

Student Reporter

2022 Joe Holbrook Memorial Math Competition



Soo Young Yoon
Grade 10
Bergen County Academies



Po Shen Loh comes on the stage to give a talk to the students and the parents [Source: Author, Soo Young Yoon]

On October 16th, 2022, Bergen County Academies High School hosted the Joe Holbrook Memorial Math Competition and invited many students living in Bergen County to attend. These students, ranging from 4th to 8th grade, participated in a series of 40 math questions. The event lasted for several hours, and by the end, the top ten students from each grade were given rewards.

This huge event was planned months in advance. In June, the

Math Team captains of the school sent out emails to math students to encourage them to contribute problems for the contest. Many of these problems were to be used for the actual contest. Then, about a month before the event, captains gathered nearly a hundred high school volunteers, who stayed at the school from 8AM to 4PM. These students were given different roles for the day, such as standing outside to help out the parents, proctoring the contests, and grading the results. And to thank

the volunteers for spending more than eight hours at school on a Saturday, they were each given a free 2022 JHMMC t-shirt!

Apart from the contest, there were so many exciting events happening around the competition. As a reward, the participants each received free pens and 2-by-2 Rubik's cubes. After receiving these awards, the students were escorted to the school auditorium, where Po Shen Loh, the national coach of the United States' International Math Olympiad team, gave a talk to the students on finding their talents in math. Throughout the discussion, he stressed the importance of never quitting, and encouraged the students to keep trying in math. No matter how hard a problem might be, there are always infinitely many ways to come up with a creative way to find the solution. He also emphasized learning from the problems that students

got wrong, because it is a great way of making sure that they do not repeat the same mistake next time at a bigger competition. Although the talk was only about an hour long, Po Shen Loh gave out many helpful tips regarding math and also important life lessons.

At the end of the talk, the top ten winners of each grade were announced, and the students had a chance to celebrate their great accomplishments with their family. Although not everyone won the awards, this event was a great motivation for them to keep studying and continue to grow in mathematics.

After the contest was over, it was clear that the event was a great success. With many volunteers preparing for the competition months before, the 2022 JHMMC was surely a fun and successful event that will be remembered for years to come.

Student Reporter

The Tale of the World Cup



Andrew Chung
Grade 11
Los Osos High School

The World Cup is a global event that everyone knows about. The fact that there are singular teams representing entire countries in a game of soccer intrigues the world. However, despite everyone knowing what the World Cup is, only a few people actually know the origins of it and how it became so popularized. The way that the World Cup has become extremely implemented in various cultures is incredible and is the one time when all countries gather around to watch one special event.

This men's soccer world tournament is held once every four years. Each time, the amount of people who tune in drastically increases, as this year, over 5 billion views were achieved. There are several countries all around the globe that participate in this tournament if they are qualified to do so. These countries are



Winning the world cup is a significant accomplishment for a country, as it gives recognition to the culture and background. [Source: www.kremlin.ru]

then split up into groups, where each group has a certain number of games played before the top national team of each group is chosen to move onto a bracket. From there, elimination games are played until there is only one country standing. Despite all of the commotion revolving around this event, there was actually no such international soccer competition until fairly recently.

The World Cup was the very first of its type, as it began in 1930 by a man named Jules Rimet. He was the 3rd president of the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA), which hosts the World Cup. This was very significant, as the idea of having a global competition in soccer was just a dream before this time. The reason why the World Cup is held only once every four years

is to have enough time for qualification matches in between. Although that may seem like too many years, the competition's prestige has grown to the point where time is key to ensuring that the event goes smoothly every time.

Over the past years, the popularity of the World Cup has increased tremendously. This is not necessarily because of the actual tournament itself but because it is an opportunity for countries to be represented. Thousands upon thousands of fans rooting for their home countries has become a huge part of what the World Cup is, and so has grown its supporters by a large amount. The event alone has revived the pride in peoples' origins and where they come from and is an event that makes sure to gather people every four years to cheer their own country on.

Student Reporter

26 Years of Blood Donation



Subeen David Yu
Grade 7
Juniper Christian School

On December 19, 2022, 100 blood certificates were donated. These donations added up to 410 certificate donations in total for 26 years. Certificate donations to the "Leukemia and Pediatric Cancer Association" will change into packs of blood. Certificate donations are needed because countless people need other people's blood to live. There are three types of blood donations which are whole blood (donating whole blood), plasma (taking only a few parts), and platelets (taking only a few parts).

Blood donation is one of the hardest volunteering jobs to do. People are allowed to donate blood twice in one month, which is at most 24 donations in 1 year. Moreover, many people cannot donate

blood because of their physical conditions. For instance, in Korea, a person must be older than 16 years and younger than 69 years old. Also, men must be at least 50 kg, and women must be at least 45 kg to donate blood.

Blood donor Young Jin Yu has donated 410 blood certificates in 26 years. Young Jin Yu said, "When I was in the first year of college, I saw a blood donation bus by accident. It was my first time donating blood. I kept doing it because I thought it might be useful when my mother was in the hospital. By donating blood, I can check my body and feel responsible for taking care of my body. We are not able to live by ourselves in this society. We need to help others and cooperate. In



Young Jin, Yu donated another 100 blood certificates in "Leukemia and Pediatric Cancer Association."

[Source: Author, Subeen Yu]

that way, I think blood donation is similar. Numerous people might get help with my donated blood. To everyone who tries to donate blood, it is very important to check their body condition before donating... My goal is to donate 900 certificates to "Leukemia and Pediatric Cancer Association."

There are countless reasons why people should donate their blood if they can. Donating helps other people who need blood and gives them time to think about their body condition and take responsibility for themselves. Since there are many types of blood donations, try donating blood and helping many people that may need it.

Student Reporter

What is Happening in Las Vegas Right Now



Dion Jung
Grade 11
Larchmont Charter



An accurate photo of the Seven Magic Mountains standing next to 5'6 people. [Source: Author Dion Jung]

Las Vegas, the city of gambling, shopping, and entertainment, has changed a lot throughout the years. Not only has the city added new hotels, such as the Palazzo, but they have included new fine restaurants in many hotels, which are open to all. Vegas' high roller, which is a Ferris wheel that stands 550 feet in the sky and rotates for 30 minutes, is one of the most famous attractions. It is a great place to spend time with your family and friends, drinking and enjoying the view of Vegas with its busy lights. Directly next to this high roller is a zipline called the Fly LINQ Zipline, run by the LINQ hotel. Standing 12

stories tall, this zipline is a necessary experience to fulfill your Vegas trip. "The ride wasn't that scary, but going up to the actual platform to ride it was" stated Aron Jung.

The city of Las Vegas is known for its entertainment, both inside the city and just outside. Inside the city, there are many famous attractions, such as Circus Circus, fountain shows, and the Mirage volcano. Circus Circus is an amusement park popular with kids and includes many rides and even an arcade! Although it is not quite as famous as it used to be, Circus Circus will remain an

iconic park for all Vegas fans. The fountain in front of the hotel Bellagio, presents the audience with fountain shows lasting up to three minutes. These waterwork shows change each and every time, leaving the audience with little boredom, as it even plays music to match the water. Mirage Volcano is a volcanic structure that entertains guests with fire shows, which can only be found at 10 P.M.

Outside the city, you can find the seven magic mountains and the Valley of Fire. The Seven Magic Mountains are located right before you enter the city of Las Vegas, presenting seven beautiful art pieces, consisting of many large colored boulders stacked upon each other. This site is extremely popular amongst tourists, having around 90 viewers at every moment of the day. This piece of art is one of the largest land-based art works in the United States. Each individual pillar of rocks containing from three to six boulders, standing around 33 feet tall, shows the "continuities and solidarities between human and nature," as stated in the metal information stand in front. The Valley of Fire makes for a great day trip; containing over 46,000 acres of

land, it holds around fourteen different sites and viewpoints, with five famous spots. These are the beehives, Atlatl Rock, Elephant Rock, Mouse's Tank, and the White Domes. The beehives are a sandstone formation in the shape of beehives, from the conical shape to the holes and spots in the rocks. Atlatl Rock is a large boulder with stairs leading to a display of petroglyphs, while to the right of this rock, there are a number of petroglyphs on the walls. Elephant Rock is a large arch formation that is in the shape of an elephant; although it lacks a bit of detail, with imagination, it is possible to be seen as an elephant. Mouse's tank is a trail that leads to a hole in the floor with water collected from rainfall, along this hike, there are multiple "home-looking" rocks and indents in the walls, along with petroglyphs. The White Domes hold the most famous trail in the Valley of Fire due to its challenges, but the result is extremely rewarding. Climbing boulders and walking through a narrow slot canyon, this trail is a loop back to where you started.

Overall, if you are looking for a city that has a bit of everything, Las Vegas is the place you should visit.

Student Reporter

How to Keep Your Pets Warm During Winter



Kaylyn L. Yu
Grade 8
Juniper Christian School

Although not every part of the world turns icy cold when winter arrives, some parts do. This signifies times when weather refashions itself to drop temperatures violently and shower snow from the clouds. In South Korea, the season showed up rather abruptly, with extra-cold temperatures this year. Sudden differences in weather can leave household pets in exposure, healthwise. While even gradual adaptation may be difficult for these small animals, winter unfolding quickly can easily tear down their immune systems if precautions are not followed.

Some may believe that pets would not need to be kept particularly warm for many reasons. For example, assuming a furred animal would thrive without extra heat-



Use heating pads or blankets to keep indoor pets warm. [Source: Author, Kaylyn Yu]

ing as they already own fur is incorrect. Furred animals can chill quite swiftly, especially if younger or small. One could readily imagine that fish or amphibians would not require extra warmth since they are both cold-blooded animals; nevertheless, because they are cold-blooded, altering body temperature is difficult for these animals.

Generally, pets are divided into

five categories: fish, insects, reptiles and amphibians, birds, and the most common—mammals. For smaller pets, including fish, insects, reptiles and amphibians, and sometimes birds, heating pads will work fine since these pets are usually kept indoors. Pet heating pads use electricity as the heat source and have differing levels of heat that can be altered according to the conditions. Placing these heating pads under pets' enclosures can help warm the pets up.

Pet mammals can be categorized further, but typical pet examples involve dogs, cats, and many rodents, such as guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, and chinchillas. Dogs are one of the most active pets, and most require outdoor activity. A simple way to moder-

ate the freeze of the outdoors is to dress dogs in clothing. There are wide varieties to choose from, like dog shirts or coats, to prevent body heat from escaping and dog socks to stop their paws from freezing. As for indoor dogs and cats, using the same sources people utilize for heat: rugs, blankets, heaters, or even body heat, can all work. Because most rodents use some type of bedding as nesting material, the addition of pet rodents' bedding provides cover and warmth. Supplemental hideouts or heating pads are also great.

It is always crucial to maintain pets' health as the climate modifies, taking care to warm them to a comfortable temperature. Keep pets happy and safe at the same time by following methods to warm them!

Student Reporter

How to Make the Perfect New Years Resolutions



Hannah Lee
Grade 10
South High School

A new year, a new me. 2022 to 2023. What's something that you want to complete or succeed in this following year?

Last year, I challenged myself to master the splits, which, sadly, I was not able to accomplish. But even for my 2023 resolutions, I must include the same goal. The problem is that I have no idea how to encourage myself to continue stretching and accomplishing it. While trying to figure out a good method, I ended up interviewing some of my peers to figure out the best way to help others, and myself, form the best New Year's resolutions in hopes of another magnificent year.

Personally, I'm pretty ambitious and had many resolutions

during the 2022 year, and I only completed about half of them. What have I learned? Quality over quantity.

Try grabbing a pen and paper and start jotting down some ideas of things to do in 2023. What do you want to do? Make a change in the community? Win a sports competition? Become class president? Whether the goal is small or big, try jotting down everything you want to do. Just remember, be realistic! Don't write, "I want to become the president in 2023," because there won't even be elections in 2023!

A common goal among students could be getting into their dream college, since application seasons are in place. Or how about

getting a perfect report card? Resolutions may just be written for the fun of dreaming of accomplishments, but they're also a big motivation to some students and encourage others to work harder. Words on a piece of paper may not be enough to motivate someone, but the thought of having a goal, makes some thoughtful about the future and will cause them to rapidly follow their goals. By having too many goals it may be hard to finish them all, and may discourage some at the end of the year, which is not the original reason why these resolutions are put in place.

For elementary school students, how about finishing a masterpiece of art? Or for middle school students, winning first place in an



One of my 2022 Resolutions included getting better at decorating, which I think I accomplished! [Source: Author, Hannah Lee]

instrumental competition? High schoolers? Perhaps a perfect report card? Whatever the goal is, write it down on a piece of paper and stick it on your wall. "My 2023 New Year's Resolutions are..."