

2024 - 2025

1st Edition

FIRST EDITION OF THE YEAR!



CREATED BY THE WRITER'S CLUB

Polaris is the school paper of NBMS! The Writer's Club (led by Mr. Perlson) has been creating this paper yearly for over a decade. This year, we plan to release 4-6 editions of Polaris instead of 1-2 like previous years. You can access this magazine online on the NBMS website or find paper copies in the Media Center.



BEHIND THE NAME "POLARIS"



WHERE DID "POLARIS" COME FROM?

"Polaris" is the name of the North Star. This became the name because we are North Bethesda Middle School. This has been the name of our paper for over a decade.



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POLARIS STAFF

THE WRITER'S CLUB

TEACHER - Mr. Perlson **CLUB PRESIDENT** - Sophie Lee (8th grade) **CLUB VICE PRESIDENT** - Elly Metcalfe (8th grade) **CLUB SECRETARIES** - Natalie Dickinson & Hannah Parrett (8th grade)

6TH GRADERS

Colin Cunningham Keyaan Karim Aryana Lopez Blanco Sophia Rozario Zoe Lerner Irene Irakoze Abby Stumpf Lulu Bolstad Mia Vorobjova Sofia Morales Olivia Morales Macey Kosnar Adriana Randriathaina Zelda Snellgrove Elaina Sandick Minduni Pahathkumbura Aubrey Robinson Christina Burkhard Claire Kusturiss Serena Ventura Sierra Miller Avantika Rastogi Arianna Dalvi

7TH GRADERS



8TH GRADERS

Natalie Lodra Elizabeth Hailemariam Lea Laraque Holly Wagner Alex Karagoz-Yamaoka Sabine Perez Kullas Mimi Ly Kalista Kezimana Lily Hoffman Camila Caraig



STAFF PHOTO





15 FUN FACTS ABOUT DOGS 💖! BY ARY L.

1.	Puppies are born deaf and blind	
2.	Dogs have extremely good hearing	
3.	Dogs can learn over 1,000 words	
4.	There are about 600 million dogs in the world	
5.	A dog's nose is its fingerprint	
6.	Dogs can detect diseases in humans	
7.	The oldest dog lived for 29 years	
8.	Dogs dream like humans	
9.	Dogs can improve Human's mental health.	
10.	About 63.4 million households in the U.S have a d	log
11.	Dogs can become jealous	for the second s
12.	Dogs sweat but only through their paw pads	No
13.	A dog's ear has 18 muscles	J.S.
14.	Dogs can either be left or right-pawed	
15.	Their whiskers send messages to their brain	

SOME OF THIS INFORMATION CAME FROM DOGSTER.COM

INTERVIEW WITH SGA PRESIDENTS Description in the second se

This was filled out in late September so some of the questions might talk about things that already happened this school year.

Hello NBMS!!

Today I'm here with our SGA presidents Aissatou and Samuel. I'm going to ask each of you the same questions, some of the questions will be asked by other people. All you to have to do is respond one by one. So let's start with a question relating to our 6th graders such as myself.

1. What was your first year as a middle schooler like?

Samuel: My first year in middle school was honestly kind of overwhelming. It was a lot, getting used to the 7 classes, no recess, and definitely no nap time! However, middle school was also fun. It was a brand new experience, and I had more freedom than any other year in my life so far.

Aissatou: My first year of middle school was very fun and it was also a big transition change for me. There was so much homework and so many classes. It was hard getting used to a new daily routine of having to get done homework for seven classes and transitioning from elementary work ethic and middle school. I really enjoyed going to outdoor education, socializing, and meeting new people from different schools.

Next question 2. Why did you decide to join the school's SGA?

Samuel: I joined the SGA because I wanted to make a difference in the school, and found that the SGA was the best way for me to do that.

Aissatou: I initially joined the SGA because I really like planning things to make the school more fun besides actual school-work. I eventually found out that it really interests me so I moved forward with this feeling

3. What was your first role as an SGA member?

Samuel: My first role as an SGA member was the Executive Board of the Montgomery County Junior Council, which wasn't specifically for North Bethesda, but it's close enough. In 6th and 7th grade, I also participated in the school's SGA, helped create posters sometimes, and gave feedback.

Aissatou: I started as a committee member in sixth grade, where I provided my best input but still tried to be involved by helping out after hours. In seventh grade, I ran for secretary but lost. The sponsors last year offered me the position of historian, where I ran SMOB elections and planned other things like candy grams.

STUDENT AND STAFF QUESTIONS

This is a question from Ximena Diaz 4. What do you want to change about this year at NBMS?

Samuel: Hopefully, we will be able to bring backpacks back to Phoenix time, increase the amount of fundraisers, and add more events to the school year.

Aissatou: There is not much we can change, however, I would like to add. I was thinking about a restaurant fundraiser, movie night, and many more spirit weeks.

The next question is from Ms Loughlin from room A107 5. How are you going to help build a caring community at North Bethesda?

Samuel: I am going to help build a caring community by being an example to my classmates and listening to students.

Aissatou: I will start by setting an example by being involved in school activities and communicating with all of my peers effectively.

This is from Ms Sadeghi in the 6th grade wing

6. What do you think is the most important issue here and how are you going to address it?

Samuel: The biggest issue at NBMS are students not paying attention in class. There are so many students who are on their computers playing games, talking with friends, and on their phones during class, which stops them from learning and can distract other students. Without these distractions, instructional time would be much more efficient and effective.

Aissatou: The biggest issue at North Bethesda is student involvement/participation. I feel like students need to be more involved with school for the school year to pass easier. Without the ability to balance school work and social activities at school, it's really dreadful and not as fun. I really want to add more social activities to increase the morale of our peers at NBMS. As an example, when spirit awards are given out during spirit week, everybody is encouraged to participate and even excited to go to school!

This next question is from Jack Scheeren 7. Are either of you a Swiftie?

Samuel: I would never be a swiftie.

Aissatou: I am absolutely not a swiftie.

Next question is from Naomi Smith 8. What's your favorite food?

Samuel: My favorite food is Mac & Cheese.

<u>Aissatou:</u> I really like Chipotle and Chick-fil-A. But I also really like mac and cheese too.

Fantastic! Now the next question is from Aaradhya Iyer 9. How are you going to collaborate with the other members in the SGA?

Samuel: I will collaborate with other members of the SGA by listening to all ideas, regardless of who gives them and what they are, to make an unbiased decision that makes the most sense.

<u>Aissatou</u>: We already are mutual and know each other outside of SGA and we have the same ideas so we are able to work together productively.

Great, now back to me asking questions. This question is very common but controversial 10. Which one do you like better, cats or dogs? <u>Samuel:</u> I prefer dogs over cats.

Aissatou: I have no preference.

Great I'm a dog person myself, next question. 11. What are planning for the school's future?

Samuel: More events (possibly talent shows, candy grams and spirit days) and more fundraisers.

Aissatou: Extra spirit weeks, valentines day candy grams, and fundraisers.

12. What was your favorite part of sixth grade?

Samuel: My favorite part of 6th grade was outdoor ed

Aissatou: Outdoor ed as well.

13. Why did you choose to run for president?

Samuel: Because I wanted to create a school that everyone could look back at and be proud of, but also one where they could look forward and anticipate what's coming. Ultimately, I wanted to make school the best it could be, one step at a time.

Aissatou: I ran for president because I felt like as the leader I would be able to help keep things running since I already did most of the things presidents and other elected roles did in my previous years. I also like being involved with school and planning events for a better school year and as president, I can make those things happen.

14. What is your favorite movie?

Samuel: My favorite movie is the Deadpool and Wolverine movie.

<u>Aissatou</u>: The only one I can think of is Spider-Man, the two with Miles Morales.

15. If you could time travel to any time period other than the future, what time period would it be?

<u>Samuel:</u> I would travel back to 2016 because that was a good year. I can't explain it, but it just was.

<u>Aissatou:</u> I would probably time-travel to 2018 because it was a fun year. I had a really good spring break.

16. What is your favorite school subject?

Samuel: My favorite school subject is Science and P.E. **Aissatou:** My favorite subject is Math, P.E, and History. 17. What so far has been your best middle experience?

Samuel: Aissatou: I really loved Outdoor education in sixth grade.

Well that wraps up the interview. Thank you so much for answering these questions and I hope you two make very positive impacts on North Bethesda Middle School!

NBMS STATS BY ELLY M

ranked **3rd best** in MCPS Middle Schools

ranked **6th best** in Maryland Middle Schools

36%

of students are math proficient (that's 20% more than statewide)

69%

of students are reading proficient (that's 43% more than statewide)



Rated 3.1 stars on Google (oof) but the reviews are mostly by students from years ago

DID I REALLY JUST SELL MY SANITY TO THE DEVIL? (私は本当に悪魔に正気を売った のでしょうか?)

Aki.His last words to me.

"Keep your head up. Don't cry. It'll be alright, I promise." I remember myself, laying in his arms, as he was about to die.

I kneeled at Aki's grave, mourning his loss. There were tears spilling from my face that I didn't even notice, but I quickly had to regain composure as I

noticed Akira, Aki's friend, sitting next to me, "Renée, it'll be alright..." I heard his soft voice and stood up,

"How do you know that name?" Akira shrugged his shoulders. I warned him, "Forget that name. No one but Aki knew that name."

"Fine. Renée-I mean, Kuro. What was it like... you know, being with Aki?" I froze at the question, talking about Aki since he died was quite hard for me, but I brought myself to speak,

"He was kind," The slightest hint of a smile appeared on my lips at my memories of me.

"It was like... you were the only person that mattered..." I had quit serialy killing, only for a bit, since he died, to throw the police off, but I'd start killing again in no time. I had already killed over 1000 people, probably, at this rate.

Little did Akra know, he would be my next victim. I reached for my knife, Akira stared at me, open-mouthed.

"Kuro.... WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!?!" He stood up and hurried back,

"ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!?!"

"No, I'm not." I replied and lunged at him, knife in hand. Blood began to flow, and soon, Akira was dead.

Soon after, I went home. The second I got there, not even bothering to take my shoes off. I instantly buried my face into a pillow and tears fell from my

eyes.

"Aki..." I sobbed,

"What am I doing? I killed your friend. We planned on being together..... That can never happen now, I sold my soul to the devil." What will I do? My life is messed up at this point."



(If you are reading this on the paper version of Polaris, you will have to go onto the online version on the NBMS website in order to click on the link.)

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

This is a summary of a book that I wrote & illustrated, check it out on Amazon.

The Prickly Adventure By Minduni Dinma

The Prickly Adventure is a heartwarming children's story that follows the adventures of Sandy, a young and imaginative hedgehog. Living in a whimsical mushroom house, Sandy's curiosity leads her to build a homemade airplane, inspired by her cousin's Prickle's comic book. Determined to visit Prickle in the distant country of Bingo, Sandy embarks on a magical journey through enchanting landscapes and encounters various challenges along the way.

MRS. STEIMER'S INTERVIEW WRITTEN BY: ZOE LERNER AND ABBY STUMPF

What do you like to do outside of school?

Well I have two sons and a dog, who is very cute and fluffy, I hang out with them a lot. I also like to read, travel and hike.

How long have you been teaching?

I have been teaching for thirteen years; eleven years at North Bethesda.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

Actually I wanted to be a spy for the CIA. In college I learned Russian, to be a spy in the Soviet Union. In my last year of college the Soviet Union fell and I chose to be a lawyer. At last I changed jobs to be a teacher.

Why did you choose North Bethesda?

I didn't choose North Bethesda as my school on purpose but I did love it. As soon as I got here I discovered what an amazing school it is. North Bethesda was also my neighborhood school, and my two sons went

there when I started.



Sheep?

One day, nine years ago a kid drew a sheep on the whiteboard in the back of my classroom. The next day the class drew more, soon after sheep became my favorite animal and that is now the theme of the classroom.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is the first Hunger Games. I think it was really one of the first books that was both interesting for kids and adults.

I heard you spoke French. Is that true?

Yes, I speak French and lived in Northern France for a couple years. Then I came back to America for college.

What is your favorite part of teaching?

My favorite part of teaching is probably when students are told to decide what they think society should be like. It is interesting to hear what they have to say and different views that might haven't been thought of.

CAMILA'S GRANDMOTHER BY ZELDA SNELLGROVE

10/31/2113

While I am wandering through the graveyard I have this sickening feeling that someone. I clutch onto the bouquet of flowers I am holding and turn down twisting paths, through the darkness. I hear the snap of a twig and pick up the pace.

I slow down at a normal sized gravestone that has tons of decomposed flowers and seashells. I kneel down knowing I am safe here.

"Here you go grandmother," The words roll off my tongue with my Spanish accent helping it along the way.

I smile down at the grave and spot a card. It's a birthday card, dating to my grandmother's birthday. November 1st, the day of the dead as people used to call it.

I read aloud "Dear Lola the fire eater, I know this is years after you have died. I have a feeling that you will be able to read this when it is your birthday. We have celebrated your birthday for as long as I can remember and it is the best experience ever.

"But, it is time to let go..." I frown. "You have been in our lives for as long as I can remember. My children have been saying that for a long time and I deserve to give you as much love as possible. I am sorry. Your best friend, Alba, age 92."

¡No puedo creerlo! I think. Even her best friend is thinking it's time to let go. She probably already has because this is dated back to last year! I am tempted to tear up the letter but instead I drop it on the ground.

Snap!

I twist my head in the direction of the snap. I look as well as I can and see a silhouette coming towards me.

"Hello?" I ask.

I hear a MEOW and see the silhouette come closer.

"Oh! Tabitha! It's just you!" I sigh with relief while the black cat purrs on my legs. "Come on. Let's go home,"

We go back down the twisting paths out of the graveyard and to home.

FUN RIDDLES BY MINDUNI

1.How do snowmen greet each other?

2. What kind of bicycle do penguins ride?

3. What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

4. Imagine you are in a room with no windows or doors, how will you get out?

5. A group of bunnies were having a birthday party, what music were they dancing to?

6. Where would you take a sick boat?

7. What kind of room has no windows or doors?

8. What kind of fruit can you never cheer up?

9. What letter is between AC?

10. What do elves learn at school?

Answers on the next page

ANSWERS FOR THE RIDDLES

Look only if top is answered

1.	Ice to meet you. 🕏					
2.	Ice-sickles. 🜔					
3.	Frosted flakes. 🗱					
4.	Stop imagining. 🔒					
5.	Hip pop music. 🖌					
6.	To the dock. 🛁					
7.	Mush room. 🍄					
8.	A blueberry. 🍓					
9.	Letter B B					
10.	Elf-abet 😰					



PICS AROUND THE SCHOOL BY: HANNAH, NATALIE, LILY, AND SABINE









WINTER WORD SEARCH



		*													*		
w	I	Ν	т	Е	R	s	Ν	0	w	F	L	А	к	Е	G	н	к
G	С	I	С	Е	s	к	А	т	Е	S	I	0	D	G	С	А	т
J	I	L	Е	Q	w	А	s	Ν	0	w	в	А	L	L	s	0	1
0	С	G	н	I	F	6	8	J	к	w	G	н	7	G	1	J	к
0	L	Ν	7	1	2	3	s	Ν	0	w	м	А	Ν	D	L	н	I
Р	Е	I	s	т	Е	w	к	L	0	н	к	w	G	х	z	s	U
υ	G	Р	т	Ν	6	G	s	с	I	I	I	2	С	С	х	с	R
L	D	к	0	D	J	G	Ν	0	С	1	с	0	L	D	Ν	А	D
G	F	R	0	s	т	Y	0	L	Е	м	н	L	L	D	Е	R	0
J	R	н	в	Y	L	L	w	А	R	м	0	L	5	Е	т	F	Р
Е	U	R	в	L	2	7	R	н	L	R	8	L	F	с	0	Р	Q
R	I	I	I	1	с	7	Y	s	А	D	2	I	в	Е	8	0	F
υ	т	н	0	т	с	н	0	с	0	L	А	т	Е	м	s	А	G
Е	с	Q	F	R	υ	I	т	с	А	к	Е	L	к	в	к	Q	С
н	J	А	с	к	Е	т	Ν	А	1	Р	R	Е	s	Е	Ν	т	м
н	0	L	L	Y	т	R	Е	Е	I	4	8	J	5	R	I	L	х

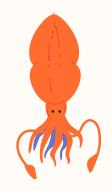


Winter	🗌 Warm	Snow
Fruit cake	Snowman	Cold
C Ice	Frost	Carol
December	Snowflake	
Chilly	□ Jacket	
Ice Skates	Present	
Holly tree	Snowballs	
Hot chocolate		

FUN FACTS ABOUT NATURE

The Colossal Squid

With the whole body and tentacle lengths up to 46 feet (14 m) and weights of at least 1100 pounds (500 kg), the colossal squid is a very large deep-sea predator. Like in many large species, all the largest individuals are female. They eat small and large fishes (including the Patagonian Toothfish) and other squids.



The Ghost Fungus Mushroom

Ghost fungus, is a gilled basidiomycete mushroom most notable for its bioluminescent properties. It is known to be found primarily in southern Australia and Tasmania.

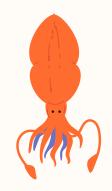


Ghost fungus mushroom

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Ghost fungus mushroom

silence a poem

by elly m

angry silence hovers above your head like a darkening storm cloud ready to burst open and rain and storm and swirl and thunder and

swallow everything.

awkward silence stumbles its way into the middle of the room sits down with a 'clunk' and makes itself comfortable

... awkward -

secretive silence shoves you to the edge of the crowd until you can't see blindfolds you and blocks up your ears all you can sense is

darkness.

tired silence settles like a carpet of dust turning everything beige and monotone dull... silent...

exhausted.

_

peaceful silence lives in the evening air darkening sky, small whispers of wind, and puffs of warm breath in the cold breathe in, and

exhale ~

comforting silence wraps around you a warm blanket, a thick-rimmed mug filled with steaming liquid clasped tightly in your hands

ah.

_

quiet silence is...

•••

. . .

. . .





1. Mistletoe 2. presents 3. family 4. Ornaments 5. tree 6. sweaters 7. snow 8. carols 9. lights 10. cookies



INTERVIEW WITH NORTH BETHESDA'S INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TEACHER: MS. HEPBURN! With Elizabeth Hailemariam & Natalie Lodra

About Ms. Hepburn: Ms. Hepburn is 44 years old. She lives in Downtown Bethesda with her husband, a math teacher and basketball coach. Fun fact: They're both twins! She likes to exercise and watch The Today with Hoda and Jenna (she is obsessed with this show!). Ms. Hepburn has high expectations for her students but is happy to help them out anytime!

INTERVIEW:

1. How many years have you been teaching?

"I have been teaching 25 years, my 21st year of NBMS. Along with my school BFF Mr. Mcfeaters."

2. Why did you choose to become a teacher?

"Because I had an awesome middle school music teacher, who made music fun and was kind, caring, and he currently works in Montgomery County."

3. What's your favorite subject?

"Music, I feel like I didn't enjoy any other subject and just particularly liked music. Back in middle school I would practice in the morning before i went to school."

4. What's your favorite thing about being a teacher? Least favorite?

"My favorite things are summer vacations and the funny stories my students tell me. My least favorite thing is that some of my students can get stressful."

S. What's your biggest pet peeve as a teacher?

"Chewing gum, not following directions, talking, not raising your hand."

6. What is your favorite music genre?

"I listen to the top hits."

1. You teach us about our instruments and how to play them. What instruments do you play?

"I was a classically trained percussionist. I had to learn all of the instruments in college before I was able to student-teach"

8. What is your favorite inspirational quote?

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression." "Be Kind." "Always go the extra mile, it's never too crowded." "Hard work beats talent, when talent fails to work hard."

9. What is your dream place to live for the rest of your life?

"It would have a beach. Probably like Aruba."

10. Is it fun being a teacher? Do you have enough time for grading and your own time?

"Yes! Every day is new. I don't have to do the same thing every day."

11. How would you describe being a teacher? What is it like?

"I think it's hard work, a neverending job, it's changed a lot in the last 20 years since I first taught...] love it, but obviously, some days I don't."

12. What's your favorite book?

"I love to read, my goal was to read 20 books over the summer. My favorite book this summer was Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano. It's a story about family. You can learn good life lessons from the books Wonder by R. J. Palacio and Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom"

13. How would you describe what it was like when you first started teaching?

"Kids didn't have social media, and weren't always on social media. And they were more focused and less distracted. The building and amount of kids were much smaller, like half the size it was now."

14. What do you think of your students?

"I love my students, and there is a new environment that they bring every day."

15. How do you balance your schedule?

"I organize my schedules on Sundays and plan for the whole week. I make my grocery lists and Saturdays are usually chillax days."



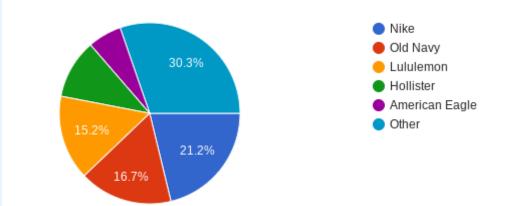
10 EASY Ways You Can Help Decrease Climate Change: By Elaina Sandick

- Turn off the lights when you leave a room
 Take shorter showers
 Try to carpool with friends to school/activities instead of all going in separate cars.
 Eat less meat
 Don't use a lot hot water
 Use reusable bags (not paper) when shopping
 Make sure to throw trash out in the trash bin and the recycling in the recycling
 Try to pick up trash
 Try to plant a few seeds in your yard
- Participate in a park clean up near you

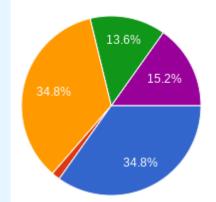




Survey Results what is the best clothing brand?

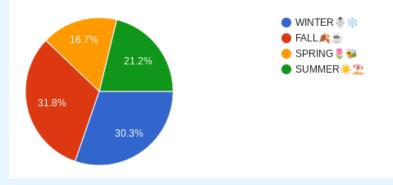


what are your thoughts on social media?





what is your favorite season?

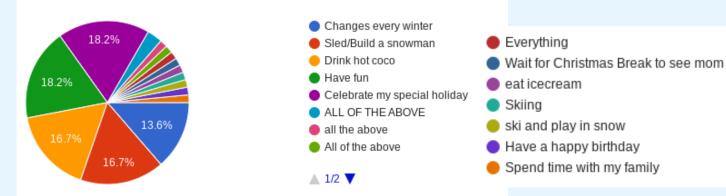


Syrvey Results

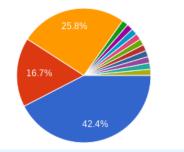
what do you think about climate change?



what do you do during the winter?



what do you do on your screens?



- Watch TV shows/movies
- 🛑 Play games
- Use social media
- Youtube
- Text
- All of the above
- all of the above
- Depends which house. At mom s i ha...



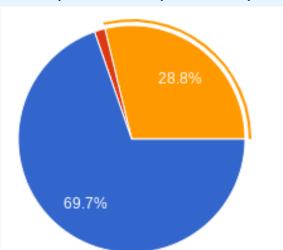
- watch and play soccer
- coding, games, or writing
- I read comics/webtoon/mangas/ mawhas/others
- 🔵 Draw
- 🛑 Make digital art

Syrvey Results

If you could travel anywhere in the world where would it be?

1.	Japan	
2.	France	
3.	Iceland	
4.	Italy Greece	
5.		A distant
6.	South Korea	
7.	North Koreq	
8.	Jamaica	
9.	My home Hawgii	
10.	Hawaii	

Do you think that Avantika Wolf should do push up competition with Mr. Perlson?





adventures of dum dums Volume 1: the dum dum maple tree *All misspellings are purposeful*

In the world of Dum-Earth, a version of earth that is dum, there lived the dums. Thousands of years ago there were the dum dums, who were especially dumb. The genes have been passed down in the cold deserts of Antdumtica, a dum antarctica. In a specific town, lived three dum dums, named Bob, Joe, and Billy. This is volume one of their dum adventures:

In the snow deserts, there was no sugar, no fun, no joy. Bob was sad, he wanted those things. So of course, he did the obvious thing. He became a tax collector, and enforced 3 magical berries per house every week. The people, including Joe, were very mad. They fought, they cried, they absolutely denied paying the taxes. But they did,

and Bob did something amazing with them.

He built a hut made of twigs, it was pretty big. He planted the berries in them, and soon enough, sugar cane grew.

"I finally did it! I invented... what should I call it..?" He thought, and thought, and eventually knew. "Sugar! That's it!... oh wait... it's been invented before" He grew upset, and kicked the sugar cane. He bit

off a piece, and chewed.

Billy wandered in, and poured the famous not-maple syrup over it, and tossed it into the snow.

"Good riddance!" He said, and kicked snow on top. "Wait a second" Bob started to dig up the frozen sugar cane syrup candy. He popped it into his mouth, and his face lit up. He made something sweet! He called it candee. He sold his candee, and erased the taxes. The people cheered, and they ate all of the

candee.

THE END.

By: Serena V and Sierra M



Avantika Wolf: NBMS's own Youtube sensation At a whopping 58k subscribers , Avantika created her channel August 22nd, 2020. Since then she has been quickly gaining subscribers by doing viral dances, gymnastics tutorials, showcasing her flexibility, and so much more. The one, the only Avantika wolf! Please like and subscribe to her channel!



By Elaina, Avantika, And Arianna



Hanukkah word search!!



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