

THE BASIS SCOTTSDALE GAZETTE

MASTER SOCIETY—THE BASIS SCOTTSDALE CONGRESS?

BY GINA
RYU

Joining the multitude of athletic, academic, and artistic extracurricular activities at BASIS Scottsdale, the Master Society was formed this year as an umbrella organization encompassing our school’s clubs and societies. The Master Society was created with the purpose of promoting school pride, spirit, and service by essentially forming a BASIS Scottsdale “Congress” to which individual clubs or societies send delegates. Clubs and societies with 20 or more active members are required to have a representative attend each monthly meeting of Master Society, regardless of whether they are hosting any events that month or the next; conversely, clubs and societies with fewer than 20 active members do not have to send a representative to the monthly Master Society meeting unless they are hosting an event that month or the next, or want to add an event to the Master Calendar. To choose representatives, each organization has its own selection method.

In addition to the delegates, Master Society comprises three committees—Communications, Competition, and Tech. The Communications Committee is responsible for advertising events to the student body, coordinating with the Bulldog Blast, and updating school personnel to ensure uniform advertising. If a club or society lacks a full Public Relations (PR) Committee or PR representative, then the Master Society Communications Committee would step in and assist with advertising and planning for that organization’s events.



Congress, BASIS Scottsdale-version?

Unlike the Communications Committee, which has similar counterparts in existing organizations, the Competition Committee is a completely new development, involving building support for any competitions BASIS students participate in, ensuring a common image when representing BASIS Scottsdale, and recognizing individual student achievements. Members of the Communications and Competition Committees are chosen by a staff panel from a pool of applicants of students active in a school club or society with a GPA higher than 3.0.

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FEATURED

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SAVE THE DATE

- | | |
|---|--|
| November 25:
Thanksgiving
Break Begins | December 3:
Community Book
Conversation |
| November 30:
Thanksgiving
Break Ends | December 21:
Winter Break
Begins |

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The Tech Committee, modeled after the Tri-M Music Honor Society's Tech Committee, 'owns' and manages any equipment used by societies/clubs for their events. Members of the Tech Committee are chosen by a staff panel from a pool of interested Upper School applicants. As Tech Committee members operate all equipment during events, members supporting an event gain free admission to those events that they work. Within all three committees, there is a chairperson, directly elected by the committee members. Like delegates, the chairperson of each committee is required to attend the monthly Master Society meeting to represent his or her committee.

In addition to monthly meetings, the Master Society creates a Master Calendar to ensure no overlap between school events. By keeping information for events streamlined, the Master Society hopes to facilitate an environment conducive to school spirit and enthusiasm for events. Therefore, when planning an event, students in a

or society would fill out an Activity Request Form for their club/society advisor to send to the Head of School or Auxiliary Program Coordinator to approve. After, the advisor would tell their Master Society representative, who would then take it to the Master Society monthly meeting to be put on the Master Calendar.

While Master Society is a new addition to BASIS Scottsdale's extracurricular catalog, it hopes to leave a lasting impact, allowing students across grade levels, interests, and clubs to work together in a positive environment. In the future, the Society hopes to boost collaborative efforts by allowing smaller clubs, which are normally unable to host events, to work together to be able to host new school events. As a fledgling organization, Master Society seeks to unite the BASIS Scottsdale student body to promote greater student participation and foster school pride—an ambitious goal, but one easily achievable at BASIS Scottsdale.



The Master Society, Hamilton-style (note: not an official logo)
Illustration by Tristan Clarke

PREVENTING BOREDOM WITH PANDEMIC PASTIMES

BY DERRICK
KANG

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many students have taken up new hobbies or spent time pursuing new activities. Whether to alleviate the stress associated with school or to learn something new, various students have enjoyed new hobbies that would have not been possible without the time given from quarantine. As different people have different ideas of how to pass this difficult time, I decided to interview three students, Sophie Li (10), Kunal Pawar (11), and Andrew Zhang (10), to understand how students have been entertaining themselves.

To start off, how have you been feeling during quarantine?

Sophie: It's been alright. It's been kind of hard not seeing all my friends or being able to talk to them. Even though we have social media and video chatting sites, it's just not the same. I've been trying to get some motivation to do things outside of school, but that motivation is really hard to come by. I've had a few mental breakdowns partially due to the frustration of this pandemic situation and partially due to being stuck inside for so long.

Kunal: I've been fine in quarantine. There haven't been many issues for me, though being forced to stay at home with parents for a long time can be a bit nerve-racking, and not going outside is also very difficult. Mostly, I just miss my friends who I would normally hang out with, even though there are ways to connect over FaceTime.

Andrew: I have been holding up quite nice actually. I seem to have some more free time despite the rigors of the BASIS curriculum. I have been getting some exercise in.

What hobbies or activities have you been pursuing during quarantine?

Sophie: I recently started Photoshop—I'm kind of an amateur as of now, but it's been fun to play around with the colors and change what you don't like. I've also been cooking a lot more, whether it be baking or just normal meals. Over the summer, when I had more free time, I'd try to prepare more time-intensive foods like beef bourguignon or bread. I also started trying to look for jobs that were socially distanced or easy to do over online meetings so that I could earn some money to start saving up for college. No sum is too little!

Kunal: some of my hobbies during quarantine were reading, playing video games, and playing backyard sports such as badminton and soccer. I also started reading a lot more since I had less to do; mystery novels such as Sherlock Holmes appeal to me more, even though they are pretty old.

Andrew: During quarantine, I am trying to volunteer more. I always had an interest in volunteering, but I never really had the time or my parents couldn't drive me. Either way, it is something that I have been striving to do more. However, it is now hard to find opportunities with the threat of COVID-19.

Seeing as there may be students who are unsure of what hobbies or activities to pursue, do you have any recommendations for them?

Sophie: My biggest recommendation would probably be going outside, even just for ten minutes. Go out and do something active like taking a walk or going to a park. It really improves the mindset. Maybe try doing some form of art since it is said to be therapeutic—I think we could all use some sort of stress-reliever during these times.

Kunal: I would honestly recommend the activities that I have done like sports and reading. But I would also recommend some online games that you can play with friends—those can be very fun and allow you to interact with others, even during quarantine.

Andrew: I would tell people to go take a walk, get some fresh air, or do any activity that is outside of the house. Everyone is so scared of going outside, but in open areas such as parks, the risk of COVID-19 is much lower. Just do not gather with a lot of people, but perhaps bring a friend and play some basketball.

Do you have any advice for people who are starting to pursue new hobbies during quarantine?

Sophie: It's usually not that hard to get away from all the noise. The easiest habits to pick up would probably be taking a walk in your neighborhood or closing your eyes and meditating for 5 minutes (just let your mind wander

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away). If you're trying to let go of frustration or anger, do something more physical like working out. If you're trying to find peace of mind, do something that takes more attention like drawing or preparing a meal. Let your mind wander from school or troubles.

Kunal: When trying to pursue a hobby, keep an open mind. For example, I started to read and write some of the languages from my home country, India, such as Marathi and Hindi. This was really hard, but it was a good way to pass time when I didn't have much else to do.

Andrew: If you want to try something new out, do not be

afraid. This is an uncertain time, so ease up and go with the flow. Everything right now is unusual and somewhat unprecedented, so think of what is happening as a mystery book that you are reading—a new chapter in your life. Once it has passed, you can reflect back on it as an exhilarating experience.

Though quarantine and online schooling can make having fun difficult, it's important to take time for oneself and pursue personal hobbies or interests. While school and extracurriculars may be a priority on one's mind, it's important to remember that having fun is just as important as studying hard.



Source: <https://toggl.com/blog/productive-hobbies>

MAKE-A-WISH: A REAL-LIFE GENIE FOR CHILDREN WITH ILLNESSES

BY CALISTA
WILK

If you could have one wish, what would it be? Maybe it's to travel the world, or maybe it's to become TikTok famous. For Hollie Costello, Vice President of PR and Marketing at Make-A-Wish Arizona, it's to meet Madonna. No matter what your wish may be, its impact is what's most important because it can promote strength, inspire hope, and unite communities. These qualities are essential in comforting and empowering people during this unprecedented pandemic. Organizations like Make-A-Wish are ensuring this security for communities throughout the United States. Founded and headquartered in Phoenix, Make-A-Wish has been granting wishes for children with critical illnesses since 1980, continually providing them with support and love.

At the Arizona chapter of Make-A-Wish, services are specifically tailored to each child to help him or her feel cared for and supported. As soon as a wish is received by the organization, two to three volunteers get to know and work with the child. During a period that can last up to nine months, the volunteers learn about the child's personality and "try to get to the heart of what the wish could be for [each] child," according to Ms. Costello. From the wish itself to the style in which the wish is delivered, every step in the process is crafted to match each child's unique preferences. This love is crucial in the development of children with critical illnesses, as it inspires hope and strength in children.

Even during today's difficult pandemic, Make-A-Wish Arizona is committed to helping these children. In order to comply with COVID-19 safety regulations, meetings with the children have become virtual calls on platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams. Staff members are also working from home to protect health in the office and drop off wishes

at children's homes to avoid physical contact, allowing the parents "choose how to bring it into their homes, depending on the care of their child." Although many changes have been made to Make-A-Wish Arizona's operations, their perseverance is recognized by all the children that they have helped.

This determination is inspired by a key characteristic of Make-A-Wish Arizona: their culture. Having been a part of Make-A-Wish Arizona for eight years, Ms. Costello said that what she enjoys most is its "amazing culture." Everyone who works at Make-A-Wish has a strong commitment "to the mission...to their fellow coworkers...to the volunteers...to making sure that each wish is individualized." By persevering together, the staff members are able not only to motivate and support each other but also to uplift and empower children.

For forty years, Make-A-Wish Arizona has been promoting strength and ambition in children with critical illnesses, as well as bringing staff members, families, and communities together. The impact of Make-A-Wish Arizona is especially important now during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because their operations are completely funded by donations from the community, a great way to support them is to donate at their website wish.org/arizona. Although people under the age of 21 cannot volunteer, you can still stay involved in the community and help their organization by hosting fundraisers as a part of their Kids for Wish Kids program by contacting Whitney Cohen at 602-544-2544 or wcohen@arizona.wish.org. Any way you can help Make-A-Wish Arizona makes a big difference in the community because helping grant a wish is helping change a life.



A group of students helping during a Kids for Wish Kids fundraiser (source: wish.org/arizona/ways-help-us)

SPORTS AT SCOTTSDALE: THE RETURN OF BASIS ATHLETICS

BY SAHIL
SUD

The COVID-19 pandemic has dominated our lives for many months, forcing quarantines slowing down life as a whole. We are all familiar with ways it has impacted our lives and day-to-day activities. However, sports globally have been affected and forced to shift schedules. For example, the Olympics were postponed to the summer of 2021, and the NBA season took a 6-month hiatus, returning to a bubble environment. Locally, BASIS Scottsdale has been forced to adjust the way it handles sports as well, which will have an impact on not only student-athletes, but the school as a whole.

Due to the rapidly increasing number of COVID-19 cases, both the officials at sporting events and the participants must follow safety guidelines, such as wearing masks and social distancing. In order to combat the spread of COVID-19, Mr. Wells, the cross-country coach, and other teachers have implemented safety protocols, including a mask mandate, where runners are expected to wear a mask at all times possible, even when running. In order to enforce this, there is a week-long suspension for any violation. However, this may result in a decrease in performance capabilities and deflated times due to the difficulty of running with a mask. As a result, the only sport included in the Fall Extracurricular Brochure was cross country.

Additionally, BASIS has begun the preliminary opening of the basketball season. Student-athletes have been playing miscellaneous scrimmages to hone their skills. Over the past few weeks, there have been open gyms for both varsity and junior varsity. At these open gyms, coaches have assessed how players have progressed through the extended summer, as well as evaluated what they need to work on. At practices, masks have been mandated to try to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Players are also expected to follow social distancing guidelines during breaks, and to try to stay as far apart as they can. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that games during the season will have crowds because the games are indoors, and spectators would be tightly packed together. In the second week of the month, on November 9 and November 10, tryouts for junior varsity and varsity were held for team selection, with the mask mandate in place.

Games will be different this year, as players and coaches adapt to the new accommodations like social distancing. Student-athlete Arun Moorthy (10) believes that

there will be an adjustment phase for the players. He says that players will be “feeling their way through” the season as it begins, as they adjust to playing regularly after a long summer off. But Arun is optimistic. “Open gym was really great,” he said. “I think we are going to have a great season.” Moorthy says that even with changes, such as the lack of a crowd, the Bulldogs will do well and succeed during the season.

As this unique season begins, we should appreciate safety measures put in place by staff, and cheer on our athletes. We will have to adjust and change the way we think about conducting games, perhaps for the foreseeable future. We’ll have to change the way we celebrate, or even watch games, but the one thing that won’t diminish is our school spirit.



Case Parsons of the 2019-2020 boys' varsity basketball team attempts a layup (Source: BASIS Scottsdale)

RECAPPING THE ELECTION AFTERMATH

BY ALEX
ZOU

Election Day took place almost three weeks ago. However, questions still remain as to how events will progress even after Joe Biden was selected as the President-Elect. To ascertain just how events will unfold, one must first return back to the week of Election Day.

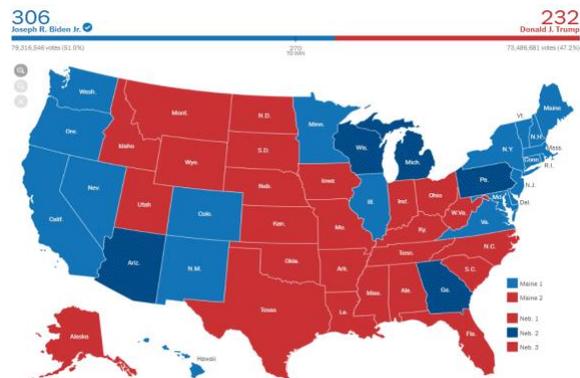
From November 1st to November 3rd (Election Day), the deadlines for both early in-person voting and mail-in ballots were reached in almost all of the fifty states. On November 3rd, regular voting began in all 50 states from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. As initial ballots were counted, several states exhibited “blue” or “red” mirages in which a state seems at first to be heavily in favor of one candidate or another, particularly in several key battleground states.

By November 4th, most states had been called for one candidate or the other. Notably, Arizona was marked as a flipped state for Biden, marking the first time that Arizona has cast its electoral votes for the Democratic Party candidate since 1996. At this point, with most states leaning Republican, President Trump called for the counting of votes to be ended by both the Supreme Court and individual states. Several hours later, many states started to count mail-in ballots. Because mail-in ballots heavily favored the Democratic Party candidates, the Trump campaign filed lawsuits in several key battleground states. These lawsuits included calls to stop the counting of votes entirely in Michigan, a recount in Wisconsin, and several lawsuits involving how far away a poll watcher could stand. By the end of the day, both Michigan and Wisconsin were called for Biden. Both key states had previously cast their electoral votes for Trump in the 2016 election.

On November 5th, several of Trump’s previous legal challenges were rejected in Michigan and in Georgia. In Pennsylvania, however, Trump lawsuits succeeded in obtaining permission from a Pennsylvania state judge to view ballot counting from outside 6 feet—the only legal victory for the Trump campaign so far. The very next day, on November 6th, Biden was first projected to win Pennsylvania, which would have delivered him the victory. Trump, however, opined that Biden could not claim the office of President since “legal proceedings are just now beginning.” On November 7th, events became heated as major news networks projected that Biden had won the election with the confirmation of Pennsylvania. Biden supporters celebrated across the United States. However, Trump refused to concede the election and instead doubled down on rhetoric proclaiming that “legal challenges...could determine the ultimate victor.”

By November 16th, many of Trump’s previous legal challenges had either been dropped or denied through legal channels. According to The New York Times, “his campaign lost in courts in Michigan and Pennsylvania and dropped a challenge in Arizona. On Monday, four cases in those two states and also Georgia and Wisconsin ... were also dropped.” In addition, all states but Georgia had been called for either candidate.

As of current writing, the state of Georgia has just been called for Biden. As such, major news networks are putting down a 306 - 232 split as the final electoral vote count. As Biden crossed the 270 electoral vote threshold required to win the Presidency, he delivered a victory speech in which he “pledge[d] to be a president who seeks not to divide but unify” and that “it’s the honor of [Biden’s] lifetime that so many millions of Americans have voted for that vision.” However, Trump continues to dispute the results of the election, arguing that he “won the election” because of “voter fraud all over the country.” Though he hasn’t offered any substantial proof of election fraud, Trump has still refused to concede the election.



The final electoral vote map for the 2020 election
(source: The New York Times)

Overall, according to Bloomberg, the total number of final votes will range from “157.1 million to 165.0 million” votes cast, accounting for “68.6%–72.1% of the citizen voting-age population.” In fact, more Americans voted in this election than in any other election in U.S. history, and the final voter turnout is likely to become the highest “since 1908” according to Foreign Policy. Looking at the results, it is obvious that this election was unusual in the amount of enthusiasm and willingness to vote that gripped the American public. There is little doubt that for better or worse, both Biden and Trump energized the American public to go out and make their opinions heard through voting in this year’s presidential election.

MONTHLY MUNCHIES

THANKSGIVING SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

BY DYLAN SOSINSKY
AND JONAH MARWIL

Do you like sweet food? Do you like savory food? Look no further, for this recipe below is a mix of the two flavors and one of my favorite things to eat on Thanksgiving. Who knows—it may even become yours too!

Ingredients:

3 pounds of sweet potatoes
½ cup of brown of sugar
½ cup of butter
½ teaspoon of vanilla extract
¼ teaspoon of cinnamon
A pinch of salt and pepper
2 cups of miniature marshmallows

Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Grease a 9 x 13 pan.
2. Place the sweet potatoes in a pot of boiling water. Simmer for 15 minutes or until fork tender. Drain.
3. In a large bowl, mash the sweet potatoes with brown sugar, butter, cinnamon, vanilla, salt, and pepper.
4. Add the marshmallows to the top of the mash.
5. Bake for 25 minutes or until both marshmallows are golden brown or the potatoes are heated to your satisfaction.

TASTE TEST

This month I will have my partner, Jonah Marwil and his family try this recipe:

Max Marwil

Pro: loves the marshmallows
Con: doesn't like the sweet potato

Suzanne Marwil

Pro: liked the sweet and savory
Con: too sweet for her liking

Jeremy Marwil

Pro: liked the sweet potato
Con: he likes the recipe he makes more



Source: Dinner at the Zoo

YOU CHOOSE!

We surveyed 4 students and 1 teacher within the BASIS community, asking them to rank six different foods traditionally eaten on Thanksgiving. The results of this survey are shown in the box on the next page.

The food with the worst rating is cranberry, at a meager 3.8/10. Riyan (8B) says that cranberry has a bad aftertaste and Mr. Klugman (8th-grade World History) says that cranberry is gross and everybody who likes it is insane. Sohum (8N) says that cranberry has a disgusting texture. The best-rated Thanksgiving food on this chart is mashed potatoes. David (8F) says that mashed potatoes are very creamy and soft and Ashton (8F) says that mashed potatoes are one of the best foods to have on Thanksgiving.

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MONTHLY MUNCHIES

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Food	Turkey	Casserole	Mashed potatoes	Stuffing	Cranberry	Pie
Rating (1-10)	6.5	5	8	6.3	3.8	7.8



Best-Rated Food – Mashed Potatoes
(Source: FlavCity)



Worst-Rated Food – Mashed Potatoes
(Source: Foodal)

Regardless of what this survey says, you have the freedom to eat any food you want. You can even eat spaghetti on Thanksgiving if that is what pleases you. Just because a food is ruled as a 'Thanksgiving food,' it doesn't mean you need to eat it on Thanksgiving. One interesting point Mr. Klugman argues is that "we should eat chicken on Thanksgiving. It is better tasting—you don't see turkey fingers at Popeye's!" Have a great time this Thanksgiving and make sure to eat foods you enjoy!

MATH MINDBENDERS

BY KISHORE RAJESH

Algebra: If $(x+1/x)=3$, what is x^2+1/x^2 ? What about (x^3+1/x^3) ? (Hint: You don't need to solve for x)

Pre-Calculus: If $\sin(x)^3=\cos(x)^2$, find $\sin^2(x)+\sin(x)-\csc(x)$.

Calculus: It is impossible to find an integral for $e^{(-x^2)}$. That said, what is the integral of $e^{(-x^2)}$ from $-\infty$ to ∞ ?

Multivariable Calculus: Prove Fubini's Theorem:

Let $X \times Y$ be an interval in \mathbb{R}^{m+n} , which is the direct product of intervals $X \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ and $Y \subset \mathbb{R}^n$. If the function $f: X \times Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is integrable over $X \times Y$, then all 3 of the integrals below are equal:

$$\int_{X \times Y} f(x,y) dx dy = \int_X dx \int_Y f(x,y) dy = \int_Y dy \int_X f(x,y) dx$$

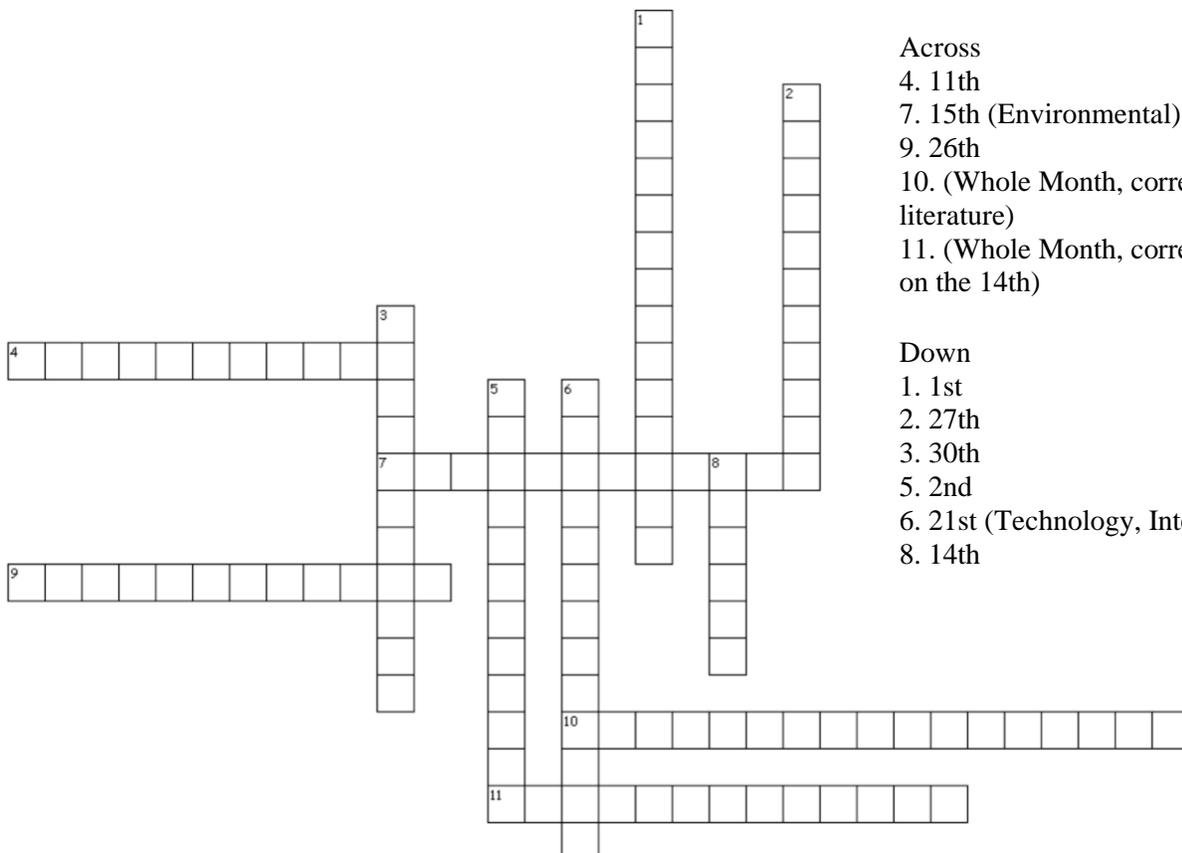
Discrete Mathematics: Let S be the set of all sets which do not contain themselves. Does S contain itself?

History of Mathematics: Can you find an easy algorithm for converting a number written in Babylonian to roman numerals?

KISHORE'S PUZZLE PAGE

BY KISHORE RAJESH

Crossword: Each entry is a November Holiday.



Across

- 4. 11th
- 7. 15th (Environmental)
- 9. 26th
- 10. (Whole Month, corresponds to literature)
- 11. (Whole Month, corresponds to one on the 14th)

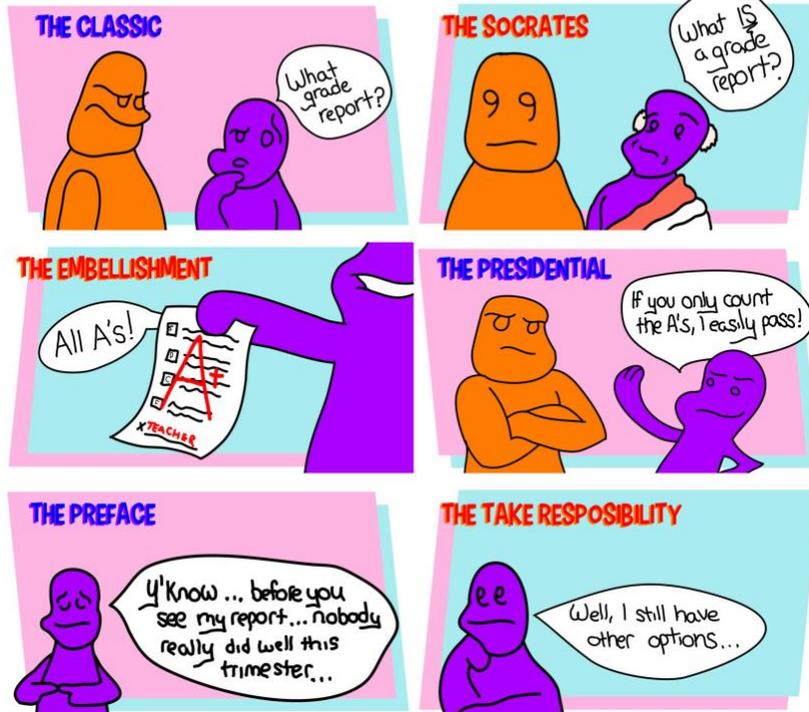
Down

- 1. 1st
- 2. 27th
- 3. 30th
- 5. 2nd
- 6. 21st (Technology, International)
- 8. 14th

COMIC O' THE MONTH

BY TRISTAN CLARKE

HOW TO SURVIVE GRADE REPORT SEASON:



Solutions to Crossword on Page 10:

1. Daylight Savings. 2. Black Friday 3. Cyber Monday 4. Veterans Day 5. Day of the Dead 6. Television Day 7. Recycling Day 8. Diwali 9. Thanksgiving 10. Novel Writing 11. Diabetes Month

BASIS GAZETTE STAFF

JOURNALISTS: DERRICK KANG, JONAH MARWIL, KISHORE RAJESH, GINA RYU, DYLAN SOSINSKY, SAHIL SUD, CALISTA WILK, ALEX ZOU

COMIC ARTIST/ILLUSTRATOR: TRISTAN CLARKE

CO-EDITORS: VIRAJ MEHTA AND TANAY VEDARTHAM
FACULTY ADVISOR: MR. WITZ

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, CONCERNS: BASISGAZETTE@GMAIL.COM