

# RLMS

— 2019 —

BULLDOG  
BULLETIN

#1

Edition  
2

Bulldog

— By —

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## Thanksgiving 2018

*Written by Matthew McKinnis, Edited by Som Nene*

Thanksgiving is a time of giving thanks, as the name states, but it is also a time of reconnection and happiness. In the United States, we celebrate Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November, where in Canada Thanksgiving is celebrated on the second Monday of October. The origins of Thanksgiving go back to the Fall of 1621. This was the pilgrims' first harvest that could feed them through winter after they landed the Mayflower in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The Wampanoag tribe helped them prepare for the coming winter by teaching them how to efficiently hunt, fish, and plant. After the harvest, a three-day feast between the Wampanoag Native Americans and the Pilgrims occurred. There has been a history of controversy on the exact date. In 1789, George Washington issued a presidential proclamation nationalizing the tradition of Thanksgiving. Sadly, members of Congress believed the president didn't have control of the states so as a compromise, President Washington allowed the governors to decide the day that Thanksgiving would be held in each state. Finally, in 1863, Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday of November as "Thanksgiving Day" because he saw the potential to unify America after the Civil War.

Now that date didn't last forever. In 1939 President Roosevelt decided to change the date so it would come sooner, to encourage spending during the great depression. As with President Washington's decree, states disagreed and issued their own times for Thanksgiving. Then in



1941 Roosevelt signed the legislation into law making Thanksgiving the fourth Thursday of November.

Nowadays Thanksgiving is usually served with turkey, gravy, cranberries, stuffing, rolls, apples, sweet potatoes, roast beef, corn, etc. Thanksgiving is also a large time for traditions. Some people play football with their families, some people watch the Macy's Thanksgiving day parade that was established in 1924 to start the holiday shopping season, but there are We looked at a few people around the school to see their traditions and what they did this Thanksgiving.

First, we interviewed Lucas Barber. He said that he had cooked food the day before and then he went to his uncle's house in Greenwich to have a little party with his family. Lucas likes cooking and his favorite part of Thanksgiving is that HE does the cooking. Sadly, he also has to clean the dishes which is his least favorite part, & his favorite food is turkey. Elyse Kwon, on the other hand, went to Ohio and saw her seven cousins, two aunts, and her grandparents. She likes seeing her family but doesn't like some of the food served at the table, though her favorite dish served is Japchae, or stir-fried glass noodles and vegetables, which is popular in Korea. Finally Peyton Aldrich had all of her family over including her grandparents, and she loved the food served at the table, especially the pudding pie. It sounds good. She also had over fried chicken as a dish, which she would rather not have had. These students, like so many of us, enjoyed having family over with their own version of a quintessential Thanksgiving Dinner.

## 7th Grade Art Field Trip

Grace Kenney and Vicky Sgaglione

In seventh grade this year, students are given the opportunity to attend a field trip.

Each marking period will visit The New Britain Museum of American Art. All seventh graders are welcome to this awesome trip in their individual art marking period. In the New Britain Museum of American Art, students were



fooled by wax statues and were in awe with the beauty of the abstract mini cafe. The students got to view a statue of a bronze bear named Clarence, who gives you good luck all day. The students are very grateful to the chaperones who helped make this trip amazing. Mrs. Woron, Mr. Fredericks, and Mrs. Reddy are in charge of the field trips for all of the marking periods. This field trip was started this year for students to be given the chance to experience an art museum with an experienced docent. They also got to participate in a hands-on project in the art classroom at the museum. In conclusion, the 7th graders are all very grateful to be allowed to go on this amazing field trip. Thank you Mrs. Woron, Mrs. Reddy, and Mr. Fredericks.

## 7th Grade Orchestra Spotlight-Violin

*Written by Matthew McKinnis, edited by Som Nene*



Orchestra is one of the four music courses available at RLMS. Violins are the smallest instrument in the orchestra and the instrument with the highest pitches. The violin was invented in the early 16th century. Some famous well-known violinists include Jascha Heifetz who is regarded as one of the best performing artists ever, Itzhak Perlman the famous virtuoso, and Leonid Kogan the master teacher. In this music spotlight, we meet some of the school's violinists.

The violin is the oldest instrument used in the RLMS orchestra. Other instruments such as the viola, cello, and bass are sometimes referred to as modifications of the violin. First, we interviewed Michael Sigal. In his interview, he stated that he has been playing violin since he was 4 years old, he was inspired by his father who is a professional musician in the Hartford Symphony Orchestra. He also stated he was inspired by Itzhak Perlman & Jascha Heifetz. Michael really likes the violin and considers it his favorite instrument, but if he had to play a different instrument, he would play the piano because it has a smooth sound and he enjoys playing it. Michael also stated his favorite piece to play is Chartis by Monty.

Next, I interviewed Anabel Guerreiro, she said she's been playing the violin since 2nd grade and she started violin because she saw an opportunity to play music. If she had to play another instrument in the orchestra she would play cello because she enjoys the sound of the

cello. Anabel also said that she would have to say the Bach double is her favorite piece. Finally, I interviewed Elyse Kwon another violin. She started violin when she was in 4th grade and she started because she wanted to explore music. Although she plays the violin in the school orchestra Elyse also plays the piano on her own time and her favorite piece of music is actually a piano piece, the song “Burn” from the Broadway musical “Hamilton.” The music program has many talented musicians including these 3 violinists.



## **Chamber Orchestra**

By: Elyse Kwon

Interviewed: Som Nene and Michael Sigal

Chamber Orchestra is a group of advanced string players that welcomes sixth, seventh, and eighth graders at the beginning of every school year. They practice on Wednesday mornings before school officially starts. Michael Sigal has been playing violin since he was five, and practices three hours a day minimum. Michael says that the hardest part of a concert is being the concertmaster and that his favorite part of chamber orchestra is the hard music he gets to play. He says it helps him ‘communicate with his instrument.’

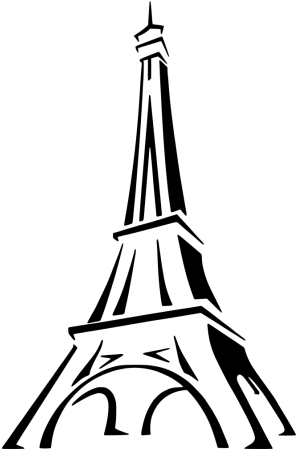
Seventh-grader Som Nene, also a violinist, has been playing for three years and just joined chamber orchestra this year. His favorite part of the chamber orchestra is the challenging music he gets to play. Though they play the violin in their chamber group, they also participate in the regular seventh-grade orchestra. This year marks Michael’s second year in the chamber orchestra, and Som’s first.

Chamber orchestra is separated into five groups; the violas, cellos, basses, first violins, and second violins. The majority of the group are violinists, therefore is separated into another group; first and second violins. Michael plays first violin, while Som plays second.



## **French Club: Bonjour**

*Written by Matthew Mckinnis and Som Nene, edited by Michael Sigal*



Bonjour! The French club is one of the many clubs we have here at RLMS, and although Madame Cowenhoven runs the club the students have a lot of the say in what they do in the club. Currently, the club only meets once a month but Madame Cowenhoven is hoping to change that in January. The French club started last year when now 7th grade Owen Phillips asked Madame

Cowenhoven if there was a French club. After hearing this Madame Cowenhoven thought that it would be a good idea to start a French club so she started the French club. Last year students did many things, they organized posters for French week, they played a trivia kahoot, they play games, they went to French night at the Sound Tigers, and the club usually does whatever the kids in the club want to, as long as it's related to French Madame Cowenhoven likes the fact that the kids are excited about the language and the culture of France, because of this she thinks it's very different than school. Last year one kid that was taking Spanish was in French club but currently only French students are in the club. Eighth and Sixth graders are also welcome even though French club is currently made of all 7th graders. Madame Cowenhoven thinks this is because the seventh graders have her as a teacher and feel comfortable with her. If you want to join French club then look for the signs or talk to Madame Cowenhoven. All grades are welcome, au revoir.

## **Service Trip**

By Eli Moyses

Every year, Mr. Haxhi, a seventh-grade social studies teacher, brings a selected group of students on a service trip to Ecuador through a program called Ludlowe Corps. The Bulldog Bulletin talked to Mr. Haxhi about the trip for more information. 7th and 8th graders are all eligible for the trip, though they have to fill out an application to be considered. The trip happens over April break and 15 students go every year. The purpose is to raise awareness about water filtration and health through the country they visit. Over the past few years, the group has gone to Ecuador but their destination does change including trips to Peru and several other different destinations. They have been going for 12 years and go for service purpose and some sightseeing events. It is a very fun trip and if you are interested and are eligible, it is strongly suggested you fill out an application.

## Town Tree Lighting Ceremony

By; Valeria Carbone & Elisa Merchan

The town tree lighting ceremony is took place in front of Old Town Hall in Fairfield. The chamber choir groups of RLMS, Tomlinson, and Woods, sang holiday songs to honor the tree that is always lit up in wonderful colors. Our Chamber Choir

group, and chorus group teacher, Mrs.Lafond said that the November 30 ceremony went “went really well. The weather was good for us, it was a mild night, it was a great night with the audience and our chamber choir groups, singing together. I think it was also a great idea to have all students with their chamber



choir folders. We’re really grateful for the Fairfield recreation department, to invite us every year for the opportunity to sing at the tree lighting ceremony.” Elisa Merchan a Chamber Choir member thought, “ we did very good although we messed up in some part. I had a great and cheerful time having the opportunity to sing at the tree lighting. I hope everyone else enjoyed it as I did.” We hope that all people that went to see it, or sang, had a great night.

## **Student Leadership**

By: Cecilia Illuzzi

Student Leadership is the school's way to have students engage in community services and make a difference in the world. It is for those who like being involved in the school's activities, helping in our community and to help the school faculty and students be in a better place to learn every day. Student Leadership was founded by Mrs. Fitzpatrick, and anyone can join at any time, they are always looking for people to join.

In an interview with Anabel Guerrerio, Anabel said, "I do feel like I know more about what's going on at the school since leadership coordinates a whole lot of it." She wants to know what's going on, and how to help within the school. Olivia Fillaramo said that she likes getting to know other people who like organizing activities, and "(she) joined Student Leadership last year in sixth grade, to meet new people, and to share her voice with the other club members and make a difference."

## 2018 Winter Concert

*Written by Matthew McKinnis, Edited by Som Nene and Michael Sigal*

The orchestra, band, and chorus performed multiple songs in their concert as well as the Chamber orchestra. The response to the concert seems like all the teachers and parents were impressed. Ms. Lafond was the first person we interviewed for this article, she runs all three grades chorus. Her favorite part of the concert is the moment that the students take their places on the risers and the lights go on and she can see everyone's faces. She really liked Sisi Ni Moja performed by the 6th grade. Her favorite song in 7th grade was Winter song because she thinks the harmony was a perfect fit. And, her favorite song in 8th grade was Somebody to love, in her words, "because queen." She couldn't say which section or grade performed best because all 3 were top notch. Some things that were different this year were the fact that she had the biggest 7th-grade chorus ever with 245 members. She wants to have more student involvement and more student choices for music in the next concert and to have more solos. Mr. Jeffryes had no comment about the concert but Ms. Brion & Mr. Bilotta did. Ms. Brion said that her favorite part of the concerts was when the musicians finish playing and the music is suspended in the air. Her favorite song in the 6th-grade concert was Escapade. In 7th grade, she liked Hanukkah dance because it has different layers to the song and the different instruments change the feel of the song. In 8th grade concert, she liked Great locomotive chase because she liked that she could see the progression of skill in the 8th graders through the years because she had heard them play it before. She thinks all of the sections bring their own flavor and spice to the concerts. This was her first year teaching full time. In the spring concert, she wants to try some different styles of music like calypso and a Caribbean feel. Mr. Bilotta said that his favorite part is that everyone came together and did their best. He only had one favorite song for the 8th grade and it was

Forge of Vulcan. Next year & in the spring concert he wants to teach more challenging music. Mr. Kroqi's favorite part of the concert was the concert etiquette that the students showed. His favorite pieces were Cindy (6th), Spartacus (7th), & Brandenburg concerto no. 2 (8th). Next concert Mr. Kroqi wants to focus on starting with reading skills, music reading. And focus more on music theory. This year's winter concert was a success and the Spring concert will hopefully be just as successful.

## **Drama Club Auditions**

By Addy Dignon & Elizabeth Dayton, edited by Som Nene

It's that time of year! Winter is in the air, but so is theatre! Auditions happened recently, on Monday, November 26th and Thursday, November 29th. 87 students auditioned this year and each audition was two minutes. There were 50 on Monday and 37 people on Thursday. The songs for girls auditions were: *Over The Rainbow* from the *Wizard of Oz* and *Good Morning Baltimore* from *Hairspray*. The audition songs for the boys were: *When I Grow Up* from *Matilda* and *Seize the Day* from *Newsies*.

We interviewed Jack Horan about his reaction to making a named role, James, a mutual friend of Charlie, the protagonist of the play. He said that he couldn't believe that he had made a named role and that he also couldn't believe how many sixth graders made the club and how many sixth graders have named roles. He was also very excited for the start of drama club. Overall, many people tried out, but sadly, only some could make it. This is the largest group of people in the club, with about 65 members. This year, the drama club is excited to perform.....

# *Willy Wonka*

...On April 5th and 6th. Come see the following students perform!

## 6th Grade

## 7th Grade

## 8th Grade

Zoë Brack	Kyra Nierman	Mia von Brauchitsch
Aliz Melko	Rory Kurzenberger	Rosie Germain
Sadie Khan	Anna Korchinski	Annelise Diaz
Mikayla Gallias	Sara Levitt	Lily Bosco
Caroline McCloskey	Arushi Mallarapu	Ella Bartlett
Catie Leddy	Grace Kenney	Katherine Tharrington
Kayden Heske	Alexandra Rafferty	Emma Grosshart
Ava Cagnassola	Phoebe Tunnell	Lily Beck
Elizabeth Dayton	Marina Pinto	Serena Remmes
Scarlet Asaro	Katie Reddy	Esther Hevita
Addy Dignon	Charlotte Yanni	Holly Smyth
Libby Meehan	Olivia Morelli	Dylan Costanzo
Charlotte Festini	Eloise Rogers	Stephan Schneider
Eric Lewin	Grace Barsamian	Charlie Buccellato
Bowie Kohler	Lola Derken	Tommy Adams
Jack Horan	Ella Casano	Charlie Tavolato
Henry Johnson	Devyn Farber	Aidan Hart
Jack Emra	Maddie Beggs	Steven Varvaras
Michael Scholl	Ali Loya	Dylan Toll
Ross Lippman	Marc Piccolo	Eli Moyse
	Nolan Herron	Teddy Johnson
	John Henry Kresser	
	Som Nene	