

Fall 2020

# Panther Press



PUBLISHED BY THE AWESOME  
STUDENTS OF  
ORCHARD VALLEY MIDDLE  
SCHOOL



Local wild turkey photo courtesy of Bella Dickerson

## Inside this issue

Page 2: Visit from Publishier, Mr. DeVivo

Page 3: Fall Holidays and Happenings

Page 4: A Candy Survey and Halloween Poem

Page 6-7: 2020's Over Active Hurricane Season

Page 8-9: How to prepare for a Hurricane or Tropical storm

Page 10: The Soul Collecting Boy

## Amazing OVMS Newspaper Staff

- Angelina Alvarez Grade 8
- Bella Dickerson Grade 8
- Brianna Elliot Grade 8
- Matthew Weisensee Grade 8
- Cecilia Houck Grade 7
- Michael Horn Grade 7
- Joshua DeVivo Grade 6
- Daniel Gallagher Grade 6
- Marchelino George Grade 6
- Marlee McGrath Grade 6
- Griffin Ryan Grade 6

**New members are always welcome!**

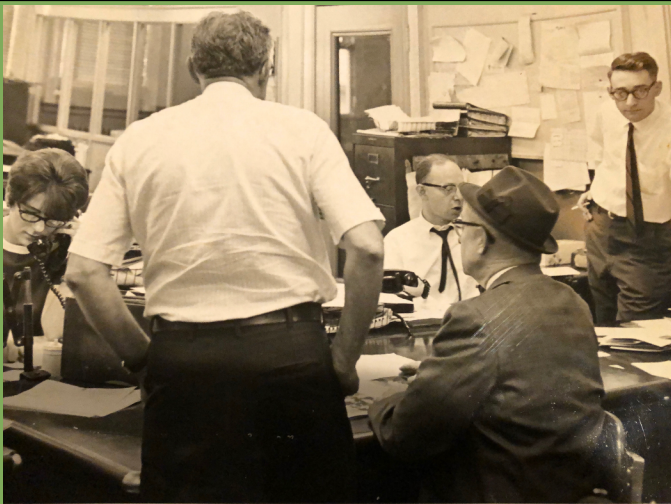
**Contact Mrs. Walz at [kwalz@wtps.org](mailto:kwalz@wtps.org).**

# Thank You, Mr. DeVivo

**For taking your time to visit with the OVMS Newspaper Club**

The Panther Press staff would like to thank Mr. Sal DeVivo for coming to our Newspaper Club meeting to share his experience as a journalist, editor, and publisher. His visit was very inspiring, and it was fascinating to speak with him, and learn about his journey with journalism-particularly his early experience as co-editor of his school newspaper.

**Thank you, again, Mr. Devivio!**



**Pictured Above (far right hand corner): Mr. DeVivo in the newsroom in 1967**



**Pictured to the Left: Mr. DeVivo in the newsroom in 1956**

## A Biography of Mr. Salvatore DeVivo

By; Joshua DeVivo

Salvatore Devivio is a retired Newspaper Publisher from Saratoga Springs, NY. After getting his degree in journalism, he started out as a reporter, working his way to the positions of editor and then publisher in several newspapers. For most of his career he worked for the Gannet Newsgroup, which owns USA Today. He was a contributor to "The Road to Integration," which won Gannet a Pulitzer Prize in 1964. He was the Publisher of the Courier Post in the 1970's.



# Fall Holidays and Happenings

## Art Club Spotlight

By: Bella Dickerson

Orchard Valley's Art Club run by Mrs. Danowitz has entered into the Empire Car Cover design contest. The first place winner receives \$2500, the second place winner receives \$500, and the third place winner receives \$250. Members in the club created different potential designs for the car cover and the club members voted on which design they like the best. The winning design was a gingerbread car design, which was drawn by Isabella Dickerson, an OVMS eighth grader. The club is currently painting the cover, and will take a picture of it to submit for the contest. Voting for the best cover design begins on December 6th and ends on December 21st. If you're interested in joining Art Club, email Mrs. Danowitz ([Idanowitz@wtps.org](mailto:Idanowitz@wtps.org)).



## America is Celebrating the 400th Year of Pilgrims' Landing at Plymouth Rock

By Marcheino George

The Pilgrims held the first Thanksgiving. These people were English Puritans who came to North America on the Mayflower, and established the Plymouth Colony. The reason they came to the Americas was because they wanted to separate from the Church of England and flee persecution. Because they were prohibited to do this in England, they were persecuted or put in jail. The Pilgrims set sail aboard a ship called the Mayflower. They headed for America on September 6, 1620. There were 102 passengers onboard the Mayflower. The Pilgrims reached America in 1620. After arriving in America, the Pilgrims found a location in what is now Massachusetts. The Pilgrims built their village and established a colony called Plymouth, but things were not easy for them. They were not prepared for the cold winter. Many people got sick and died over the winter. By the end of winter, 55 out of the original 102 settlers died. The Wampanoag tribe lived in the area. The chief of the Wampanoag, Massasoit, contacted the Pilgrims. One Wampanoag man named Squanto was kidnapped by English explorer, Thomas Hunt, and was carried to Spain. Thomas Hunt sold Squanto in the city of Málaga, Spain, but Squanto returned to his native village in America. Surprisingly, Squanto agreed to stay with the Pilgrims and teach them how to survive. He taught them how to plant corn, where to hunt and fish, and how to survive through the winter. In 1621, the Pilgrims held the first Thanksgiving. They invited some of the local Wampanoag people to join them.

# Halloween Poem

By: Ceci Houck

As red and orange leaves fall,  
Creepy spiders crawl,  
The kids beg to go outside to play,  
While the trees sway every day.  
Witches ride brooms high in the sky,  
As cats stare up with evil green eyes,  
Zombies come out of graves,  
While a kid misbehaves.  
Scary Jack-o-lanterns are made,  
As people in haunted houses are afraid,  
Werewolves howl at the moon,

As people know the end of Halloween is coming soon.



## ***I Want Candy!!***

### ***An OVMS survey by Ceci Houck***

The Panther Press wanted to know what the favorite candies at OVMS were, so we took a survey. Thank you to all of you who answered. The Newspaper hopes that one of your favorite candies is on the *Top Ten List*. Here they are....

#10: **Swedish Fish** (Don't feel bad...at least you weren't number 11!)

#9: **M&M Plain** (You knew they had to be there.)

#8: **M&M Peanut** (Wow...better than the original???)

#7: **Skittles** (Taste the rainbow!)

#6: **Hershey Bars** (With or without almonds)

#5: **Milky Way** (They're outta this world!)

#4: **Snickers** (You're not you when you're hungry!)

#3: **Kit Kat** (Meow)

#2: **Twix** (Which one do you get more...right Twix or left Twix?)

And the candy that got the most votes at OVMS is a classic, but a goodie...

**# 1: Reese's Peanut Butter Cups!!**



# Gamers' Page

## Review of *A Hat in Time*

By Daniel Gallagher

Do you find interest in platformer game? Well, if you do, then I recommend the game, *A Hat in Time*. You may not have heard of this game, and I do not blame you, since I believe that it's heavily underrated. I will be reviewing this game, and after it, I hope you will be interested in the game!

*A Hat in Time* is a platformer game where you must find timepieces in order to get home. Time pieces are basically the fuel of the ship, and once someone from the town, Mafia Town (yes, that's in the game) punches through the window, it sucks you out, along with the many time pieces. They have now fallen over this new planet, where you have to collect all these time pieces.

Here are the pros of the game. The game is really cute, and in my opinion, it is funny. There are many different environments to jump around in and explore in. There are different areas in this game too, with so many amazing environments that have different themes, with many different characters. All of these different environments are considered "chapters," and in each chapter there is an act. There are also many puzzles that are very interesting to me.



In those environments, you can get yarn to get to get new hats. Hats have many different abilities that will help you get by, and you can even access more yarn with them. There are also different puzzles in each act to get time pieces. There are many more things that I like, like the time rifts, however, I don't want to make this too long, and I also think it would be better to experience these things on your own.

There are some problems I have, and with that, I will have to move into the cons of the game. The first problem I have is that some objects that are parts of characters clip through themselves, like the smile of the Snatcher. I also think that the physics can be a little wonky, and they are strange at times. I also really hate how fast the game ended, there were only five chapters in it, and I wish I could play it longer. I even think that they could've added so much more to make the game ever more fun. However, they probably couldn't add that.

I'd personally give this game a 9 out of 10. Sure, this game isn't for everything, but I hope you at least try this game out, because, in my opinion, if you haven't played it, you're missing out.

## About Covid-19 Gaming Trends

By Griffin Ryan

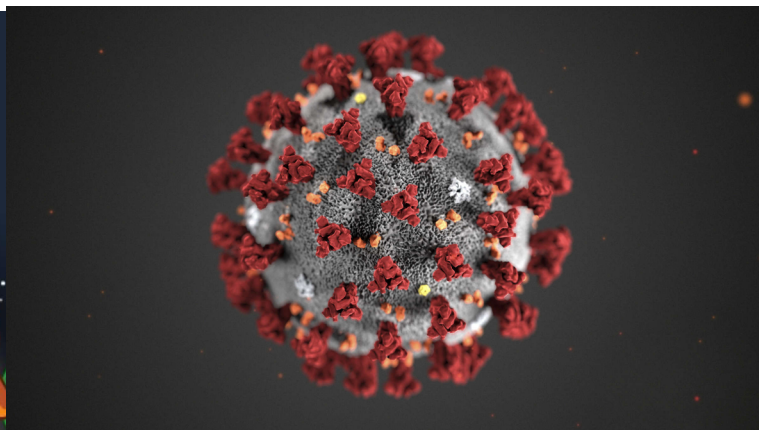
### What are Trends, and What Makes People Like Them?

There have been many trends in gaming this year. It seems like they roll out and change monthly.

This seems to be directly related to Covid-19. We need friends to play with, and that is not possible because of the virus. Gaming makes it possible to play and interact with friends.

Gaming channels, such as Twitch, record and reflect current trends in gaming. Gaming trends have become more simplistic during the Covid spikes. When the number of Covid cases goes down, game popularity goes down, too. When the number of Covid cases goes up, game popularity and viewership seems to rise as well.

Information on gaming and viewership has been obtained from Twitch.tv.com.



# 2020's Over Active Hurricane Season

## By Bella Dickerson

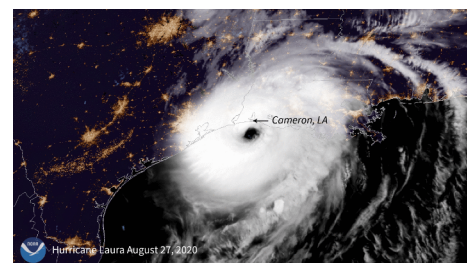
2020 from the start has been a mess, from Covid-19 and state lock downs to an over-active hurricane season. 2020's hurricane season is one like no other season in the past 15 years. 2020's hurricane season broke the previous record of 28 named storms set in 2005. This year there's been 30 name storms. 13 of these storms were hurricanes and 6 of those hurricanes were major hurricanes.

This is also the first year since 2005 that the World Meteorology Organization has gone through their entire hurricane name list for the Atlantic Ocean's storms. Having exhausted their list of storm names, they are now having to name storms after the letters of the Greek alphabet. Every 5-6 years the World Meteorology Organization creates a list of names that will be used to identify storms out in the Atlantic, and Eastern Pacific Oceans. Sometimes if a storm is so destructive and/or there were many fatalities resulting from it, the storm name is retired so that no other storm can be identified with that name. Take Hurricane Katrina for example, because Katrina was so deadly and destructive, the name was removed from the World Meteorology Organization's hurricane names list. Several other hurricane names that will never be used again are Sandy, Rita, Hugo, and Edna. Hurricane season usually starts on June 1st and goes until November 30th but, this year's season started earlier. The first storm to form in the Atlantic, was tropical storm Arthur, which began to form on May 10, 2020. Since then, there have been 29 more named storms.

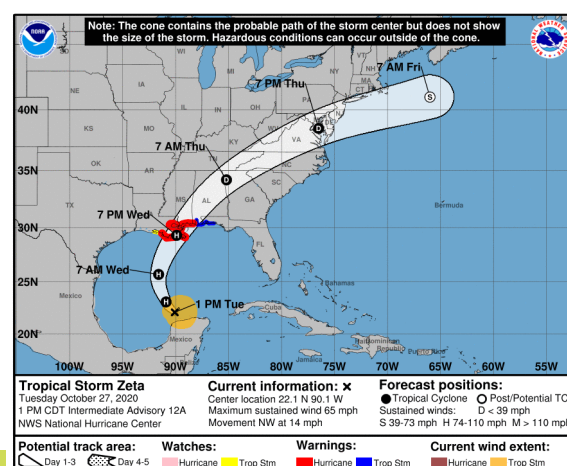
Not all of these named storms were hurricanes; many didn't make it to hurricane status. To be considered a hurricane, the storm must have a sustained wind speed of 74 mph or greater and to be considered a major hurricane, the storm's sustained wind speed must be 110mph or greater. To be considered a tropical storm, the storm has to have sustained winds between 39 mph to 73mph.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Hurricane Laura satellite view



National Hurricane Center  
Hurricane Zeta's projected path from Tuesday October 27, 2020



# 2020's Over- Active Hurricane Season Continued

Louisiana has been hit by five storms, one of which were major hurricanes. The first storm was Tropical Storm Marco. Marco made landfall on August 24th, as a tropical storm at the mouth of the Mississippi River. Then two days later, on August 26th, Major Hurricane Laura made landfall between Midnight and 1:00am as a Category 4 Hurricane. Hurricane Laura was the first major hurricane of this year. About a month later, Tropical Storm Beta made landfall on September 22, on the Texas coast near Victoria Texas. This storm still affected Louisiana because of the path the storm took after it made landfall. After tropical storm Beta, Hurricane Delta. Delta made landfall on October 9th as a Category 2 hurricane in Creole Louisiana. Hurricane Zeta made landfall in Louisiana around 4pm October 28th, as a Category 2 storm. Every part of the state of Louisiana has felt the effects of a tropical storm or hurricane this hurricane season.

In a hurricane, the storm surge is more dangerous than the winds. Storm surge occurs when the ocean rises abnormally during a storm, and can go inland lengthy distances. According to the National Oceanic Administration or NOAA, the storms in the Atlantic between 1963 and 2012 49% of direct fatalities were from storm surge. Only 8% of deaths were from the winds. Storms can intensify and weaken within a matter of hours. Information about them changes frequently. Hurricanes are cool forces of nature and shouldn't be underestimated. Always remember that. It is always good to be prepared in a hurricane. If you would like to know what to do in the event of a hurricane read my other article, Tips for Being Prepared in a Hurricane.

We're not done with storms yet this year. The Hurricane Season ends November 30th. which is in about 5 days. After hurricane season ends, you still have to worry about Nor'easters. Nor'easters are like hurricanes but occur in the winter. Nor'easter's season starts in September and ends in April. Notice that Nor'easter season and Hurricane Season overlap. Nor'easters form in the ocean between New Jersey and Georgia. They are known to hit the New England states and Maritime provinces in Canada, because after they form, they travel Northeastward. For more information about Nor'easters read my next article in the next issue of the Panther Press.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/ National Hurricane center

Edward N. Rannaport 2014

Causes of direct fatalities from Atlantic tropical cyclones 1963-2012

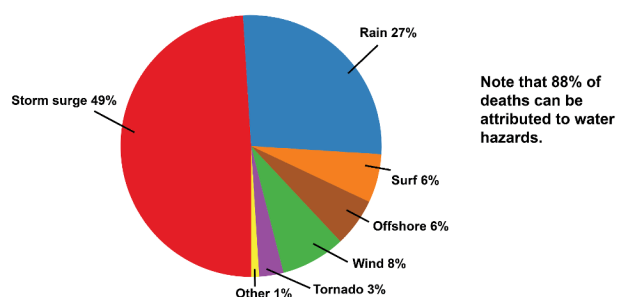


Chart adapted from *Publications in the United States from Atlantic Tropical Cyclones: New Data and Interpretation* by Edward N. Rannaport, 2014.

2020 Atlantic Tropical Cyclone Names					
Arthur	Hanna	Omar	Alpha	Iota	Rho
Bertha	Isaias	Paulotto	Beta	Kappa	Sigma
Cristobal	Josephine	Rene	Gamma	Lambda	Tau
Dolly	Kyle	Sally	Delta	Mu	Upsilon
Edouard	Laura	Teddy	Epsilon	Nu	Phi
Fay	Marco	Vicky	Zeta	Xi	Chi
Gonzalo	Nana	Wilfred	Theta	Omicron	Psi
				Pi	Omega

Be prepared: Visit [hurricanes.gov](https://hurricanes.gov) and follow @NWS and @NHC\_Atlantic on Twitter.

11/24/20



# How to be Prepared for a Hurricane or Tropical Storm

By Bella Dickerson

When you hear that a hurricane or tropical storm is predicted to strike your area, it is good to be prepared. There are a few crucial pieces of information you should know in order to stay safe. You should create a hurricane plan. In this plan include what to do if your area experiences a hurricane, what to do if you need to evacuate or if you evacuate, and a hurricane kit. Make sure your family knows what to do in case of a hurricane.

Some supplies to include in your hurricane kit.

- Batteries
- 3 days-worth of water and non-perishable foods
- A hand crank or battery powered weather radio
- A first aid kit
- All medical equipment and medications your family needs
- Flash lights
- All important documents in water tight containers
  - . Birth and marriage certificates
  - . Medical records
  - . Insurance papers
  - . Property records such as deeds, licenses and mortgages
  - . Family photos
  - . Your pets emergency kits



It is a good idea to have all electronics charged such as phones, I-pads, Kindles, I-pods etc. Remember, hurricane season doesn't end until November 30th. Back in 2012, New Jersey got a snowstorm a week after Hurricane Sandy struck.

Important supplies to include in your pet's Hurricane kit

- 3 days' worth of food and water
- A leash, collar and harness
- A carrier or crate
- Medications and medical records
- A recent photo of you and your pet
- A few toys
- A litter box or bags
- The name and number of your pet's veterinarian



# How to prepare for a Hurricane or Tropical storm

## Continued

Also have an idea of evacuation shelters or places you can stay if you have to evacuate that allow pets. Keeping your pets safe is just as important as keeping yourself safe. Whether you evacuate or shelter in place, you need to take outside precautions to prepare for the storm. You should board your windows or have permanent storm shutters to protect them. Clean up your yard. Put away outside toys, lawn furniture, lawn decorations and trash cans to keep them from getting damaged or blowing away in the wind and becoming projectiles. A hurricane force wind can turn ordinary objects into dangerous flying debris. Trim and prune trees to remove any dead or broken branches so they don't fall and create damage during the storm. Clean gutters or downspouts to prevent water build up and flooding.

Here are a few tips to remember when sheltering in place during a hurricane. Shelter in an interior room on the lowest level of your home that has no windows. Make sure to have food, water, a weather radio, clothing, medications, important documents in water tight containers, pets and small electronics in there with you in your safe room. Don't leave your shelter until you know it's safe or when emergency personnel tells you it is okay. If you live in an area prone to flooding, shelter in place in an interior room on the highest level of your home. Try not to go outside. If you have to, avoid flooded areas or flood water. The water could be contaminated or contain harmful animals, plants or debris. Also avoid going out onto beaches, river banks, lake shores or any where that borders a body of water.

It is always better to be prepared. Don't wait to prepare or evacuate until the last minute. Check the weather frequently and listen to what the meteorologists say. Get information from trusted sources such as the American Red Cross, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Weather Service, and the National Hurricane Center. If you are ordered to evacuate, do so. It is better to be prepared for nothing rather than not be prepared for something. What I mean is it is better to be prepared for the worst even if it doesn't happen than to be unprepared and the worst happens. Hurricanes are powerful forces of nature; you shouldn't underestimate them. It is better to be safe than sorry. If you would like more information about how to prepare for a hurricane, you can find information on FEMA, and the American Red Cross's websites.



# FEMA



## Creative Writing Spotlight:

Flashback to a Story Written in Elementary School by Newspaper Club Member, Daniel Gallagher,

# The Soul Collecting Boy

The splintery turbine making its screeching creaks and crack, The stiff squeaking of the wheels of a wheel barrow, Figurines hung up cluttering against each other. But the loudest of those sounds were the crickets seemingly having the longest conversations. Erican listened to this, with his beliefs rising hoping to see a ghost. The town had an urban legend that if you listened to the voices of the cricket, the gods glazing peace through the town, and the wolf's howling, then you'd see the form of spirit animal chosen by your passed on loved ones.

Erican was doing this for fun. He didn't care for this. Erican was one of those bad boys. Cocky, rude to his parents, made fun of kids. He has aged over these 3 years the time he was only nine, now he is getting a tad bit better. Erican started to look down as his eyes turned into dark circles and his arms which were holding his head up lost its power. He faded into the dream land. As far as the dream land was it still was very easy to go there. The figurines which were hung up stopped pushing through the line. Some of the cricket stuttered on what to say and eventually they all stopped. And this feeling of spiders inside of him climbing up his spine happened to Erican. He didn't like this quietness, and he didn't like how things seemed to disappear. Erican went inside of his house, and hopped into bed. (The dream land isn't for outside) Erican thought to himself. He began to feel lighter until he went to the world of dreams.

Storms washed away Erican's crew from his big ship. People got sucked into the vortex. Screams of the souls of his crew began to sail away in their own boat. It was only visible when the white spark of the lightning struck, it was a leviathan. To Erican it was millions of feet long. It had a face of decaying flesh that looked like it was boiled off by a grill, its tail was hundreds of feet long, and it had no life or feeling. Erican's crew was gone, which meant it was his turn. The tip of his ship ripped off like someone ripping a twig, The sides and bottom of the ship banged and clicked off, fire rose from the leviathan's mouth like a stove being turned on.

Erican tried to steer the ship away from the beast of fire but the corroded ship filled with the sea slowing it down. Erican's brother was in the cell but the room was filling with water and fire. Erican's brother-Elenor was drowning. The ship tipping mixed with the water on board made Erican slip. The fire spread all over the ship, Erican has to react eminently. The Elenor got the keys for the cell and wrapped his arm around the bars unlocking the lock. His air was running out. Elenor swam up the staircase getting the air he needed. He was in the back part of the ship. But with the leviathan's big tail, it whipped the whole back part off.

Erican climbed up the look out tower. The hungry fire was catching up to him. But then he heard a roar when he got to the top, the leviathan made the biggest tsunami Erican had ever seen. The tip of the wave was crashing down directly on the boat. It then crashed down and made an explosion of water and small bits of wood and fire. The ship was demolished, Elenor was gone, Erican was knocked out, and the leviathan won this battle. Erican got up from the water and took the longest breath he ever took. Erican saw a cannon floating by, and the leviathan was swimming by. Erican took the cannon and waited until its eye was near him. Then he fired the cannon making the leviathan cry with pain, its eye burning, and blood and smoke coming out of its closed eye.

Then Erican woke up in his sleeping robe. His eyes still like black circles. He yawned with the sadness that it was all a dream, it was a very epic dream but it was a little sad. His crew and brother getting lost at sea. He went to bed for it looked very late still. And then he went back off to the land of dreams.