

# The Mirror

New Paltz Middle School Newspaper

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## Art and Music Makes A Splash At New Paltz Middle School

*by Noah Solano*



The Art and Music Showcase was Thursday, April 27. Many students showed off their musical skills by playing instruments and singing, along with their artistic talents through the gorgeous works lining the halls. I went to it both as a performer and a viewer, and it was very enjoyable.

My group went first. We were quite an odd assortment of instruments: a singer, two backup singers (who were also playing guitar and piano, respectively), a percussionist, a trumpeter, a clarinetist (me), a tubist, and two bass clarinetists. We played Rick Astley's "Never Gonna Give You Up", which did cause a fair amount of laughter from the crowd.



After us, more incredible performances commenced, ranging from guitar to a bass clarinet-percussion duet. The show was bookended by the Select Choir, a group of incredibly talented eighth grade singers topped off with their matching bow ties.



The art at the show was also great, and it was a real highlight to just wander around the halls checking out all the pieces. I especially enjoyed the 7th graders' lamp projects (shown above). These were inspired by different artists, and they were being raffled off to raise money for the school!

The Art and Music Showcase was a fun, interesting experience for all, and I'm already looking forward to next year's!

# Leads You to Question Why? Phones

*by Ruby Mayer*

On March 10, 1876 Alexander Graham Bell made a major achievement in history. He had an advancement in making the telephone. This led me to think about a deeper question: Why are cell phones so popular? After some research, I realized that it is because they are so easy to use. That's not all of the reasons, but it is a significant one.

I also realized that phones don't really require literacy. In the United States the percentage of adults who can read and write is about 79% in 2023. You may be thinking that's not that bad, but if you dig a little deeper during when the phone was invented (the 1800s), the literacy rate was only about 12%!

Maybe the reason the phone is so popular is because people needed another way to communicate, without writing. People just kept using them, and making them better. Now on to the question: How do phones work? In basic terms, the phone has a microchip in it. The microchip then modulates. The radio waves then go to a nearby cell phone tower, meaning you can hear whoever you're speaking to, and they can hear you.

How many people have cell phones in the U.S? The answer is 95%. Crazy right? Can you believe that the number of people that have phones is more than the percent of adults who can read and write? That is the world that we are living in.

Sources: [Medium.com](#), [Cross River Therapy](#), [Pew Research Center](#), [Library of Congress](#), [Virginia Tech](#), [Center for Global Development](#)

## Waldorf vs. NPMS

*by Gala Dixey*

There are two middle schools in New Paltz, Mountain Laurel Waldorf School (MLWS), and New Paltz Middle School (NPMS). I'm sure some people have been to both, but for the people who haven't, this is my comparison of the two.

Let me start off by saying these are two very different environments, almost like a simple machine vs. an industrial one. Waldorf's focus is creating a loving and peaceful environment for its students all the way from preschool to 8th grade, while the public

school system has a more professional approach, pumping out educated children ready to learn for high school. I love my teachers at NPMS, but I only see them for 40 minutes per day. At MLWS, children there have one teacher throughout our entire education, giving MLWS a more personal vibe.

Another difference between these two schools is the everyday schedule. I would assume elementary school is the same, but once it gets to middle school they branch out. In public school, the children are introduced to a high school schedule. Multiple periods in a day, and the children are more independent, with different teachers, not just one. In MLWS, the kids stay with their teacher all day.

The most shocking difference between MLWS and NPMS is the way we are taught. In MLWS, the kids learn in blocks throughout the year. Two hours a day they learn what's in their main block, mostly something unique students at NPMS don't learn. For example, MLWS students might learn about ancient Rome, Greek mythology, astrology, ect. We would have to copy from a writing about the topic or make our own essay. The MLWS focus is more on art and writing more than anything. I remember in the MLWS education, the only math we learned was through a booklet that we had to complete for homework. We didn't have many math lessons. I remember learning geometry but not much other than that. The MLWS education didn't line up much with the curriculum of 5th and 6th grade. Another fact that I think is enlightening is that in the MLWS education, we spent 2 hours a day on knitting/sewing or sculpting work. That is 2 hours wasted that we could have been learning about science or math, something that was lacking in Waldorf education.

In our industrial machine, NPMS, the teachers focus on teaching the curriculum so that the children are prepared for the next grade, or high school. They are judged, paid, and educated based on the grades their students get. They can't personalize the curriculum like Waldorf educators can.

In conclusion, I believe that while public education is more efficient, it could be helped to make it more personal. Incorporating Waldorf beliefs into public education could make a bigger impact on children's happiness, as well as adding more mind stimulation to the curriculum. Although we spent 2 hours a day knitting or sculpting in the MLWS school, it enriched our brains and gave us a break from learning. I believe that if we even added some type of activity with our hands in the public school day, it would be beneficial to our ability to learn.

# Bewitched

by Sophia Schelino

## Sophia's Short Stories

In a quaint village, on a street so bright it sparkled, in a bustling Bakery, lived a girl. Olive had grown up in a Bakery and could whip up a dish from simple ingredients in no time at all. Usually, her parents would run the busy bakery, which always teemed with customers. On the days when they were on a trip or too busy and needed some help, Olive took over. Her parents told her that she had a gift for serving. The customers said that too. Well the nice ones, at least. There were definitely times Olive could recall some *very* mean things customers said. The worst had been the rowdy groups of men on Friday night. To confused readers, let me tell you that The Bakery was actually a bar. Olive's parents thought that The Bakery was a funny name to give to a bar. Still, they did serve little cakes and other bakery-like things. Olive thought that was very stupid, but they had named it before she was born. The food The Bakery served was so good it was almost like it was magical. Maybe it was...

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“Mom, I’m home!” As she walked through the door, Olive frantically combed her frizzy brown hair, knowing that her mother would be very mad if she saw her hair in this state. After straightening her always crooked glasses, she took her book bag off.

“Hello Dear!’ her mother called from the back of the counter. “How was school?”

“Terrible,” she replied. Eric Pimple or *Pimpell*, destroyed her lunch bag and she had been hungry for the rest of the day. *He’s just mad because I beat him in the cooking contest, sports games, and trivia trials*, she thought. She snatched an apple from the pile on the table and bit into it. “Why are all these apples here?” she asked, changing the subject.

“New recipe,” her mother replied.

“You need that many apples to bake something?” Olive countered, craning her neck to see the towering stack of apples.

“I-I did want to use a few for my potions,” her mother admitted.

“Mom, what did I tell you about making potions!” Olive sighed, “Someone could see you!” Unbeknownst to everybody except her family, Olive and her mother were witches. Not the kind of witch that wears a black hat and terrifies children. They were helpful witches. Olive’s mother’s specialty was potions and cooking, while Olive had not discovered her specialty yet. Her parents expected it to be baking cakes or pastries. Olive felt a wave of nostalgia for the days when she was worried about messing up a recipe instead of letting her parents down. The villagers didn’t know that witches existed, but if they did, Olive and her family knew they would be exterminated.

“I’m sorry, Liv,” Her mom said, smiling at the nickname, “But it’s just so hard to quit it.” Her eyes acquired a wistful, faraway look. “You’ll know when you get your special talent. It’s calling me, urging me to use it.” Olive rolled her eyes at her mother’s dramatics.

“Well, you just can’t use it,” she replied, softer this time. “You know what they’ll do to us if they find out the truth.”

“Fine,” her mother sighed. Just then they heard loud footsteps on the creaky stairs.

“Is that Olive I hear?” he inquired, even though he knew she was there.

“Hi Dad,” Olive mumbled.

“No enthusiastic voice, no cheerful expression? Come here; give your old man a hug!” Sighing, Olive stepped into her father’s warm embrace.

# The Fall of Silicon Valley Bank

*by Stella Zigouras*

How did the 16th largest bank in the US go out of business in a matter of days? Does it ever recover? How will this affect investors and the economy? These were all questions everyone had when Silicon Valley Bank failed, including myself. In this article I hope to answer these questions and shed light on the sudden failure of Silicon Valley Bank.

## Why the Bank Failed

Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) started to decline once investments started to lose value. This was due to high inflation in the economy, so SVB responded by increasing their interest rates on their bonds. Because of this decision investors began to withdraw money causing a run on the bank.

SVB contained roughly \$120 billion, which under the Dodd-Frank Act (an act created to prevent runs on banks with over \$50 billion in assets after the financial failure of 2008) would have required them to follow more significant guidelines. But they were exempt from these regulations as of 2018 when President Donald Trump signed a law increasing the asset requirement from \$50 billion to \$250 billion. This put SVB much below the minimum amount, thus causing them to not be held to higher standards, ultimately leading to the second largest financial fail in history.

## The Bank Fail

As of March 10th, 2023 the SVB was officially taken over by Federal Regulators. After the regulators failed to find a buyer for the bank, they moved all deposits and assets to Bridge Bank. Seven days later SVB's parent company, SVB Financial Group, filed bankruptcy. And 16 days after the collapse First Citizens Bank acquired all assets except for \$90 billion of securities.

## The Aftermath

The FDIC helped insure up to \$250,000 of each deposit. Essentially, people who deposited \$250,000 or below would receive all their money back. The unfortunate part about this was many held more than just \$250,000 in the bank. So many people didn't receive most of their money.

Now investments were much more tricky to deal with than deposits. Investments were unsecured and there was no real guarantee that investors would receive any of their money back.

Currently most assets are either held in First Citizens Bank or Bridge Bank. And as for Silicon Valley Bank, it does not exist anymore except as the ongoing reminder of the government overlooking many banks across America.

Sources: [Bank Failures in Brief – 2023](#), [What Happened to Silicon Valley Bank?](#)

## How Great *Spirited Away* Is

by Jena Chamas

Honestly, *Spirited Away* is the first movie we watched in the anime club that I can hardly handle pausing. Everything is so intriguing and there are so many questions I have that I NEED answers to. Who that weird long haired boy was (I've forgotten his name by now), or what this spirit world is, and how the main character is connected through her parents, even though her parents seemed as human as ever (I mean, they were turned into pigs and the witch lady said that was what they did to humans).

Other anime movies are good, but I don't care much about them. At least not enough to care about them being paused when it's time to go home. But for *Spirited Away*, every day I wake up I think, *Is it Wednesday yet? How many days until Wednesday?*

I absolutely have fallen in love with this movie. I love how it is so magical and scary, but relatable at the same time. I love how the protagonist is just roped up in this world with no information of how she got there or how to get out and is GETTING no information because everyone is being rude to her or just plain trying to kill her! It's constructed in a way so that the watchers don't know any more than she does, instead of the typical "you see what's about to happen, you see the context in the background, now see how the characters find out and what happens afterwards".

I know this comment is long but trust me, I'm not even getting started. I could go for hours about this movie, and I haven't even finished it yet! Speaking of which, I hope the ending is good. I hope at least most of my questions are answered. I hope this doesn't turn out to be a movie with a good start and terrible finish because I despise movies like that, and after what you've already seen I'm attached to the story.

Thank you for reading my long comment about how great *Spirited Away* is. Good day.

## Excerpt of “The 24-hour Concert”

*by Zoe Curtis*



“24 Hours?! Oh wow! We have to stay up all night!” Hibiki shouted, waking Supaku up.

“Hm? 24 hours of what?” Supāku asked, and Hideyoshi picked him up.

“The concert that we’re going to be in, Supāku. It’s 24 hours long.” Hideyoshi said, and Supāku stretched.

“Oh, so we’re basically not going to sleep? Hmm... I hope I can stay up all night... I’m only nine years old, and I normally go to bed at 8:00 at night.” Supāku said, and Hideyoshi put him down.

“Don’t worry. We get breaks sometimes. You can rest then,” Hideyoshi said, and Supāku nodded.

“Twenty four hours of singing, acting, and being on TV... Staying up all night isn’t good for my health...” Asahi said, and sighed.

Hibiki was full of excitement. “RAAAAAH!!! I can’t wait!!!” Hibiki shouted, breathing shadow fire. Hibiki could use shadow dragon slayer magic.

“What are we going to do there? Are there butterflies?” Souta said, ear twitching with excitement.

“No, not unless you guys sing your song with the butterflies in the special effects.” Fang said, and Ryuu nodded.

“Me and Fang are planning to sing the solos that we wrote ourselves.” Ryuu said, as Supāku climbed up onto his lap.

“Papa... Are you going to be mad that I have to stay up past my bedtime?” Supāku asked, and Ryuu shook his head.

“It’s okay as long as you rest when you’re taking breaks, Supāku.” Ryuu said, and checked the time. “It’s getting late. We should head home now, after Fang explains what the event will be like.” Supāku yawned.

Six days later, Supaku called out to his brother. “Hideyoshi, can you help me down the stairs? I-I still have trouble getting down them because of my bad leg...” Supāku asked, and Hideyoshi nodded. Supaku had hurt his leg back when he was seven years old. He had been participating in an event called the Wizard games, and he had fractured part of his leg and foot badly.

“Sure, little brother. Don’t be embarrassed because of that. You can’t help it.” Hideyoshi said, and Supāku hugged him. Hideyoshi picked Supāku up again, and

brought him downstairs to his room. “Hey, Hideyoshi? The concert’s tomorrow, right?” Supāku asked, and Hideyoshi nodded. Supāku sighed, and flopped onto his bed. “Can I bring Igneel? I want to bring him because he comforts me...” Supāku said, hugging Igneel.

Hideyoshi shrugged. “That’s up to Ryuu and the directors of the concert.” Hideyoshi said, and Supāku rolled over on his bed. “Supāku, are you feeling alright?” Hideyoshi asked, and Supāku nodded.

“I’m just tired. I took allergy medicine this morning. I was sneezing a lot earlier, so papa gave me medicine.” Supāku said, falling asleep.

Souta came down, and noticed Supāku, who was napping. “Um... It’s time for lunch... Papa says to come up to get it.” Souta said, and Hideyoshi nodded.

“I’ll bring it down to Supāku. He’s tired.” Hideyoshi said, and Souta nodded.

The next morning, Supāku ran into Hideyoshi’s room and pounced on his bed. “HIDEYOSHIII!!!!!!!!!!!!!! WAKE UP!!!!!!” Supāku shouted, and Hideyoshi jumped awake.

“Ah! Supāku!!” Hideyoshi shouted, and Supāku smiled.

“It’s concert day!! Come on! Get ready!!” Supāku exclaimed. He got up, and the first thing he saw was Souta tearing apart a waffle.

“Good morning Sargent Waffles,” Hideyoshi said, and Souta growled at him. “Someone doesn’t want his waffles taken away.” Hideyoshi said, and Souta growled more. Souta was all ready for the concert, and Hideyoshi quickly realized that Supāku was ready, too.

“I’ll go get ready now. I can eat breakfast on the way to the studio,” Hideyoshi said and Supāku nodded. Once he was ready, he grabbed his breakfast and they left to go to the studio.

“It’s bigger than the studios we normally go to...,” Supāku mumbled, squeezing Hideyoshi’s hand. “I don’t like it...,” Supāku said and hugged Hideyoshi. Supāku doesn’t like big spaces. “It’s okay, Supāku. You’ll adjust. Think of this studio as the guild. The guild’s big. You don’t mind the guild,” Hideyoshi said and Supāku nodded.

“Your 24 hour concert starts... NOW!” the director said. Supāku squeaked. “You’ll be staying in room 23. Studio A, where you’re going to be filming, is near there. Go, go go!”, the director said.

Supāku tilted his head. “What about packing our stuff?” Supāku asked. “Everything you need is already there,” the director said and Supāku nodded. Souta picked him up.

“Hi! Supāku here! Keep voting for our final song! So far, the number one song has 10,357 votes,” Supāku said. “Souta and Hibiki! You’re up! You’ll be doing a challenge. You have to try and cook with only the ingredients in this kitchen,” the director said.

They both nodded, and waited for the advertisements to be over. Moments later, Supāku was wandering the studios. Hideyoshi was in a hallway near him. Supāku came running out of one and hugged Hideyoshi. Supāku had tears in his eyes and Hideyoshi noticed.

“Supāku... What’s wrong?” Hideyoshi asked.

“I wanna go home!!” Supāku said, starting to cry.

“Why? What happened?” Hideyoshi asked, and picked up Supāku.

“There were other people in that studio... They made fun of me!! I don’t want to do this anymore!” Supāku said.

Hideyoshi brought him to their room. “Calm down, and then we’ll go talk to those people, okay?” Hideyoshi said, Supāku crying harder.

The smoke alarms went off, and Asahi started coughing. *“This night’s going to be chaotic. We’re only five hours in, and Supāku’s cheerfulness is gone, Asahi’s asthma is acting up because of the smoke, and Souta and Hibiki are creating a kitchen disaster in the studio,”* Hideyoshi thought, and then things got worse.

“Where’s Ryuu and Fang?”

“I don’t know. I haven’t seen them since we got here.”

Suddenly, Supāku’s ears perked up. “What’s the matter?” Hideyoshi said and Supāku stood up.

“I hear them... They’re in trouble!! Follow me!” Supāku said, running to the first studio they had passed when they got into the building.

Supāku opened the door. Fang and Ryuu were tied up. They had been ambushed by dark guild members.

~~~~~End of excerpt~~~~~

# IDOLiSH7

by Zoe Curtis

Do you listen to music? Does it help you focus? In this article, I will discuss a band I listen to. It is called IDOLiSH7. IDOLiSH7 is an anime J-pop band with seven people in it. (Anime bands like this one have real singers that voice fictional characters.) Their names are Iori Izumi, Mitsuki Izumi, Yamato Nikaido, Sogo Osaka, Tamaki Yotsuba, Riku Nanase, and Nagi Rokuya. The band's center (main singer) is Riku Nanase, and their leader is Yamato Nikaido. In this article I will talk about the characters in the band, and where you can find them.

## Iori Izumi:

Iori Izumi is mature and calm, but also can be critical of others at times. Mitsuki is his older brother. He is typically polite, but can also be rude at times, mostly when trying to annoy Riku. Iori helps the manager of their group make decisions, and helps plan out what they are going to do next. Some facts about Iori are: He secretly likes cute things, he's 17, and his birthday is January 25th. Iori's music symbol is double flat.



## Yamato Nikaido:

Yamato Nikaido is seen as very mellow, but he cares about the others in the band a lot and works hard in what he does. Yamato is the “leader” of IDOLiSH7 because he is the oldest in the band. At first, Yamato thought about quitting the audition for the other member's sakes because he was only trying to get into the band for “revenge.” He didn't like show business because of his past experiences with it. Some facts about Yamato are that he's 22, and his birthday is February 14th. Yamato's music symbol is sharp.



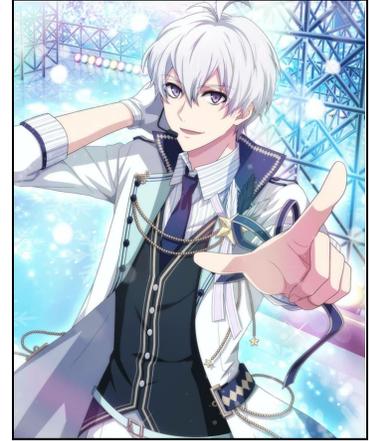
## Mitsuki Izumi:

Mitsuki Izumi is cheerful and positive, but can get angry just as easily as he can get happy. Mitsuki helps the other members of IDOLiSH7 cheer up when they are feeling down. Mitsuki's younger brother is Iori. Before Mitsuki got accepted into IDOLiSH7, he failed many other auditions. He wanted to be in a band because he wanted to be like his favorite idol Zero. Some facts about Mitsuki are: He is good at cooking, he's 21, and his birthday is March 3rd. Mitsuki's music symbol is flat.



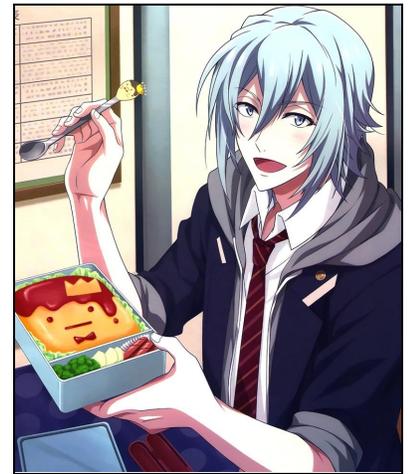
## Sogo Osaka:

Sogo Osaka is neat and tidy, and he likes to think of others but barely thinks of himself. Sogo is very polite and kind, but is surely the scariest member of IDOLiSH7. Sogo likes super spicy hot sauce and spicy things in general. He is not good at cooking like Mitsuki is. However, he is good at singing and dancing. Some facts about Sogo are: He is in a different band with Tamaki called MEZZO”, he’s 20, and his birthday is May 28th. Sogo’s music symbol is mezzo forte.



## Tamaki Yotsuba:

Tamaki Yotsuba likes to do everything with kindness rather than thinking it through. Tamaki is better at dancing than most expert dancers. He grew up in an orphanage because his mom died when he was a kid and his dad left him and his sister after that. Tamaki joined IDOLiSH7 so that he could find his little sister, who got adopted to a family that had financial problems in their business and left her alone after going bankrupt. Tamaki has trouble with manners, including being polite to sponsors or TV show managers. Tamaki has a talent for reading other people’s emotions, and can tell how they feel even if they don’t show it. Tamaki likes to give nicknames to his friends. Some facts about Tamaki are: He loves king pudding, he is in a different band with Sogo called MEZZO”, he’s 17, and his birthday is April 1st. Tamaki’s music symbol is mezzo piano.



## Riku Nanase:

Riku Nanase is the energetic and happy lead singer of IDOLiSH7. He tries to do things as well as he can to make sure he doesn’t put the others behind while working. Riku has asthma, and sometimes ignores his condition when trying to make sure no one worries about him. Sometimes he ends up in the hospital because of this. Here are some facts about Riku: He likes hero related things, he dislikes going to the hospital, he’s 18, his birthday is July 9th, and he has a twin: Tenn Kujo from the band TRIGGER. Riku’s music is double sharp.



## Nagi Rokuya:

Nagi Rokuya is positive and eager. Nagi is part Japanese and part Northmeirian. Nagi moved from Northmeir (a fictional northern european country) to Japan. He moved to Japan because his mom was from Japan, and because he likes Japanese things like anime. He loves the anime Magical★Kokona. Nagi is very intelligent and can speak an amazing 8 languages! Nagi is very diplomatic. Some facts about Nagi are: He likes anime and flirting with girls, his birthday is June 20th, and he's 19.



## Where to find IDOLiSH7:

IDOLiSH7 is not only a band, but an anime and a game too. The anime currently has three seasons, and you can watch it on Crunchyroll and Netflix. The game was published by Bandai Namco Online, and is available on iOS platforms. However, the game is region locked and only available in Japan. Where can you find IDOLiSH7's music? Apple Music, Spotify, Amazon Music, Musi, and other music platforms.



Sources:

[Idolish7 - Wikipedia](#) [Riku Nanase | The English IDOLiSH7 Wiki](#) [Tamaki Yotsuba | The English IDOLiSH7 Wiki](#) [Nagi Rokuya | The English IDOLiSH7 Wiki](#) [Yamato Nikaido | The English IDOLiSH7 Wiki](#) [Sogo Osaka | The English IDOLiSH7 Wiki](#) [Iori Izumi | The English IDOLiSH7 Wiki](#) [Mitsuki Izumi | The English IDOLiSH7 Wiki](#)

# Information on my Characters

by Zoe Curtis

## A little about original members of the Fuyu family

This article will be about some of my characters. More specifically, the original members of the Fuyu family. In this article, I will talk about their personalities and backstories. This will help with understanding future comics or stories published with these characters in them.

### Rai Fuyu:

Rai is the first original member of the Fuyu family. He is strong, kind, calm, and mature. Rai uses lightning magic. Rai doesn't get along with **Nakano** very often, especially when she's mean to **Ryuu** or **Blizzard**. He adopted Ryuu when he was 16, and Blizzard when he was 20. Rai cares for both of them a lot. Some fun facts about Rai are: His age varies in my comics, he likes spending time with Ryuu, and he's one of the strongest people in the Fairytail Guild.



### Ryuu Fuyu:

Ryuu was adopted by **Rai**. Ryuu is energetic, confident, tough, strong, and above all kind and respectful. Ryuu often fights with **Uruloki** because they don't get along (fire vs. ice, Uruloki having fire magic and Ryuu having ice magic), especially when Uruloki calls Ryuu "Horns". Ryuu is best friends with **Fang Kobura**, who was the first person to greet him when he first joined the guild. Ryuu is good at crafting things, like sewing, embroidery, carving wood, and drawing. Rai found Ryuu stuck underneath a fallen tree on a snowy winter day. Some fun facts about Ryuu are: He's 17 in most of my comics, he likes embroidering fabric, and he's good at fighting.



### Blizzard Fuyu:

Blizzard was also adopted by **Rai**, with **Ryuu's** help. Blizzard is kind, cheerful, energetic, and always stays positive. Blizzard was found by Ryuu and Rai out in the woods. Ryuu helped him, and over time he started trusting both Rai and Ryuu. After living with Ryuu and Rai for about two years, Blizzard got really sick and passed away. Some fun facts about Blizzard are: He is ages 4 to 6 years old in my comics, he can be seen by Ryuu's son, **Supāku Fuyu** as a ghost, and he loves nature.



# The Anime Club

by Zoe Curtis

This article will be about one of the new clubs this year, the Anime Club.



## How the anime club got started:

I started the anime club. It took a long time, but this is how I did it: First, I asked many teachers, including the art teachers, teachers that I passed in the hallway, the lunch monitors, and more, to help with this club. They all said no, and that they'd see if they could find a teacher that was interested. Since many teachers already do clubs, it was hard to find some of the few teachers that don't. I was about to give up when I thought of my old 6th grade teacher, Ms. Ibrahim, who had watched an anime movie called *Kiki's Delivery Service*. I was lucky enough to pass by her in the hallway, and asked if she'd be willing to start the anime club with me. I told her what I was thinking we'd do in the club, and she said maybe. After a while, she made her decision. The anime club was going to be created! It took a while to get it approved, but the work was done and our first meeting would be the week after winter break.

## What we do at the anime club:

The anime club is a lot of fun, and we do all sorts of creative activities. (We meet on Wednesdays.) We watch anime movies. We recently watched *My Neighbor Totoro*, and *Spirited Away*. We are also making things called **story cubes**. The story cubes are basically cardboard cubes that we draw pictures of our favorite characters on, or make stories on them. We also draw our characters or learn how to draw new body positions for our characters. We can even work on comics, if we make them.



## My thoughts on the anime club:

I really like the anime club. It's fun, we get to share our ideas for our plans for drawing, and we can chat with friends. However, I do think that next year we should move our meeting days to another day, because a lot of anime fans go to a different club on Wednesdays and can't come because of that.

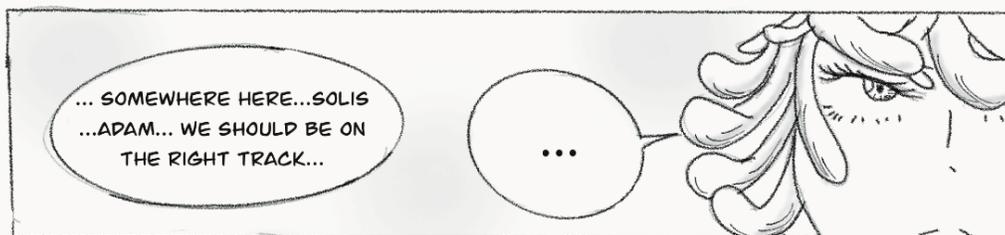
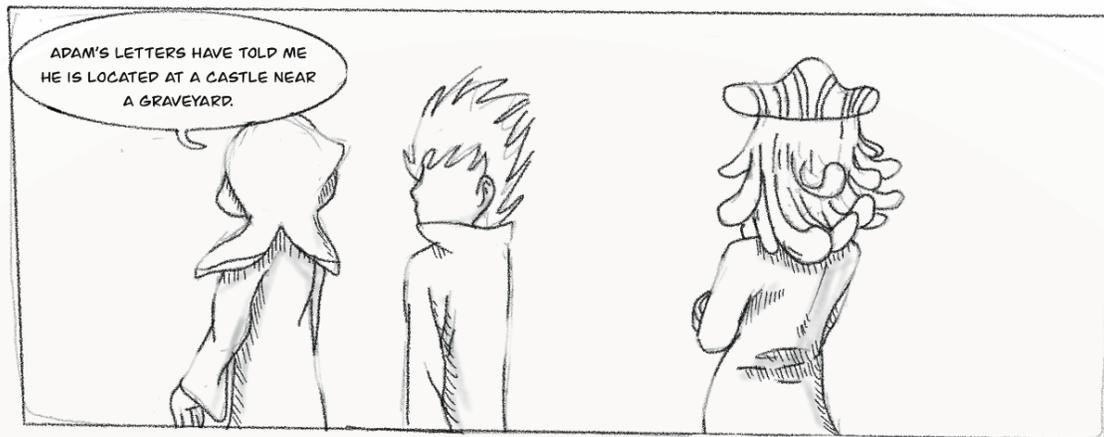
## Summary of this article:

The anime club is a fun place for anime fans to meet up and discuss their ideas. We get to watch movies, draw, and do fun crafts. Join us! We meet on Wednesdays in room 6!

# Excerpt from "Force Winds"

by Suitcase





**THERE'S SOMETHING OFF  
ABOUT THIS FOG...**



I DON'T KNOW WHAT,  
IT JUST DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.  
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT IT'S AURA.  
I CAN'T SEEM TO PUT MY  
FINGER ON IT, THOUGH.



WELL,  
COME  
ON  
THEN!

WE DON'T HAVE THE  
LUXURY  
OF WASTING TIME!

!

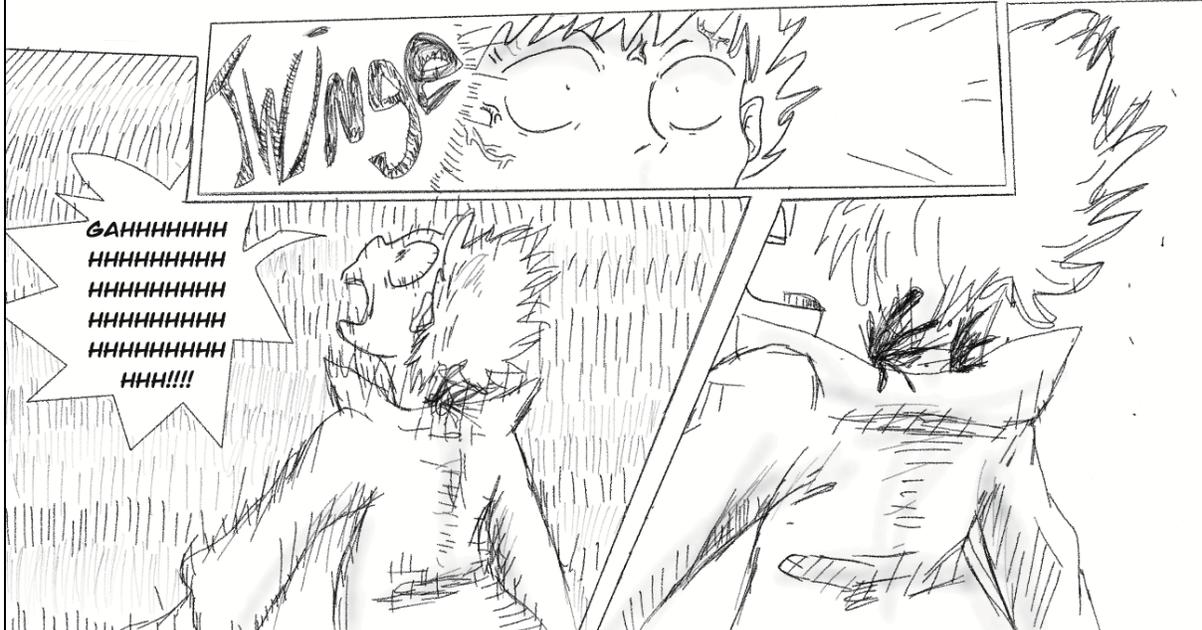
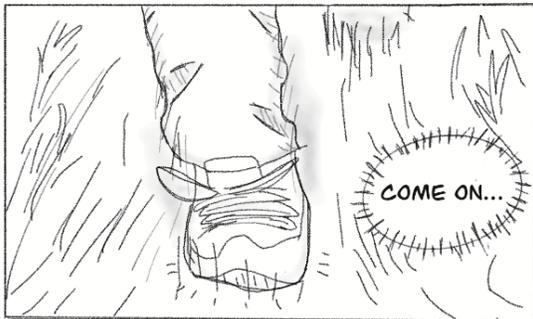


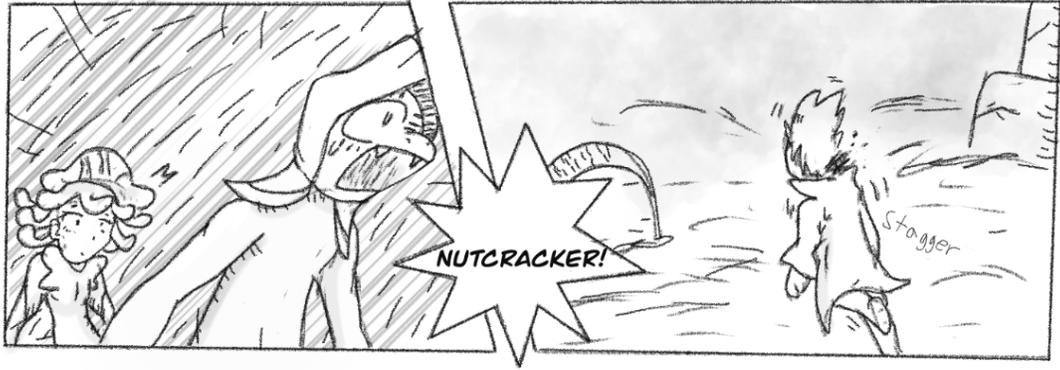
HUH?

WAIT...

NUTCRACKER! STOP!  
YOU'RE NOT  
SUPPOSED TO RUN ON  
THE GRAVEYARD! IT'S  
A STRICT RULE HERE!

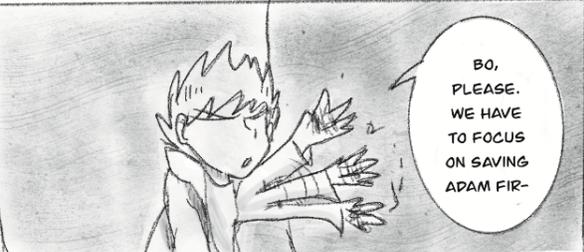
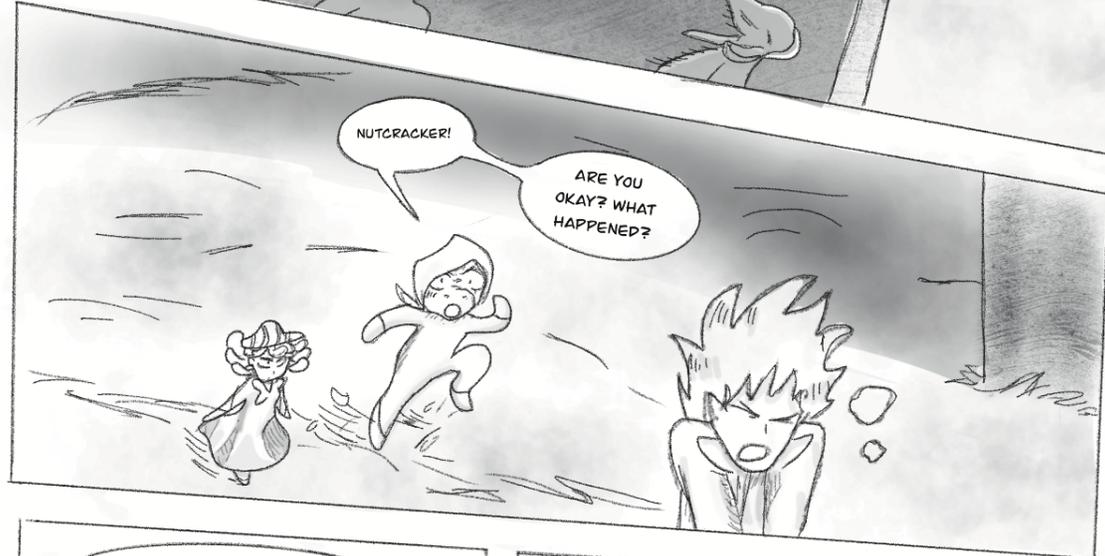
WE'RE  
TRYING NOT  
TO BE SEEN!

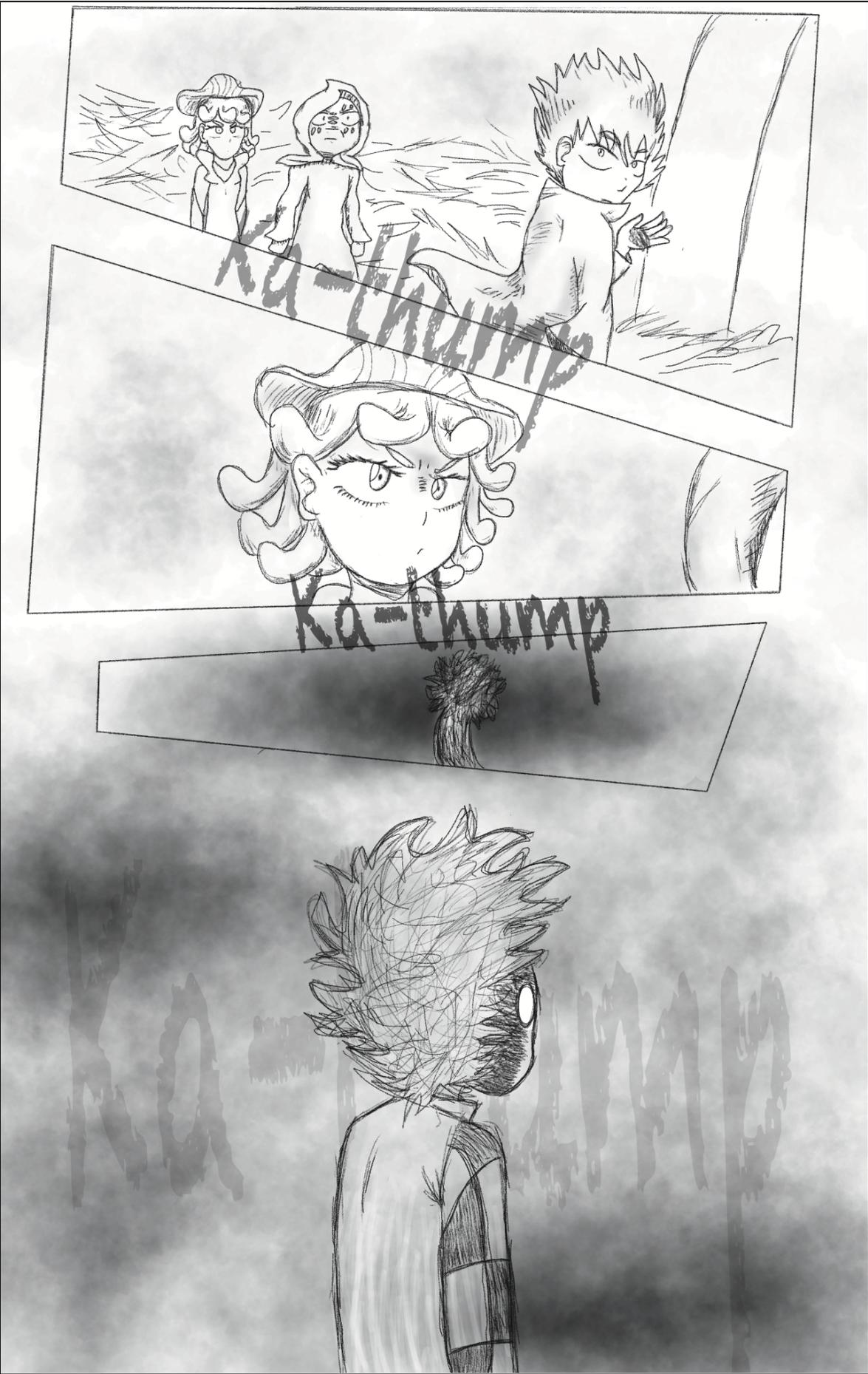


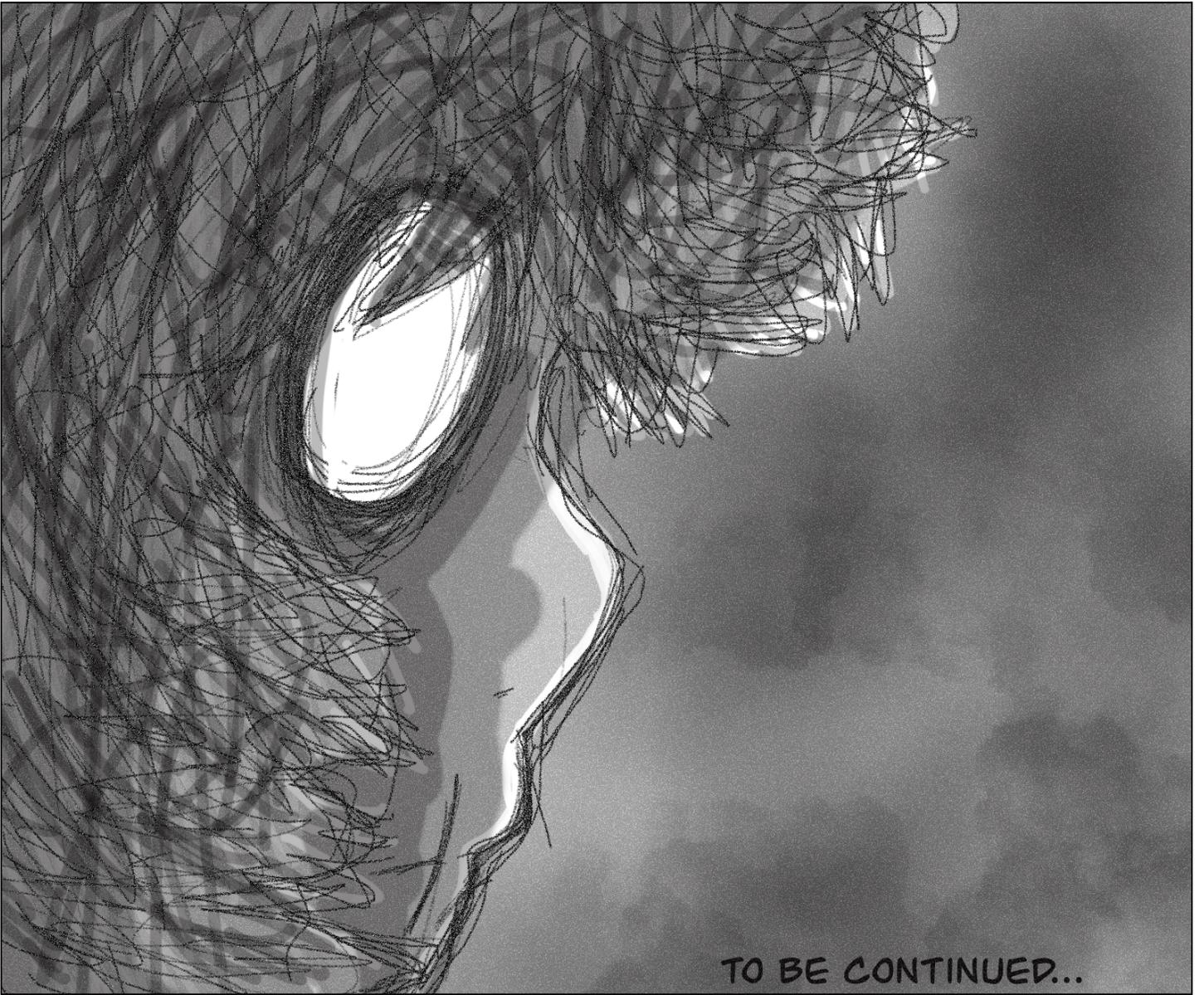




WHERE DID THAT  
COME FROM?!







TO BE CONTINUED...

# The Mirror

New Paltz Middle School Newspaper

Issue Number 3

March 30, 2023

## 8th Grade Spins Bowl Trip

*by Jena Chamas*

On January 30th, the 8th graders went on a field trip to Spins Bowl in Wappingers Falls, NY. Spins Bowl is an arcade and bowling alley where you can collect tickets from the arena to get a prize at the end. There is also lazer tag, ax throwing (which the students were not allowed to do), and available food.

When we went into Spins, we started straight with the bowling alley. The alley was already prepared for me and my team, with the names and everything, so that was good. We started with bowling and eating the food we had brought. Now frankly, I'm not the greatest at bowling. As a matter of fact, I'm terrible at it, so maybe it wasn't so surprising that I got four gutter balls in a row, but moving on.

My team played one full game and about half of another before we moved on to lazer tag. Laser tag was located at the very end of the arcade, next to where you can trade your points for prizes. Out of nowhere, my team abandoned the second bowling game and left for laser tag, so I followed them.

As my first time ever playing laser tag, I already knew I was going to die immediately. But as it turns out, you could actually revive if you go back to base (I think), so I felt a little more confident playing. That is, until I had to retreat six times. My team ended up losing, which is a bummer, but I can't say I didn't expect it.

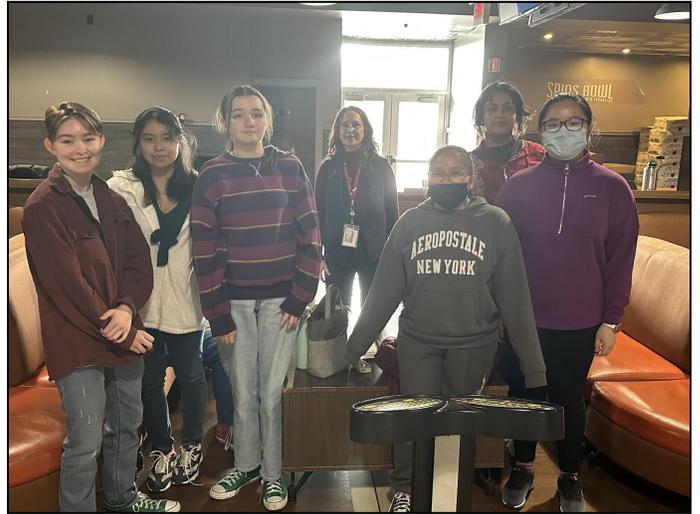
Before we played laser tag, our chaperone, Ms. McNamee, handed us cards that had 20 points in them for the arcade. So after we had finally gotten the thirty pound laser tag jacket off of us, my team and I played at the arcade. Most of my team wanted to play Halo, but some other team was already doing that, so we had to wait. I got bored of waiting and gambled instead. I wasted ALL my points on that (and had no money to get more). But I did get some decent prize points. Yay.

Afterwards, I went to the Prize Register (I assume it's called) with about four hundred prize points. I got a plastic sword (with the sheath and everything!), a fan (that I

gave my sister because I make bad life decisions), and ten Lemonheads (don't ask me why). Pretty much after that we left for the bus and ended our trip.

To wrap up this whole thing, I liked the trip and would totally go again. I don't have any major complaints that don't have to do with my inability to function, but I still kinda wish we had more points in that card (I could've got thirty Lemonheads!). I would recommend this trip to everyone.





**Artemis Flight Mission**  
*by Stella Zigouras*

The Moon is one of the most mysterious and elusive bodies in our solar system, and the Artemis Mission attempts to shed light to this puzzling space rock. This project looks to discover more of the Moon's origin, increase economic opportunity, and inspire generations to come.

One of the main goals of this mission is to simply learn more about the Moon. One of the main reasons why astronauts have been unsuccessful in learning much about the Moon is because they are unable to stay stationed on it for very long. Artemis solves this issue by setting up permanent bases on the Moon. This will allow future and current astronauts to stay directly on the Moon to take more rock samples, find new craters, and so much more. This will allow astronauts and other space professionals to expand the knowledge of the Moon and its origin.

In the modern day world, economics is one of the major things that keeps our world together. From supplier to consumer it is what gives us supplies, provides more jobs, and everything in between. With the Artemis Space Mission, there will be major and crucial advancements to the economy. For example, there will be more creation of fuel on the Moon using different substances on it. Manufacturing these fuels will occur on a Moon base or will be transported back to Earth. Also, other products involving metals and stones will be created at higher rates, through the new surplus of minerals on the Moon. There will also be an increase in demand for skilled workforce. Due to the fact that many of the operations and work that will be done is on the Moon, to work on a Moon base one must require a higher level of skills. This opens jobs for many talented individuals across the nation.

Throughout the series of missions, NASA will be documenting and keeping the public, and more importantly the younger generation in the loop with their new findings. This will keep kids across the globe intrigued and engaged with astronomy and space exploration. These missions will also be sending the first woman and person of color to the Moon. This will help inspire and reach even more kids, by helping them relate more to the astronauts that enter space, thus beginning to expand the mainly white male dominated field to other individuals.

The Artemis Space Missions might be one of the most important missions of this generation through an increase in knowledge, economic improvement, and inspirations for generations to come. If you want to learn more or stay updated with the mission go [here](#) or to the [NASA](#) website to learn more.

Sources: [NASA's "Why We Are Going To The Moon"](#)

**Sophia's Short Stories**

**The Cobra**

*by Sophia Schelino*

“Are we there yet?” my brother Chip asked. I sighed. This was going to be a long walk. We were hiking on a beautiful trail in Mexico. The sun shone through the leafy trees. I looked at all the amazing natural beauty. *How could Chip be so bored in such a lovely place?* My brother’s name is not actually Chip, his full name is Chipolato, but what kind of sane person would like that name?! Then again, my name is Salsalito (Sal for short), so who am I to judge? We were just heading toward a leafy clearing when suddenly, Chip stopped in his tracks.

“What is it now!?” I asked, irritated. Looking at him closer, I realized his face was pale. He extended one arm outward, shaking slightly, as my eyes followed where his finger pointed. At first I couldn’t see anything but then, nearly camouflaged among the brightly colored flowers, and the long grass, I saw it. Only five feet away from us, was a big, green and brown... cobra.

“C-c-cobra!!!” Chip screamed, startling the majestic creature.

“Stop!” I whisper-hissed. “Do you want him to attack!?” but looking at the snake, I felt a strange sense of curiosity. I just had a feeling, this snake would never in a million years, be one to hurt people. I cocked my head, staring into the cobra’s beady black eyes. The cobra seemed to stare at me with its unblinking eyes. Suddenly, the cobra winked. I gasped, but no sooner had it done that when Chip rushed at it with a sharp looking stick. “Chip, no!” I cried “You’re going to hurt it!”

“Uh, that’s the idea!” Chip grunted, trying to stab and poke the cobra. I rushed forward to help the cobra, but I shouldn’t have worried. The cobra jumped up, catching the stick in its teeth and flinging it away. Chip grunted. “YOU’LL PAY FOR THAT YOU BEAST!” He yelled over his shoulder as he retrieved the stick. But before he could strike again, I grabbed the stick from his sweaty hands, and broke it in half. “Sal!” My brother exclaimed, “Why did you break my stick!? I was going to kill the snake!”

“Because it’s wrong!” I told him. “That cobra didn’t do anything to harm you! You just attacked it without a second thought!” As our argument was happening, the cobra slithered away. “SAL, YOU IDIOTA, you let the cobra get away!”

“Hey,” I protested, “You shouldn’t have attacked it in the first place!” Chip just stared at me with a disgusted look. Just then, he tackled me.

“I may not have killed the cobra, but I can still take my anger out on you!” Chip exclaimed.

“How is that even fair?” I yelled. I swiped at his leg, tripping him. But I got a punch in the nose for that. “STOP” I yelled, with so much force that several birds watching us with great fascination took off, squawking loudly. “What are we doing?!” I hollered, my nose bleeding. “This is madness! All this fighting over a cobra.”

## Comic book idea #4

*by Zoe Curtis*

“It feels good to be back from that mission,” Ryuu said, and Uruloki charged at him.

“Horns! Race you back to the guild!” Uruloki said, and saw that Ryuu looked mad.

Ryuu growled. “I’m done with you calling me that! You’ve been doing it since you were five! Quit it, okay?!” Ryuu shouted, and started chasing Uruloki.

“Okay, *Horns*.” Uruloki said, before realizing that Ryuu was faster than he thought.

“Ice make blades!” Ryuu shouted.

“Weapons? Cool! I’ll play along, too!” Uruloki said, and flicked his fist to use his fire magic.

“Raaaaaaa!” Ryuu said, and tackled Uruloki, and said again, “Don’t. Call. Me. HORNS!!!!” Ryuu got his blades ready.

“RYUU! URULOKI! QUIT IT!! OR ELSE...” Nakano said. Ryuu bit her and Uruloki with his venomous, snake-like bite. Uruloki passed out.

“Grrr...” Ryuu snarled. Nakano reequipped to have a rope in her right hand, and a muzzle in the other.

“Raaaa! Let me go!” Ryuu said, moving around like crazy. Nakano was trying to put tape on Ryuu’s mouth.

“Stay still Ryuu! Or I’ll use *the weapon*!” Nakano said, and reequipped to have a spray bottle in her hand. Ryuu bit Nakano again, and Nakano said, “That’s it!” She sprayed Ryuu with water.

“Bad! Bad boy!” Nakano said.

“Rahh!” Ryuu said angrily, wiping his face off.

“Nakano! Quit it! You’re treating Ryuu like an animal! He’s not an animal! He’s an elf!” Fang said as Nakano finally got tape on Ryuu’s mouth. She had already tied Uruloki to a support beam with the rope.

“Get it off! Get it off! Get it off! GET IT OFF!” Ryuu said, trying to get his muzzle off in multiple ways.

“RAAAA! Let me go! Let me finish fighting Ryuu!!” Uruloki shouted as he woke up, and then started laughing at Ryuu, because Ryuu was trying to get his muzzle off by pushing it with his feet.

“It’s not funny Uruloki!” Ryuu said, and charged at him. “At least I can move!” Ryuu started to attack Uruloki.

“Quit it, Ryuu! Do you want Nakano to punish you even more?!” Fang said as Uruloki broke the rope that was tying him to the support beam.

Ryuu pinned Uruloki by the mission board, and Uruloki saw a specific paper. “Ooooh! Ryuu, look! A request that is worth 200,000 dollars just for reading something!” Uruloki said, and grabbed the paper.

“Aw man! It’s in another language!” Uruloki said, disappointed. Fang looked at the back. “Wait, Uruloki! There’s a translation on the back!”

Uruloki read the translation.

Suddenly, there was a flash of light. “We swapped bodies!” Fang said, both surprised and excited.

Uruloki shivered. “Why is your body so cold, Ryuu?!” Uruloki said, and grabbed a blanket.

“Why’s your body so warm, Uruloki?!” Ryuu said, and started panting.

“I can speak! I can speak! Yay! And I’m scary and strong!” Pretzel said. She had swapped bodies with Nakano.

“Why am I so weak... I’m-I’m not scary anymore...” Nakano said, because she had swapped bodies with Pretzel.

*“So... Quiet... Fang, I don’t think your hearing lacrimas are working...”* Katsu said through telepathy. He had swapped bodies with Fang. Ryuu almost fell over, because he couldn’t handle a lot of heat in one place.

“What happened?!” Uruloki said, confused. There were frozen crystals coming out of his mouth.

“I think I switched bodies with Jomei...” Aki said, and sighed. “Are those frozen drops of spit? Gross. I think that your magic switched, too.”

Fireivy said, he hadn’t swapped bodies with anyone. Ryuu had gone to a cold place moments before, and suddenly came running back. “Guys! Help! Fire! Coming out of my mouth!” Ryuu realized that Uruloki had gotten the tape off. “How?! HOW?!!” Ryuu said, and then frowned after what Uruloki said.

“Maybe stop drooling fire and I’ll tell you. Hey... if our magic swapped too, does that mean I have a venom bite?”

“Aaaa-” Ryuu stopped Uruloki from biting anyone. “Wouldn’t do that. You don’t know how to control how much venom you use. Too much, and both you and the person you bit will pass out, and you’ll be out for a while. Remember the time that I bit you, and got back three days later? I used too much venom on you.” Ryuu said, and sighed, because he hated drooling fire.

“Uruloki! How do you stop fire?!” Ryuu asked, panicked.

“You just do! It’s easy! Here’s my question to you: HOW DO YOU STOP ICE SPIT??!” Uruloki said.

“You just do, it’s easy, just like you said.” Ryuu said, and bit Uruloki.

“Ryuu, you don’t - oh - have a venom bite...” Fang said, as Uruloki and Ryuu both bit each other. Luckily Uruloki didn’t use any venom, but they got into a fight again.

Ryuu bent Uruloki’s leg backwards, and Uruloki shouted, “OWW! Ryuu! How do you know so many fighting techniques?!” Uruloki said.

“Gha!” Uruloki shouted in pain, banging his fist on the ground.

“Ryuu, are you sure you want to do that? Remember that Uruloki is in your body. If you cause pain to him, then once our bodies are switched back, you’ll feel the pain.” Fang said.

“I got it! I can swap our bodies back!” Jomei said, realizing that Uruloki was shaking Ryuu. Ryuu managed to pin Uruloki down. Jomei said the spell backwards, and their bodies were swapped back to normal.

“Why’d you make my body so warm, Uruloki?!” Ryuu said.

“Why’d you make my body so cold, Horns?! And why does your body feel so weird?!” Uruloki said.

Ryuu replied by saying, “Maybe it’s because *I’m* an elf, and *you’re* a human, Uruloki.” Ryuu said irritably, and kicked Uruloki hard to get him off. “I’m going home for the rest of the day... I need a break from *somebody*...” Ryuu said, and left the guild.

“Wow. They fought the whole time our bodies were swapped, and before that, too. Pretty much all day,” Fang said to Katsu while they watched Ryuu walk out of the doorway. As he left, Ryuu’s eyes were thin, angry slits. Nothing had changed since Ryuu and Uruloki started fighting.

The end.

Sources: My document of comic book ideas.

# Re:vale

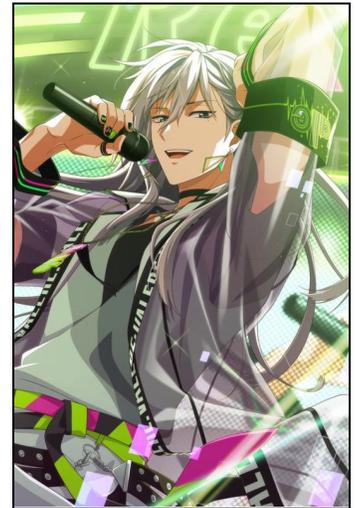
by Zoe Curtis

Do you listen to music? Does it help you focus? In this article, I want to discuss an anime band I listen to. It is called Re:vale. Re:vale is a J-pop band. The band is made up of two members whose names are Momo Sunohara, and Yuki Orikasa. In this article I will talk about the characters in the band, and where to find them.



## Yuki Orikasa:

Yuki Orikasa is the original member of Re:vale. He is calm, mature, and kind. Yuki writes the songs for Re:vale, and his solo is called 千年先もずっと... (A thousand years from now...). Yuki cares about Momo greatly, even if he has trouble verbally saying it. Some facts about Yuki are: His birthday is December 24th, he is 26 years old, and his music symbol is a right repeat.



## Momo Sunohara:

Momo Sunohara is energetic, cheerful, and always has a smile on. He is good at being on TV, and has been Yuki's partner for five years. Momo's solo is called 100%ハピネス (100%Happiness). He likes to joke around with younger singers. He is also smart and looks out for others. Some facts about Momo are: His birthday is November 11th, he is 25 years old, and his music symbol is a left repeat.



## Where to find Re:vale:

Re:vale isn't just an anime band. They play a big role in season 2 of IDOLiSH7's anime. They are also in IDOLiSH7's game. You can find their music on Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music, Youtube, and Musi.

Sources: [Momo|The ENGLISH IDOLiSH7 Wiki](#)

Photo credits: [Tumpik.com](#)

The logo for the band Re:vale, featuring the name in a stylized, outlined font with a red and blue color scheme.



*click the picture to watch the Re:vale video Your Rhapsody*

This is a clip of Re:vale's newest song that shows more about Momo and Yuki's personalities. The full version is on Spotify, Apple Music, and Amazon Music.



*click the picture to watch the Re:vale video Taiyou no Esperanza*

This is a clip of one of my favorite songs by Re:vale.

## My Animation

*by Jena Chamas*



*click the picture to watch the animation of Ningyo*

### Artist's note:

"I hope you don't look up the anime character Ningyo because you will find very interesting looking anime mermaids. This is Ningyo. He is a ragdoll; not the cat, but an actual living doll. He is the fourth protagonist of my story Force Winds."

*~Jena Chamas*

## A Few Cool Drawings That I Made

by Zoe Curtis



(First drawing is based off of an image and is unfinished.)



**The Mirror meets after school in Room 22!**

**New contributors are always welcome! Join us!**