



2021-2022 Teacher of the Year, Mr. Vergara (left) and Rookie Teacher of the Year, Mr. Solomon (right)

Excellence at Redland Middle

By: E. R. Williams

This year's Teacher and Rookie Teacher of the Year are Mr. Vergara and Mr. Solomon.

Mr. Solomon has been teaching here at Redland for the last 2 years. He is a passionate teacher that creates a positive culture of learning in his class. Students enjoy his creative ways of teaching Social Studies. He brings it to life through creative role playing and acting out various scenes from history. He makes what happened in history relevant to what is currently going on today.

Mr. Vergara is one of the most innovative teachers here at Redland Middle. His classroom always has a welcoming and inviting atmosphere. The learning environment he has created within his classroom is displayed through the mutual respect shown by his students towards him and the same respect he gives them in return. Mr. Vergara encourages his students to go beyond their normal abilities and strive for excellence in everything they do. Congratulations to the both of you.

Up Close and Personal with Student Council

By: Isabela Felipe and Emily Marcel

The members of the student council have new and exciting ideas for the school this year. For example, school clubs, this year's Yearbook, 8th grade Prom, and various school events. Student Council has been thinking of sponsoring new school clubs such as a Gay-Straight Alliance Club, which will be called "S.A.F.E.", to honor and provide a judgment-free space for our LGBTQ+ students attending school. Mr. Tavera states that "Some students felt that certain clubs might be felt off-limits to them because of their personal preferences. Student Council wanted to create a club for them to feel accepted." In trying to create and make sure the school year is fun and welcoming, Student Council has run into a few complications. The first being school personnel to run the clubs. All clubs, before and after school, require an adult sponsor. Most teachers already have a lot to deal with during the school day and staff members are greatly needed to moderate the clubs to ensure everything goes according to plan and make sure that everyone is safe and behaving accurately.

The second is making one of their ideas come to life, having a yearbook produced this year. Student Council needs a Teacher/Staff sponsor for the yearbook to be created. They have asked teachers to see if they are available and would like to take charge in this project, but no one seems to want all that in their plate. But these are a resilient group of girls who refuse to give up. Zariyah Wright, Student Council Secretary states "We will give our literal last breath to get yearbooks this year." Another idea that they have been working towards is the 8th grade prom. "We are trying our hardest to bring back everything that would normally occur at the end of an 8th grade year." says Zariyah. Another very important task Student Council has decided to take on is the surveying of students, through the Edge classes, gathering data to find out whether students feel teachers and staff members here at Redland Middle care about them and their mental health. Last year, 40% of the students said that they feel teachers and staff do not care about them or their mental well-being. This year Student Council is trying to change that by being more visible throughout the school day and finding a solution to this issue. "We want all students, teachers, and staff members to get back to those Student/Teacher connections they used to have." said Student Council President Chanel Sanchez. They need to work on staying on topic and elaborating on they reason they gave.



Redland Middle's Debate Team

William Romero



Did you know that there was even a Debate Team at Redland? It is led by our own Mr. Worthley and has been undefeated for the last 5 years. The Debate Team has been beating every middle school they have competed against and several High Schools. The team has gone to state and national tournaments several times. Mr. Worthley has led the team to victory by training them nonstop and putting all his time and dedication into the team. The success of the team has brought positive feedback from the community and helped create a good reputation to our school. "What is a debate team" you may ask? A debate team involves two debating groups who take opposing sides on a topic or issue, either agreeing with or disagreeing with it. For example, think about sports. There is a defense and an offense team. The defense team must defend from the other team's offense, in this case defending the topic. While the opposing team is offense, their job is to degrade the topic. Each team alternates speakers per round. Their goal is to persuade the judge that the topic is true. I had the pleasure of interviewing the members and the sponsor. Their responses were very enlightening. The debate team members, which consist of two 6th graders, five 7th graders, and eight 8th graders, said that they like being on debate team and that it has affected them in positive ways.

"My time on the Debate team, has taught me how to be more outspoken and mature. Before joining, I was the quiet kid. But now, I speak without being nervous or scared." said Dayana Gonzalez. Many of the other members felt the same, saying that joining Debate team helped them be more of an outspoken person and gave them the ability to talk to others and in front of a crowd. For some people it might be scary to do that, but trust me, seeing how most of the members went from being quiet and reserved to being outspoken and social is something that should be recognized. Some students mentioned how it helped them mature and take more responsibility. Since Debate team takes up a good portion of time, it also helped them with time management. Overall, Debate team has a lot of positive effects that will help in the long run. Other members mentioned that they felt like the pressure of being on the Debate team is a lot to handle. "I put pressure on my students because, I know that they can do what they believe they can't," said Mr. Worthley. It is a great accomplishment to challenge students and to push them to achieve the best. I, not being part of the debate team, can honestly understand how stressful it can be to be on a team and being pushed to do the best

of your abilities can be very overwhelming. It can feel like a bit too much at times, but my suggestion is just take time and breathe. Get everything under control and organized without stressing out. It could be useful for students who feel pressured to stop and breathe before taking it all in. I know and understand their points of view, but Mr. Worthley said, "I put pressure on the members with good intentions, not in a harmful way." He wants his students to strive and do what they think they cannot do. He wants his students to take a risk and remember that life is full of experiences, but they can only be achieved with risk. If you are someone who likes to play it safe, like me, then it can be difficult to do that, but that's why Mr. Worthley pushes his students to do better and get to live experiences they will never forget. So, if you would like to take on challenges and get to endure multiple different and fun experiences, then this is the club for you. If you would like to join, contact Mr. Worthley at worthley@dadeschools.net

By: Mariabarba Torres

Page C3



Redland Middle has two new and exciting clubs this year, "Guitar over Guns" and the "Science Club." Some may not know about these clubs considering they are new to the school.

Guitar over Guns is a club that helps students learn how to play and read music. They also do fun activities like meditation and games. "It's a fantastic opportunity for students to participate in music after school," said Mr. Castro. Music is considered a big coping mechanism, so it is helpful to those who are going through difficult time. It is an efficient way to socialize while learning and having fun. "They might not get enough time, or even have resources to play instruments." In addition, we were able to contact a student who currently attends this club. "I wanted to join this club because I wanted to learn guitar. I didn't have the resources to play the instrument but joining this club has helped me reach my goal." This club takes place in the band room on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. At the same time, there are a couple of difficulties this club has. "Organization... Keeping everybody on track has to be one of the most difficult parts of this club." Moreover, the same anonymous student stated, "I would like to skip the meditation part and get to the class." Which is understandable, but they would not have included it if it were not necessary.



Students reciting the Guitars Over Guns pledge before they start for the day.



Science Club growing radishes using UV lights.

Meanwhile, in the Science Club, Mr. Tavera, created this club to help students who want to learn more about science or need more help with understanding science. "Students may not get to ask more questions, or maybe they just want to do more science than they already in their classes, this club helps them do just that," said Mr. Tavera. This club takes place on Tuesday after school and can be found in room O104. Currently, this group is studying the growth of radishes. However, just like Guitar over Guns, this club has some problems. Mr. Tavera explains, "time... You can ask any teacher here. They never have enough time to catch up on grading, or catching up on lesson plans, or doing the things they want to do." For all of that, these clubs are a wonderful opportunity for students to study and explore both music and science, especially if they do not have the resources to do this activity by themselves.

Redland Middle After school activities

By: Leah Lopez and Eduardo Morga

Page D4



T.A.L.E.N.T.S. and All-Stars programs are both equally great opportunities for students to grow, discover their hidden talents, and get help with their schoolwork. "During these after school activities, students are learning new skills, getting tutoring, homework help, and having fun", said Mrs. Darby, coordinator of the T.A.L.E.N.T.S. program. "Students are going to friends, talking about how much fun they're having and encouraging them to join too." There is more to the T.A.L.E.N.T.S program than meets the eye. Students are learning dance, guitar, piano, vocal training, social emotional learning, reading skills, math and much more. According to Mrs. Darby, "There are no requirements for joining. "We just ask students to be well behaved at all times and to participate." Daisy, a member of the club says, "I would recommend trying something new and T.A.L.E.N.T.S. is a perfect example." Trying new things can open doors and give you new opportunities for the future. Since joining T.A.L.E.N.T.S., I have tried singing, vocal training and sometimes just listening to music'."

All-Stars, similar to T.A.L.E.N.T.S, is a program designed to give students an outlet to have some fun at school and get help with schoolwork. Ms. Wright, the sponsor for All-Stars says, "We offer homework help, art, virtual reality and more. All students that want to join, we ask only to complete the application located in the main office and be on your best behavior." In addition to virtual reality and homework help, students can participate in flying drones, cooking, and learning how to use and create designs on the Cricket Design machine. "We plan on growing the program through the school's social media and in-school recruitment efforts." If you want to be more active, develop your social skills, need academic support, or just want to hang out with your friends after school, you should consider joining the Redland Middle "T.A.L.E.N.T.S." or "All-Stars" programs.



Pictured above are our T.A.L.E.N.T.S. and All-Stars programs getting ready for their activities.

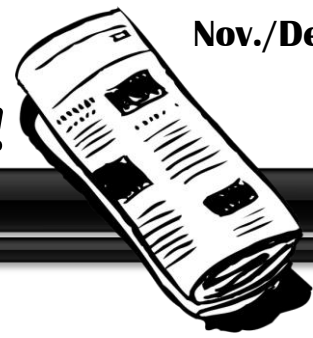
Sports at Redland Middle

By Jayden Munoz and Eduardo Morga

Hey athletes. Ready for the next round of sports coming back to Redland? Here they are. Starting after Christmas break will be Track and Field, Girls' and Boys' Basketball, and Wrestling. See coach Alicea if you are interested.

Sports Update: Our Cross-country and Girls' Volleyball started in late September. The Girls' Volleyball team placed second in Zone 8 and made it to the playoffs. The team recently had to postpone their playoff game against G.W. Carver Middle. It will be rescheduled for a later date. The Cross-Country team placed 28th out of 50 teams in the entire district. Way to go!!!





8th Graders Only

William Romero



Ah! 8th grade, the year where it is time to stop slacking and get organized. **It is the single most important year in middle school.** It is the year where high schools start to look at your grades, conduct, and other factors more closely. Not only that, but the fact that all 8th graders can apply to schools that offer magnet programs is a huge bonus. What is a magnet program you ask? "Well, magnet programs are theme-based innovative educational programs offering the highest quality of education to students in Secondary grade levels. Magnet programs build on students' personal and educational interests, strengths, and abilities while encouraging academic excellence." stated our school counselor Mrs. Pichirilo. Grades are super important this year, especially if you are applying to a magnet school. High schools are going to be looking at your grades and conduct. One way you can bring up your grades is by setting small and obtainable goals. Some goals include, 1. planning ahead for big assignments, 2. start thinking and planning for High School, 3. think positive about your future, 4. stay focused on your goals, 5. be resilient, 6. manage your time, 7. find time to relax and destress, and above all 8. strive for excellence. As a student, I get stressed out with my studies and a lot of other academic related things.

Taking time out to make sure I am not overwhelming myself is equally if not more important than anything. I know it may be hard to start a new routine, but it is possible. Don't give up. Look at everything positively. Also, make sure to take care of yourself.

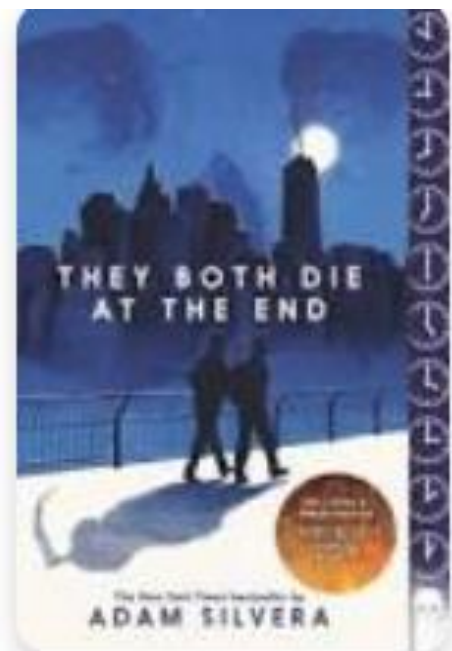
In addition to being the most important year, 8th grade is supposed to be a fun year. The administration, 8th grade Team leader, Ms. Silverman, and Student Council members are working extremely hard to provide the 8th graders with a fun, exciting and interesting school year! They have scheduled several small activities that are just for 8th graders to attend. One of the biggest incentives for 8th graders this year is the 8th grade dance, commonly known as Prom. Because of the pandemic, no prom was held for the last two years, but our 8th grade class will get to enjoy it again this coming Spring: May 2022. The date nor the time have been decided yet, but Ms. Silverman and Student Council are working on it. Prom will include drinks, snacks, dancing, and socializing with your friends/8th grade peers. It is an incentive only for 8th graders, of course with the obvious expectations of good behavior, no referrals, and decent grades. Since grades matter most in 8th grade, I would advise you all to have good grades so you can participate in the upcoming incentives!

"If you can't fly, run. If you can't run, walk. If you can't walk, crawl. By all means, keep moving." – Dr. Martin L. King Jr.

They Both Die at the End

By: Isabela Felipe and Mariabarba Torres

Published in 2017, but recently receiving high accolades, **"They Both Die at the End"** is this season's must read novel. Written by Young adult fiction, Adventure, and LGBTQ+ literature writer, Adam Silvera, **"They Both Die at the End"** is an inspiring story about two boys experiencing life-changing events over the course of one memorable day." The characters, Mateo and Rufus, get a call from Death-Cast telling them they are going to die in a day. Using the app "Last Friend", Mateo and Rufus meet up to experience the ultimate last greatest adventure of their lives. Although the title gave us a pretty clear view of how the novel ends, this book has a huge fan base among all age groups. "People love this book." stated Chayse Chapman in Google Reviews "This is definitely one of my top 5 books ever read. Maybe even top 3!" The popularity of this book has even reached the world's most famous app: TikTok. TikTokers of all ages are going crazy over this book and are recommending their viewers to read it. So, if you are looking for something to stimulate your mind this Winter break or next year, pick up a copy of **"They Both Die at the End"** by Adam Silvera.



Book jacket courtesy of Google Images

Hair Trend

By: Daniela Marquez and Meryshell Romero

Some may ask, "Why are people following trends? As a student, I can say that most of us follow trends for many different reasons, such as following them gives us a sense of approval or acceptance, it helps us feel like we fit in, or it is a way to express our individuality. One of the hottest trends out now is "Colored Hair". The students at Redland Middle have truly embraced this trend. You can find just about any color tinted hair represented among our student body. Did you know that are some benefits to coloring your hair? Coloring your hair can seal down the cuticles for healthier fresh-looking hair.

Some people may see trends as a negative thing, but everything has a plus side to it. Following or setting trends can allow someone to connect with people and help them decide what they want to do with life. Who knows, it could even encourage someone to start their own business. Keep showing off those gorgeous colored heads Redland Royals!

Fellow staff writer,
Jade Zambrana,
showing off her
stunning red tinted
hair.



What's Hot? What's New?



Image courtesy of AnimationXpress Team: Release date for Sing 2 is December 22 in theatres near you.

Gaming News

By: Eduardo Morga and Jayden Munoz

Looking for new games to get your family and friends to buy you for Christmas? Here's a few: Dragon Ball Z, FarCry5, Rocket League, Pokémon, Assassins Creed Odyssey, Madden NFL 20, NBA 2k20, Mortal Kombat 11. The most played games in 2021 are: New World, Battlefield 2042, Valheim, FIFA22, Back 4 Blood, Forza Horizon 5, NBA 2k22, Outriders, MLB the show 21, Call of Duty: Vanguard, It takes Two, Grand Theft Auto, FarCry6.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA

New Movie: Sing 2

By Mariabarba Torres and Isabela Felipe

Sing 2 is a family friendly, musical, comedic, movie that will entertain your whole family. Running for about two hours, this sequel revolves around Buster (the producer in the movie) wanting to debut a new show at the Crystal Tower Theater, located at Redshore City. However, Buster does not have any connections to anyone in the glamorous city. So, he and his cast sneak their way into the widely known Crystal Entertainment offices, run by the stone-hearted mogul wolf Jimmy Crystal. Filmed by director Garth Jennings, people are intrigued and awaiting its release this December. The first Sing movie, released in 2016, was entertaining to many and its sequel will hopefully have the same success.



Bites with Sophia

By: Sophia Lopez

Page H8



Image credit: istockphoto.com/john shepherd

It's Sophia, back to you with another scrumptious treat for your after-dinner meal! Who doesn't love dessert? Everybody right?! Today's Bites with Sophia is a special Microwaveable Nutella Cake that you can cook in the microwave in an estimated 15 minutes. 4 easy steps that even a bad Baker couldn't mess up! Completely nuts right? Here's what you will need:

1 cup of refined flour
½ cup of powdered sugar
1 tablespoon of baking powder.
1/2 cup of refined oil
1/2 cup of Nutella
1 egg

DIRECTIONS

1. In a MICROWAVABLE bowl sieve baking powder, flour, and powdered sugar. (Sieve means to strain the powders until they are mixed. These are your "dries".)
2. In a separate bowl whisk your egg and then add your oil and Nutella into the bowl. This'll be your "wets."
3. Add your wets to your dries and mix well. (Tip: if the mixture is too thick then you can add 2-3 tablespoons of cold milk.)
4. Lastly, place the bowl in the microwave for 2-3 minutes on high.

The after results should be a delicious Nutella cake that you and your family can enjoy after dinner. Go NUTS and enjoy!

Reader Submissions

By William Romero

Page 19



Want to write for the school newspaper but don't have the Journalism class? Want the staff writers to get suggestions from you for topics to report on? No problem!! You can now submit your thoughts and original writing for publication into the school's paper: The Roar. Drop off your submission to either Mrs. Williams in M106 or 8th grader William Romero or email them to Mrs. Williams erwilliams@dadeschools.net

Nervous about everyone knowing who you are? No problem!! All submissions will be anonymous unless you want your name published with your work. The format of the "Reader Submissions" is:

Name of Writer: Your name or the word Anonymous
Your to be submitted

So, please! If you would like to see a specific topic written, or have any questions for me and the writers, please submit them and we will do our best to serve you all.

South Florida Traditions: The Youth Fair and Santa's Enchanted Forest

By Sophia Lopez and Leah Lopez

The Youth Fair began in 1952 as a 4-day event in late January. The event was held at camp Tequesta, on U.S. 1 and North Kendall Drive, where it was known as "an old-fashioned country fair". Folks came to show off their best steer or patch of home-grown tomatoes, view the arts and crafts exhibits and enjoy scrumptious foods from the various Mom and Pop concession stands. The Fair moved to West Kendall in 1972, finding its permanent home at Southwest 112th Ave in Coral Way. Normally occurring during Spring Break in March/April, the Youth Fair opened this year in November, due to being cancelled last year because of COVID. The Youth Fair will be open from November 18 to December 5.

Since 1982, Santa's Enchanted Forest has opened every year in late October to early January at 5 pm. Santa's was started by the South Florida Paste Shechtman family, who still own and operate it these 33 years later. "It's a family business." according to Buddy Cormicam, director of Santa's. He has been working at Santa's Enchanted Forest for 23 years. While Santa's Enchanted Forest is open annually, Cormicam works year-round. He has dedicated his life to the park. Four months before the park opens, staff members begin setting up and assembling three million Christmas lights around hundreds of palm trees, signaling that the park will soon be open for business. Like they always say, "Christmas isn't a season. it's a feeling." -Edna Furbur. For the first time in years, Santa's Enchanted Forest will not be located at Tropical Park. This year it is located in Hialeah on East 4th Avenue. The last day to attend is January 2, 2022.



Photo courtesy of Google Reviews

Disclaimer: The Youth Fair may be closed once this issue goes to Publication.



The Roar Staff Writers



Co-Editor-in-Chief: William Romero

**News Writers: Leah Lopez, Isabela Felipe,
Mariabarba Torres, Meryshell Romero**

**Features Writers: Sophia Lopez, Emily Marcel,
Daniela Marquez, Jada Zambrana**

Sports Writers: Jayden Munoz and Eduardo Morga

Editor-in-Chief: Mrs. Williams

"Every day might not be good, but there's good in every day". – Alice Morse Earle