Now announcing - Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Bourquin! Mrs. Bourquin was nominated by her students and peers for her kindness and her excellence in teaching. We decided to ask her a few questions to get the play by play of her outstanding career at Pitman Middle School and her vibrant personality!

Q: Did you always want to be a teacher? Well, when I was really young I thought I wanted to be a lawyer but I learned real quick that I had difficulty speaking so I started looking into other things I enjoyed doing. So when I went to high school, I was enrolled in a childcare class where we took care of the teacher’s children. I LOVED it so I started looking into teaching. My brother was dyslexic and had an IEP, so I decided I wanted to work in special education at Rowan.

Q: How did you feel when you were chosen as Teacher of the Year? I really don’t feel worthy of being called Teacher of the Year. My job is awesome and I love coming to work everyday so when they told me I was in disbelief. Teaching in Pitman is very cool because it’s such a small district and it’s easier to get to know a lot of the kids here. Being at the middle school is the best because it’s my favorite age group to work with and my coworkers are amazing.

Q: What is your favorite teaching style and what do you most like about teaching as a career? I am all about hands on learning. I feel like a lot of kids need movement and tangible materials in order to be successful so I like to incorporate a lot of those things into my lessons. I love the fact that I get to make a difference in kids’ lives. Teaching academics is absolutely important but I feel that making my students feel safe and loved and listened to is even more important.

Q: If you couldn’t teach what you do now, what other subject would you want to teach? Maybe art or music. Not because I am any good at those things haha, but because I think it would be cool to teach something completely different.

Q: What are your hobbies outside of school? I have two children. One is 2 and the other is 17 months so any free time I have gets spent with them. We like to go to the zoo, Launch, the aquarium, Pump it Up and “The Ball Store” (which is Target, according to my daughter)

Q: What do you do during your summer vacation? I have a place down the shore so I stay down there a lot during the summer. I LOVE the beach so I’m usually there with my kids and family.

Q: What are your favorite shows to watch/music to listen to? I don’t get much time to watch shows anymore. It’s a lot of Mickey Mouse Clubhouse and Ryan’s World but when I do get to watch something I enjoy The Real Housewives, The Office, and Survivor.
**STAR WARS MOVIE REVIEW**

By: Francis Hoffman

The new Star Wars movie *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker* started at a bit of an awkward place but most people liked it. Many critics hated it; however, this reviewer is somewhere in the middle. The effects were very impressive and the scene with Han Solo and Kylo Ren made viewers' hearts pound. While the emperor was another fantastic character, Zorra Blizz, the gold helmet girl, was problematic. In the grand scheme of things she seemed pretty useless and unnecessary to the plot development.

Perhaps the movie could have been stronger if the emperor had received more screen time and interaction because audiences don’t know how he has survived and how he has changed. I like this movie and I would say go watch it, but if you are a *Star Wars* purist I would say suck it up and go watch the originals. Now time to watch *The Mandalorian!*

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**STAR WARS FACTS**

Currently, in the same building you are in...

PAW PRINTS

Episode...wait... this is a newspaper, not a movie!

1. George Lucas sold Star Wars and the rest of Lucasfilm for 4.5 Billion Dollars.

2. Baby Yoda’s Cannon name is “The Child”.

3. “Darth Vader” coincidentally translates to “Dark Father”.

4. Yoda’s Species does not have a cannon name.

5. Obi Wan and Yoda were not the only Jedi that survived “Order

6. Some other Jedi are Kanan Jarrus and Ashoka Tano. Most of the surviving Jedi were later killed by an inquisitor or Darth Vader himself!


8. Some clones disobeyed “Order 66”.

9. The most said line in *Star Wars* is, “I’ve Got A Bad Feeling about this”, or some variation like, “I’ve got a good feeling about this”.

Directed, Wait...Actually Written By Aiden Evans
How To Write an Essay
By: Fiona James

Step 1- Find a quiet place to concentrate and focus on your essay.

Step 2- Have a list of strong vocabulary at hand so that your teacher will be impressed with your word choices.

Step 3- Make sure that you are familiar with your paragraph structure (if it's persuasive use evidence and commentary, if it's narrative indent every time you have a new subject or dialogue, etc...)

Step 4- Start writing!

Step 5- Once you are finished, have a parent or close friend check your essay, and then you should revise.

Step 6- Turn your finished product into your teacher!

DID YOU KNOW?

After learning about climate change, Mrs. Totora’s 8th-grade class is planning to get rid of the styrofoam trays in the lunchroom. This initiative is a multi-step process with many moving parts--students are making posters, collecting signatures on the petition, interviewing cafeteria staff and companies, collecting background research, writing a proposal, and presenting to a committee.

Mrs. Totora’s students hope to make this change with a two-part plan. The first step is to get rid of the styrofoam trays and replace them with biodegradable trays because styrofoam trays take 500-1,000,000 years to break down and produce toxic fumes that go into the atmosphere and hurt marine animals. In contrast, the proposed biodegradable trays would only take three to six months to break down and are made of recycled materials. The second step calls for installing better sinks to support reusable trays in the cafeteria, as a long term option.
HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY!

Drawn By: Fiona James
Vaping 101

By: Aiden Evans

If you have walked around the school or been to an assembly lately, you have probably seen the posters about anti-vaping. So what is vaping? According to VapeFactsNJ.com, “E-cigarettes are electronic devices that produce an aerosol by heating a liquid that usually contains nicotine...flavorings, and other chemicals to help make the aerosol. Users inhale this aerosol into their lungs. Bystanders can also breathe in this aerosol when the user exhales into the air. The website goes on to say that “Many e-cigarettes and vaping materials contain harmful or potentially harmful substances, and it is difficult to know what each individual product contains.” While this information alone should be enough to make anyone think twice about vaping, the statistics of students vaping jumped up in 2018 nationally, with more than “1 in 5 high school students and about 1 in 20 middle school students reporting e-cigarette use.” The question on everyone’s mind is why?

Many young people have been pulled in by clever advertising. According to the Scholastic article, “What Juul Tried to Hide,” people have been lied to and tricked by companies like Juul That Vaping is safe, and that it is totally different from smoking. In reality, it just isn’t. The Juul Company has even used manipulative tactics to target kids in which they work with social media influencers to promote their products and “paid schools for access to students...setting up presentations, a curriculum, and a summer program.” They secretly tried to convince students into buying vaping products and they used tactics that companies like “Big Tobacco” used to trick kids into smoking in the 1930s-1950s.

As anyone can see, whatever you do, DO NOT VAPE! Even if there are famous people on TikTok or Snapchat vaping, it is likely a deceptive trick from Juul. Many students have even started pushing back against the E-Cigarette companies, using social media and websites like Incorruptible.us to show they will not be fooled; students can post memes and slogans such as “My future is more important than Big Tobacco’s products” to support each other. There are also other websites like VapeFactsNJ.com where families, teachers, and students can become more informed.
COMIC CENTRAL!

Paw Prints

Earthworm 2!!!!

By Chase Hasko

Panel 1: A worm is eating a plant.
Panel 2: The worm says, "Swooping noises?"
Panel 3: The worm is shocked.
Panel 4: Another worm is eating a plant.
Panel 5: A dinosaur is roaring.
Panel 6: A worm is looking at a plant.
Hi! I'm Carrot Man!

This is Rock Kid.

Life Stinks.
Hey look at my dog! It's pure Bread!

*sip*

Hey look at my dog! It's pure-
Oh I heard you the first time.

GASP
Norse Myth

Thor's Hammer