

# BASIS SCOTTSDALE GAZETTE

## To Display or Not To Display?

by Mintra Waram



Source: Mintra Waram

BASIS is a whirlwind of tests, projects, and late-night study sessions. But should the hustle for grades be showcased for all to see?

Sure, we all love a pat on the back for hard work, but turning grades into a public spectacle might be a bit like hanging your report card on the fridge for the whole neighborhood to critique.

### SAVE THE DATE

Precomps – 1/17–1/19

MLK Jr. Day – 1/15

Jeopardy Night – 1/26

### FEATURING

2023 Rewind  
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Marvel's Redemption  
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First off, let's talk about privacy. Not everyone's keen on having their academic standing on blast for random passersby. It's like wearing your GPA on a T-shirt – not everyone's fashion statement.

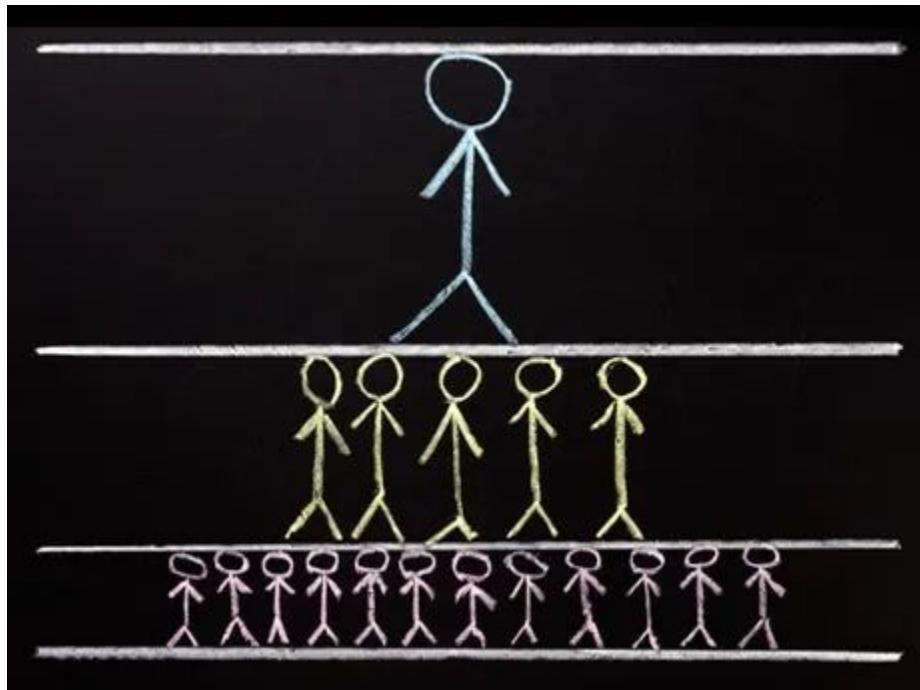
Then there's the stress factor. Do we really need more reasons to sweat over grades? Public rankings can turn the pursuit of knowledge into a Hunger Games-style competition, and trust me, nobody needs that extra pressure.

Let's face it, we're more than a sequence of A's, B's, and C's. We've got hidden talents, quirks, and passions that don't make it onto a test paper.

Instead of the Rank Board, how about celebrating success in a way that doesn't leave anyone feeling like they've missed the top spot on a human pyramid? Internal shout-outs, awards, or secret handshakes can be way more fun, inclusive, and less stress-inducing.

Ultimately, it's about creating a community where everyone feels valued, whether they're acing calculus or leading the lunchtime dance crew.

So, let's give the Rank Board a makeover, swap stress for support, and show that we're more than a number. Because BASIS is tough enough without turning it into a reality show about GPAs.



Source: Edutopia

# CURRENT EVENTS

## 2023 Rewind

As we say farewell to 2023, we must reflect upon all the enjoyable and thrilling experiences that made this year extraordinary. So, get ready with your snacks and brace yourself for an exhilarating recap as we take a trip down memory lane and relive the wild journey that was 2023.

Reality, step aside; virtual reality has arrived and taken center stage! Mundane meetups became a thing of the past as people worldwide plunged headfirst into VR concerts and gaming extravaganzas.

Socializing in VR spaces became so popular that some even forgot what their actual living rooms looked like – talk about living a digital double life.

AI decided to ditch its binary blues and embrace its artistic side. This continued with AI-generated masterpieces that left traditional artists questioning their life choices. From symphonies that rivaled the great's to novels that made Shakespeare seem like an amateur, the machines unleashed a flood of creativity, sparking wonder about whether robots would become our following great entertainers or maybe even overlords.

Social media platforms transformed into a colossal dance floor in 2023. From A-list celebrities to your grandma's dog, everyone showcased their dance moves in viral challenges.

by Aanvi Verma

The world is united in rhythmic hilarity, proving that coordinated dance moves can bring more joy than scrolling through TikTok for daily entertainment.

Space tourism became a reality in 2023! Civilians booked seats on commercial space flights, trading the typical beach vacation for a chance to experience zero gravity and snap a selfie with Earth as the ultimate backdrop. Because, really, why settle for a resort pool when you can float in space?

As we bid farewell to 2023, let's not forget the year that brought us belly laughs, jaw-dropping wonders, and moments that made us question reality. Here's to hoping that the coming years continue the trend of keeping us on our toes – and maybe, just maybe, bring us a few more dance-offs and space-themed shenanigans. The door is open to see even more extravagance in 2024.



Source: Google Images

# WALNUT CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT

By Ran Cao

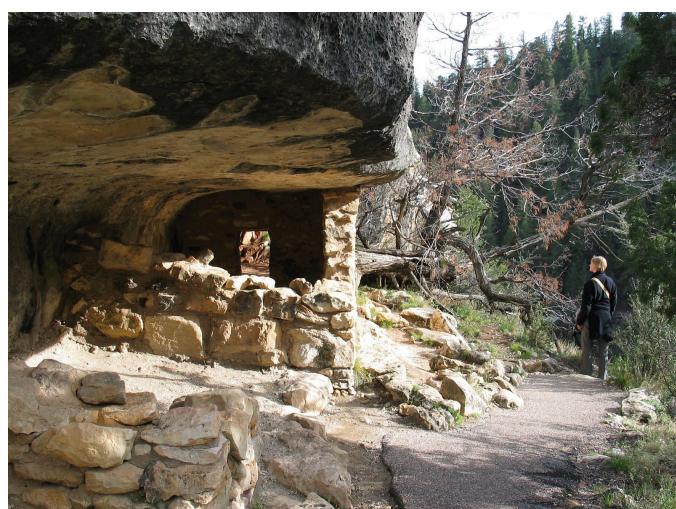
Hiking through the cold crisp air in early December, you eagerly trace the steps of the trail on the steep cliff, watching the distant puffy clouds float through the tall pine trees, listening to the soft coos of birds bounce off the high canyon rims. At the bottom of the cliff seems to be a river that runs through -except that there is no water in view. Just then, you come across some incomplete stone walls with huge black spots under the cliff's edge. *Who made these? Who lived here? How did they live there?* Today, we are going to take a look at Walnut Canyon National Monument.

These stone walls are actually cliff dwellings made by a pre-Columbian cultural group that lived in Walnut Canyon from about 1100 to 1250 AD -the Sinagua. Sinagua means *without water* in Spanish. Living in such a dry place, the Sinagua were experts at conserving water and dealing with droughts. But unfortunately, the Sinagua left mysteriously around 1250 AD. Why they left is a mystery, but we do know that they left over 80 cliff dwellings behind. The Sinagua built their stones under the limestone edges, deep within the canyon, taking full advantage of the natural recesses in the limestone cliff walls which were eroded over millions of years of flowing water. The dwellings were quite small but enough for a family to cook and sleep. Walnut Canyon was proclaimed a national monument on

November 30, 1915, by President Woodrow Wilson to preserve the ancient cliff dwellings. Later, the monument was transferred from the USDA Forest Service to the National Park Service.

The park is open all year except for December 25. The park is open from 9:00 am to 5:00 P.M. MST. Entry to the Island trail closes at 4 P.M. Visitors are encouraged to arrive early to allow for 45–60 minutes to complete the trail. Access to the Rim trail ends at 4:30 pm. All visitors are asked to be in their vehicles and out of the park by 5:00 pm. Gates and all access to the monument are unavailable from 5:00pm to 9:00 am daily.

This trip is highly recommended by the author. If you are planning to go, have fun!



Source: Google Images

# The Pursuit to End Fossil Fuels: Just Stop Oil

By Andrew Kang

Throughout the past year, numerous headlines regarding the environmental activist group Just Stop Oil have revealed their adamancy and intentions. From gluing their hands onto the frames of famous paintings or throwing tomato soup on them, the group remains dedicated to preventing the United Kingdom government from implementing further fossil fuel licensing and production agreements. However, have their methods proven fruitful? Will they persist as an activist group?

Founded in February 2022, Just Stop Oil's mission statement states: "We must urgently end our reliance on fossil fuels to avoid irreversible changes in the earth's climate system. We cannot continue to burn fossil fuels in the belief that future developments in carbon capture and storage and other so-called 'unicorn technologies' will allow us to suck vast quantities of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere." To achieve this goal, the group has conducted several high-profile protests, blocking roads and disrupting major sports events. Although they have reached worldwide recognition, their methods are perceived as ineffective.

By observing current government policies, it turns out that there is a rollback of various climate policies. For example, the UK's ban on the sale of cars that burn petrol/diesel in combustion engines has been delayed from 2030

to 2035, and the government has also lifted its fracking ban. Just Stop Oil's public image is also declining. A recent poll survey by YouGov has found that 64% of UK adults have an unfavorable opinion of the group's activists. The poll also revealed that 52% of the respondents sympathized more with motorists rather than climate activists.

With ineffective measures and increasingly negative public opinion, it seems that Just Stop Oil will not last in the long run. To further mitigate the activist group's protests, the UK Parliament has amended the Public Order Act, providing police with the power to prosecute someone who interferes with the use of national infrastructure such as roads. These obstacles will significantly complicate Just Stop Oil's goals, and we have yet to see their plans for the new year.



Source: bigissue

# The Thrill and Chill of College Decisions

By Abhinav Ravichand

To all seniors, the moment we've all been waiting for is almost here. Regular Decision results are dropping soon— and what better than to dive into the rollercoaster of emotions that's about to hit?

Tick-tock, tick-tock – every second feels like an eternity as you refresh your email every hour. The excitement is real, and so is the nervous energy. Will it be a thumbs-up emoji or a heartbreaking moment? As the results draw near, your brain becomes a wild carnival of thoughts. What if you get in? What if you don't? It seems like a mental acrobatics show, with flips of hope and somersaults of anxiety.

Then comes the big reveal – that moment when you click on the email or log into the portal. Your heart pounds and time freezes for a split second.

Whether it is a triumphant cheer or a quiet moment of reflection, that instant prepares you for the next chapter of your journey.

If you get accepted, celebrate with friends, and family. If it's not the news you hoped for, it's okay to feel upset. Remember, this is just one twist in the plot, and your story is far from over.

No matter the outcome, seniors, this is just the beginning.

One college decision is a sneak peek, not the entire movie. The college journey is a blockbuster, and you're the main character. So, brace yourselves for the highs and lows, because the best scenes are yet to come.



Source: Google Images

# MONTHLY MUNCHIES

## Starting the New Year Off Sweet

by Anastasia Sheleg

3-2-1.... Happy 2024!

Now I know that we all have the same New Year's resolutions every single year: get your life together, eat healthier, go to the gym more, etc. Although these resolutions are great, do you know something even better? A nice, warm, gooey peppermint brownie on a cold day.

### Ingredients:

- Brownie Base:
  - Nonstick cooking spray
  - 10 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped (or semisweet chocolate chips)
  - 8 ounces unsalted butter (2 sticks), cut into 1-inch pieces
  - 1 cup light brown sugar
  - $\frac{1}{2}$  cup granulated sugar
  - 3 large eggs
  - 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
  - $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups all-purpose flour
  - $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon baking powder
  - $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt
- Peppermint Filling:
  - $2\frac{1}{2}$  cups/310 grams confectioners' sugar
  - $\frac{2}{3}$  cup/160 milliliters sweetened condensed milk
  - $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon peppermint extract
  - $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon vanilla extract
  - Pinch of salt
- Chocolate Glaze:
  - 6 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped (or semisweet chocolate chips)
  - $\frac{1}{4}$  cup heavy cream
  - 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
  - Pinch of fine sea salt
  - $\frac{1}{2}$  cup crushed peppermints or candy canes

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## Instructions

1. Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease a 9-by-13-inch pan with nonstick spray
2. Make the brownies: Place a medium heat-safe bowl over a medium pot of simmering water. Place the chocolate, butter, brown sugar and granulated sugar into the bowl. Heat, stirring frequently, until the mixture is evenly melted. Then, whisk the eggs into the chocolate mixture one at a time, then whisk in the vanilla extract. Add the flour, baking powder and salt and mix. Pour into the prepared pan and spread into an even layer.
3. Bake the brownies for 30 to 35 minutes
4. Make the peppermint filling: In the bowl, mix the confectioners' sugar, sweetened condensed milk, peppermint extract, vanilla extract and salt to combine.
5. Spread the peppermint mixture over the surface of the cooled brownies and spread into an even layer
6. While the brownies chill, make the glaze: Place a medium heat-safe bowl over a medium pot of simmering water.
7. Place the chocolate, cream, butter and salt in the bowl.
8. Heat, stirring frequently, until the mixture is evenly melted.
9. Pour the glaze over the chilled brownies and spread into an even layer.
10. Sprinkle the crushed peppermints over the top.
11. Enjoy this recipe and we hope your new year will be just as sweet and amazing as these brownies!



Source: Yummly

# January's Featured Flicks

By Neha Jasthi

*Wonka*: When I first watched the trailer, I had low expectations. However, I must admit that the movie turned out to be remarkably enjoyable. Somehow, it manages to tackle church and police corruption, the mafia, addiction, and the exploitation of the poor while maintaining a light-hearted and silly feeling. The music was quite good too! Overall, I give it a 7/10.

(DISCLAIMER: not suitable for kids of all ages) *Saltburn*: After weeks of hearing about it on TikTok, I finally decided to watch this movie. For the first half of the movie, I found myself wondering: what's the point? It wasn't until the shocking plot twist that I realized how interesting the movie was about to get. Every plot twist just takes the movie on a rockier ride and I couldn't have loved it more. If you appreciate movies that completely turn your world upside down, then this is definitely for you. 8/10.

*Casablanca*: I feel like this movie is probably the most famous of its time - before the invention of colored cinema. I thought it was fantastic and so did The Academy, as it won 3 Oscars. The characters were so interesting and dynamic and the setting really contributed to the magic of the movie. Taking place mid-World War II, the movie was surprisingly modern in its ideas and messages. 10/10



# Marvel's Redemption

Remember when I said there was no hope in redeeming the atrocities of Marvel Phase 4? Fortunately, I was wrong. It's been around a year into Marvel Phase 5, and I can proudly say, I am very pleased with the majority of shows released by Marvel so far.

Phase 5 first kicked off with *Ant-man and the Wasp: Quantamania*, which sadly flopped due to the bland plot and horrible visual effects.

This disappointment quickly vanished after the release of *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3*. This movie was so beautifully written with perfect comedic timings and an interesting storyline, yet it was one of the saddest MCU movies of all time as it contains a deeper look into Rocket's tragic backstory. The third *Guardians of the Galaxy* movie is definitely something that both Marvel fans and haters would enjoy.

After *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3*, *Secret Invasion* was released. I haven't watched that show, but everyone says that it's horrendous. The plot seems interesting as it is about Nick Fury and his allies trying to stop the extra terrestrial Skrulls from taking over Earth, but the execution must have been subpar.

By Sahasra Sontineni

After that disaster, Marvel released the long anticipated season 2 of *Loki*, which was worth every second of waiting. If you haven't watched this yet, what have you been doing? This masterpiece fixed any confusion one may have had of the multiverse. The ending made me a bit teary, but this show was just perfect in every way possible.

Even though *The Marvels* flopped terribly in the box office, I thought it was a decent movie. To be honest, it was kind of confusing at first and some scenes were a bit cheesy, but I thought the movie was overall light-hearted, funny, and interesting. The only issue may have been the marketing, since I didn't even know the movie was coming out, which may contribute to its reputation of being a "flop."

The latest release of Phase 5 is season two of *What-If*, and no words can describe the masterpiece that show is. It explores all the possible ideas and crossovers of different universes and is sure to keep you entertained throughout. Season 2 revolved more around Captain Peggy Carter in a different universe in which Steve Rogers did not take the Super Soldier Serum.

So far, we only have 6 out of the many shows and movies of Marvel Phase 5. Even though a few of them were bad, the shows so far are a much bigger step-up from the disastrous Marvel Phase 4.

# Hunger Games Review

Recently, the prequel to the *Hunger Games* series, *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*, has been finally released as a film in theaters. The premise of the *Hunger Games* series is that it takes place in a future dystopian society called Panem. This nation is split up into 12 different districts and one Capitol. For a source of entertainment, they create these unethical games which take two kids from each of the 12 districts and make them fight to the death in an arena. These games were held by President Snow for a long time, and the question is why he would make these innocent kids fight each other to the death. This prequel centers around President Snow's villain origin story, and shows all the events that led to his cruel personality, of course showed how this had happened which was produced into a well created movie.

The movie was very good in comparison to the already existing book. The film obviously was much more faster paced than the book, but had certain traits that made it stand out from the book. The part where all the kids were in the arena and fighting to the death was much more intense. It showed many brutal deaths such as when Coral was on a hunting spree with her trident. The actor, Mackenzie Lansing, did a very good job of showing Coral's brutality, and at the same time that Coral was only doing this in order to survive. So how did Coriolanus Snow become a villain? It was through a very long process

By Ethan Kim

rather than one moment that turned him into a monster immediately. He first starts out as any other normal kid in the Capitol who is being brainwashed to hate the kids in the districts. But as the film progresses, he slowly becomes more and more evil trying to justify his actions either for love or survival. However, by the end, he clearly becomes the villain we know.

The only thing that felt off about *Hunger Games The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* was that it felt like the games were pretty rushed. Since there were three sections, pre-games, games, and post-games, that were fit into one movie that was around 2 hours and 30 minutes, there had to be sections that were cut down. It seemed that the third part didn't really fit into one movie and could have been cut into two movies like *Hunger Games: Mockingjay*. This gives more time to see the lives of the main characters, Coriolanus Snow and Lucy Gray, instead of going straight into the action basically.

Overall, the movie is worth watching, particularly if you're a fan of excellent book-to-film translations and incredible cinematography.



Source: Google Images

# HOROSCOPE

by: Neha the Precognitive and her Loyal Scribe, Valerie

**Aries (March 21<sup>st</sup> - April 19<sup>th</sup>):** Try branching out, meeting new people, changing things up in this upcoming year.

**Taurus (April 20<sup>th</sup> - May 20<sup>th</sup>):** You should probably stop looking for validation in others this new year because you certainly won't receive it.

**Gemini (May 21<sup>st</sup> - June 21<sup>st</sup>):** New year, new look?

**Cancer (June 22<sup>nd</sup> - June 22<sup>nd</sup>):** You will realize the truth to the universe this month.

**Leo (July 23<sup>rd</sup> - Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>):** This will be a good month for you if you make sure to be productive.

**Virgo (Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup> - Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>):** You will be shocked with how good this month is, but that will also leave you wondering if it will carry on for the rest of the year.

**Libra (Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> - Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>):** New beginnings await you in the new year!

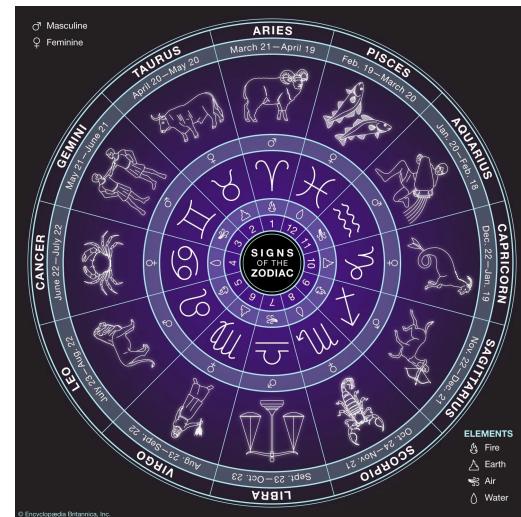
**Scorpio (Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> - Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>):** Beware of change in this upcoming year - maybe it's not the best idea to try something new.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> - Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>):** You are going to break your new year's resolution almost immediately.

**Capricorn: (Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> - Jan. 19):** You will receive closure from something that has been bugging you for a long time.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> - Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>):** New years or new fears?

**Pisces (Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> - March 20<sup>th</sup>):** There's no time like now to start doing what you want.



Source: Britannica

# P.S. MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS!

by: Payton Dymek and Stephanie Lobodanescu

The image shows a Spotify interface with a dark background. At the top, it asks "P.S. What are YOU listening to?". Below that is a "Music" button. To the right are icons for a bell, a clock, and a gear. On the left, there's a thumbnail for "kali uchis new album soon???" and a "cozy songs" section with a rainbow-colored thumbnail. The main section is titled "Based on your recent listening" and shows three album covers: "Angel Face" by Stephen Sanchez, "Lemonade" by Beyoncé, and "+ : Ed Sheeran". Below this, a circular profile picture of a woman is followed by the text "Need new recommendations? Discover more, including some 'Witz from the 80's!'". At the bottom, there are four large buttons: "Home" (house icon), "Search" (magnifying glass icon), "Library" (stacked bars icon), and "Premium" (Spotify logo icon).

P.S. What are YOU listening to?

Music

kali uchis  
new album soon???

cozy songs

Based on your recent listening

Angel Face: Stephen Sanchez

Lemonade: Beyoncé

+ : Ed Sheeran

Need new recommendations?  
Discover more, including some "Witz from the 80's!"

Promis: Laufey

It's the End of the World as  
We Know It (And I Feel Fine):  
R.E.M.

Thinkin Bout You: Frank Ocean

Home

Search

Library

Premium

# PUZZLES

## El Wordo

by: Payton Dymek



Answer on Page 21

# Wordsearch

by: Payton Dymek

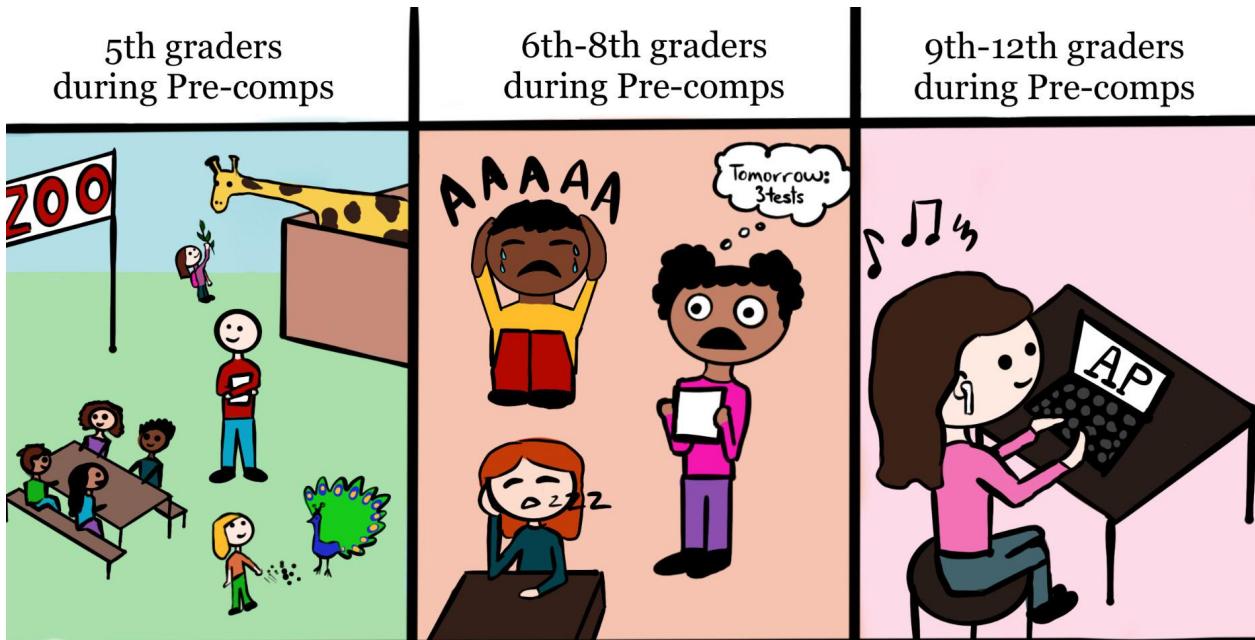
## Welcome to 2024!

C O P L A N E T F I T N E S S  
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planet fitness  
mirrorball  
seacrest  
fireworks  
poppers

celebration  
midnight  
glasses  
goals

resolutions  
sparkler  
grapes  
gold



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