

# The Charter Times

Princeton Charter School

December 2016

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## School News

### PCS Fall Sports

Anlin Kopf

The Princeton Charter School has many sports that students can choose to play throughout the year, and many students do. Nonetheless, there are a lot of students who don't do sports at PCS and don't know how well the teams are doing. This fall, we had had a cross country team, a soccer team, and a field hockey team.

First, the cross country team was coached by Madame Mostafavi and Mr. Burt. We asked them for anything that they would like us to say in this article, but for some reason we got an entire mini article in return... Whoops! ;) Here is what they wrote:

"They may have capped off the fall 2016 cross country season with sweet treats and ice cream, but the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade athletes were hardly in for a "cake-walk" this season. On the contrary, our hawk runners worked hard three days a week and one day per weekend to improve their endurance and strength and to learn to love running! Some highlights included an excellent first meet at Newtown Friends School on September 26th. Despite several runners being stung by bees, the girls' team persevered to a second place overall finish, while the boys' team earned a respectable fourth place.

"The Annual PCS Invitational, with over 200 runners was also a fun and exciting event. Our top finisher was Katie Hackworth (second overall) and Tristan Block (twelfth overall). Another thrilling meet took place at Greenway Meadows where the "Battle of Princeton" was waged between many local schools. Winning the coveted black squirrel prize were Peter Hare, Katie Hackworth, Alana King, and Yayla Tur. If



crosscountry sounds like a sport you would enjoy, you can sign up next fall!" Even though this was supposed to be a student written article, thanks for the help!

Next, the soccer team had a fantastic season, coached by Mr. Madia. Led by Mathias Mialhe and Marcos Maldacena, the team won three games and lost three. Throughout the season, Mathias Mialhe scored four goals, Jake Zuckerman and Tillman each scored three, and Marcos Maldacena scored two. Nick Oskiper, Leo Kalabacos, and Melissa Josephson each scored one goal. Irene Dumitriu and Brendon Li were great on defense. As the goalie, Andreas Oskiper ended the season with three straight shutouts. The soccer season is over, but the team played very well.

Finally, the field hockey team, coached by Mrs. Schmitt with help from Mr. Johnson, had a great season. With only one tie, the team won seven and lost three games. Though the team had many new players, there was tremendous growth, great teamwork, and a lot of positive energy. In addition, the field hockey team had one loyal fan, Alex Zhang, who attended every single home game.

All three fall sports teams did fantastic this year. With many new and old students on each team, the students had fun and learned a lot. There were many eighth graders on each of the teams, who will be leaving this year, so if you think doing one of these sports would be fun, all of the coaches would love to have you. Congratulations to all of the fall sports players for a wonderful season. You guys did great!



## Classroom News

Allison Lee

Don't you think some classes are boring and feel like forever? Well, for some of these lucky kids, it seems like a blast! 2nd grade is doing a poster to raise awareness of the Lost-and-Found bucket in the K-4 building overflowing with found rain jackets and sweaters that is soon to be Princeton Charter School's Mount Everest! If you lost a sweater, make sure you go pick it up at the end of the day! Also, they are doing a scavenger hunt around Princeton to find objects such as the American flag and much more!

On the second floor of the K-4 Building, Mrs. Eustis' lucky history class of 4A and 4B have the privileges of looking at some of 19th century artifacts. These artifacts were found around the area of Mrs. Eustis' son, Matthew, dug up from around the area of his newly bought brown house, which was built in 1860, in Trenton. Some artifacts excavated were pieces of pottery, old kitchen tiles, and even a spark plug used back then for cars! Mrs. Eustis is setting up a party board for other students to get a chance to see cooler excavated items, so don't miss this great chance to see more astonishing artifacts!

Mme. Toma's Kindergarten class is doing a puppet show for the parents and every kindergartener will have a role that plays a major part in the production that is going to be, for sure, nominated Princeton Charter School's 7i HghDfcXi Mjcb cZ&\$%! If you have a sibling who's in

## Science Bowl

Lucia Shen

Congratulations to the final twelve of the science bowl team! These students have been working hard—reviewing and cramming as much information as possible to prepare for the competition.

The scrimmage against Lawrence Middle School recently took place, and results will be discussed in the next edition.

But what is science bowl really? In short, it's a fast paced, high scoring competition of knowledge.

It starts with a toss-up, a four point question. All

Kindergarten, don't forget to attend this wonderful puppet show that's going to brighten your day!

## Mock Election Results

Jessica

Wu

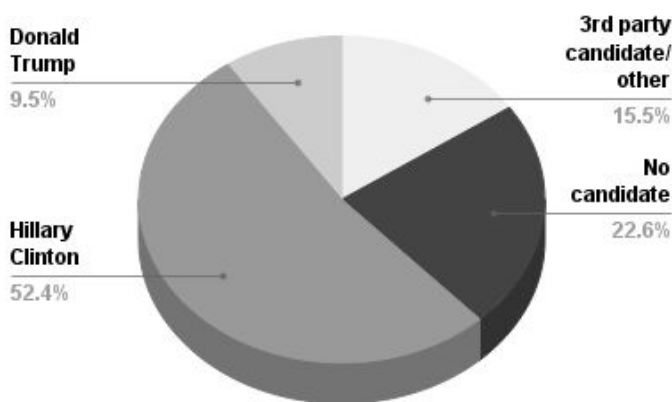
I gave out a survey before November 8th asking students who they would vote for in the 2016 election. The results showed a clear leaning towards Hillary Clinton, who got more than half of the polled students' votes. This makes sense, since New Jersey and Mercer County have voted Democrat in

the past elections. However, this year's election was marked by great discontent over both candidates. This is shown in the mock election, where nearly a fourth of the polled students voted for "no candidate".

Many students also decided to vote for a 3rd party candidate, such as Gary Johnson

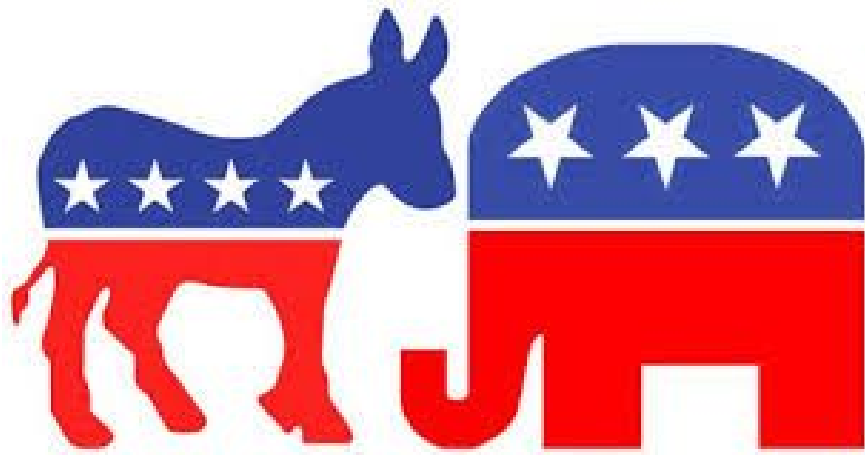
or Jill Stein. Donald Trump received less than a tenth of the votes. After the actual election, I asked students what they thought about the results. Many couldn't believe that Trump was president. One student said, "I was disappointed and very, very surprised...I hope he will keep things the same. I hope he won't change anything." However, some students weren't shocked by the results. As one said, "It wasn't so good, it wasn't so bad...each of them had their fault, so it was kind of seeing which had the least evils." Another said, "Honestly, people might have overreacted a bit. There's so much backchecking in the government that it doesn't matter if you don't like the candidate. I hope that [Donald Trump] will represent the country as best as he can."

**Mock Election Results**



competitors on two teams are armed with buzzers, and a student has five seconds after the question is read to buzz in. The team that buzzes in first and answers the question correctly receives a bonus question. This ten-pointer is discussed among the team, and the appointed captain gives the answer to the moderators.

This is a brief overview of the rules of science bowl, and there are many strategies and quirks to learn. Hopefully some of your interests are peaked.



# Opinions

## Advice Column

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Dear Struggling in Studying,

First of all, it's great that you are thinking of better ways to study, because that is an important step to becoming a better student. You didn't ask about any aspect of studying in particular, so I'll just give some general advice.

Some ways you can improve is having good organization and taking time to review things you learn in school, and here are some examples:

To have good organization, it helps to use your agenda to remind yourself of assignments. This is part of studying, because it will help you keep track of your tests/quizzes; it is pretty known and basic, but is really helpful. Also, you benefit a lot from keeping a certain time for going to bed, and a certain time for waking up. This helps with your mood and energy. To achieve these things you have to work on these goals every day, by, for example, gradually working towards fixed sleeping times. Writing in your agenda just takes some persistence.

In terms of actually studying, it is good to know the basics: review your notes, and ask your teacher about what you don't know and need to know: If you are studying terms and tricky facts, it is handy to make and drill yourself on flashcards. If you need to study a piece of literature, it might help taking notes on it and/or underlining important parts of related worksheets. If you need to study math, you can try solving extra problems as practice. In any subject, it is a good idea to look at previous quizzes/tests and their corrections. The hard part is doing this thoroughly and routinely, but, just like going to sleep on time and remembering due dates, this just takes willpower and patience--not only with the subject or goal, but with yourself. Self-esteem doesn't mend itself overnight either, so don't get discouraged when being positive about yourself is difficult. Also, don't get discouraged if being organized, studying, and getting better grades doesn't come to you immediately. Try and keep in mind that if you try your best and keep recovering from mistakes and slacks, things will definitely get better.

I wish you a lot of luck with your tests/quizzes, and I hope this was helpful to you.

Sincerely,  
"Abby"

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# Popular Music

Jennifer Ren

People all have different preferences in music since there are so many types. There is pop, rock, blues, classical music, and a uncountable number of other genres. There are the kinds of songs that are published and are known to nobody, while there are the kinds that become famous very shortly after they are released. For example, the music from the Broadway Musical Hamilton has become very popular. The music is very catchy and uplifting. Songs become well known very fast because of the amount of people using internet and social media.

"Closer" by the Chainsmokers (ft. Halsey), "Let Me Love You" by DJ Snake (ft. Justin Bieber) and "We Don't Talk Anymore" by Charlie Puth (ft. Selena Gomez) are examples of recently trending songs. "Closer" topped the charts in more than ten countries and became the Chainsmokers' and Halsey's first number one single. "Let Me Love You" and "We Don't Talk Anymore" both had similar achievements.

People also listen to music like k-pop and nightcore. A personal favorite of mine is "Shelter" by Porter

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Dear King Charles Spaniel Seeker,

I am very sorry that you can't find a King Charles Spaniel Dog, especially since you've been putting so much time and effort into searching for one.

I understand that you must want this dog a lot, and how it feels to want something very badly, but it might help you to think of a dog as a companion. There are a lot of dogs out there who are friendly and would care about you even if it isn't a King Charles Spaniel, and would make a great friend. Why be so choosy about breed? Even though King Charles Spaniels are known for their athletic and energetic nature, not all are necessarily the same, because all dogs have different personalities. There has to be one of some different breed that would still suit you.

Even if still you can't exactly find the dog you want, dealing with this kind of situation will give you persistence. As important as it is to have goals, it is also important to know how to move on from things, something you can definitely do with a positive mindset. Getting through things like this helps you live a healthier and fuller life, makes you a stronger person, and might help you deal with some of your other problems.

I hope you feel better, and am thankful for your sincerity.

Yours truly,  
"Abby"

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Dear Unbearably Uncomfortable,

It's great that you are thinking about your friend, as anybody should.

Well, if your friend has a strict commitment with the chorus instructor, and she can't quit, then the best thing you can do is cheer her up outside of chorus and make sure she doesn't commit herself to something like that again. Maybe you could try working something out with the organizer of chorus.

If she already has or will have a choice about quitting chorus, at that time, you should try making your friend feel ok with not being in chorus anymore. This is worth going to detail in because this is one of the places where your friend has a big problem, and here are some ways to talk to her about it. For example, assure your friend that it is your job to help her with problems and things that she is bothered about, and that

Robinson (an American DJ, record producer, songwriter, and musician) and Madeon (a French DJ, record producer, songwriter and musician as well). It was used in the Electronic Arts Sports game, FIFA 17 (a football game in the FIFA series for the PS4) and was also used by A-1 Pictures (a Japanese animation studio) to make a music video. It is about a 17 year-old girl, Rin, who does not have any memories and lives in a world of virtual reality. Her tablet gives her control over this simulation and the virtual world. As time passes, the VR world slowly reveals her past to her.

## Favorite 5B

### Books

Brandon Feder

Á The top three books in 5B include H`Y`DYfVh`  
>U]Vgcb`GYf]Yg`H`Y`<`Uffm`  
DchYf`GYf]Yg` and Ci`hcZ`  
A`mA`]bX.

The favorite out of all of the books listed was `DYfVh`>U]Vgcb` by Rick Riordan. The Percy Jackson series is about a teenager who learns that he is a son of the Greek god Poseidon. He trains to use his Greek powers at a camp along with his friends Annabeth and Grover. Later he joins his friends in an impossible journey to stop a war



she **bYXg**to quit chorus. If she stays true to the things that she wants to do, it will be a lot easier for them to pay attention in school, to study, and to do well on quizzes/tests. Forcing yourself to do extra activities like that is not only unnecessary but is really painful. Also tell her that they already does enough things as a friend like talking to you when you are upset, drawing pictures for you, or even going to your sports games. If she is now fine with quitting chorus, try to give them some time, and encourage her to talk to the chorus instructor about it. However uncomfortable it may seem, she has to do it on her own, because it is good to know how to talk to others and is respectful to the whoever is in charge of chorus. Your friend sounds very nice, and the chorus instructor won't give her too much of a hard time.

You also have to remember that this is just advice, and you should probably come up with your own way of talking to her. It can be really complicated and tedious to think of exactly what and how to talk to your friend, so sometimes you just need to relax and trust what is in your heart; this will help you understand how she probably feels, and arrive at the right way to talk to her.

Thanks for your great question, and I wish you a lot of courage and luck in resolving your problem.

Sincerely,  
"Abby"

## What Kind of an Example is Disney? Anlin Kopf

Many people, including adults, adore Disney and everything Disney seems to be. Disney represents dreams and magic and childhood, but what few people think about is how Disney sets a terrible example for young children. These children are soaking up how Disney's skewed depiction of how a princess should act and look.

First, Disney princesses mostly act like damsels in distress. The classic plot is that the princess gets in some sort of trouble and is saved by the prince in shining armor. This is telling young girls that women should depend on men. In *Sleeping Beauty*, even though Aurora is the main character, she is the princess with the least amount of screen time, and she sings more of her lines than she actually speaks them. Aurora does almost nothing in the entire movie only to be rescued by a random prince. In *Snow White*, Snow White falls asleep and is woken up by the prince who appears for only about five minutes in the entire movie. She does nothing to deserve being saved. In addition, Snow White is fourteen years old. At the end of the movie, she goes off with the prince to supposedly



between the Gods and the Titans.

The Harry Potter series by JK Rowling is about a boy who learns he is a very special magician. He trains to use his magic powers in a variety of ways but when facing Voldemort, the most evil man alive, they become very handy.

.....**Ci hcZA mA JbX**'by Sharon M. Draper is about a disabled eleven year old girl who can neither speak nor move causing her to use a wheelchair. Fortunately, her mind works, but her friends and family may not know it.

## Private Schools: Pros and Cons

Lucia Shen

The phone calls, the calendar flipping, and the ruffling of papers gathering dust until recently mark the time of year when applicants wake up in a flurry of activity.

During these months, some eighth graders are bustling about, going through the application process for private school: Families research surrounding schools extensively, hopefully finding just the right fit, and prospective students flock to open houses.

Schools such as Lawrenceville and Peddie boast their small class sizes, their

get married. That is extremely young. Girls who watch Disney movies might also be hesitant to go out and create their own futures because they might not be as successful as the princesses who look pretty and wait.

Another way in which Disney is setting a bad example is the way the princesses are drawn. Disney's princesses are drawn with extremely thin waists. This is telling young girls that they need to look like that to live a happy and complete life when, in fact, it is impossible to get that thin and still be healthy and normal you think for a moment, you might realize that Merida, from Disney's Brave, does not meet any of these restrictions. She is a stubborn, fiery young girl who doesn't want to get married. In the Disney movie, she is independent and fierce. The problem came when Merida got added to the official Disney princess lineup for marketing. Each time a princess is added to the official lineup, she gets a makeover. Many just get a sparkly dress. For Merida, however, the changes were more drastic. She did get a sparkly dress, which the character would have hated quite a lot, but also had wild, frizzy hair calmed down and made more elegant. In addition, she lost her bow. In Brave, Merida always had her bow with her, like it was a part of her. Her losing it when she was added to the official lineup was, to me, like her losing her freedom. Archery was how Merida let her feelings go and enjoyed herself. Merida is one of the few Disney princesses who fights the princess stereotype of women. Without that, she's just a pretty face. Finally, Disney made a disturbing change to Merida. They made her figure more feminine. The writer and co-director of brave, Brenda Chapman, said, "I think it's atrocious what they have done to Merida. When little girls say they like it because it's more sparkly, that's all fine and good, but, subconsciously, they are soaking in the [romantic] skinny aspect of the new version. It's horrible! Merida was created to break that mold – to give young girls a better, stronger role model, a more attainable role model, something of substance, not just a pretty face that waits around for romance."

What many people aren't thinking about is how this affects young boys, too. They are also soaking this in. They are getting the idea that female characters are super skinny and just wait around for a prince. These boys will also have that image of women, and they are getting the message that girls need to be that way. This will make it even harder for girls to realize that they don't have to be like that to be accepted by society.

Disney is sending a terrible example to young girls and boys in the way that Disney Princesses act and look. Disney, sadly, is not the only

teacher-to-student ratios. These unique aspects of private school prevent the familiar case of a student daydreaming in the corner of a lecture hall. With their "round the table" Harkness discussions, there is, quite frankly, nowhere to hide in private school classes.

This environment acts as a stepping stool for those challenged with speaking out confidently, and it serves as a catalyst for in depth thinking through bouncing ideas around.

To those possessing the drive to learn, a private school's resources provide so many opportunities that a public school might not offer. After all, the teachers live right on campus and even eat meals with students.

However, private school is expensive. Even though much growth can be achieved, it is hard to determine whether a private school education in Princeton is worth it. After all, Princeton High School is just around the corner.

Every unique situation warrants a different solution, and it's up to the family to decide which school would be best.





form of media that is sending out these kinds of messages. DC and Marvel Comics, models in magazines, and a lot of anime also send out terrible messages about how female characters should act and look, and it is our duty, as the young generation of this world, to protest it.

## Entertainment

### What Greek God or Goddess are you Most Like?

Luca Balescu

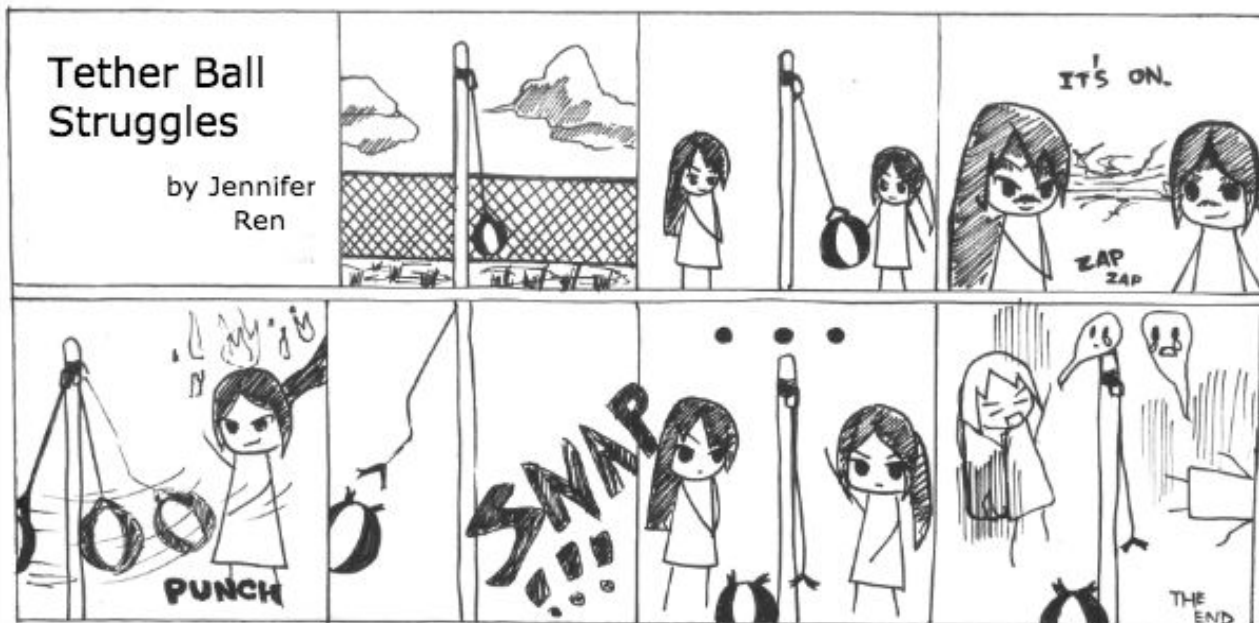
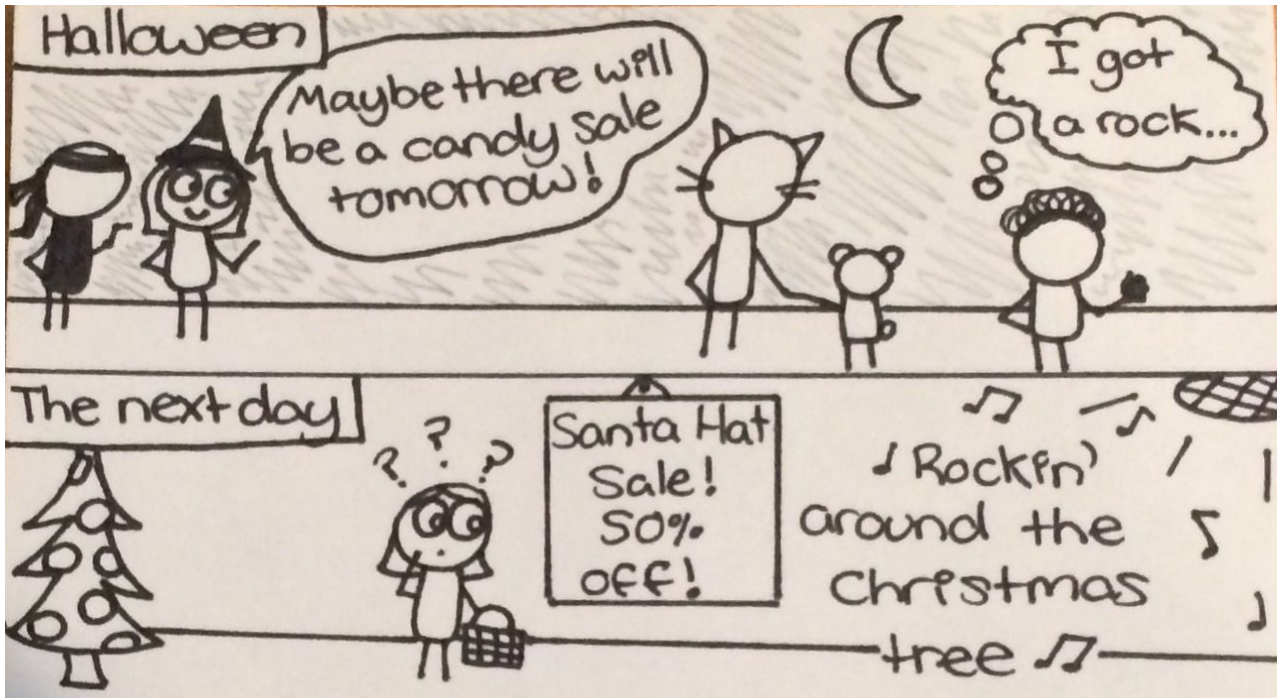
1. What are your favorite animals from the list below? A. Owls B. Horses C. Eagles  
D. How about... goats!? E. Robots F. Doves G. Humans! Wait, no...
2. If someone stole fire from you (I'm looking at you Prometheus) and brought the fire to mankind, what would you do? A. I think fire would be good for mankind. I would leave them alone and see what happens. B. Why would I care? C. I would chain whoever did this to a rock and have vultures eat his liver every day! D. I would... um... try not to get involved. E. I like fire. Fire is cool. F. I would probably not do anything, but watch with a bowl of popcorn. Or something similar. G. Watch them burn!
3. Where would you rather live? A. Not anywhere specific. B. Under the sea. C. In the sky! D. Somewhere with goats. E. In a volcano. F. I don't know. G. In the middle of a war!
4. Which one of these people do you like most? A. Albert Einstein B. Jules Verne (20,000 Leagues Under the Sea. Great book!) C. Amelia Earhart D. Anyone who likes goats. E. That caveman who discovered fire. F. All of the above. Actually, everybody except for a few... G. Julius Caesar
5. What do you think nobody could live without? A. A brain. B. Water. C. Oxygen D. Goats. E. Fire. F. Love. G. Guns! And grenades! And grenade guns!

### How to Score Yourself

- If you got mostly A, you are most like Athena, goddess of wisdom.
- If you got mostly B, you are most like Poseidon, god of the sea.
- If you got mostly C, you are most like Zeus, chief god, and god of the sky.
- If you got mostly D, you are most like Pan, the goat god.
- If you got mostly E, you are most like Hephaestus, the god of fire and blacksmiths.
- If you got mostly F, you are most like Aphrodite, the goddess of love.
- If you got mostly G, you are most like Ares, the god of war.

# Is it Christmas Yet?

Rachael Dewey



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Lucia Shen

**ACROSS**

- 1 Musician talk for a half-note (hyphen)
- 4 Pertaining to rabies
- 9 What rainbows do across the sky
- 12 Goal
- 13 A unicorn-like mythical creature with 2 horns
- 14 Henry Ford designed the first one
- 15 Flower necklace
- 16 Stuck up person
- 17 Archaic "before"
- 18 \_\_\_ 233 (converted book title)
- 20 Small, mole-like mammal
- 22 Largest art museum in US
- 23 To cushion
- 24 One who is charitable
- 27 Divide
- 28 Highest is 4.0
- 31 A French friend
- 32 Onomatopoeia for a shock
- 33 Magenta root
- 34 Puppet parody of Harry Potter (Abbr.)
- 35 Atticus' son
- 36 Unconscious hallucinations in midsummer
- 37 Sweet term of endearment
- 38 Millennial term of endearment
- 39 Results from an oyster's irritant
- 42 Possibly oldest surviving epic poem in Old English
- 46 Y'\_\_
- 47 People from Iran
- 49 Literary grassland
- 50 Forensic science squad
- 51 Be paid (third person present)
- 52 Lord of Winterfell and Warden of the North
- 53 Where the golf ball starts
- 54 Emblem of a clan (often seen as poles)
- 55 Plural of "is"

**DOWN**

- 1 1 on the Moh's Hardness Scale
- 2 "\_\_\_! Spider!"
- 3 1,000,000 (slang, two words)
- 4 Used as a simile to describe one's wit
- 5 Approximately

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
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46				47	48					49		
50				51						52		
53				54						55		

- 6 Actions/things forbidden
- 7 Text speak for expressing a neutral position
- 8 The name of 2 Roman emperors
- 9 Computer brand
- 10 Uncommon
- 11 A ship's work force
- 19 Captain Hook's first mate
- 21 Enhanced picture quality on a screen
- 23 Unit of cheerleader energy
- 24 A space
- 25 A cheeky mischievous kid
- 26 Person who get to cut in line with special passes
- 27 Short for Pamela
- 28 Old-fashioned interjection
- 29 What the princess could feel beneath twenty mattresses and twenty featherbeds
- 30 The automated teller
- 32 Peaceful
- 33 Beverage
- 35 Lovesick Shakespearean 13 year old
- 36 Philosophy that emphasizes going with the flow
- 37 Time (Abbr.)
- 38 Origin of sesame
- 39 Agreement
- 40 "... or \_\_\_!" (threat)
- 41 What made Pinocchio's nose grow (two words)
- 42 Oldest child of the Simpson's
- 43 Longer bone of two in the human forearm
- 44 Malicious gaze
- 45 Gradually disappear
- 48 Red supergiant Superman's home planet orbited

# SCIENCE CLASS

## EXPECTATION:



## REALITY:



Alex Zhang

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DEAR SCIENCE TEACHERS,  
PERFORMING A DEMONSTRATION DIRECTLY UNDER  
THE PROJECTOR IS NOT THE BEST IDEA.

SIGNED,  
A STUDENT



Alex Zhang

# A Soccerball's Feelings by Audrey You

Hey. I am a soccer ball, and here's the story of my life.



First of all, the feet, ok? Why don't they use something they actually clean?



Just kick it! It's not like it's got feelings or anything!



All you can see is the sky and the ground and the sky and the ground as you roll away.



Also, you always know when a game is about to begin.



It's not always easy during the game, either.

And one day, they abandoned me!!



Where did the ball go? Oh well. We can always get another one. That one wasn't worth much anyway.

**THE END**



... And that's why you kids are NEVER becoming soccerballs! EVER!