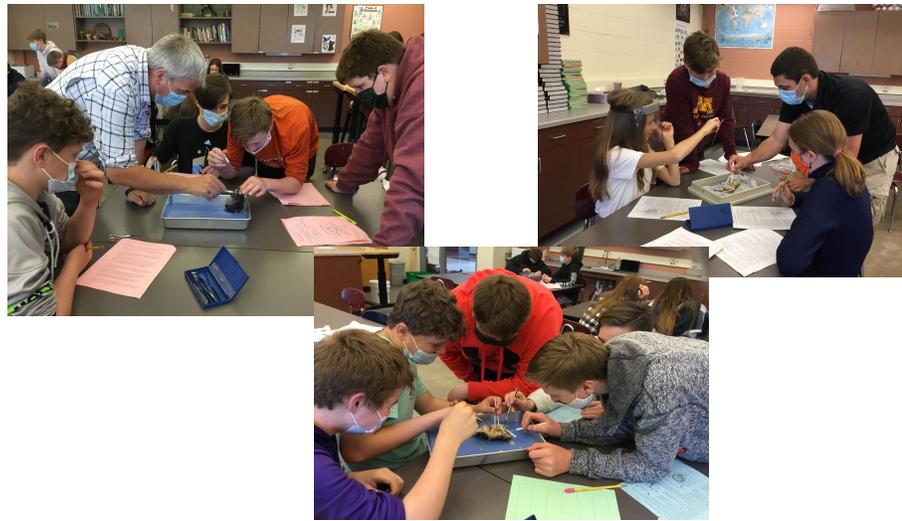
Ryan Sovada’s motto is “I’ll try my best!” He says his qualifications are that he can juggle 5 balls at once, he started working at age 14, and he is ahead in Engineering. His Vice President is Eli Nichols. Finally, he promises free healthcare, free ice cream, less strict gun regulations, and more oil.

Both candidates have their disagreements on certain issues as well. George believes that giving away free ice cream will ruin the economy. Additionally, there have been some smaller campaigns such as Snoopy from Charlie Brown and Clayton Danielson. The voting will take place on the last day of school, so make sure you cast your vote!



## Science Dissection

Students in Mr. Copp’s and Mr. Drotts’s 7th grade science classes have been dissecting frogs this week! Some students were feeling a little squeamish, but most were excited and eager to learn about the anatomy of frogs. The dissection process involved cutting open the frog’s jaw and stomach. Students then identified the internal structures of the amphibians.





## How To Have An Electronic Reduced Summer

By Katie Chung

With the summer months approaching, we all have decisions to make. Spend time with family and friends or take time for oneself? Go outside, or stay inside? Spicy Cheetos, or regular Cheetos?

The editors at RJEMS Monthly brainstormed some ideas for an electronic free/reduced summer to make sure you're staying safe and healthy, while being able to enjoy your months off.

- Do something artistic. Drawing, painting, or writing can release the pent up creativity.
- Play a card or board game. This can allow you to connect with others and disconnect from technology.
- Go swimming, sailing, boating, or anything else on the water. As long as you're safe, this can act as recreational exercise.
- Go mountain biking, camping, or something in the woods. This can *really* disconnect you from your tech, and allow you to breathe in some fresh air.
- Become a part of school sports. This can build connections with your community, and get you moving and active.
- Have fun! The best way to get away from electronics is to go outside and have fun. Whether with family, friends, or alone, this is ultimately the healthiest way to enjoy your summer.

Remember, summer is our break from school, thus:

**Teachers:** Don't overwork yourself or you'll be tired before school starts up again. School is for school, summer is for you. We students are alright if you don't assign as much homework as you say, no need to rush preparation for next year.

**Students:** This is your time to be a kid, so do that. You don't need to be anything yet, so allow yourself to take it one day at a time. Be healthy, but slow down. You don't always need to go so fast. Sometimes it's nice to sit down and enjoy nature, or go hang out with friends, or take your time and relax.

Ultimately, what we're trying to say is: "Enjoy the summer, take your time, and relax."

### Alebrijes

By Katie Chung

On Friday, May 21st, 8th grade Spanish students began making their alebrijes(ah-leh-bree-heh). Alebrijes are fantastical animal figures typically made in Oaxaca. These are typically made of wood and painted with bright colours. These RJEMS students used clay, since hand carving wood is too dangerous and time-consuming. Here are some pictures of students painting their creations:

#### Professionally-made alebrijes:



[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1xOGFnHtBK107q0tZRDpSDUUA4-FYFt\\_L4ItGUEQSwWI/edit](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1xOGFnHtBK107q0tZRDpSDUUA4-FYFt_L4ItGUEQSwWI/edit)



## Advice for Incoming High Schoolers

By Kaitlyn Olson

As this school year is coming to an end, the 8th graders of RJEMS will soon become highschool students. And, as it is always helpful to have more information about a new activity or environment, advice from teachers and high school students was compiled below.

**Take advantage of the opportunities GRHS provides** - There will be many clubs, groups and sports for students to participate in that bring both them and others closer to the community.

**Practice good communication skills with teachers and peers** - Communication is a skill needed in almost every profession out there, and it is important to improve upon in order to get into a college or career.

**Do your work** - This should go without saying, but it is important to do your work. Not doing work will only create more stress, for both you, and your teachers.

**Place value in your life** - Believe that the activities and classes you take part in have value.

**Ask for help if needed** - Know that if you need help, there are people you can ask who probably have an answer, be it teachers or other students, someone will have an answer.

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## 8th Grade Portrait Exhibit

By Natalie Neary

The 8th grade students, in art class, are finishing their “Famous People Portraits.” The paintings were originally a part of the previous art teacher- Ms. Lehtinen's curriculum, and Mrs. Kragthorpe chose to continue this tradition every year with her students. In my interview with Mrs. Kragthorpe, she and I discussed “input and output,” which is something her grandma told her; it means what you watch, read, and listen to often affects how you perceive things, how you act, and who you look up to. This project gives her a window to see into the minds of her students and why they venerate the person of their choice.

**About The Project:** Paints used in the portraits are made out of a combination of seven different values of Blick Tempera paints, students' paintings typically take 3-4 weeks to complete in class. Some students choose to work on theirs at home as well. Students pick an important person they look up to, or a person who is in their life, pick a photo of that person, then send it off to Mrs. Kragthorpe for editing. Mrs. Kragthorpe then uses Photoshop to edit the picture into a cartoon of seven different color values. Students then get their edited person on a small graphed piece of paper, and regraph it on a larger one. From there it's similar to a paint by number with their assorted paints and one color of their choice for the background. You can find the finished pieces hanging in the hallway behind the lunch room.





## Newspaper: Now in COLOUR!

By Katie Chung

Colour, favourite, cancelled. Or is it: color, favorite, and canceled?

(Disclaimer: I'm only using American Language and English Language to distinguish from the English spoken in America compared to English in European countries. These are not real languages.)

The American Language has dropped a letter in all these words, but why?

Newspapers. And Americans' decision to shorten words, but *newspapers*.

Back in the late 1800s and 1900s, newspaper companies and advertisements charged by two things: the amount of space the article took up, or by the letter (though this was less popular). This led to articles/entries costing per line, which led to words being shortened by people like Noah Webster, author and publisher of the first American dictionary. While not all of his shortened words are used nowadays (hed for head, friend for friend), the lasting impact is still felt today.

So next time you go to write an essay about colours, or about the honour of getting cheetle all over your fingers, think about how one man was able to change so much of our American culture. And how he did it for *newspapers*. (The two are actually fairly unrelated, but they happened around the same time and Webster's shortened practice was probably popularized by the newspapers.)

## What's happening in gym?

By Emily Ericson

The students in Mr. Casey's 5th and 6th hour gym classes recently performed the mile. Marlene (Marshmallow) Ericson from Mr. Otto's class was the fastest girl with a time of 7 minutes and 13 seconds. The fastest boy was also from Mr. Otto's class, with a time of 6 minutes and 39 seconds.

Three 6th grade students from Mr. Hendrickson's class and Mr. Casey's 5th period gym class recently cleaned the physical education hallway equipment room. Working for three hours, these students made the school a better place. When asked why they chose to clean the equipment room, Macie Malinkovich said, "We just really wanted to clean it and it was a nice thing to do for our gym teachers." Journey Casper added to that by saying, "Because I know teachers have a lot of work to do and I wanted to help them out and it is the right thing to do." Mia Doell also said, "We thought it would be fun to do and help out the gym teachers." It is nice to see students take initiative to make the school a better place.

## The Card Rush

By Jack Sonder

When millions of Americans went into lockdown last year, many new hobbies were taken up. Activities like painting, gaming, and programming are all examples of this. A surprising new thing was the rush for trading cards. During the shutdown, trading card company's such as Topps, Panini, and even Pokémon boomed. In fact, in January a LeBron James rookie card sold for 5.2 million dollars! Recently, Target sadly had to stop selling cards due to the high demand. Now, most collectors have moved to purchasing packs online, so make sure to order one or two because you never know when you will pick the next 5.2 million dollar card!





# THE FUN SECTION!

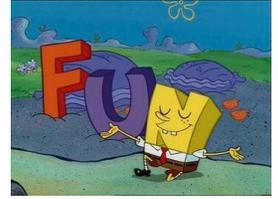
By Jack Sonder

*Just have fun!*



## Dad Joke of the Month

*“Did you hear about the kidnapping at school? It’s fine, he woke up.”*



## Weird but True

Bubble wrap was originally intended to be wallpaper.

Vacuum cleaners were originally horse-drawn.

The largest padlock in the world is 916 pounds.

Sumo wrestlers make babies cry for good luck.

Someone tried to sell New Zealand on EBay.

8			1		2
			4		1
2	3		6	8	7
					7
7			3	1	4
6			9	3	
2	6				3
		2	7		
5	6		9		

## Picture This!



Answer key for last month’s Sudoku.

4	1	6	9	7	8	3	2	5
7	3	2	5	1	4	6	9	8
9	8	5	2	6	3	1	7	4
2	5	4	3	9	1	8	6	7
8	7	1	6	5	2	9	4	3
6	9	3	8	4	7	5	1	2
1	4	9	7	3	5	2	8	6
5	6	8	4	2	9	7	3	1
3	2	7	1	8	6	4	5	9



Last month’s “Picture This!” Winner Gavin Krofel!!

The editors at RJEMS MONTHLY encourage you to send us a photo of this meme, but completed. The best meme-r will earn an optional interview and spot in the next edition. What is Buzz looking at? Tell us in the form below. May the best meme win!

[Picture This Submission Link](#)

## Newspaper Staff

(in order from left to right)

- Natalie Neary
- Genna Huisinga
- Katie Chung
- Kaitlyn Olson
- Ryan Martinson
- Emily Ericson
- Jack Sonder



The reluctantly photographed newspaper staff.

## A special thanks to Ms. Johnsen!

All of RJEMS Monthly would like to give a special thanks to Ms. Johnsen! She has worked many hours to make sure that the articles are in ship-shape and ready for the public eye. Make sure you thank Ms. Johnsen when you see her in the hall!





## Goodbye.

By RJEMS Staff and RJEMS Monthly Editors

As a fun look back on the crazy year we all just experienced, the RJEMS Monthly Editors sent out a survey to our school's teachers/staff. Here are some of their responses:

Favorite RJEMS Monthly article?

Recycled Bottle Rockets	4
Art Update	2
Mrs. Grotjohn Interview	2
Toilet Flush	2

Second Favorite RJEMS Monthly Article?

Art Update	3
Fun Section	2

Honourable  
Mentions(Favorite):

How YOU can become a Computer Programmer
Bermuda Triangle

Honourable  
Mentions(Second Favorite):

Science Fair Winners
Student Shout Outs
Discrimination Against the Metally Ill
Recycled Bottle Rockets

If you could tell your students any piece of advice to help them through the year, what would you tell them?

That it is OK to make mistakes. Make your mistakes and learn from them. No one is perfect. The only way we learn as humans is by making mistakes.

-Mrs. Friesen

Never give UP!

-Mrs. Grabarkewitz

Never lose sight of the bigger picture.

-Mr. Carlson

"Here's the hoop, jump through it!" (We'll come through to the other side!)

-Mrs. Bachmann

BE KIND~ spread it.

-Mrs. Berg

Keep "crackalackin" as the kids like to say these days...

-Mr. Wagner

CHILL

You get out of a class is what you put into the class. Always try to do your best.

-Mr. Holsman

-Mrs. Haley

Never give up because there is always sunshine at the end of a storm!

-Mrs. Kaczor

Get plenty of rest and take it one day at a time

-Mrs. Johnson

Just keep swimming!

-Mrs. Zebro

Always do your best! Be true to yourself!

-Mrs. Lahti

How you treat people today (now) will be remembered in the future!!

-Mr. Casey

Don't give up. Life is full of challenges, but the ability to persevere is powerful!

-Mrs. Sween

One day at a time. One small action goes a long way.

-Mrs. Lowe

Reach out to adults when you need any sort of help. Whether it's about school, grades, emotions, etc., you have a TON of teachers and staff here that care about you and want to help!

-Mrs. Blenker