



# The Great Gator

Your Very Own Student Run Newspaper!

## Jokes by the Great Gator Staff

- What did the buffalo say when his son went away?  
"Bye, son!"
- What kind of TV shows do ducks watch?  
"Duck-umentaries!"
- What's the vampire's least favorite room in the house?  
"The living room!"
- What's black and white and read all over?  
"A newspaper!"
- What's the difference between a violin and a string bass?  
"The string bass takes longer to burn!"
- What's the difference between a trampoline and a saxophone?  
"You take your shoes off when you jump on a trampoline!"

## Art Competition And the Art Competition Winner is...



The winner of the Art Competition is Taylor W. She won this competition with her outstanding picture of a gator. The judges (Thamara and Lycia) were flabbergasted at the outstanding artwork. We had many wonderful and very beautiful entries. We had many disagreements as to which one was the best, but her outstanding picture made it easy to see that she put a lot of work into her piece. We enjoyed looking at the many different pieces of art and we had a hard time choosing one winner. "We all decided on that one because it really draws your attention," said Thamara. Congratulations to Taylor W. and to everyone else, good job and thank you for participating. We personally loved them all.

## Upcoming Events

- Jazz Band Concert  
Dec. 15
- Winter Break starts!  
Dec. 19
- Back to school.  
Jan. 2
- Incoming 9th Grade Parent Registration Night at MIHS 7-9:30 PM  
Jan. 9
- Martin Luther King Program.  
Jan. 13
- No School- MLK Jr. Day  
Jan. 16

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## Our Mission

The Great Gator's mission is to provide Islander Middle School and its community with a quality student led newspaper. The newspaper will always include superb and truthful articles, about interesting topics. We the Great Gator will only publish articles that when profiling students and faculty, will do so in a positive manner and will never include articles that are gossipy or harmful.

## A Letter From The Editor

Dear Valued Reader,

My name is Isaac K. and I am the Editor In Chief of the Great Gator Newspaper and the head of the after school club that produces it. We all may not fully understand it, but we live in a very complicated and connected world. There are historic revolutions occurring half way around the world and protests going on in our own backyard and much, much more happening. With everything going on in our world, I will strive as the editor of this newspaper to help you make sense of it all. Some articles you read might educate you about world events and others might explain to you local events but, all will teach and entertain you. Every aspect and component of the process in producing this newspaper is student run and you could be part of the process too. We are always looking for more students to be part of the Great Gator and we welcome you to come stop by and see if we are a good fit for you. We meet every Wednesday after school in Mr. Lucas's room #102. I sincerely hope that you enjoy, and please email me any comments or questions.

Thanks,  
Isaac K.,  
Editor-In-Chief.  
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## The Art Club

The Starting Point For All Artists  
By, Karen K. and Lycia T.

We interviewed Miss. Biggs, the supervisor of the Art Club, a place for artists to show their talent.

Miss. Biggs told us that the members of the club choose what they want to do. They have done art such as, sculpting clay, making shrinky dinks and duct tape purses, pumpkin carving, creating rock monsters, and paper mache, and sometimes even donate a project or two for school. The Art Club does activities individually and in a group. This club also goes through the whole year. Some of the most popular art activities are clay and plastic sculptures, and painting murals. But it mostly depends on the group. Miss. Biggs's favorite activity was when a guest artist came and they made a silver medallion, or when they made shrinky dinks. She says they work very well. She also enjoys contributing art to IMS, such as the paper mache alligator hanging outside Miss. Biggs's room, in the student center, that some of the members of the club made a few years back.

As you can see, Art Club is a brilliant club to go to if you have an interest in art. It takes place in Miss. Biggs's room in the student center, on Wednesday afternoons.



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## Faculty Spotlight

By, Olivia A.

**Mrs. Krispin-Registrar** (no picture available)

Mrs. Krispin hates leaving dirty dishes on the table. Her favorite food is ice-cream. Mrs. Krispin likes to read the 1<sup>st</sup> Harry Potter book, "The Sorcerer's Stone". She also likes to watch "The Good Wife" on TV Mrs. Krispin's favorite color is blue. Her dream vacation spot is New Zealand. Mrs. Krispin describes her job as interesting, and changing every day.

**Mrs. Klein- Guidance Counselor**



Mrs. Klein hates when people use the last thing and then don't replace it. Her favorite food is Pizza-but only on the East coast. She likes to read the book "To Kill a Mockingbird". Mrs. Klein likes to watch "The Middle" on TV. She loves the color yellow and would love to go to Europe for a vacation. Mrs. Klein loves her job; she gets to work closely with students, parents, and staff.

**Mrs. Johnson- Attendance**



Mrs. Johnson loves vegetables. She hates when people tailgate. Her dream vacation would be in Australia and her favorite color is blue. Mrs. Johnson loves a good mystery book. She watches "Desperate Housewives" on TV. Mrs. Johnson describes her job as great- but busy.

**Mrs. McCann-Administrative Assistant** (no picture available)

Mrs. McCann cannot stand rudeness. It's her pet peeve. She loves a good hamburger. Mrs. McCann loves the book "Charlotte's Web" and the TV show "The Big Bang Theory". Her description of being an administrative assistant is fun and different every day! Mrs. McCann loves the color green and her ultimate vacation is staying home with nothing to do.

**Mrs. Menchel-School Nurse** (no picture available)

Mrs. Menchel, the school nurse, describes her job as a fun learning experience. She loves interior design books and the TV show "The Walking Dead". Mrs. Menchel also loves Indian food but very strongly dislikes open, untied shoelaces. She would like to travel to London, Ireland, or Scotland. Mrs. Menchel's all-time favorite color is red.

## Got Chocolate Milk?

By, Daniel P.

If you're in Maple Valley then the answer to that is no; in Maple Valley, as an attempt to provide a more healthy food menu, they have taken it off the menu. The school district has already taken canned fruit off the menu and now chocolate milk. The district spokesperson, Kevin Patterson, says, "Chocolate milk was looked at because it's something that kids would drink every day, and there's a lot of sugar in chocolate milk." But the kids aren't giving up. More than 130 students at the Rock Creek Elementary School have signed a petition asking the school board to bring back chocolate milk, but the district remains firm so far. Currently kids can still bring their own, or buy the 1-percent, fat free and soy milk that the district is offering. I couldn't find any follow ups or if they have re-added chocolate milk but I suspect they haven't so I wish those kids good luck in getting their milk back. (Most recent article I could find was on November 18)

## Quick School Facts!

The band currently has:

- 165 5<sup>th</sup> graders!
- 140 6<sup>th</sup> graders!
- 82 7<sup>th</sup> graders!
- 112 8<sup>th</sup> graders!



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## A Book Review of "Wolfheart"

By, Daniel P.

Wolfheart is a wonderful book. One of the reasons why I like it is because of how well it tells you what you need to know. Normally you can't pick up some books which are part of a series or a "universe" like Warcraft without back-ground knowledge, but this book is great at it. You don't need to know any of the stories or history of the world; you can just pick it up and read. Also, is the authors ability to describe everything in so much detail, I read it once, and have started it again with a friend and it is still just amazing to listen to how well he describes the palaces and people in the book. Third, the author sticks to the story and doesn't contradict the past story; in some worlds like Star Wars, you may have many authors, and they might go against each other, and so this can be very annoying to the reader, especially if you really like that place and it can also be confusing, but with this book they stay right on track and are very good. One thing, though, that might be confusing to some people, is how it changes people, sometimes it's with 1 person and other times it's with someone else, I could get that pretty easily and it didn't confuse me, but while at my friends half-listening and half playing games (we were listening to the audio book) it did confuse him slightly about what's going on, but all and all it is a very good read.



## Lolita The Whale By, Cayden S.

On August 8, 1970, in Puget Sound, Lolita, along with seven others, were caught to be sold to marine parks and aquariums. Her original name was Tokitae and she was bought by the Miami Seaquarium's head vet, Dr. Jesse White for about \$20,000. Lolita joined another Southern Resident Orca named Hugo who was captured some time before Lolita and had lived in the park two years before her arrival. On the morning of March 4, 1980, staff arrived to find a lifeless Hugo. Hugo had suffered a brain aneurism after being lethargic for several weeks, and many believe the aneurism happened because he had too much stress on his body from being in captivity. After Hugo died, Lolita became the center of attention at the Miami Seaquarium. Not only did she attract tourists, but animal activists. Lolita starred in Rick O' Berry's 2008 film, "Lolita Slave To Entertainment."



## Middle School Hangouts By Cayden S.

I am going to take you into the life of an average middle schooler. The hangouts are a big part of it.

Let's talk about the hangouts. There are lots of hangouts in the vicinity of Mercer Island. A couple of them are in the QFC plaza, a block away from Islander Middle School. One of them is the Starbucks. They have good drinks and places to do homework. Another hangout is Yo Mercer. Yo Mercer is a frozen yogurt shop in the same shopping center. It is a self-serve yogurt shop. They have good yogurt and places to sit. Those are just some of hangouts on Mercer Island.





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## **Thank You For Reading!**

**-The Great Gator Staff**

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