

# The Center School Gazette

GRADUATION ISSUE 2023

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## A Look Back At Roe V. Wade

By: Wyatt Mollod

Roe v. Wade was a case against Henry Wade the district attorney of Dallas County, Texas challenging a law in Texas that stated that a pregnant woman could not get an abortion unless a doctor ordered her to get an abortion because the birth of the baby would result in her death. Jane Roe is a fake name used to protect the identity of Norma McCorvey, who died in 2017. On January 22, 1973, the US Supreme Court ruled 7-2 that banning abortion in any state in the country is unconstitutional. The judge that authored the majority opinion was William J. Brennan Jr.

There were many cases following Roe v. Wade that supported abortion rights, such as Planned Parenthood v. Casey. After changing religions twice, Jane Roe claimed she was against abortion in 1998, but later in the documentary "AKA Jane Roe," released in 2020, she said she was paid by anti-abortion groups to say she was against abortion. In the early 21st century, abortion started to be blocked in small ways, but this was big because all of these small railings eventually led up to Roe v. Wade being overturned. On June 24, 2022 the Supreme Court released Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, overturning Roe and marking the end to a full right of abortion in the United States. Some states still have a right to abortion with New York being the top one with abortion of up to 24 weeks of pregnancy or six months.

Many abortion laws were created in the mid 19th century where states rushed to ban abortion, even though abortion went back to colonial times. Before Roe v. Wade times were changing. By the late 1960s, people were already trying to reform abortion laws in almost every state. In Planned Parenthood v. Casey, the Supreme Court stated that preventing a right to a legal abortion took away a woman's chance to work or participate in the economy. Between 1967 and 1973, four states passed laws allowing abortion, Alaska, Hawaii, New York, and Washington. Thirteen other states also passed laws that allowed a limited abortion, in other states it was still illegal. In the 1960s, abortion was so unsafe that 17% of deaths due to pregnancy and childbirth were from illegal abortion. Today, only 0.3% of people who get an abortion go to the hospital for anything severe involving their abortion. Today abortion is illegal in most states; now it's each state's issue. The fight for abortion is now back to where it started with groups such as Planned Parenthood fighting for abortion rights.



## Pride Month

By: Josie Levin

Pride month is now a nationally celebrated event, but it was only very recently that the queer community got this kind of recognition. In this article I wish to inform you all on the origins of pride month, and the modern gay rights movement.

On June 28th 1969, a riot erupted that would change the course of the rights of queer people all over the world. Before the Stonewall uprising, gay bars all over the U.S. were the subjects of unjust and violent police raids. During these raids the police officers would physically restrain unarmed and innocent people, aggressively search patrons of the bar to figure out their biological sex, and use illegal violence to arrest those in violation of the law. On the night of the Stonewall riots while one of the bar's regulars was being arrested, she called out to the crowd to help her. The crowd started throwing change, cans, and even bricks at the officers and their cars.

Within minutes it was a full blown riot. In the following five days hundreds of people came to the Stonewall bar to continue marching for their rights. From this day forward things began to change for LGBTQIA+ people everywhere. On the one year anniversary of the uprising people gathered in the streets and began to march again, marking the first ever official pride parade. This would later become an annual event celebrated over many different countries.

In the winter of 1973 American Psychiatric Association voted to remove homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses, one of the first positive recognition of queer people from a government organization. From then on things only picked up for the movement. Throughout the years they hit many important milestones. This includes: the march on Washington in 1979, the first state outlawing discrimination based on sexuality in 1982, Vermont becoming the first state to legalize same sex unions in the year 2000, and more recently the U.S. Supreme Court legalizing gay marriage in all states in 2015.

Despite all of these forward strides, queer people everywhere are still the focus of constant harassment and violence. This pride month I urge all of you to try and donate to a queer charity, or talk to a LGBTQIA+ relative and hear their stories. Our voices matter too, and we won't be silenced ever again.

### Pride Month

Read about the extensive history of pride month, the Gay Civil Rights Movement and why this month is important.

### A Look Back At Roe V. Wade

Reflect on the tragedy of the overturning of the case Roe V. Wade almost a year ago which granted the right to abortion.

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### Rising 8th Graders

Find out how all of the rising 8th graders feel about their upcoming responsibilities.

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### Met Gala Controversy

Hear about the outfits and debate over the Met Gala and its 2023 theme, the late and problematic fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld

### Dear Alex

Have any concerns? Submit them anonymously and get the answers you have been waiting for from a shame free source.

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## Rising 8th Graders' Opinions

By: Charlie Friedman

It's pretty hard to believe that the year is almost over! This year has gone by super fast and now all the 7th graders are heading into 8th grade! I think a lot of people are feeling good about it, but still feeling a little nervous. Being in 8th grade will be a new chapter since we have to lead in group projects and focus on high schools, but we can all complete it.

I am a 7th grader as well and I am feeling pretty nervous. Being the leader of the school and being a role model for the 5th, 6th, and 7th graders will be a little hectic, but it will be okay. I am a little scared of the high school process because I know it will be stressful, but I will always try my best and we will see what happens.

Now getting into the interviews. I have interviewed a few 7th graders about how they feel about high schools. First, I interviewed a 7th grader named Lyla Turk. She says "I have mixed feelings because I'm pretty nervous because I've heard the high school process is stressful and right now I don't really know what high school I want to go to." This is a fair statement, and I can think a lot of people in seventh grade are nervous and don't know how to feel and what to expect. She specifically is feeling nervous for high school applications and the amount of homework we are going to receive. In addition, she is worried about extracurriculars and sports since that can get in the way of academics. Lyla is feeling excited for the new experience and said "I am excited to be an eighth grader because being the oldest grade in the school, I think we will have a lot to show the younger grades, and we'll be able to set really good examples before we leave." I couldn't agree more with Lyla and I share very similar opinions with her. "I don't think I would be able to go straight into it at this moment, but there is still time to prepare before we start, and I think I will be ready when it comes." She thinks she will feel prepared for when the time comes.

Another 7th grader gave me their opinion as well. I interviewed a student named Kira Cheng who thinks similar things. She says that she is excited and looking forward to going into eighth grade, and she is excited to see the experience. She's really sad to see the eighth graders go and she will miss 7th grade! She is worried about the homework and projects but she still can't wait for high school! She thinks she's prepared and she will be ready for when the time comes!

## Letter from the Editor...

By: Josie Levin

Welcome all to my last letter from the editor. What a crazy four years. I only got five normal Gazette issues before school went online for the rest of the year. Then when I finally returned to hybrid school, everything was different. It's astonishing how drastically something can change in only a few months. Nevertheless the Center School Gazette pushed through and stood tall. It is a bizarre to think that once my eighth grade year graduates, there will be no students who know what the Center School was like pre COVID. That being said, I truly believe that the Center School has a bright future ahead. By the time you are reading this, I will no longer be a student at the Center School, so I wish to leave you with the biggest lesson I learned while I was here: You can find your people anywhere. I had a hard time making friends at first, but then came the TACS show. I met so many new kids who understood who I was. I am grateful to all those who have changed my life for the better, and I am optimistic for what lies ahead.

Signing off,

Josie



## The Museum Of Natural History: New And Improved

By: Craig Ashton-Marshall

Since the plans for the new Museum of Natural History were announced in 2014, all of us have been waiting for the new exhibit to open. Sadly, the construction was postponed due to the pandemic, but now, after all of our waiting and \$465 million worth of construction and materials, it is open. Luckily, I was able to go to the new wing on one of its first days open to the public and I will be giving you the inside scoop.

The Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education, and Innovation has many different and unique exhibits and features. There is an insect exhibit that leads into a bee exhibit, a butterfly room that features many different types of butterflies that you can learn about, display walls featuring ancient art and fossils, a theater with state of the art technology advancements, a library, and a whole restaurant. It has a purposeful unfinished look in its interior which makes it look almost natural and canyon-like.

Many doubted that the new wing would ever get past the construction phase and it would all be a waste of money and time because of its strange and unique design would confuse visitors to the museum with its cave like design. But now, its cave-like design stuns visitors with its entrance that is littered with light from the "cave holes" above.

I would consider this new wing a savior from the museum's controversial past, present, and future. I also think that this new wing is quite revolutionary and if you went or saw pictures, you would see that too. Who knows, maybe the museum will one day have a full reconstruction? The only way that we can find that out is to keep waiting.

# Sports Review

By: Luc Courtemanche

Center School is not only highly regarded for its academics, but also for its sports. Center School students take pride through their frisbee, basketball, soccer, and volleyball teams. Soccer is a fall sport and the basketball team recently concluded its season, but our frisbee and volleyball teams are currently in season. Here's a look at our spring teams.

## Frisbee

Arguably Center School's most successful team, the varsity squad has not lost in New York since 2017. Led by coaches Mr Walkup and Mr Verdejo, this co-ed team has great depth and team spirit.

"Mr. Walkup's spirit has been a large part in our success," said Sabit Berqui, a 6th grade varsity member. Frisbee has come with several ups and downs this year, but varsity has been looking great as they started their season undefeated. However, Miles Spivey (varsity player) recently fractured his elbow resulting in a season-ending injury that requires extensive surgery. While this might be a massive blow to the varsity frisbee team, it's nothing they can't handle due to the squad's depth. JV has also demonstrated their capabilities this season starting 3-2. Additionally, many JV players have a bright future as they prepare to be the face of varsity in following years.

## Volleyball

The boy's volleyball team has demonstrated a significant amount of effort and grit and produced some impressive outcomes. As a result, they made it to the playoffs with a 2-4 record. Additionally, the girls volleyball team has had a great season as they are 4-3. Marielle Kieves and Simone Benn shared, "Our community is great and we are all really close."

## A Look Ahead

Center School sports provides a great community with competitive activities. Additionally, Center School has set the stage for players who continue playing beyond middle school. Based on Center School's success, we should see more bright stars to compete on our sports teams.



## Eighth Grade Show Review!

By Vidya Harini

This year the 8th graders performed Shrek The Musical as their show. They all did amazing. I really liked how everyone was happy to perform. This is the first time the Center School has used a slideshow to create the backgrounds. I think our Tech crew was a lot less rushed because of this. All the props including the dragon were handmade by Mr. Marshall. I think all the props looked great.

If there was one thing the eighth graders could do better is speaking clearly. A lot of the time during the show I couldn't understand what the characters were saying. This made it a lot harder for me to know what was happening in a scene. I asked a few of my friends and they agreed with me. Overall the show was excellent.

One of the people who really stood out during the show was Lila G (Pinocchio). She spoke clearly and was energetic when on stage. I also think that Sonia, Ava and Emma W did a great job playing Fiona. They all sang "I Know It's Today" which can be a very hard song to sing. Sonia, Ava and Emma all did wonderfully.

If I had to rank the show out of 10/10 I would give it a 8.5/10. This is because they all worked very hard and were only given a certain amount of time to rehearse. In that time they produced a good show. I cut down 1.5 points because some 8th graders were not energetic and lively on stage.

# Entertainment Page

## FNAF : Security Breach Review

By: Artian Grajcevci

Fnaf Security Breach is the most recent version of the original FNAF (Five Nights at Freddy's) game made in 2014. This game came out in 2021 with newer versions of the original 4 animatronics Freddy, Bonnie, Chica, and Foxy. This game is a Survival Game where you play as the main character Gregory. Your guide, Glamrock Freddy helps you through the game while being chased by the three and Vanessa, the Security Guard and a bunch of other animatronics. You start at 12:00 AM and survive until 6:00 AM.

You meet two new animatronics. They are all newer designs and they all have a different personality.

There is also lore to this game. A lot of people wonder, why aren't Glamrock Bonnie and Glamrock Foxy canon? Well, here is why. Bonnie was an original character (NOT IN GAME!!!) and Bonnie went to Monty's golf around 3:00 AM and he never came back. There are theories that Monty destroyed Bonnie which could explain why Monty has the purple on him. But Roxanne Wolf was a complete replacement for foxy but If you walk to the prize counter, you see the Captain Foxy statue. But it's not 100% Foxy never existed.

Alright, Here are the Animatronic Personalities.

Glamrock Freddy: He's the father of Gregory.

Glamrock Chica: She eats garbage and yells PIZZA.

Roxanne Wolf: Admires herself and loves herself.

Montgomery Gator: he is a naughty and angry gator.

Gregory: Just the child that hates garbage eating chickens.

Vanny: just annoying nothing more and a dancing rabbit

Burntrap: Being Springtrap from FNAF 3 and 6.

Vanessa: Trying to catch Gregory, I don't know what with to do him.



## Met Gala Controversy

By: Sarana Shafter

Controversy or costume, from the theme of the outfits to the celebrities displaying them, the Met Gala is one of the most talked about events of the whole year. This year's theme of the Met Gala was Karl Lagerfeld, the late designer of Chanel. Many people questioned the decision to make the theme Karl Lagerfeld for he did many controversial things in his lifetime. He was a fatphobic misogynistic person, he used blackface, and he was an antisemite.

However, despite the questionable theme, many people had amazing, interesting outfits. One of the most talked about looks of the night was Jared Leto. He wore a hyper-realistic costume of a white cat. Also following the cat theme was Doja Cat who wore a bejeweled dress with a cat hood. She continued to play her character in interviews by only meowing into the microphone. Another interesting outfit of the night was from Lil Nas X. He painted his body glittery silver and wore a mask that gave his face an alien composure.

Despite the crazy looks, there were some more tame looks from people such as Kendall Jenner who wore a leotard-like bodysuit and a cape, Dua Lipa who wore a vintage couture dress, and Lizzo who wore a black dress with a train and lots of pearls. Those are just some of the highlighted looks of the night, but everyone had spectacular looks. So from cat costumes to beautiful dresses, what was your favorite look of the 2023 Met Gala?



## GUESS THAT TEACHER!

If you think you know who this picture is of, find Josie Levin to make your guess. First five winners get KitKats!

# Interview With Mr. Nathanson

Questions by: Asa Row

In this interview you will get a look into the life of Mr. Nathanson outside of the Center school. Some responses have been edited for clarity.

## 1. What made you want to work at a middle school?

My wife says I'm basically a middle schooler at heart, but in some ways it was a little bit of luck that I was introduced to Ms. Schwartz by a mentor of mine who suggested that I get in touch with her when I was looking for a way to teach playwriting.

## 2. What subject is your favorite to teach?

Science, I think, because it's so far outside of my wheelhouse, and I love thinking about how to teach it.

## 3. What, in your opinion, is the best part about Center School

Mixed grade classes and the fact that eighth graders are given a lot of responsibility.

## 4. What are your favorite hobbies?

Bicycle riding, being in nature, riding tractors, hiking, skiing, traveling.

## 5. What was school like for you growing up?

It depended what I was studying. If it was something that I really enjoyed, I did well, and if it was something that was more challenging, I struggled.

## 6. What is your number one place you would like to travel?

It's a tie between India and Japan.

## 7. What do you normally do over the weekends?

I usually head to Vermont, where my family has a farm.

## 8. What did you want to be when you were younger?

An actor.

## 9. What do you do over summer break?

Ride my tractor in Vermont.

## 10. What in Center School could be added or improved?

There should be more Center Schools.

## 11. What is your favorite part about teaching?

When a student or an entire classroom clicks into what I'm trying to teach and they're able to learn from each other without my needing to guide anymore.

## 12. What advice would you give for seventh graders about to be 8th graders?

Breath, don't worry. The high school process will take care of itself. And show up for yourself.

## 13. Do you speak any languages other than English, if so what are they and if not what languages would you like to know?

I don't speak any languages. I can read Hebrew.

## 14. What would you say is the best part about living in New York City?

Diversity, how different people can be, how different the food can be. I do wish that the city could be more economically diverse.

## 15. What is your favorite borough of the city?

Brooklyn. I lived there for 16 years before I moved to Manhattan.

## 16. If you could take any class at the Center School what would it be?

I would say Latin or Ms Bellevance's engineering class where students build bridges.

## 17. Center School is a very special middle school, what do you think makes it so special?

Mixed grade classes and the diverse faculty.

## 18. Are you happy with how all of your classes went this year?

Yes, but I wish I didn't have to take time off the second trimester.



## Movie Review : Are You There God It's Me Margaret

By: Samantha Sierra

A movie I recommend you watch is *Are You There God It's Me Margaret*. The movie was released on April 28, 2023. It was originally a book written by Judy Blume which was published in 1970. The book is sold, and Judy Blume is still alive to this day. I will talk about the movie. Margaret is an eleven-year old girl who moves to a new town and learns about life and friendship. Margaret's mother's name is Barbara, who offers love and support to her grandmother, whose name is Sylvia. Sylvia helps Margaret come to terms with finding happiness. Margaret tells God she wants to belong, grow and have God be proud of them. Margaret's parents are Christian and Jewish, and since she has been raised without an affiliation to one faith, she thus goes on a quest to explore her religious identity. I hope you all go and watch *Are You There God It's Me Margaret* or read the book. I really enjoyed it.

# DEAR ALEX

Dear Alex,

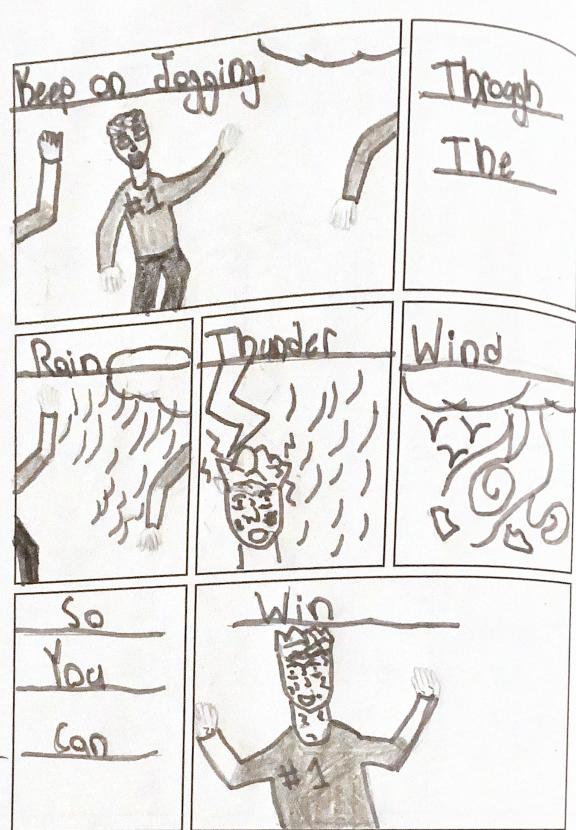
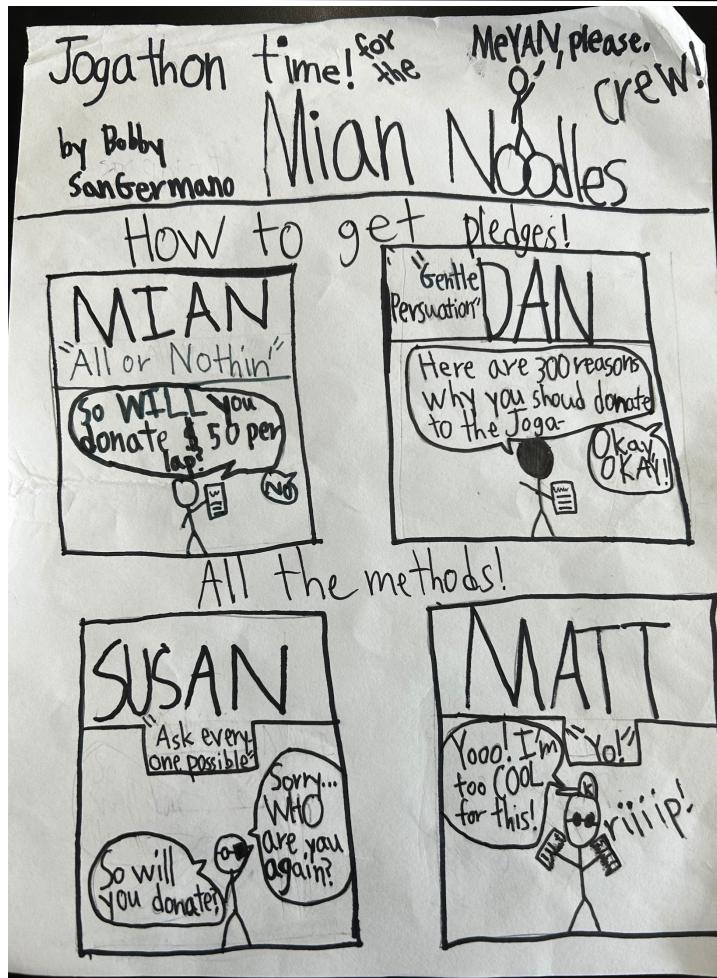
I am so excited for the summer and I am going to an away camp. I am kind of scared; I have never been to one. Thankfully I am allowed to make some friends and experience new experiences. I feel as though I have had a good year so far and I am excited to start 7th grade. I love the summer and the break that we get but what if I forget everything that I learned this year? Alex, do you have any advice for the summer?

-...Summer.....

Dear ...Summer.....,

I think you should enjoy your break and be excited to start a new school year. Hang out with your friends and more. I don't have much advice though because it seems that this year has been great besides some of the Drama.

-Alex



Art by Bobby Sangermano (left) and Charlie Kieves (right)

## Center School Gazette Masthead

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