



Homecoming



6th Grader surprised by Garfield Middle School as his Dad returns home for Christmas

Written by Alyssa Briggs, Grade 8



6th grader Martin Monroig was given the best Christmas gift of all, his Dad's return from deployment in the Army.

Marvin's Dad was stationed in Somalia. Garfield Administration and teachers were in on the surprise visit and Channel 12 News even came to cover the story.

The 6th graders were called down to a special assembly that day. Then, Marvin was called onto stage to help sing a Christmas song and his Dad surprised him by coming out on stage while Marvin was singing "Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow". There is no better gift.



Garfield Police Department were on hand to welcome their brother home



Welcome Home Mr. Monroig! Thank you from all of us for your service



Mrs. Moore's class presents: "The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe

Written by Alexa Hernandez, Grade 7

Mrs. Moore's students presented the narrative poem "The Raven", written by Edgar Allan Poe on December 5th and 6th.

Students created their own working stage and props to use as they recited the narrative poem.

"The Raven" follows an unnamed narrator on a dreary night in December who sits reading "forgotten lore" by a dying fire.

The speaker was played by Jonathan Panameno. Lenore was played by Lexi Bonin and The Raven was played by Peter Bonnet.

Students created a play program which was designed by students in the class. They also had a ticket booth and colorful stage curtains that gave you the feeling of being in a theatre.

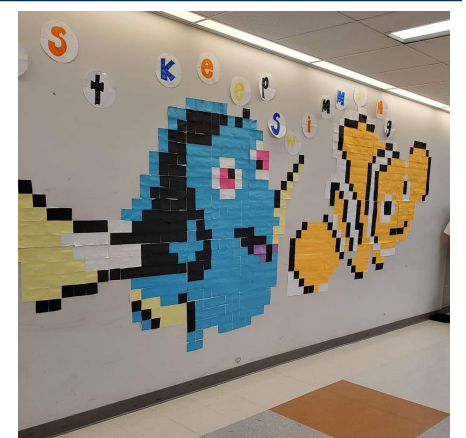


GMS First Ever BOILERMAKER BREAK Fun Activities planned by Garfield Teachers

Written by Andrew Campos, Grade 7

District Spirit Day aka District Boilermaker Break happened on November 27th, 2019. The goal of the Boilermaker Break was to have students and staff rest and be a part of a social activity that they enjoy during blocks/periods. This was intended to give everyone a chance to have a "Brain Break".

Some activities included Soccer Strategies with Mr. Pieklo, creating graham cracker gingerbread houses with Ms. Stasiak and Ms. Repasy, a Basketball and Volleyball tournament with the gym teachers and stress relieving coloring with Ms. Crumrine.



Ms. Washnik's class



Minecraft Dr. Bugge's class



GMS Ugly Sweater Day December 18th

Written by Makiyah Gomez, Grade 8

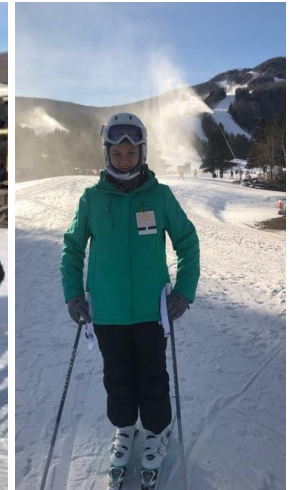
Garfield Middle School got into the Holiday spirit by participating in "Ugly Sweater Day" on December 18th. All proceeds will benefit student athletes participating in the Special Olympic Winter Games at Mountain Creek.



The GMS Ski Club takes their first trip Hunter Mountain - January 9th, 2020



Photos courtesy of Ms. LaMotta



New Teacher Spotlight Welcome to GMS - Mr. Ebbels

Written by Sebastian Franczak, Grade 7

Mr. Ebbels is new to GMS this year. He is the new Garfield Middle School Band teacher.

He has been a band teacher for four years before coming to GMS.

His favorite part of teaching is watching his students make progress and improve their craft. He got into teaching originally because he loved working with kids.

Mr. Ebbel's favorite teacher growing up was a teacher of his named Mr. Haas. His laid back style and kindness really impacted him and made him want to become a teacher.

Growing up Mr. Ebbels was always a fan of his Band classes but he also enjoyed History and learning about the origins of Music.

Mr. Ebbels is a firm believer in learning how to play an instrument. His philosophy is that it is something we all can do and it will actually make us a more complete person.

One of his greatest challenges as a band teacher is teaching his students the correct way to play. For

B-Flat Major Scale



Mr. Ebbels conducting the band here at GMS

example, teaching and learning the B flat scale is something that he wants all of his students to master.

Mr. Ebbels loves to teach band. However, interestingly enough if he had a second choice to teach another subject it would be Physical Education.



Welcome to the Garfield Middle School family Mr. Ebbels!



GMS Book Review

Written by Gavyn Boscio, Grade 6, Keith Kloza Grade 7 & Daniel Koszarek, Grade 8



Diary of a Wimpy Kid - Wrecking Ball is the 14th book that follows the main protagonist, Greg Hefley. In this book, the Hefley family receives an unexpected inheritance. They have a hard time agreeing on what to use their inheritance on. The mom says because she was the only one that sent thank you cards to the Aunt, she could decide what to do with the money. Greg's mother decides on expanding the kitchen.

The family decides that they can sell their home to try and buy a nicer house. They find a house to buy when someone makes an offer on theirs. The movers arrive early and everything that could go wrong did, Dishes were getting broken by the movers. The chimney was smashed by the wrecking ball moving the hot tub, the furniture was taken by the garbage man and then the hot tub fell through the roof. That why the name of the book is wrecking ball. It is very symbolic.

Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid Rowley Jefferson's Journal also by Jeff Kinney was a top seller in November 2019. This book took a different spin because it was from the viewpoint of Greg Hefley's friend, Rowley Jefferson. He wanted to try writing a book, just like his best friend, Greg.

The genre of this book is comedy. There are a lot of funny moments that take place in the book. Rowley mentions the pranks that Greg plays on him, and that makes him laugh. He opened the door and pretended no one was there to scare Rowley. Greg and Rowley took turns reading chapter books out loud, and made each other laugh. It is a funny, and interesting book.

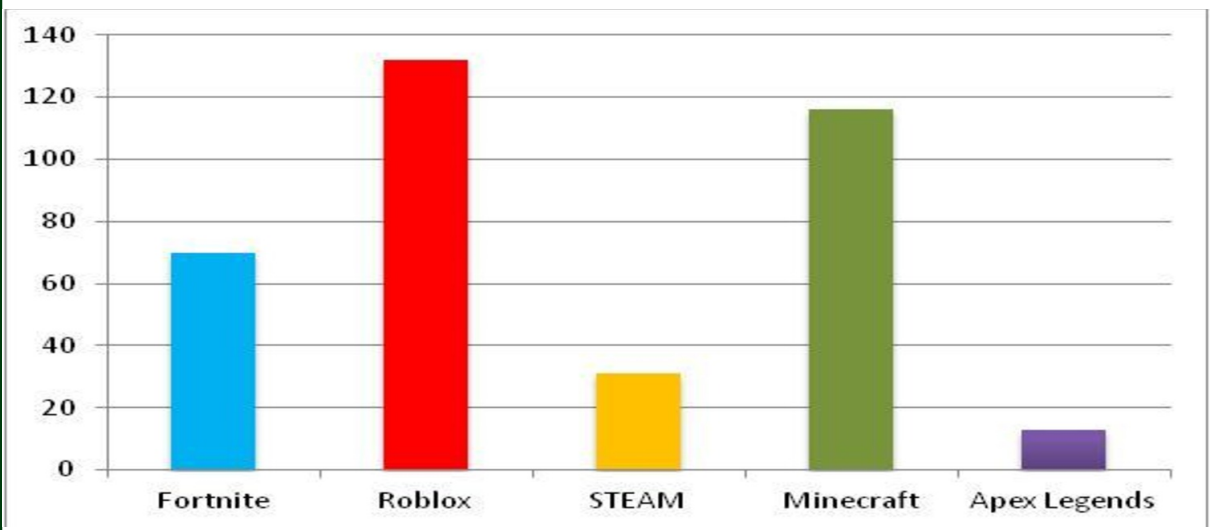
Triggered: How the Left Thrives on Hate and Wants to Silence Us, is a 2019 book written by Donald Trump Jr. It is his first book and was published on November 5th. In the book, Trump Jr. explains the ways in which those identifying with the "Left" employ a combination of victimization and bullying to advance their views. He suggests various ways of defending one's (conservative) principles so that you don't have to concede to "Leftist intimidation and coercion". Specifically, Trump Jr. advances theories about how the intelligence community has attempted to harm President Trump. *Triggered* is partly an autobiography, but it is mainly a book about the "left," settling scores with the president's enemies and explaining how they are plotting to destroy the America that most Americans love.

Student Poll: What is your favorite online game?

Written by Simeona Angeleska, Grade 6

Online video games are very popular with Garfield Middle School students. Some players use video games as another way of bonding with people and playing as a team while others like to play alone and just for fun. This issue, our poll was to ask Garfield Middle School students what their favorite online video games were and here are the results.

The five most popular online games for 2019 were: Fortnite, Roblox, STEAM, Minecraft and Apex Legends. Apex Legends got the least number of votes from the students. In fourth place, we have STEAM. With a rise in popularity in 2018, and then a huge drop, Fortnite is the third most popular online video game at Garfield Middle School. Minecraft was the second most popular game, making a huge comeback in 2019, gaining lots of players. The most popular game in Garfield Middle School is Roblox. Whenever students have free time, they play with their friends on Roblox, chatting and having fun.



Shelf Life - GMS Library News

Interactive Revolutionary War Artifacts - a display at Garfield Middle School

Written by Aaliyah Merced, Jasmine Santiago and Yamila Alvarado, Grade 8



The Garfield Middle School library had its first Interactive exhibit on display in November, 2019.

An interactive exhibit lets their guests engage with the items and activities on display. Instead of just simply reading the information posted, visitors are able to participate actively through hands-on experience.



Ms. Marx our school librarian was able to put the event together with artifacts obtained by the Washington Museum of the American Revolution. The artifacts are on loan for a very short time only.

6th grade students were able to interact and examine weapons and compare them to weapons we have now, make their own tri-fold hat, and even get a glimpse into secret spy codes. A "selfie station" was set up to show students how Silhouettes became the way people created keepsakes of their likenesses.



Garfield High School students were on hand to assist the students as they made their way through the exhibit.



Ms. Marx was inspired to create an exhibit such as this due to all of her work with the Blue Star Club and all of her volunteer work with the Veterans of Garfield.



7th Grade Field trip to see "Harriet Tubman"

Written by Sebastian Franczak, Grade 7

The 7th grade Social Studies classes went to see the movie "Harriet Tubman" on November 26th, 2019. The movie is a biographical film about a slave who turned abolitionist, Harriet Tubman.

Harriet Tubman, who escaped slavery led hundreds of enslaved people to freedom on the Underground Railroad.

The Underground Railroad was a system of cooperation among active antislavery activists in the U.S. before 1863 by which fugitive slaves were secretly helped to reach

the North and Canada.

At its peak, nearly 1,000 slaves per year escaped from slave-holding states using the Underground Railroad. More than 5,000 court cases for escaped slaves were recorded in that time period.



PBJ Club wraps donated toys at Garfield VFW

Written by Daniel Koszarek, Grade 8



Photos courtesy of Mrs. Kemp

GMS PBJ (People Bringing Joy) Club wrapped donated gifts at the Garfield VFW from December 2nd to the 5th after school. Students wrapped toys for over two hours a day over the three day period. The toys were donated to help local families in need.

Faculty advisers were on hand to help as well. Mrs. Barbieri, Mrs. Dunker, Mrs. Kaur, Mrs. Kemp and Mrs. Marx, alongside Vice Principal Mrs. Mazzola worked tirelessly with the student to help bring joy and cheer to all the Garfield families in need.



GMS has Talent !! Winter Concert December 18th

Written by Brianna Cantillo & Jordan DeJesus, Grade 8

GMS annual tradition of the Winter Band and Chorus performance occurred on December 18th.

Mr. Ebbels conducted the GMS band as they played fan favorites like "Frosty the Snowman", "Rockin' around the Christmas Tree" and "The Nutcracker Suite".



GMS Band and chorus were able to perform for the GMS Staff and students on December 20th. There is just no better way to get us all into the holiday spirit. Great job by all!



Ms. Francica lead our very talented GMS chorus as they performed Holiday favorites like "Love is Christmas" and "Run Rudolph".



2019 - A Year in Review

Written by Jazmine Crego, Grade 7

2019 was a new year for people to start brand new but some things never change.

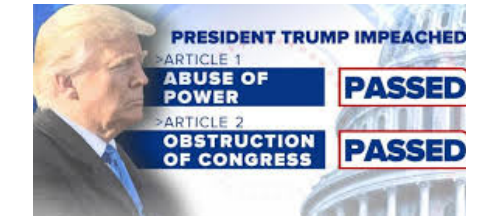
2019's first couple of weeks were rough The Marcal Paper Company in Elmwood park NJ Caught on fire and the whole building was ablaze. Residents of the area witnessed the fire and smelled the smoke. They heard lots of yelling and screams. No one was injured

On May 1st, Disney banned smoking in their parks. Guest will now only be allowed to smoke at designated locations outside the security area. The move was made by Disney to make the experience of visiting their parks "more enjoyable for everyone".

On July 4 5th California was hit with a 6.1 magnitude earthquake followed by a 7.1 quake. In a period of 10 days there were 68 earthquakes of magnitude 3.0 or greater.



In September, a whistleblower in the Trump administration released call information between Trump and President of Ukraine back in July. Trump asked him to investigate possible wrong doings by Joe Biden's son. Biden is running against Trump in 2020. This lead to the Impeachment of President Trump, the 3rd President in history to ever be impeached on December 18th, 2019.



GMS POWER HOUR

Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Come by the GMS Library

Homework help and Tutoring

GMS Gamers - New in 2020

Written by Alexa Hernandez, Angel Gutierrez, & Isaiah Iglesias, Grade 7



FIFA 20, a soccer video game was published by EA as part of the FIFA series this year. It is the 27th installment in the series and was released at the end of September 2019 for PS4, Xbox One and the Nintendo Switch.

FIFA 20 offers a new feature titled VOLTA Football. This mode (which translates to 'return' in Portuguese) focuses on street soccer rather than more traditional matches associated with the FIFA series. There are several new options to play now. There is three vs. Three, four vs. four and five vs. five mode with professional soccer rules. The emphasis is placed more on skill and independent play rather than tactical or team play.

Star Wars Jedi : Fallen Order is another new and pretty popular game this season. This game was released on November 15th, 2019, developed by Respawn Entertainment and published by Electronic Arts (EA) for both PS4 and Xbox One.

Fallen Order was inspired heavily by Batman: Arkham Asylum with the combat system and the "Metroidvania" style of exploration and progression.

Players take control of Cal Kestis as he attempts to survive while being chased by the Empire, including the Inquisitors, the Second and Ninth Sisters. Throughout his journey, Cal visits both new worlds and ones from existing Star Wars lore, such as Kashyyyk and Dathomir, as well as making new friends and allies, including Rebel extremist Saw Gerra and former Jedi Knight Cere Junda, who becomes his new mentor.

The gameplay is an action-adventure game, designed for players to "jump into a situation" and deal with it through "having a lightsaber and Force powers", not to utilize stealth elements to avoid combat.

There is not an option to play a Dark Side path through the game. In combat, Force usage consists of three different abilities; Force push, Force pull, and Force slow.

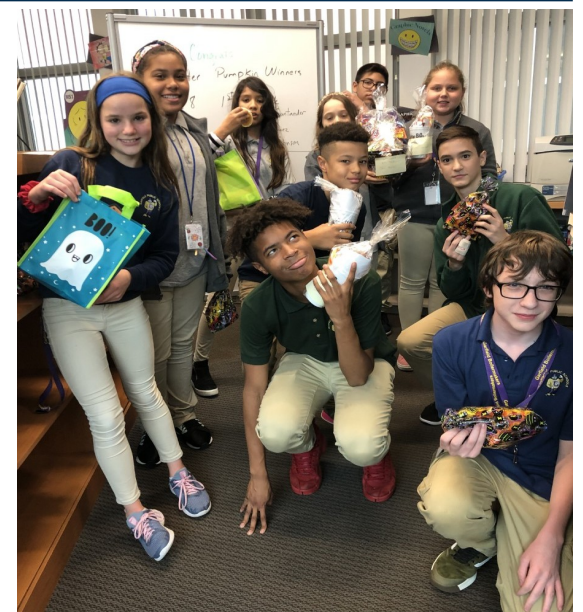


Pumpkin Character Design Contest - GMS Library

Written by Hilary Peralta-Trinidad, Grade 6

This Halloween, the Garfield Middle School Library conducted their first annual book character pumpkin drawing/digital design contest. All students in grades 6th through 8th were able to participate. The contest was announced during student lunch periods and flyers were posted at the Media Center. There was a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winner determined from each grade.

Students were allowed to draw the book character pumpkins on paper templates after school or on their own. Book characters drawn were a range from Winnie the Pooh to characters from "A Wrinkle in Time". Students were allowed to paint their characters, and were able to draw them digitally by using Illustrator, Photo Shop or Power Point.



Contest Winners:

- 6th- Dea Myalbri, Evangelina Simarcas & Julia Jaskot**
- 7th- Brian Czygre, Paulina Grupa & Ylan Tapper**
- 8th- Antunette SantaCruz-Santander, Ashley Jimenez & Rjanir Johnson**

Are you a VSCO girl?

Written by Daren Harb, Grade 6

Everyone knows what a VSCO girl is right? You know, the ones who say "sksksksk" and "I oop" and "I oop". Yeah, you must know them! VSCO girls are easy to spot. They wear big t-shirts with shorts and have sea shells chokers, scrunchies, drink from 'hydroflask' bottles. They will tell you that they "don't use plastic" and "save the turtles!" on an almost constant loop. They don't believe in wearing much make-up because they like the natural look.

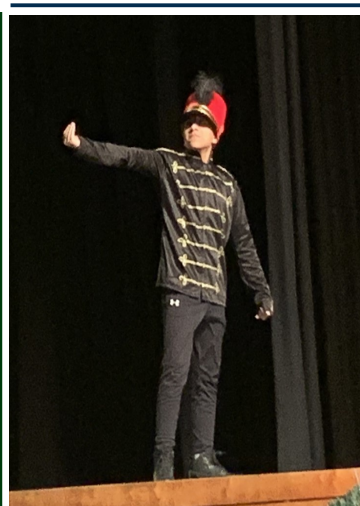
I decided to interview what I thought was a VSCO to find out how

they think.

I asked her, why a VSCO girl, when you could wear any style you want? Her answer was simple, she loved the basic look, no make-up, big t-shirts, scrunchies, the whole thing. I wanted to know how she found out about this going trend and her response was of course, YOUTUBE. Originally she was only going to try out the style as a joke but once she started, she couldn't stop. Another VSCO girl was born. With their Messy buns, and elbow VSCO styles trending on TikTok and social media - I can't even!

GMS Presents - The Urban Nutcracker

Photos taken by Jasmine Santiago, Grade 8



Ms. Statile and the GMS Dance students put on a production of the "Urban Nutcracker" On December 9th



Principal Thoughts - From the desk of Mr. Rigoglioso

Written by Kinga Wrobel, Sofia Romero & Keila Ponce, Grade 6

This is one of my favorite times of the year to be a school Principal. The main reason is because I am able to facilitate donations for our GMS families in need to help make their holidays more memorable.

One of the most positive and uplifting moments of this past marking period for me as a Principal has to be surprising Marvin Monroig with the return of his Dad from service right before the holidays. We were told in advance that Mr. Monroig was returning, and with the help of Marvin's brothers and sisters, along with the Garfield Police Department, we were able to surprise Marvin and it was so heartwarming for all of us.

There are so many special and fun events for our students. I really want the students to miss the school when they leave. I want to introduce the students to things they have may have never been exposed to and help

them experience all that they can.

The students are doing really well with their new laptops. The future of our school is only going to rely on our ability to embrace technology. I have seen positive changes already.

Our students here at GMS are remarkable in so many ways. They really care about our school and we are making positive changes every day to help them reach their potential. As a teacher here at GMS, my mentors Ms. Sciacca and Ms. Matorano inspired me. As I follow in their footsteps it is my goal to make every day at GMS special for our students.



Mr. Riggs LOVES Garfield !!

8th Grade Spirit Cruise of NYC- November 19th, 2019

Written by Yamila Alvarado, Grade 8



Group picture of our 8th grade students - Photo taken by Ms. Kutarnia

The 8th grade students departed on the "Spirit of New Jersey" cruise on November 19th.

The lunch cruise departed from Lincoln Harbor at 11:30am for a scenic two-hour cruise on the Hudson and East Rivers.

The students were able to enjoy a delicious lunch buffet with freshly prepared entrees, salads and desserts.

Students were able to participate in on-board entertainment that included DJ music, dancing and playing interactive games.



The Spirit of New Jersey offers the best views of the Manhattan and Brooklyn skyline. Passing the Statue of Liberty was a favorite spot with the students and the ship stopped to for everyone to see it up close and take pictures.



Main Office News

The Giving Tree



This Holiday Season, teachers and staff members created a GMS Thanks "Giving Tree" which was on display in the main office.

Each leaf represented an item that a teacher or staff member could bring to school to donate to needy families for their holiday table.

Thanks to the generosity of our GMS Administration & Staff, needy families in Garfield were able to receive all kinds of items for their Holiday tables.

*GMS Annual
McDonald's Night
January 13th, 2020*



Ms. Surma & Mr. Leonard to the Garfield McDonald's

Our Annual GMS McDonald's night was a great success as always! Ms. Ryden, Ms. Surma, Mr. Leonard and Mr. Takash were all on hand to take your orders and greet you with a friendly smile. Great job!

All of the proceeds for this fundraiser goes directly towards our school programs and trips.

Breakfast with Santa at Garfield Middle School

Written by Makiyah Gomez, Grade 8



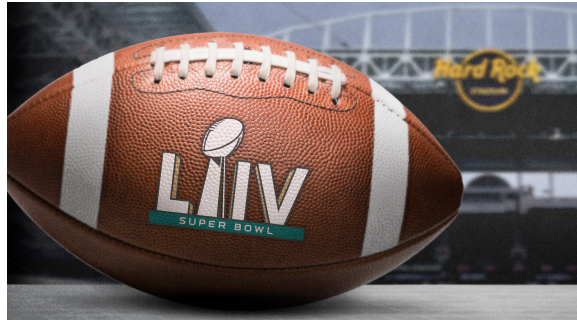
Santa's helpers prepared a delicious breakfast for his hungry visitors. Great job by the Advisers and staff!



The NFL - A year in review

Written by Richard Rigoglioso Jr., Grade 7

The 2019 NFL season is the 100th season of the National Football League (NFL). The season began on September 5, 2019 with the NFL Kickoff Game, in which the Chicago bears lost to the Green Bay Packers. The season will conclude with Super Bowl LIV. The league's championship game (Superbowl 54), scheduled for February 2, 2020, at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, Florida.



This year, there were many head coaches in the NFL who lost their jobs. Some of them just aren't very good or have little experience. They may have excelled as assistants or as college coaches but fail at the next step (level).

Head coach is a much broader responsibility than coordinator or position coach, and some coaches just are not built for it. Coaches who lost their jobs so far in this NFL season are: Dirk Koetter, Vance Joseph, Mike McCarthy, Todd Bowles, Steve Wilks, Adam Gase, Marvin Lewis, Hue Jackson.

The 2019 playoffs began on January 4-5, 2020 with the Wild Card Round. The four winners of these games visited the top two seeds in each conference in the Divisional Round games on January 11-12. The winners of those games advanced to the Conference Championships on January 19. The 2020 Pro Bowl was played at Camping World Stadium in Orlando on January 26. Super Bowl LIV, scheduled for February 2, will be played at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami.

It all came down to Kansas City or San Francisco. The Chiefs haven't won since 1970 and the 49's since 1995.

Editorial - Should we ban plastic bags?

Written by Genesis Kthar-Santiago, Grade 7

The City of Champions, Garfield, has banned single use plastic bags as an effort to help the environment. Not just plastic bags but plastic straws and styrofoam containers as well. Other local cities have already banned plastic bags or plan on doing so in the future. Garfield joined this movement to ban these plastics on January 1st, 2020.



Some people see this as an inconvenience. However, plastics (bags included) are an enormous problem in terms of litter. The amount of plastic litter just grows and grows, especially in our oceans.

Change of course will take time. the movement to ban the bag is gaining momentum in legislatures across the country, with advocates citing the success of California's plastic bag law as a sign that other states can get rid of plastic bags without harming local economies or businesses. Those in favor of banning plastic bags argue that it would be one of the most effective ways to reduce the volume of plastic waste in the ocean. This would have major health benefits for sea life.

In fact, this ban could benefit the environment in multiple ways, and it will benefit our health in the long run. Plastic trash is ubiquitous, and plastic does not decay in a lifetime. This is terribly dangerous to the eco systems that provide food from the oceans to billions of people. Unlike reusable fabric bags, plastic bags can take many many years to biodegrade. And over that time, their light weight allows them to be carried long distances, causing environmental havoc along the way.

Convenience, is not the only argument against banning plastic bags. As it turns out, the companies that manufacture the bags themselves, such as Formosa Plastics and Novolex, employ thousands of people in plants and factories across the United States.

However, according to the latest statistics, across 23 states, over 200 counties and municipalities have their own bans in place.

Additionally, the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands, with Guam set to join in 2021, have enacted plastic bag bans. The start of the new year marked new plastic bag bans becoming effective in in towns across the Garden State, from Bayonne and Garfield to Asbury Park and South Orange.

Senior Citizen Day - December 13th

Written by Aaliyah Merced, Grade 8

GMS opened their doors to the Garfield Community Seniors for "Senior Citizen Day" sponsored and hosted by our Student Government. The Band and Chorus were also on hand to provide holiday entertainment and help everyone get into the spirit of the season. It was a reminder to all that Christmas is about so much more than festive decor and gifts under the tree — it's about celebrating family, friends, and everything else that brings you joy!!



GMS Students see "The Lightning Thief" on Broadway December 12th

Written by Yamila Alvarado, Grade 8

Garfield Middle School 7th and 8th grade students attended a performance of Broadway's "The Lightning Thief" which was based on the Rick Riordan novel of the same name.

Students were able to stay after school for pizza and soda before their 5:00pm bus departure to NYC. The show started at 7:00pm.



The show had an onstage company of seven playing more than 47 characters, The musical is an action-packed theatrical adventure about accepting that normal is a myth and embracing the superpowers inside all of us.

Student Council Activity Day December 19th

Written by Amun Chaudhry, Grade 7

GMS staff and students participated in a whole school activity day on December 19th. Activities included singing Karaoke, a Soccer tournament and an Amazing Race competition.



It was a day of teambuilding and fun to help kick off the holiday season. Another great job by the GMS Student Council!



LOSS OF A LEGEND ~ KOBE BRYANT 1978~2020

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Kobe and Gianna Bryant and all those who perished in the helicopter crash on January 26th, 2020. Our sincerest sympathies go out to all the families

".....You are responsible for how people remember you — or don't. So don't take it lightly." - Kobe Bryant

