



**WE ARE.**

are you ready?  
**WE ARE.**

CASTLE ROCK MIDDLE SCHOOL Castle Rock, CO CRUSADER

20  
21  
Vol  
24

SUMMER **4**

FALL **12**

WINTER **28**

SPRING **S2**

REFERENCE **S14**

are you ready?

**WE ARE.**

## are you ready?

Ready to enter school through the **pod doors** and have to stay there until the new morning bells?

**7:25** Head to first period,

Which stairs **go up** again?

Which ones go **down**?

**7:35** Warning bell, phones away.

**7:40** Start class.

Ready to be in your half-full classroom on your **cohort** day?

Hey, at least you get to see your teachers and friends **in person**, even if it means a **mask** for **eight hours**.

Ready to play school sports in a **slightly different** way?

Mr. Shew records your **temp** before cross country practice. **No tackle football** this year? Don't worry, Pilone and Sheets will still make you **work hard** in flag football.

Are you ready for **100% remote learning** just when you got used to **hybrid**?

You know, when you get kicked out of the **Google Meet** in the middle of Ms. Highsmith's virtual class.

## are you ready?

# WE ARE.



**1. BRECK FREE** Over the summer, Greyson Walter (8) and her friends hang out in Breckenridge, July 31. She wants to go on more trips with her friends each summer and see new places. "There were four of us, including me. We did an escape room, we went to the pool a lot, we shopped downtown, we went out to lunch; it was just fun spending time with my friends," Walter said. *Photo courtesy of Catherine Heimbichner*

**2. LEAPS AND BOUNDS** Along with his cross country team, Carson Renter (8) jumps over a bump in the route on the way to the bridge with the soldier mural. Renter's best time is nine and a half minutes for a mile and a half. "My favorite route is going down to the soldier bridge, so taking the sidewalk by the

street all the way down to the soldier bridge and then looping back up to CV," Renter said.

*Photo by Deidra Hooper*  
**3. TEACHER'S BEST FRIEND** Before the photoshoot, Ms. Gina Claus bonds with Duran, Sept. 14. As the yearbook adviser, Claus coaches her staff through weekly photoshoots, this one for a specific story on Duran. "Since Duran is a therapy dog, he is very calm and relaxing which makes the photoshoot so much easier. He just wants to please you," Claus said. *Photo by Sarah Breed*

**4. MAKE A RUN FOR IT** Caught midstride practicing sprint runs in football, Hunter Haggerty (7) focuses on the end zone, Nov. 9. Haggerty has played football for nine years and enjoyed the season, despite the schedule changes due to COVID. "The season was different because the schedule was always changing and some teams only had one team to play two games. So, my team would be playing the same team that the other C team did," Haggerty said. *Photo by Madison Medjo*

## are you ready?

Ready for the **final day** of online learning dismissing you into the warm air? Only to return for the **drive by drop-off** of your chromebook a week later. Oh yeah, and don't forget the **drive by yearbook pick-up**. No friends around to sign it.

Ready to have the freedom to **sleep in** and **stay up late**...but go no where because the town is **shut down** due to COVID?

But just like that, **boom**.

Ready for **summer** to fly by and it be time to see **Ms. Moore's** smile as you walk into the doors for your assigned **cohort** orientation day? Only a couple students in each class. Who will be in your pod? Who will be in your cohort?

## are you ready?

# SUMMER



2.

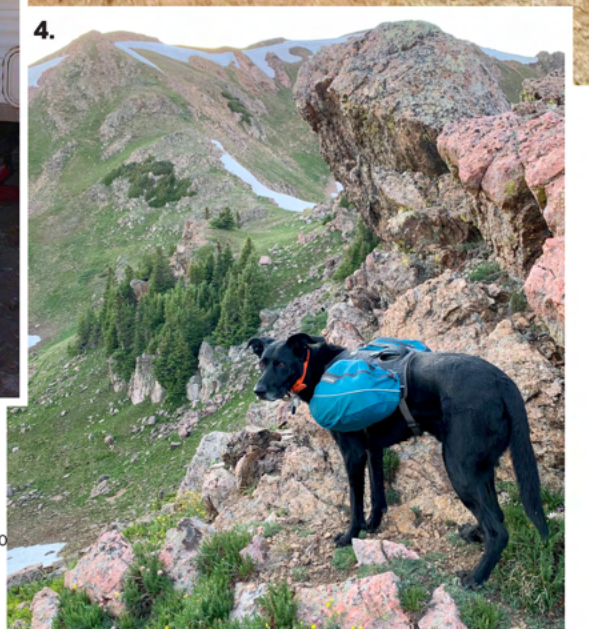


**1. CATCH SOME AIR** With his mountain bike ready to go, Elijah Degen (8) practices his jumps, Jun. 18. "Biking keeps me busy in the summer. I like to do jumps and try new tricks with my friends," Degen said. *Photo courtesy of Elijah Degen* **2. JUST ANOTHER SUMMER.** Covid may have been a struggle for most, but the school therapy dog, Duran, still had lots of activities this summer, Aug. 25. "The biggest thing that we did this summer was go on a three day backpacking trip, right outside of Vail. On a normal summer week, Duran and I go on hikes around five days a week," Mrs. Wilson, Duran's owner, said. Duran is ready to conquer the next adventure that comes his way. *Photo by Sarah Breed*

**3. NEED FOR SPEED** The summer season hits its peak, and Halie Steed (8) enjoys the sun, Sept. 8. "Over the summer, I hung out with friends and rode dirt bikes up in the mountains here in Colorado. My favorite part about going dirt biking was being able to hang out with my friends. I also enjoyed going to the pool, cooling off, and just having a great time," Steed (8) said. *Photo courtesy of Halie Steed*



**4. DOG DAYS** Our four legged furry friend, Duran, went on a three day expedition with his people and two dog siblings outside of Vail, Jul. 19. "He loves hiking and running the entire mountain. He loves to live in his perfect little 'Disney World'. We camped, and there was also a really cool lake there so we went swimming, and chased things," Laura Wilson, Duran's owner, said. *Photo courtesy of Laura Wilson*



## are you ready?

Ready to see the **turning of the leaves** as you walk to school?

Ready to see Carlos bundled up at the crosswalk yelling **"keep moving down"** at drivers during drop-off?

Ready to **leave school** using the door closest to your 7th period class?

**2:52** if your class is on the first floor,

**2:55** if it's on the second.

Ready to practice **flag football inside** because a snow storm rolled in? Slipping and sliding everywhere on the gym floor because you forgot to bring regular shoes, and **Mr. Bennett** threatening you with sprints if you mess around?

Ready to get **quarantined** because you got the email from Mr. Veit about a COVID exposure? Or not seeing Ms. Donathan because she's teaching from home for **the fourth time**?

2.

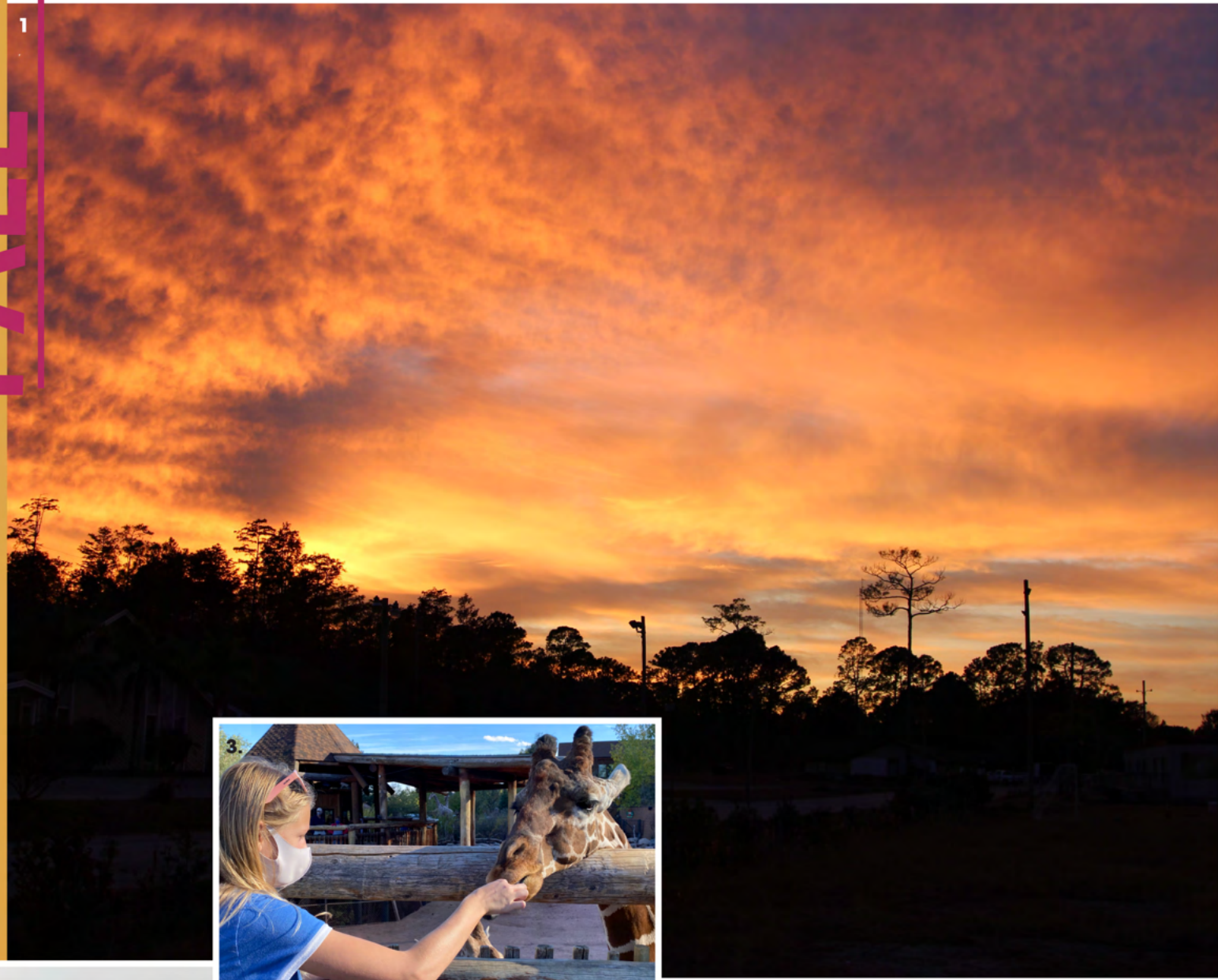
## are you ready?



4.



# FALL



**1. SUNSET BY SADNESS** As the pink sun goes down with these cotton candy clouds, Hailey Sweich (8) thinks about these beautiful sunsets and how they are caused, Oct. 20. "I really enjoyed seeing the sunsets because they were really pretty, I just didn't like that they were caused by fires that hurts us and the earth," Sweich said. Photo by Sarah Breed

**2. HALLOWEEN HOWLS** Halloween, a day where you go door to door asking for candy by saying, "Trick or treat!" For friends Greyson Walter (8), Foster Walter (8), and Hailey Sweich (8) they do it a little differently, Oct. 31. "We spent the night laughing, a lot. We did ghost photoshoots and other things," F. Walter said. Photo courtesy of Greyson Walter

**KINDA BIRTHDAY** A birthday spent at the zoo is a different experience, as Finley Milligan (8) noted, Oct. 11. "I love to see the animals but it was a little weird because you could only go one way so it was like one big loop," Milligan said. Photo courtesy of Erika Milligan

**4. PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT** The first evacuation drill of the year was socially distanced, Oct. 22. "Students have told me they now look forward to fire drills because they get to go outside. When they go outside after lunch they are allowed to take their masks off but when we do drills like this they can't," Ms. Breanne Moore, Lancelot language arts teacher said. Photo by Sarah Breed



**1. SET AND SERVE** Volleyball camp participant, Marisa Fuentes (7) learns how to set up the net, Mar. 9. "My experience with volleyball camp is that I really enjoy it and it is super fun. At camp we do many different things such as drills for passing, setting, and serving," Fuentes said. *Photo by Sadie Canaday* **2. WINTER FUN** Winter has fun and exciting activities for people of all ages to enjoy, Dec. 20. Mrs. Baker, one of the art teachers, favorite thing to do is spend more time with her family. "The winter time allows me to spend extra time with my family especially during winter break. And some things that we like to do are play outside when it's snowing we like to go out and build snowmen, go for walks in the snow, and bake cookies." Baker says. *Photo courtesy of Mrs. Baker* **3. IDEATE TO CREATE** Balanced on a ladder, IT Application teacher Ms. Dutenhoeffer, prepares the Egg Drop tester for the class competition, Mar. 11. Each participant will be ranked against the school records that have been recorded for the past three years. "I think IT Apps is one of the coolest classes we have in the building because



there are so many student voices and choices included into this class. We do a lot of building, testing, and reflecting which makes this class really cool. It is really a brain break from the traditional learning that they do all day." Dutenhoeffer said. *Photo by Taylor Graham* **4. SNOW MUCH FUN** As the snow starts to roll in, Lizzie Homer (8) builds a



snowman with her sisters to get into the holiday spirit, Dec. 12. "When we had a lot of snow come in, me and my sisters planned out what we wanted to do with all that snow. We debated creating a whole scene with it, but we decided to build a snowman, and we named him Larry," Homer said. *Photo courtesy of Lizzie Homer*

# WINTER

are you ready?

Ready for the first snowfall signaling a **snow days** may be in our future?

**10/26** Snow Day #1

**02/25** Snow Day #2

**02/18** Delayed Start #1

**03/22** Delayed Start #2

Ready for the snowflakes to stick to your clothes as you walk up the hill to **Castle View**, so your sibling can take you home?

Ready for it to be the **weekend** where you can log off of a **Google Meets** call and hear Ms. Lewis tell you to enjoy some time outside?

Ready for your shoes to squeak when you walk off the entry carpet onto the **main commons** floor?

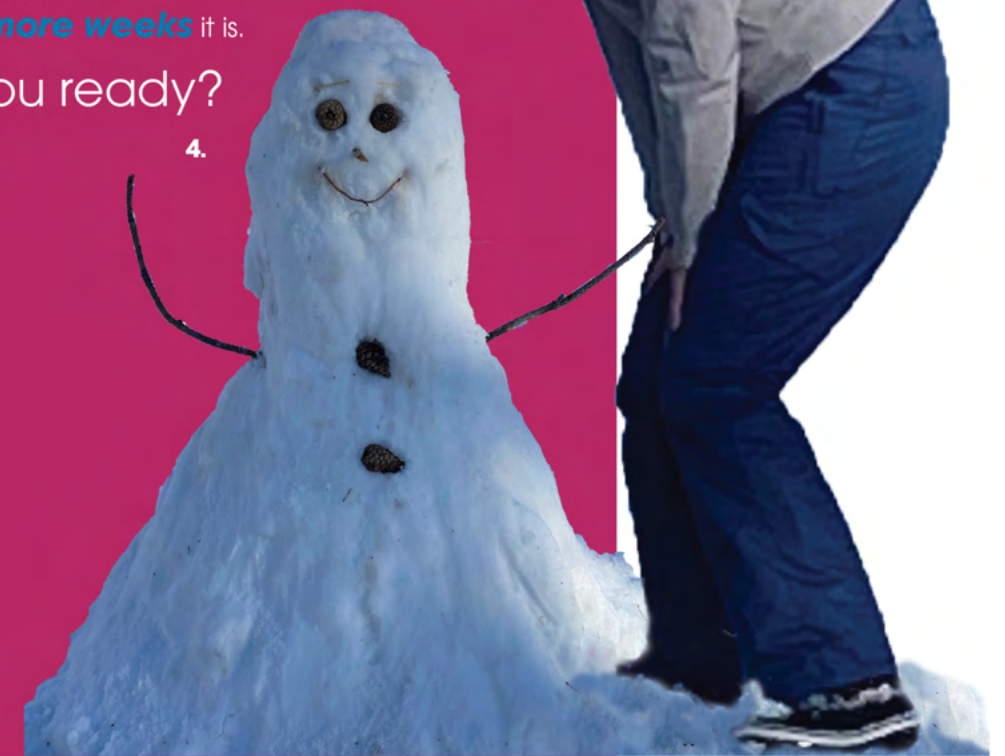
Ready for the call from your best friend asking if you want to go sledding at **Butterfield Park**?

Ready for February 2nd, **Groundhog Day**! Will he see his shadow?

**Six more weeks** it is.

are you ready?

4.





SPRING

3.

**1. BUNNY BAKED PANCAKES** With the arrival of Easter, the CFS class decided to make bunny inspired pancakes, Apr. 1. Olivia Clarke (7) gets into the Easter spirit when she makes her festive pancakes. "Making the bunny pancakes was a really fun project since we got to eat and make the bunny design out of the pancakes," Clarke said. *Photo by*

*Alexandra Zents* **3. APRIL FISH** The French tradition of "Poisson d'avril" is taught in Mr. Schott's 1A French class, Apr. 1. "Poisson d'avril is the french holiday for April fools day where basically they stick slips of paper fish onto people's backs with tape. Poisson d'avril translates to April fish in French," Makenna Mcmann (7) said. *Photo by Taylor Graham*

4.

**4. RUN FROM THE WEATHER** The girls track team has been out of their regular workout schedules due to snow and frigid temperatures, Apr. 2. "We had track inside that whole week because the weather was cold and wet. During inside practice we ran around the bottom floor twice and then went up the stairs and did the top floor twice. We then just kept repeating that," Sarah Breed (8) said. *Photo by Lizzie Homer*

**2. GOING UP FROM HERE** As the global pandemic has slowed down, at least for now, students have returned back to in-person learning five days a week, Mar. 22. One of these students returning to full in person was Bryson Mckim (7). "I would say that I "Generally feel comfortable coming back to school full time. I feel that the school has spaced things out like the lunchroom and cafeteria pretty good and I like the system they are using," stated Mckim. *Photo by Alexandra Zents*

2.



are you ready?

Ready for the brisk breeze to mix with the warmth of the day?

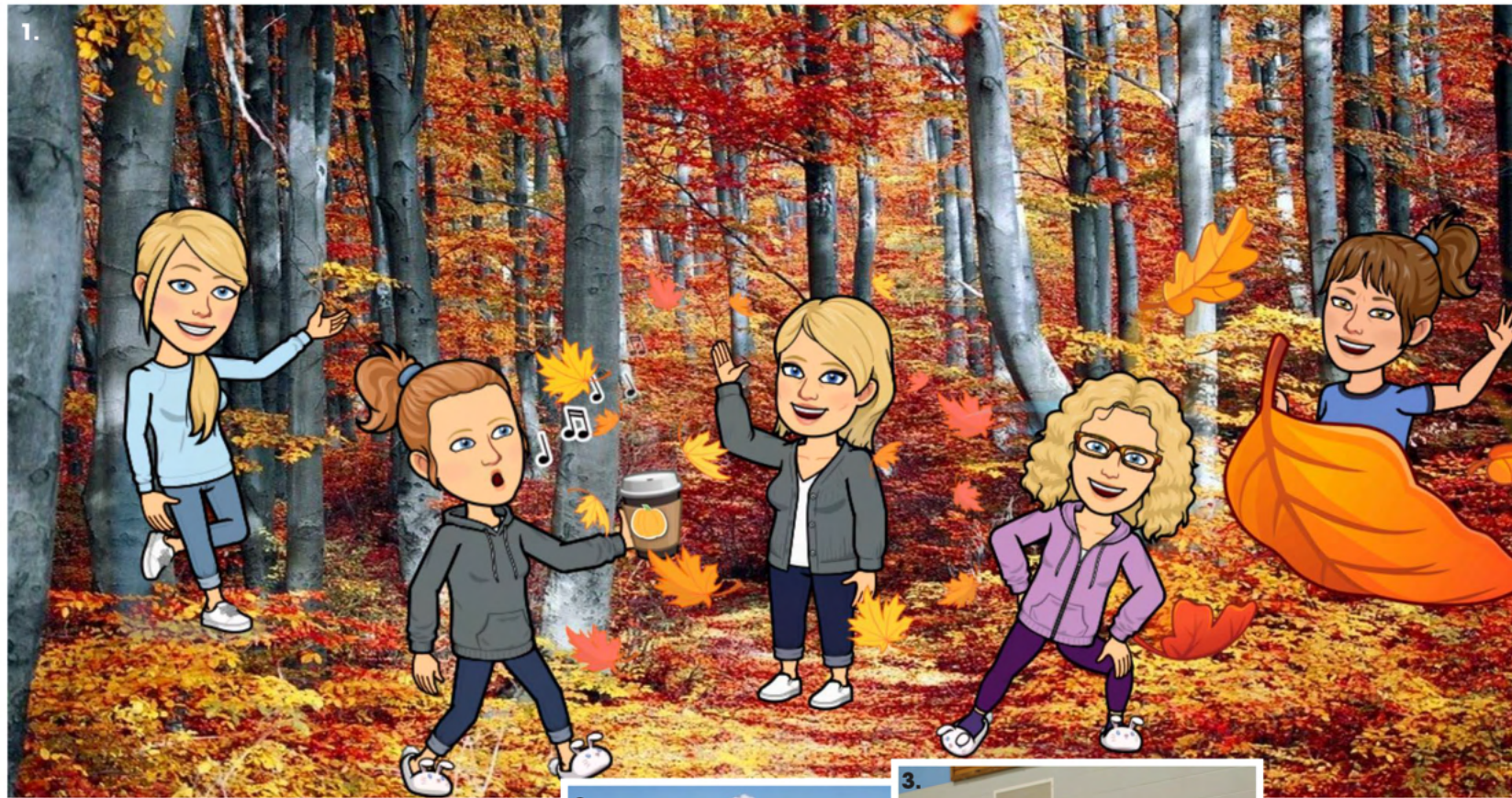
**Warm and 70** on Monday.

**Snowing and 23** on Tuesday.

Ready to see **Ms. Sommers'** styling in all of her outfits for track practice? (specific detail here)

Ready for state testing? **CMAS** to be exact. Mrs. Lynn's and Ms. Claus' **computer labs** aren't working! Eighth graders, prepare to **double up** on day 2, everyone else is now scheduled for **make-up** days.

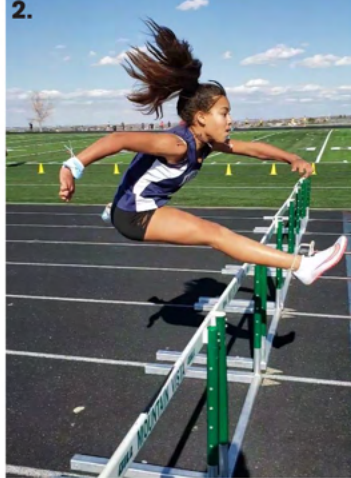
are you ready?



**1. BITMOJI'S LADIES OF LANCELOT**

As the pandemic has spread throughout the country, we have all come up with new solutions, but the "Ladies of Lancelot" have come up with a new way to take group photos. That new way is using the popular app 'Bitmoji' to create group scenes while still being COVID friendly. "Ms. Kay originally came up with the idea of putting Bitmoji's into our classrooms both virtually and in-person," Ms. Moore, Lancelot 8th Language Arts teacher, said. "I think that my favorite scene that we did was the fall scene, because we had all sorts of different colored leaves and trees around us. It just made me

very happy. I really like Mrs. Highsmith's Bitmoji because it looks just like her and her character reminds me of her personality," Moore said. *Illustration courtesy of Mrs. Moore.* **2. RUN KNIGHT AND DAY** At the first track McKenzie Cauldrons (7) warms up on the hurdles, Apr. 1. "I have been running track since I was five years old. My favorite part of track is doing the 400, and 200 meter dash. I also really love doing hurdles." Calderon is a star on the track and is going to continue to be. "Last week when I ran the hurdles I beat my previous record and am now 6th in the country for my age division," Calderon said. *Photo courtesy of Kenya Calderon.*



**3. KICK TO VICTORY** As kickball season starts to roll around, Unified students get ready to play, Apr. 12. Mr. Morken, eighth grade P.E. teacher, explains why kickball is the sport to do. "Unified sports have always been the basic games such as soccer and basketball. With covid, though, kickball would be the safest because it has the best social distancing since there's outfield and infield teams. Overall a really fun sport to do," Morken said. *Photo by Taylor Graham*



**4. ANYTHING IS PAW-SIBLE** The new therapy dog, Daphne, has joined the team, Apr. 9. Laura Wilson, Daphne's owner, is excited about Daphne being a new edition to our school. "With our other therapy dog, Duran, getting older and on his way to a semi-retirement, it was time to start thinking of bringing in another therapy dog to join the team. We got her when she was a puppy, with the intent of eventually bringing her in to become a therapy dog. She has a very sweet disposition and really likes to learn and play, which makes her really great for this middle school," Wilson said. *Photo by Lizzie Homer.*

REFERENCE

are you ready?

Ready for the school year to be even more **hectic** than it usually is? How school looks all depends on the number of COVID cases in the area.

- 12/01 - 273** reported cases in DC
- 100% remote** learning
- 03/22 - 0** reported cases in DC
- 100% in-person** learning

Ready for our **season long sports** to be turned into **week long clubs**?

- 2/22 - 2/24** 8th Girls Volleyball
- ...and the snow day that rescheduled a day to 3/2
- 3/8 - 3/11** 7th Girls Volleyball
- Boys Basketball - canceled due to low turnout

Ready for assigned seats at lunch?

- 08/17** Tables by Pod
- Blue paper - 8th grade
- Silver paper - 7th grade
- 02/19** Assigned Seats
- Record exactly where you are sitting
- 03/22** Be sure you like your lunch seat, this is your last chance to change it.

Ready to complete this **less than ideal** school year? Changes at every turn. We are ready to keep up.



are you ready?



## are you ready?

Ready for the end of the school day? The **two bells** telling you who gets to leave the building first.

**2:52** First floor excused

**2:55** Second floor excused

Ready to be **flexible** whenever the school board has a meeting deciding on how school may look?

**08/04** First day of school delayed

**08/24** New first day, Hybrid

**11/30** Full Remote

**02/08** Hybrid 2.0

**03/22** 100% In-person

...and so on

Ready to go to **volleyball camp** so Mrs. Dutenhoffer can teach you the steps for your spike jump? Or for Mr. Bennett to put you in a **drill** to work on your free throw during **basketball camp**?

Are you ready for the chance of getting **quarantined**? See that email in your **inbox**

...yeah, you **aren't going back** to school for the next **10 days**.

## are you ready?

# WE ARE.



**1. BIND AND BUILD** As she focuses on her assignment, Ryann Moehlman (7) glues pieces of cardboard together, Mar. 24. The assignment was to build a course out of cardboard for a Sphero robot to navigate, as well as coding the Sphero to control where it moves. "I am not very good at the coding part, so I find that kind of challenging to figure out, but I like the crafty part, so building the actual course," Moehlman said. *Photo by Deidra Hooper* **2. RACE AT A PACE** While she keeps up with Mesa runners, Madisen Stewart (8) runs the last few minutes of her cross country race, Sept. 29. Stewart's favorite part of the season was when the team would do scavenger hunts because she got to team up with her friends and run around. "I improved by going on more runs outside of practice and if we did go on runs in practice, I would push myself harder and harder, and tell myself to not stop and keep going," Stewart said. *Photo by Deidra Hooper*

**3. MIX IT UP** In art class, Grace Mondlane (8) mixes oatmeal to use with her project, Mar. 10. Mondlane made an apple out of the oatmeal mixture and put it on top of her cardboard letter, which was also made out of plastic cups. "Last year's art was not as fun, we just drew, we didn't really get to do much, this year we actually get to do stuff," Mondlane said. *Photo by Ellee Tasker* **4. SOLO SONG** At the band concert, Jackson Mayberry (8) performs a saxophone solo, Feb. 9. Mayberry was the only soloist of the day and played the song, "A Holly Jolly Christmas" for the holiday portion of the concert. "For me, having a solo makes me nervous, like playing alone so everyone can hear every single mistake I did, but it was definitely worth it," Mayberry said. *Photo by Deidra Hooper*