

# The Thinker



Issue 2

66th Session

June 19, 2026

## Gifties Elect Gov't

By Stella D. and Arav P.

Gifties elected a slate of officers for this summer's government Friday.

Students voted on who they wanted to be part of the government at Bank.

The program's government includes many of the same elements as the U.S. government, and the job responsibilities are the same.

Representatives propose and pass legislation and represent their class in meetings. The secretary keeps minutes. Justices preside over ticket court, listening to student objections to tickets and ruling on whether tickets are enforced. The president presides over meetings. The vice president assists the president.

The elections results are:

### Representatives:

AJ T. (Freshman)  
Stella D. (Freshman)  
Aahan C. (Sophomore)  
Henry C. (Sophomore)  
Madelyn W. (Grad)

### Secretary:

Lydee F.

### Justice:

Keerat S.

### Vice President:

Lucas C.

### President:

Anthony James (AJ) G.

## Classification System Explained

By Aahan C.

Academic class schedules and dorm schedules - lights out and curfew - go by classification at the Governor's Program.

Academic classifications are freshman, sophomore, senior and grad. Students in their first year are generally freshmen, students in their second year are sophomores and those in their third year are seniors and graduate from the program at the end of that summer. The following year, they are grads.

Josh Brown, director of the program, said students

originally joined the program only after sixth grade or as ninth or tenth-grade grads, classified by age rather than year in the program. Because students in each class were about the same age, housing rules like lights-out times were easy to manage.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the program started accepting students of different ages, which caused problems because some students had not taken the earlier classes. To fix this, all new students except grads were placed in the freshman class, Brown said.

Around 1998 or 1999, the

program created a separate housing classification system for use in the dorm. Students kept their academic classifications, but they were also assigned groups such as Epsilon, Gamma, Beta, and Alpha based on age, Brown said.

These groups determined lights-out times, roommates, and other dorm privileges. Brown said the names came from Brave New World. Today, the housing classifications are no longer used because the program is smaller, but Brown said they may return in the future.

## Musical Explores Unfinished Dickens

By Lucas C.

GPGC students will be working on the musical The Mystery of Edwin Drood.

This is a musical production of an unfinished book of the same title by Charles Dickens. It was transformed into a play by Rupert Holmes in 1985.

In a conversation between Holmes and Playbill.com in 2013, Holmes said he first had the idea of turning the unfinished novel into a play in 1971, 14 years before it was released.

His main inspiration for creating the play was the character John Jasper and his obsession with Rosa. As a choir master and organist, Jasper "would have every reason to write her a song for her birthday that would put into her mouth the word he longed for her to speak to him," Holmes said in the interview.

To solve the problem of it being an unfinished work, Holmes came up with the idea that the audience could vote on several questions left by the

plot because theater is the only medium where the audience and actors can collaborate in real time, Holmes said.

The first time the play was put on in front of an audience was at Delacorte Theater. Holmes said it was an amazing success with Holmes.

Once the show had moved to Broadway, Holmes moved and deleted songs; the song "Ceylon" was deleted from the score, and the song "Off to the Races" was moved from the second act to the first act.

## Get out of the Dorms on Weekends

By Stella D.

The next weekend is about to start, so let's talk about activities.

Each weekend, coordinator of housing Kathy Barrios distributes a schedule of weekend activities. These range from movies and shopping to making friendship bracelets.

During the weekend, there's plenty of activities to enjoy, such

as going to stores or playing games in the lobby. Even if going to the store doesn't seem appealing, it can be useful, and even fun.

If there's a video game that might not exactly look fun, try it. There's also some free time in between activities. It could be fun to hang out with friends in the lobby or in a dorm, or maybe play a board game. Staying in

the room all day isn't going to be doing anybody favors.

Even if not every activity is participated in, making an effort to leave the dorm can be a good decision. There's also mandatory activities, ones that you have to do, though most mandatory activities are only mandatory for half their total time. Just because something is mandatory doesn't mean it can't be enjoyable.

# Brain Bucks Leaderboards

By Patrick M.

Gifties turn in Brain Bucks for money every week at Bank and spend them at Senior Store.

This leaderboard tracks the number of Brain Bucks turned in or spent during the whole summer and how many they turned in that week.

For the leaderboard, Yellow Brain Bucks are worth 1 point, Blue Brain Bucks are worth 3, and the elusive Red Brain Buck is worth 5, assuming anyone would turn one in if they got one. Each point on the leaderboards is equivalent to the 10 cents in monetary value the Brain Buck

has.

This week's leaderboard will only have one set of rankings because it was the first Bank and the first week of Senior Store of the program. All results are recorded by that week's banker(s) and Juan Gamboa, who sometimes runs Senior Store.

The rankings also may not reflect total Brain Bucks earned, because people could have brought Brain Bucks from a previous summer or they might not have turned in all the Brain Bucks they have earned.

Those not listed on the leaderboard did not turn in Brain Bucks for that week.

## Week 1

Rank	Name	Points
1	Juan G.	38
2	Anthony G.	9
3	Aahan C.	7
3	Jude Y.	7
4	Stella D.	6
4	Patrick M.	6
5	Kenneth B.	4
5	Eleanor H.	4
5	Emma M.	4
6	Andrew B.	3
6	Lydee F.	3
7	Tori L.	2
7	Arav P.	2
8	Jonah C.	1
8	Arya G.-J.	1
8	AJ T.	1

# Animal of the Week: Shrew

By AJ T.

Shrews (family Soricidae) are small mole-like mammals classified in the order Eulipotyphla that live mainly in New Zealand and Australia, according to Wikipedia.

True shrews are not to be confused with treeshrews who live in South American forests or otter shrews who live in the Sub-Saharan desert.

Shrews mainly have the appearance of small, long-nosed rats. Because shrews look like rodents, they mostly get mixed up with them. But shrews are much closer to hedgehogs than rodents, according to A-Z Animals.

You can differentiate them

from rodents because of their teeth. Shrews have short sharp teeth while rodents have front incisor teeth.

All shrews are very tiny; usually they are even smaller than mice. But goliath shrews are an exception.

Goliath shrews are much larger than the average shrew, hence the name GOLIATH shrew. Goliath shrews grow to as long as a foot, the same size as a Subway footlong sandwich. Normal shrews are much smaller, only being about two inches long, about the size of a rubber duck.

Shrews are the only land mammals known to use echolocation, according to Wikipedia. Shrews emit a series of ultrasonic squeaks when they use their echolocation.

Most people are more familiar with bats and dolphins as echolocation users. Bats seem to use echolocation for simple, close-range, spatial orientation.

In contrast, shrews use echolocation only to investigate their habitats rather than additionally to pinpoint food.



Photo courtesy of havahart.com

## Drawing Frames New Vision

By Stella D.

The Governor's Program offers many classes, one of them being Drawing.

Drawing tends to be a relatively relaxed class. The primary focus is drawing through various exercises. In one, instructor Shawna Batchelor has the Gifties create short drawing prompts which they exchange with each other. It offers a challenge to draw something out of the comfort zone.

The last few days, Gifties used guides, some of them being animals, nature, and humans. It

was particularly nice to have a guide.

Some students have started brainstorming for the final art project. The final projects are typically displayed before the final concert, when the choir and mixed ensemble perform.

## Bepuzzlement Answers

Answer: Chest A

Logic Puzzle Answer

Answer: An Alarm Clock

Answer: 18

Riddle Answers

# World Cup 2026:

## Damián Bobadilla Own-Goaled v USA

By Alanna G.-J.

USA had a phenomenal game against Paraguay with a final score of 4-1, one point of which was scored by the other team.

At minute 7 of the match, Damián Bobadilla of Paraguay scored into his own goal, giving the USA the lead that helped them for the rest of the game.

One of the USA's newest team members, Folarin Balogun, making his World Cup debut, scored 2 points.

Even though the USA had a 3-point head start, at minute 71, Mauricio scored for Paraguay which put them back into the match.

The USA finished the game at minute 90+7 when Giovanni Reyna scored the final goal of the night with the assist of Alex Freeman.

Brazil's and Morocco's tied 1-1 in their first game.

The Brazilian team tied in its opening game of the World Cup

against Russia in 2018.

To start the game, Ismael Saibari of Morocco scored the first goal of the game at minute 21. At minute 32, Vinícius Júnior scored for Brazil, tying them 1-1.

Sweden vs. Tunisia was a very shocking game.

Sweden finished its first game of the World Cup with a 5-1 lead.

Immediately after the game started at minute 7, Sweden took the lead with Yasin Ayari scoring for them. As the game progressed, Alexander Isak scored the second goal for Sweden at minute 30, but don't assume that Tunisia had already given up.

At minute 43, Tunisia's Omar Rekik finally scored its first goal, which puts the score at 2-1.

Fourteen minutes into the second half of the game, Sweden scored their third goal of the game, which was scored by Viktor Gyökeres. A little later into the game at minute 84, Mattias Svanberg scored the 4th

goal for Sweden, although there was some controversy when this goal happened.

A few believed that Alexander Isak got a faint touch that played Svanberg outside which would result in the goal not counting.

After rerolling the video-

assisted referee review, the goal was ultimately given to Sweden, but that was not the end for them.

Finally at minute 90+5, Yasin Ayari scores the final goal of the night for Sweden which ends the game with the final score being 5-1.

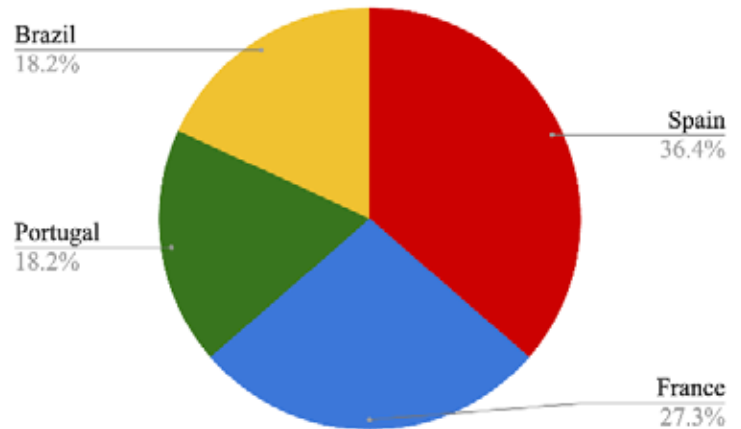


Chart By Alanna G.-J.

Since the FIFA World Cup has recently started, we've asked your peers which teams are most likely to make it to the final game of the season. Their options were England, France, Spain, Portugal, and Brazil. Here are the results.

## MTG Colors Help Determine Play Style

By Patrick M.

When someone learns Magic it can be beneficial to learn what each color stands for to make it easier to make a deck or to make it easier to find what they like playing.

There are 5 m colors in Magic (technically 6), and there are also 32 different colors of decks that a person would want to play based on their style. Each color represents different things. All of this information on colors has been gathered from Draftism.com, and the article is called 26 color combinations of Magic. Even though there are 26 color combos, there are still 5 mono colored deck possibilities, along with Colorless decks. The

meaning behind the mono colors were gathered from Proxyking.biz.

Starting off with the color Blue, this color represents learning, intelligence, and strategy. Blue is often referred to as the "no friends color," this is because Blue has a lot of counter spells, a lot of card draw, and is generally annoying to play against.

The next color is White, which stands for order, healing, and protection. White's specialty is life gain, enchantments, and the protection of your creatures, but just because white stands for order does not mean it is innately good.

Green is the most versatile color, it stands for nature, and has

lots of enchantments, creatures, and a mix of everything. This is also Green's weakness, it doesn't do anything particularly well.

Red stands for chaos, will power, and danger. Red has a lot of cards that remove other things, along with treasure and artifacts.

Black stands for necromancy and anarchy. Black uses life as a resource and your graveyard as a secondary hand, just like white remember, just because a card is Black does not mean it is bad or evil.

There is one last 'color' in magic, which is Colorless, this 'color' focuses on artifacts machines, there is nothing of major not from Colorless as a 'color'.

A person might want to try

out any color combination for many reasons, but most people tend to stick to a color combo because it resonates with them or matches their style. For example a chaotic person that wants to be a wild card more than likely will play Red. Someone who enjoys being in control and having lots of resources would play Blue. People who like building up their board and being protected while doing so would play White. A person who plays Green likes to have options, or just likes 'Big creatures do big numbers'. And finally a person who doesn't care what kind of sacrifices have to be made to win, will most likely play a Black deck. People can also combine different colors to get variation and new themes.

# Sweden Scores Best Goal of Week 1

By Cruz W.

The first week of the World Cup has been a thriller with many high scoring matches, amazing plays, and great teamwork. However, some moments deserve more attention. These are the best goal, player, and team of week one.

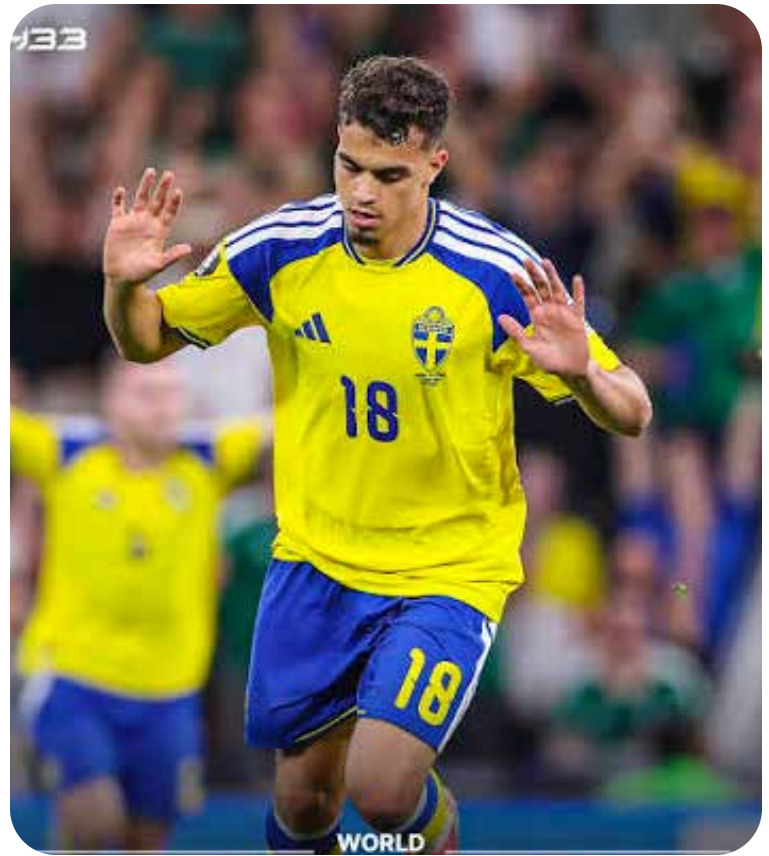
First, starting with the best goal of the week. The best goal of the week was a stunner from Yasin Ayari from Sweden in their match against Tunisia. His shot soared into the top corner after taking a power with his right foot. They went on to win the match 5-1. This is his second goal of the 2026 World Cup. This was an intense match and had other interesting goals, but this was above the rest. Information from FIFA's official website results.

Next, the best player of week 1 was Messi (Argentina)

with an amazing performance in Argentina's match versus Algeria, where he scored a hat trick (3 goals in one match). He then moved on to have a strong offense performance against Germany. Information from FIFA's official website results.

Finally, the best team of week one was France after they ran Senegal over; 3-1. They also have powerhouses such as Mbappe and Olise who dominate on the field. There are many teams, however, that have recently jumped many places up in the rankings such as Colombia moving up six spots and currently ranking 9th and Norway who moved up nine spots and now ranking 10th in the power ranking. Information from DAZN, a sports website.

This was an exciting start to the World Cup, and many look forward to what will come next week.



*Photo from 433's FaceBook*

Yasin Ayari after scoring the first goal for Sweden in their first game

## Best Week 2 Matches for WC

By Arav P.

Week 1's game between Germany and Curaçao was absolutely mind blowing because the score was 7-1 and it is crazy but the thing is the last time this score happened in a World Cup game it happened in Germany vs Brazil that was in 2014 and Germany had also won that Game and it is a record of a team having two 7-1 scored which is horrific. We started off with Felix Nmecha from Germany who began the game like sparks in the 6th minute. Comenencia from Curaçao scored their first goal, tying it in the 21st minute. Nico Schlotterback scores a brilliant header to put Germany in the lead at the 38th minute. Then Kai Havertz scored a penalty at the 45 minute mark giving them a 3-1 lead just before halftime. As

soon as the second half begins, Jamal Musiala scores a goal in a blink of an eye and crushes all hope for Curaçao. As the game continued, a goal by Nathaniel Brown in the 68th minute made it 5-1 making it impossible for Curaçao to win the game. Just as everybody thought there can't be more goals, Deniz Undav scores a magnificent goal to make it 6-1. Then Kai Havertz again scores his second goal in the 88th minute and confirms the win for Germany.

Argentina dominated their match against Algeria, securing a solid 3-0 victory. The game was truly carried by one of the greatest of all time, Lionel Messi, who scored a spectacular hat-trick. With these three goals, he took the lead for the Golden Boot and tied for 1st place in the all-time Men's World Cup scoring

record.

The game was shocking to many fans, as Portugal drew with DR Congo in a result that felt incredibly frustrating to watch the whole way through. As for the highlights, João Neves opened the scoring in the 6th minute. However, Yoane Wissa scored a magical goal to secure a draw for DR Congo, taking them to the top of the group table.



## GPGC Watches the World Cup

By Alanna G.-J.

Tuesday night after quiet hours, there was ruckus happening, and we were all wondering why and where.

Apparently at 9 p.m. on the dot, Juan G., AJ T., Cruz W., and Henry C. screamed for Colombia.

Although some of the other boys were knocking on the door to ask them to please be silent while celebrating, they didn't listen.

Counselor Abram Miller gave all four boys a 25 cent ticket. Three out of the 4 boys were willing to pay the ticket because they said it was worth it.

Henry contested his ticket in ticket court Thursday, and it was overturned.

# Franz Kafka's The Metamorphosis

By Saradha J.

Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis* follows Gregor Samsa, a traveling salesman who wakes in his room to discover that he has turned into a large beetle. His family tries the door several times, worried that Samsa is late to rise, and his boss visits to warn him of his risk of getting fired. Samsa panics, as he is the sole provider for his family. He calls out to reassure them and beg his boss for another chance, but nothing that comes out of his mouth resembles words. Upon opening the door after a great struggle to move around, Gregor finds both his boss and family aghast by his new appearance. They push him back into his room, and lock the door.

Throughout the novel, Gregor attempts to adapt. For meals, his sister brings him food although she is terrified of the new form that her brother has taken. For entertainment, he crawls up and down the walls. He spends a large portion of his time listening to his family talk beyond the door, and he learns that they have gone into poverty without him.

Eventually, his family grows tired of caring for him. His sister stops bringing large meals and cleaning up after him while his mother and father hold a mix of resentment

and terror towards him for "taking" their son and the financial stability he provided. By this point, Gregor has already been injured by his father for attempting to leave his room again, and his room is now filled with trash and unused furniture.

One evening, as Gregor's family has taken up hosting boarders to make additional money, one of the men in the living room, alarmed, notices his head poking through the doorway. Gregor hears his family comment bitterly about how much they've grown to resent Gregor's presence in the apartment before he returns to his room, and he passes away that night. Without him, his family can finally move forward.

*The Metamorphosis* was written with inspiration from Kafka's life, specifically relating to his rocky relationship with his father and his experiences as a greatly disabled minority. As a Jewish man living in Prague, a highly anti-semitic city, he likely experienced ostracization similar to that faced by insect-form Samsa. For his entire life, Kafka felt a sense of alienation and entrapment that was reflected in Samsa's character. This book is elegantly written, and Kafka's voice can be heard clearly through the way he writes about his character's struggles with his boss and

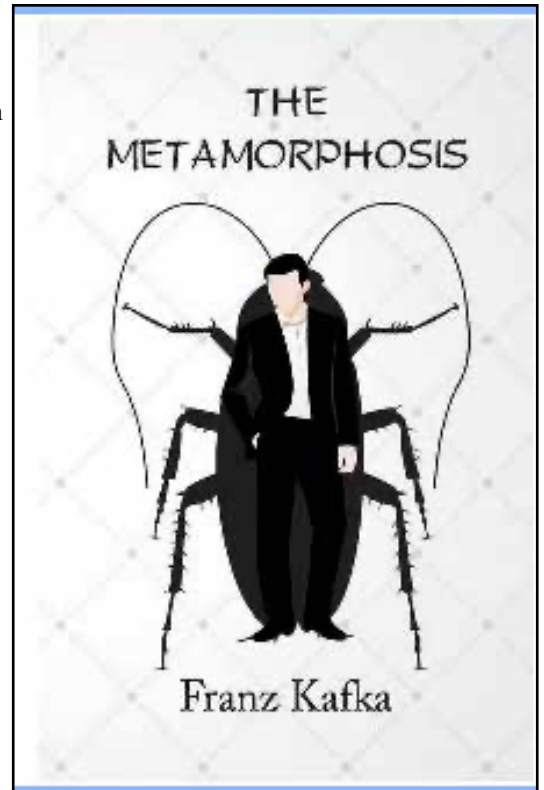


Photo from walmart.com

family. The overall novel can be understood as an allegory for a number of situations, but the strength of the emotions is ever present regardless of the interpretation.

## Dinosaur of the Week

By Lucas C.

The Pachycephalosaurus is a strange looking Dinosaur that lived 69-67 million years ago during the late Cretaceous period. It is best known for its domed head and serrated teeth, making it no surprise its scientific name means thick-headed lizard.

According to National Geographic Kids, the Pachycephalosaurus had a skull roughly 20 times thicker than the average dinosaur skull, which it used to ram each other in the side to compete for territory or mates.

We know the Pachycephalosaurus was a herbivore because of its flat teeth that would have

been most ideal for grinding down plants, but it also had the unique feature of containing teeth in its cheek that could have been used to grind down fruit.

The Pachycephalosaurus lived in modern day North America and Canada, and its fossils have been found in Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Alberta.

According to the Natural

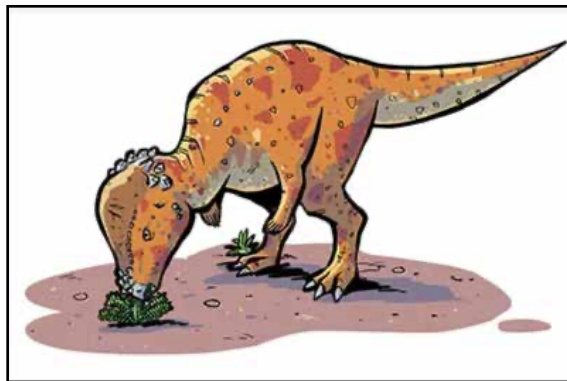


Photo from Natural History Museum U.K

History Museum of the U.K. The first recorded discovery of a Pachycephalosaurus was when an American fossil collector named Ferdinand Vandever Hayden found the first ever Pachycephalosaurus fragment around 1860.

## Weather: Heat and Sunny Skies

By Emma M.

There will be mostly cloudy skies to mostly sunny weather with a small chance of showers. There might be a few AM thunderstorms on Saturday and Sunday so don't get too excited for morning activities. There might also be a few showers during the night on Saturday just letting you know so don't go out without your rain gear. The temperature is around from the high 80s (85-89) to low 90s (90-93). The low will be in the mid to upper 70s (74-79). The humidity will be a bit high from 68% to 77% so it might feel a bit hotter than it really is so just to be warned.

# Art Prompts

By Lucas J. C.

**Weekly theme:  
People who use magic**

**Saturday**

Wizards

**Sunday**

Witches

**Monday**

Magicians

**Tuesday**

Alchemists

**Wednesday**

Shamans

**Thursday**

Cultists

**Friday**

Necromancers

# Word of the Week

By Henry C.

## Pandiculation

*The involuntary act of yawning and stretching when you wake up*

*"All the dication"*

-Juan G.

*"Something to do with history"*

-Andrew B.

*"Something to do with rotation"*

-Kenneth B.

*"When your pants turn into skin"*

-Jonah C.

*"A vibration sequence that goes in a circle"*

-Lydee F.

*"When your hands know far too many words"*

-Tori L.

# Seen and Heard

*"But bikinis look so good on me! They accentuate my curves."*

-Lucas C.

*"If I had to be homeless and pick a street, I'd choose Joe Dumars Drive."*

-Eleanor H.

*"Hot diggity damn."*

- Jack Vanchiere

*"Juan, if I choke I'm suing you."*

-Tori L.

*"It came out of your nose... It went on an adventure."*

-Tori L.

*"There's another one?"*

-Alanna G.-J.

*"Quote from 9/11."*

-Juan G. (In response)

*"You have Teleportation Sight."*

-Emery H.

*"Holy black."*

-Arav P., reaction to a cookie

*"I want to lick Joe Dumars Drive, it's my favorite."*

-AJ T.

*"I will draw you pregnant if you talk about it again."*

-Arya G.-J.

*"Do you think Martin Luther King was packing?"*

-'Mr. Big Dawg' Carson Savoie

*"That turtle is MASSIVE!"*

-Jonah C.

*"Here is a desk. Do you agree? Here is a desk...but INVERTED."*

-Dr. LaFleur

# Bepuzzlement

By Henry C.

## Riddles

Red coins weigh three blue coins, blue coins weigh four yellow coins, plus one green one, and green coins weigh two yellow coins. How many yellow coins are needed to be equal to the weight of one Red coin.

Every night I'm told what to do, and every morning I do what I'm told, and yet I can't escape your scold, what am I?

## Logic Puzzle

There are three chests, each containing gold, bronze, or silver. Each has a statement on it. If the chest contains gold, the statement is true, but if it contains bronze or silver, it is a lie.

Chest A says "Chest B contains silver coins," chest B says "Chest C contains gold coins," and chest C says "This chest contains bronze coins."

Which chest contains gold coins?

## Jokes of the Week

By AJ T.

A Mexican magician said he would disappear in three. "One, Two" and he was gone without a Tres.

Why couldn't the bicycle stand up? Because he was Two-Tired.

## Editorial Staff:

Lucas C.  
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Emma M.  
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Arav. P.  
AJ T.  
Cruz W.

