

Middle School Muse

RPMS Winter Concert

By: Alyssa Reina

The winter concert is a tradition that Roselle Park schools have each year that gives the opportunity for members of the band, choir, percussion ensemble, and the handbells to perform a few songs in front of parents. The 2023 Winter concert at RPMS was a joyous occasion and a great way to kick off the winter season. The Winter Concert is run by our band, choir, and handbells conductor Mr. Delaney and our percussion ensemble conductor Mr. Masucci. They both have done a fabulous job teaching these students and getting them ready in time for the concert.

The band has done a tremendous job starting off the concert. First, the new member band played the song "A Kwanzaa Celebration" that they had worked hard on since the beginning of the school year. They received many standing ovations from their parents. After the new member's amazing performance, we had the returning member band get on stage and do just as good of a job. The returning member band played two songs. The first one they had played was "Hanukkah Highlights" which again had received many standing ovations from parents. The second song they played was the christmas classic "You're a Mean One Mr. Grinch". Many recognized the song and absolutely loved the performance.

After the band's admirable performance, the percussion ensemble led by Mr. Masucci, also played two songs. The first one that was presented to us was "Carol of the Bells". Once again, the performance was amazing. After that song, "Decking the Halls" was played next. They played the song wonderfully. Mr. Masucci did a great job conducting the percussion ensemble students.

For a change of pace, the students played two songs using the Hand Bells led by Mr. Delaney. First was "Good King Wenceslas" and "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" followed. Both songs were played beautifully.

Park Ice Cream

By: Jayden Ramos & Penny Roche

Have you ever craved something you couldn't get? Well, that could be tons of things but what about ice cream? I mean if you think about it there is no ice cream place close to Roselle Park, until now! Park Ice Cream (a local business) is now open for customers. Located on 19B Westfield Ave, it is owned by Roselle Park residents, who have lived in town for over nine years. They said, "We wanted to make something fun to contribute to our community, so this is what we came up with." Not only is it great ice cream, but it's great service, and has an amazing atmosphere.

They have your classic ice cream flavors like vanilla and chocolate, but the list doesn't end there. They have stuff like coffee and fan-favorite campfire smores! You can choose either a cup, a fresh waffle cone, or a bowl, and they have loads of toppings (I won't spoil them for you, you have to go check them out yourself.) Not only do they have that, but they also have hot chocolate and milkshakes. Even better, you can get something called a hot chocolate float! You can get hot chocolate with not one, not even two, but three scoops of ice cream. Better yet, you can put any topping you want on it. If you don't want to go there constantly to get ice cream, you can even buy pints of ice cream at a time to take home!

If you walk into Park Ice Cream completely clueless (because of how many options there are) they have things to guide you. Try one of their "Hometown Hero's" which includes three scoops of ice cream and some toppings that they think you will enjoy. Right now they have one for the high school's play *Cinderella*, which will only be out for a limited time. 25% of the profits made from that ice cream goes towards our high school, so don't miss it. If you want to get some, they are open from 2pm-7pm on

Lastly to wrap up the winter concert we had our skilled group of choir led once again by Mr. Delaney. It was a great change for the audience who had been listening to instruments the whole night. The audience got to experience our choir singing “Hanukkah oh Hanukkah” and “Christmas in About 3 minutes” very appealingly. It was a great way to finish off our Winter Concert.

Thank you Mr. Delaney and Mr. Masucci for giving us the opportunity to listen to our school express their talent! RPMS families are definitely ready to see what they have in store for our spring concert.



Monday-Thursday, 2pm-8 m on Fridays, and 12pm-6 pm on weekends.

Overall, Park Ice Cream is the perfect treat after a long school day. It is the perfect place for you and your friends to try something new! They even have a rewards system that gives you points that can get you money off of your ice cream! Points get you coupons off of ice cream, and everything on the menu. I would 100% recommend anyone who is craving ice cream, or needs to cool down this summer to check it out.





Women's History Month

By: Sol Villa

Women's History Month is a time to reflect on the remarkable contributions of women throughout history. The celebration of women's achievements, struggles, and impact on society not only educates but also empowers individuals, especially young women, to recognize their potential and make a difference in the world. Women's History Month became an annual celebration in March of 1987. This takes place annually in March.

To begin, let's get familiar with the history of Women's History Month. Although it was first celebrated in March of 1987, the honoring of women's accomplishments dates back further than 1987. This celebration began as a local one in Santa Rosa, California. It was called Women's History Week. The celebration took place on the week of March 8th, as that day was International Women's Day. It began to quickly spread out of California and into the rest of the United States. In current times, Women's History Month is recognized worldwide.

Within the celebration of Women's History Month, similarly to Black History Month, there are important figures who are recognized and spoken about during this time. Malala Yousafzai, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Frida Kahlo, Amelia Earhart, Eleanor Roosevelt, Jane Austen, Maya Angelou are all important figures who are honored during WHM. All of these women have powerful stories, and accomplished significantly remarkable things, despite the adversity against them. Rosa Parks was an African-American woman who defied racist societal customs while riding the bus. She was a pivotal person in the civil rights movement. These prominent figures and their stories serve as a reminder that women have the power to change the world and that their voices must be heard.

In essence, the month of March is given a beautiful international observance known as Women's History Month. Similarly to other months of observance, it serves to create community, love, appreciation, as well as education. This is all that this month requires of you--there is no necessity to do anything special, as we typically do with holidays; all that is required is the appreciation for the women who have changed the world.

Ben's Joke Corner

By: Benjamin Domanski

One scientist says "I don't know how cloning works."

A llama says "Let's get going."

Where does a fish go to work?

What did one ocean say to the other?

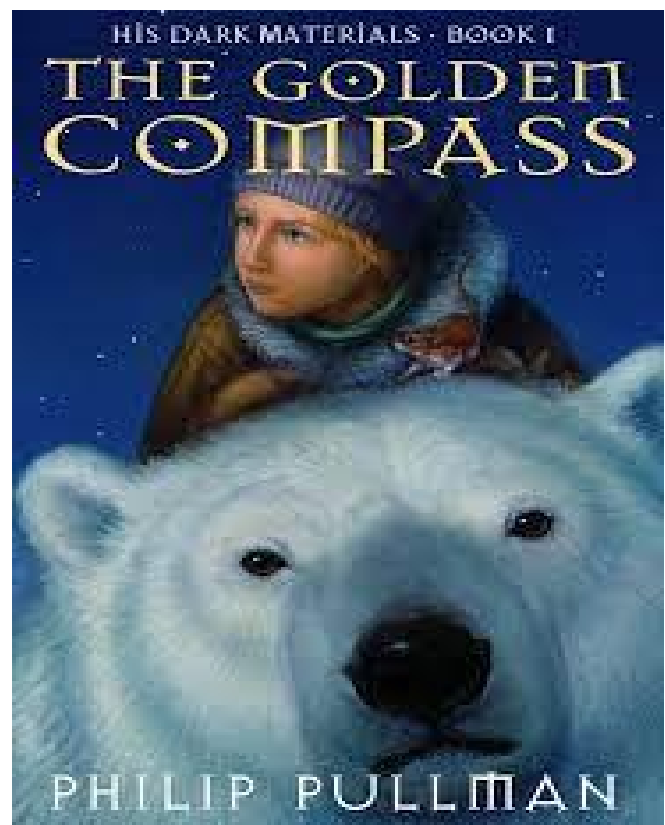
The Golden Compass Book Review

By: Makayla Dupal

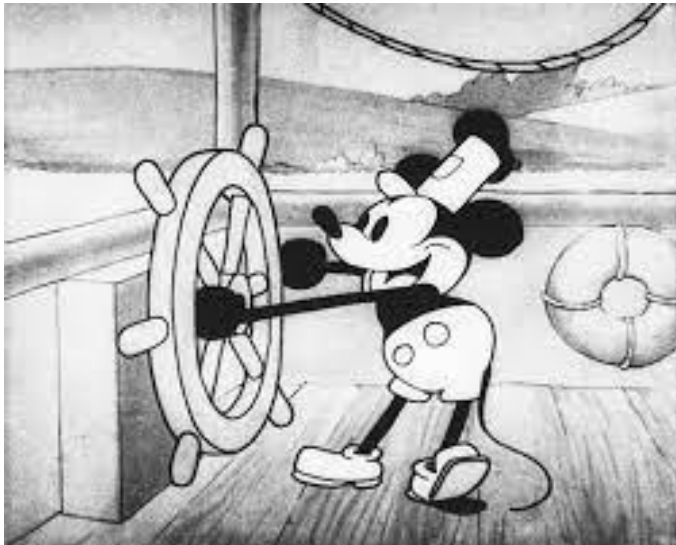
The Golden Compass by Phillip Pullman is the first of the *His Dark Materials* book trilogy. *The Golden Compass* is a fantasy fiction about a young girl named Lyra Belacqua who is destined to save the world. This fantasy is full of dæmons, armored bears, witches, Gobblers, children, dust, and the magical Aurora.

Set in a parallel universe, Lyra Belacqua is content to run wild among the scholars of Jordan College, with her dæmon familiar always by her side. But the arrival of her fearsome uncle, Lord Asriel, and the search for her friend, Roger Parslow, draws her heart to a terrible struggle—a struggle born of Gobblers and stolen children, and a mysterious substance known as Dust. With the help of the Alethiometer, a truth telling device, Lyra learns more about the past *and* the future. Following stairs to the sky, Lyra enters a new world.

This book was written in 1995 with the two other parts following in 1997 and 2000. The second part by Phillip Pullman is called *The Subtle Knife* and the third part *The Amber Spyglass*. This trilogy was written before the *His Dark Materials* T.V series. I would recommend reading the book series as books are always better than the shows. The books are very



descriptive and have many details that the show does not have. All in all, the book series and show are amazing. If you don't love reading, you can always watch the show. I would recommend this book series to anyone who loves fantasy books set in the real world. ★★★★★/★★★★★



Opinion Piece: The Change in Movies

By: Benjamin Domanski

The movie industry has become quite the controversial topic over the past few years. So with Disney recently losing Steamboat Willie to the public domain, now would be a better time than ever to talk about it!

The first case to make is the sequel problem with Disney. Lately, Disney has been making non-stop sequels that not many people have asked for. An example of this is Toy-Story 4, which not many people enjoyed, and the upcoming Toy-Story 5. Disney has become a lot more laid back with their sequel writing, due to the fact that they know that people will buy tickets in hopes that it will finally be good. This also causes them to pump out spinoffs and short films that are low quality, leading us perfectly into our next topic.

The original content that Disney makes. Many of you have most likely noticed the failure of all of Disney's more original content. The movies Wish and Strange World notably lost Disney more money than acceptable, and many people didn't enjoy Turning Red either. This would be extremely unexpected coming right after making hit movies like Treasure Planet in the early 2000's. The most notable reason for this is how Disney has begun relying on sequels more. Due to this, they care less about original movies because they always know they can go back to their "poster children".

The next problem to discuss would be the



actor problem. In older movies, actors that were less heard of were used often, giving them their big breaks. Recently though, you barely see new actors and instead you just see a million movies with Chris Pratt. This is due to the fact that, similarly to the sequel problem, the movie industry knows what people will recognize, leading to there being fewer original or new ideas and actors.

Luckily though, there is hope. While Disney and their brands have been getting more lazy with their writing and original content, Dreamworks is doing the exact opposite. Take the movie Turning Red. For Disney, it flopped due to lazy writing that just reflected many of their other coming of age movies. Now take Dreamworks's Ruby Gillman Teenage Kraken. It had the same general coming of age concept, but had dedicated writing and animation teams. Not only that, but they also poked some fun at Disney in the process.

Dreamworks has been doing this with many of their movies, including all their sequels. They can also tell what their audiences want more of and what they don't. Shrek was originally supposed to be a failure, but it became loved! Dreamworks didn't just pump out another movie either. They learned from the parts people hadn't liked, and used that to improve. So though the movie industry has been falling, there is still hope!

Black History Month

By: Ethan Galan

Black History Month is a month when we celebrate the African American heritage and people who have performed many acts of greatness. Some of these people who we celebrate are Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Jackie Robinson, and Maya Angelou.

Black History Month is celebrated in February in the United States of America and Canada. It was originally Negro History Week in 1926 created by Carter G. Woodson to recognize the achievements of African Americans throughout history.

Martin Luther King Day

By: Noah Gallagher

Martin Luther King is a huge figure in African American history. In support of Black History Month and his federal holiday, this article will teach you about his history. Going from his early life to midlife and finishing off at his later life.

In 1929 on January 15th, Martin Luther King was born in Atlanta, Georgia. Growing up, he grew up with his brother A.D King and his sister Christine King, also with his mother and father Martin Luther

In 1976 Black History Month was officially recognized by the American government and has since been celebrated every year. The month long observance is a time to honor and recognize the rich history and culture of African Americans as well as to reflect on the ongoing struggle for racial equality and social justice

Throughout Black History Month various events and activities are held across the country to celebrate the accomplishments of African Americans and educate people about their contributions to society. These events include concerts, lectures, art exhibits, film screenings, and more.

Black History Month Icons

Martin Luther King jr

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a Baptist minister and civil rights activist who played a very important role in the American civil rights movement from the mid 1950s until his assassination in 1968.

Maya Angelou

Maya Angelou was an American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist who was born on April 4, 1928 and passed away on May 28, 2014. She is best known for her series of seven autobiographies which focus on her childhood, adolescence, and adult experiences.

Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks was an African American civil rights activist who is known for her important role in the Montgomery Bus Boycott. On December 1, 1955 Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus to a white man which led to her getting arrested and sparked a year long boycott of the city's buses by African Americans.

Jackie Robinson

Jackie Robinson was an American professional baseball player and the first African American to play in Major League Baseball during the modern era. He was born on January 31, 1919 in Cairo Georgia and passed away on October 24, 1972 in Stamford, Connecticut. Robinson played for the Brooklyn Dodgers from 1947 to 1956 and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.

Quotes

“Darkness cannot drive; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate only love can do that” - **Martin Luther King Jr**

“I can be changed by what happens to me. But I will not be reduced by it” - **Maya Angelou**

King Sr. and Alberta Williams King. King's father was the pastor at their church. When King was a kid he had become friends with a caucasian boy from across the street when they were both six years old. But after a while of them being friends the boy's parents stopped them from meeting by stating “We are white, you are colored.” This was one of Martin's early introductions to segregation as a child. Also in King's childhood, he had witnessed his father stand up to segregation on many occasions, particularly when his father had led a march to city hall with hundreds of people, protesting for their rights.

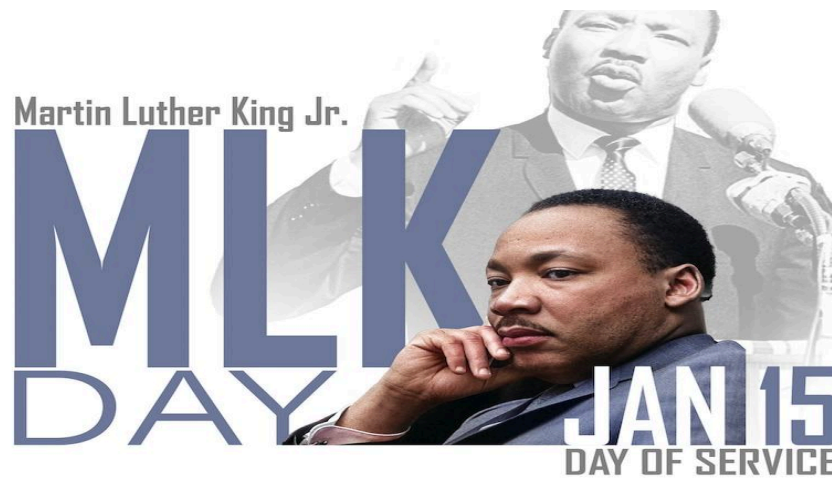
Moving forward, when Martin Luther King Jr. was older he had married Coretta Scott when he was a preacher studying at Boston University. They had four children, Yolanda King, Martin Luther King III, Dexter Scott King, and Bernice King. Martin's first boycott was the Montgomery Bus Boycott. When he was asked to be the leader of it, he was hesitant but took the offer. The boycott lasted 385 days. This led to Martin's house being bombed and him later being arrested for going 30mph in a 25mph zone. However, the boycott wasn't in vain because the US District Court prohibited racial segregation on Montgomery public buses after that. In 1957, King and other civil rights activists founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to organize other black churches for non-violent protests.

In 1963 King was a representative for the SCLC in the “March on Washington Jobs and Freedom”. This march demanded that there will be no more racial segregation in schools, law, employment, protection from police brutality, and a \$2 minimum wage. In this march, King delivered his famous “I have a dream” speech. It was considered a success because all of the rights were put at the top of the Civil Rights Act in 1964. After King had given his “I've been to the mountaintop” speech, he went back to the Lorraine Motel, Room 306. His last words being said to a musician, Ben Branch, were “Ben, make sure you play ‘Take my hand, Precious Lord’ ”. Then at 6:01pm on April 4th 1968, Martin was shot on the second floor balcony by James Earl Ray. The bullet entered his cheek then traveled down his spinal cord before lodging into his shoulder. He was only 39 years old at the time. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a great leader who no doubt would have so much more had his life not been cut so short.

Now today we all know his legacy, as he is one of the cornerstones for civil rights. We as a



society wouldn't have evolved for the better without him. The same year that King had died, his wife established the "King Center" in Atlanta Georgia, and had kept up as a civil rights activist until her death in 2006. Beginning in 1971, cities and states recognized Martin Luther King Jr. and his actions and made the annual holiday "Martin Luther King Day". Later the same day in 1983 was established a federal holiday by Ronald Reagan. Martin Luther King had not only helped black civil rights but many of his movements had helped civil rights for women too. We are to thank not only Dr. King, but the many that had helped him and those who fought for their rights and those who still do today.



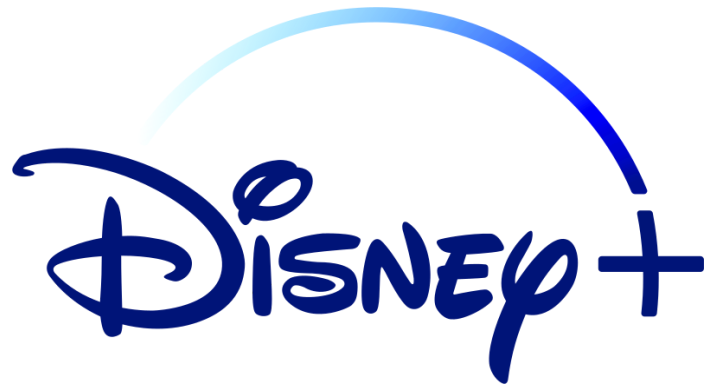
Series Review: Percy Jackson and the Olympians

By Olivia Perez

Percy Jackson and the Olympians is an amazing show. The series was based on the first book in the Percy Jackson book series, "Percy Jackson And The Lightning Thief" written by Rick Riordan. It is about Percy and his journey to find and return Zeus' lightning bolt to him to prevent an all-out war. I would give it a 4.3/5. This is mostly because of the cool CGI, great acting, and scenes. However, I have not read the book series so I don't know if the show is book-accurate.



The first season is made up of eight forty-minute episodes. Each episode was released from December 20 to January 31. The series has also been confirmed to have a second season of the show, so keep an eye out for its' release. Other than that the series was good and I can't wait to see season 2!



Ben's Joke Corner Answers

The other one says "That makes two of us!"

His friend says, "Okay. Alpaca my bags!"

The Offish!

Nothing. They just waved!

**Thank You For Reading! Have a
Happy and Healthy Spring Break!**

🌸 Mrs. Platt and Mrs. Radford 🌸