

The Mandolin

St. Francis Catholic High School

April 1, 2019

“Spread the Word.”

Issue 100

Last Edition

BY FRANCESCA CHANG '19 and JAHNAVI MEHTA '20

It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that we write to you, the students, faculty, and staff of St. Francis Catholic High School, that this edition will be *The Mandolin's* last edition. This decision has not been an easy one. However, while we have had a good run, we have peaked at our 100th edition and will no longer be publishing our beloved school newspaper.

We have greatly valued the opportunity of providing the St. Francis community with updates on current events, school news, and features. This year, we have covered some major stories, both domestically and internationally, including Brett Kavanaugh's controversial Supreme Court nomination, 2018's midterm results, the national rise of hate crimes, the government shutdown, the 2020 presidential candidates, and important school news events, such as Homecoming Week, SF Day, and academic teams. Although it has been fun keeping St. Francis informed on these events, *The Mandolin* has reached its end.

Now, some people might be thinking: “How will the students of St. Francis High School stay updated on current events?” Well, have no fear because effectively immediately, one lucky student will be chosen each week to run through the halls of our campus yelling the news and crucial information students need to know while simultaneously running around with an SFHS Troubies flag! Not only will the students of SF definitely hear the news because it is being yelled at them, but they will also be learning an important life skill: running and yelling at the same time. Multitasking is a very important skill to have in the workplace and this is the perfect way to gain experience! The Administration has decided that this is the best way to engage the students in lively discussions about the news while keeping up with the modern era. The written word is out, and the spoken word is in!

Upon this announcement, we feel that it is important that we take a look back at the history of this iconic newspaper. Gertrude Smith first started *The Mandolin* in 1837 with the help of the renowned author Charles Dickens. Their main method of communication was the newly-invented telegraph. The first edition took four years to complete in order to ensure optimal quality. She started the paper upon moving to California in her pursuit of a better life as well as the prospect of finding gold during the Gold Rush. Unfortunately, she was unable to find any gold, so she decided to pursue that next most lucrative business: the journalism industry. With plans to publish on the day that the first wagon train would have arrived in California on November 4, 1841, she quickly found success in this busi-

ness. What a memorable day to first publish her newspaper! After her death in 1901 at 104 years old, her daughter discovered that her legacy had been left to her.

After her death in 1901, *The Mandolin* underwent a long period of 39 years without any published editions. However, people did not forget about it; autobiographies of historical figures of the time described people on the streets making comments such as, “I hope Gertrude decides to publish again soon!” and, “It's been two years! I need to know what's going on in the world!”

Gertrude Smith's daughter, Alberta Smith, decided to honor her mother's wishes by transferring *The Mandolin* from local news of Sacramento to St. Francis Catholic High School. The first edition that was published was one that Gertrude Smith had created shortly before her death, and it was published on the first day of school in 1940. The reason that it was the first one that was published was that there wasn't yet any school news to cover and she wanted to do this in memoriam of her mother. The events that have taken place since 1940 have certainly kept the editors of *The Mandolin* busy on reporting on world news.

In the 1800s and early- to mid-1900s, a standard 8-page edition took about four years to complete and the help of Charles Dickens was vital. Now, it only takes about two hours.

With the money that the school will be saving from defunding *The Mandolin*, St. Francis will be able to invest more in a new program being implemented: funding for students to register for a class in which they will be able to learn how to become successful from being social media influencers. For more information on this new program, see page four.

To those who have read *The Mandolin*, we appreciate your support throughout the years! We would also like to thank those who took part in interviews and voted in polls; without you, we wouldn't have had certain articles published! We encourage you to continue supporting journalism by continuing to read the news and subscribing to newspapers to help them stay funded!



Charles Dickens pondering the future of *The Mandolin*.
PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES



Approximate photo of Gertrude Smith
PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

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North American United States and North Korean Union

BY FRANCESCA CHANG '19

As has been recently reported, the United States and North Korea have been discussing plans for their nuclear programs. On March 1, 2019, President Trump announced via Twitter, his favorite platform as we all know, that the United States and North Korea would be merging not only nuclear programs, but nations as well. Certainly, there are millions of questions that are being asked by citizens regarding how exactly this will work. Here are some answers:

Which country will I be a citizen of?

Technically, neither. The nations will be *fully* merging like history has never before seen. It'll be as if the United States and North Korea ceased to exist and a new nation was created. The United States will no longer be the United States in the same way that North Korea will no longer be North Korea. Both nations will now be known as The North American United States and North Korean

Union (NAUSNKU). Quite a long name, isn't it?

We all know about the high security and monitoring of citizens in North Korea. How will that affect the United States?

Well, the government has already announced that starting in September, they will be installing high-level surveillance systems. President Trump and Kim Jong Un have agreed that citizens of both countries should be on good terms, and therefore, Trump has decided that Americans will now be required to be in support of North Korea at all times. Trump promises Americans that they will learn to love Kim Jong Un just as much as he does.

How will our borders be affected?

Again, as we all know, Trump has been tirelessly fighting for his border wall. Well, as part of the conjoining of both nations, he'll be receiving it. In fact, he has plans to create a path specially designed for

Americans to travel from the U.S. to North Korea and Koreans to travel from North Korea to the U.S.

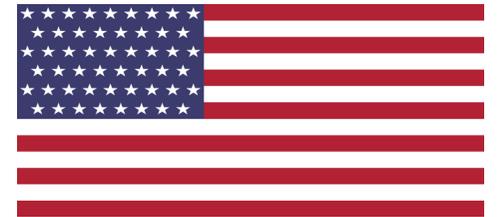
Is this constitutional?

Not really, but President Trump does not see that as a meaningful barrier. This has never happened in U.S. history. While the U.S. has current territories, this is an entirely different matter.

How exactly did Trump announce it?

On Twitter, he wrote, "PROUD to announce that the UNITED STATES and NORTH KOREA will be merging as countries! GLAD to have reached an agreement with their leader. Thank you Kim Jong Un, very cool! #MAGA! #NAUSNKU!!!"

We hope that this has helped to clarify at least some of your worries.



U.S. Flag

PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES



North Korean Flag

PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

Global Warming is Going to Kill Us in 10 Years

BY GRACE PAYNTER '20

Have you ever walked outside in the nice 110 degree Sacramento summer weather and thought, "Wow, it's nice today!" Thanks, Global Warming! Look like it's time to pack up and move to Antarctica, where the current weather is a shocking negative 61 degrees. What a drastic difference; we might freeze to death down there! Due to this lovely, horrible heat throughout California, CNN has come out and said, "Climate Change is killing people now." But I say, what does CNN know about climate change? Climate Change is just a hoax made up by the government to get more of our precious money through our taxes. Like those fires caused by warming of temperatures of only around 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit?

Shane Dawson said in one of his conspiracy theory videos that those fires were started by lasers that the government shot down from space because Donald Trump hated people in Hollywood. Climate Change has nothing to do with lasers, that's just politics and besides, it's not that bad if there are a few fires here and there. If we didn't, then there would be no firefighters.

Also, have you even gone outside recently? The Polar Vortex that just occurred solved all of our problems. No more droughts or anything because of all the water that just rained down over California, reaching record levels! If you're worried about it being too hot, have no fear, just head over to Tahoe for the weekend and cool down in the 36 feet of snowfall received in the last

couple months. There is a belief that Global Warming is killing reindeer in the North Pole, but reindeer aren't even real. They are just a made up animal to pull Santa Claus' sleigh at Christmas time; then again, Santa isn't even real, so no more problem there. Global Warming has also been said to be contributing to worldwide flooding because of the melting ice glaciers, but isn't rising water a good thing? With all the drought, don't we need more water for going to the beach in the summer and stuff? Scientists have come out and said that the carbon dioxide levels in the Earth's air right now is the highest it has ever been in the Earth's history. As in the highest it's ever been in the billion years the Earth has been around.

My argument: how can

scientists even know what has happened that long ago? There was no technology to record it, so there is no real proof that the level has spiked in that long period of time. And did you know that the last four years have been the hottest years on temperature? Trust me, it's going to make for a great tan this summer while you're at the beach with those beautiful high water levels.



Renowned conspiracy theorist, Shane Dawson.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

Finals Cancelled Due to a Lack of Interest

BY HAILEY KOPP '21

The students of St. Francis High School have all enjoyed final exams for years. Finals come with many essays and tests that all of the Troubies get excited for each semester. Troubies look forward to finals. It is the time of year where everyone can study until their eyes feel like they are going to fall out of their sockets and staying up so late that they become sleep deprived and roam the halls as Finals Zombies.

Most Troubies have, for the entirety of their school career, enjoyed final exams. Troubies have dedicated their everyday lives to maintaining good grades, and now they regret doing so because the SF Faculty would prefer students to devote their lives to doing things that matter. The faculty believes that they should start to take part in things that will open and expand their minds.

You may be wondering why the seemingly sudden shift in direction. Well, it turns out this is not a sudden shift: faculty and parents have been secretly meeting to discuss this approach to encouraging better health and wellness for students. AP Biology instructor, Mr. Griffin, said, "The faculty finally understands my method of teaching. The focus of education should be more on the everyday distractions of life and less on the information found in books. Things that we all will enjoy, like listening to music. Studies have shown that listening to music while studying can help maintain procrastination and have a calming effect. Therefore, the focus should be more on procrastination and

relaxation. There should be a lot less studying."

The SFHS administration suggests students should spend time finding things that will make them laugh. They have developed a list of activities to aid students in that effort. Activities that will enhance a student's life and sense of self-confidence, such as looking up memes. Searching for sarcastic and relatable memes can fill up time with joy and is significantly more important than cramming for a final exam. There are a variety of memes that can make you smile such as kitten or dog memes, and the always hilarious SpongeBob memes.

Let's face it, social media is a blessing. There is Instagram, Snapchat, and Tik Tok. These apps are our biggest source of procrastination, and everyone should be grateful for them. We have to check in and make updates continually. It has been said that if you are not on social media, you have no life. Ask yourselves, do you agree with that point of view? The general consensus amongst those in charge is that instead of studying for finals, students should be spending their time scrolling through their social media feeds for entertainment or spend time checking their emails. Social media is more important than education. It may not seem like checking emails is a "real" fun thing. We always have to check our emails to stay updated on assignments, the newest school events, and different service opportunities. School officials have determined that a significant portion of unproductive time can be spent on that activity alone.

Another point made by the SFHS administration is

that it is also important to consume your time by watching Youtube videos. Youtube has endless possibilities; for instance, viewers can watch music videos, makeup tutorials, and their favorite vloggers. It's also important to note that a good laugh can be had by watching prank videos and cute animal compilations. All of these videos require the full attention of the viewer, so there would be no time to study for finals.

Well-respected communications instructor, Karen Smith said, "Texting is an established distraction. It is essential to text for major portions of each day instead of studying for finals. That is why we have technology. I mean, why else would the technology developers make it so easy and accessible?"

I must confess as I write this article I am conflicted. I have always looked forward to finals, but the administrators and parents have raised some compelling points. Also, I and many others have no time for finals when we need to stay up to date on our favorite shows on Netflix. What is a better escape from studying than watching the fictional lives of others? With so many shows that are binge-worthy, from *The Office* to *Friends*, it is imperative that we catch up on all of our favorites. Okay, I am sold on the idea. Thank goodness finals have been cancelled!

Update on Cafeteria Cookies

BY FRANCESCA CHANG '19

As all Troubies know, the cafeteria's cookies are one of the many beloved perks of attending St. Francis. Students find themselves frequently purchasing them, oftentimes at lunch or after school. However, we are sad to announce that the rumors that you have heard around the campus are true: the cafeteria will no longer be selling chocolate chip cookies. This is due to an international shortage of chocolate chips that was recently announced by the Food and Drug Administration. The news was announced a week after it was also announced that Flamin' Hot Cheetos would no longer be sold, either, due to a worldwide company shortage. This also comes after a major price hike to cover the increased cost of chocolate chips because of the shortage, which left the cafeteria with an exponential decrease in the number of cookies being sold.

After learning that they would lose money after increasing the price of the cookies, it was decided that the sale of chocolate chip cookies altogether would be ended. The cookies will be replaced by a wide variety of selected vegetables, including cauliflower, carrots, and kale. Of course, those are everyone's favorite, right?

Students have been quick to start a petition titled "Bring Back Our Cookies!" Over 500 signatures have been collected and the number continues to grow. Unfortunately, not much can be done since the shortage is worldwide, and the cafeteria will nevertheless end the sales of chocolate chip cookies.

While administration has argued that the replacement of the cookies for vegetables will offer more sustainable and nutrient-packed food, students continue to champion to bring back their chocolate chip cookies. Marli Berry '20 commented, "The cafeteria's chocolate chip cookies were one of the biggest reasons that I came to SF!" Other students were quick to agree. Jenica Gospodnetich '19 said, "I'm really disappointed in this decision. I signed the petition right away!"

The situation has been used to market the salad bar to students more and, of course, the fruit cups. "Rather than eat a cookie, we encourage you to try a fruit cup filled with delicious, locally grown strawberries, grapes, cantaloupe, honeydew, and more great fruits! It's nature's candy!" a posted sign says. As to be expected, all Troubies will miss their beloved cookies. The student leading, Emma Olver

'21, the petition has stated, "We will continue to fight to bring back our cookies!" which earned her the cheers of those surrounding her.

On the bright side, housemade kale chips will be offered in place of the cookies! Make sure to stay tuned to learn more about the delicious kale chips coming to St.



Cafeteria plates will now be bereft of cookies.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

New SF Admissions Process

BY JAHNAVI MEHTA '20

Throughout the past few years, St. Francis High School has been slowly increasing the amount of students admitted into each incoming freshman class. Overtime, chaos will emerge as there will be no way to distinguish a future Troubie from a regular girl! Administration has agreed that this problem is escalating too quickly and must be addressed. After many, many discussions with students, staff, and even Chris Harrison, St. Francis High School will begin admitting students based on their performances in a reality TV Show mirrored after ABC's popular nighttime reality television show: *The Bachelor*.

Each season will last approximately one month and there will be a total of 38 girls selected to compete in a season. Instead of long stemmed red roses, teachers will hand out newly sharpened number two pencils! There will be only 30 pencils to hand out throughout each season. At the end of each week, 2 students will be sent to another school.

Like the women who compete in *The Bachelor*, contestants will live in a mansion type place: our school gym. They will stay there for the whole month and engage in activities including but not limited to: rigorous test taking, sitting quietly at Mass, showing up on time for class, and staying in uniform the whole season. These activities will help judges pick out the weakling from the crowd. Contestants will not only be judged on their conversational ability, but also how they handle being under pressure, how much drama they stir up (the more the better), and if they have the right qualities required for becoming a Troubie.



Colton Underwood from ABC's *The Bachelor*

The Chris Harrison counterpart at SF will be a committee of dedicated teachers who will undergo rigorous training as well as coaching from not only Chris Harrison, but previous Bachelor and Bachelorettes. Their training will include being flown to a remote part of the country where they will stay in hotel rooms for long periods of time watching previous seasons of the Bachelor and Bachelorette. They are not to be disturbed as they have a long, emotional journey ahead of them. There will also be a workshop available for them to learn how to correctly hand out pencils to the girls.

There will be a total of 7 seasons, requiring the admissions process to last around 7 months. At the end, the remaining 210 girls will receive a spot in the incoming freshman class. Their bravery and tireless efforts show their loyalty and that they truly are at St. Francis for the right reasons. You don't want to miss it!

PHOTO COURTESY OF ABC

Fashion Trends

BY AMBER GRUENWALD '19

Want to keep up with the latest fashion in a cheap and simple way? No need to fear, a new trend has emerged that makes it easy for anyone to look effortlessly stylish for next to nothing. With spring and summer soon approaching, this trend is a perfect way to bond with your friends and get a nice vacation glow! So, what is it? You've probably seen it all over social media and the news: the Goggle Tan. This trend is simple and effective. Follow our 4 Step process for the most effective Goggle Tan:

Step 1: Put on goggles. If you don't have any, sunglasses work just as well.

Step 2: Sit outside on a sunny day. Pro tip: Don't use sunblock if you want an extra crispy look.

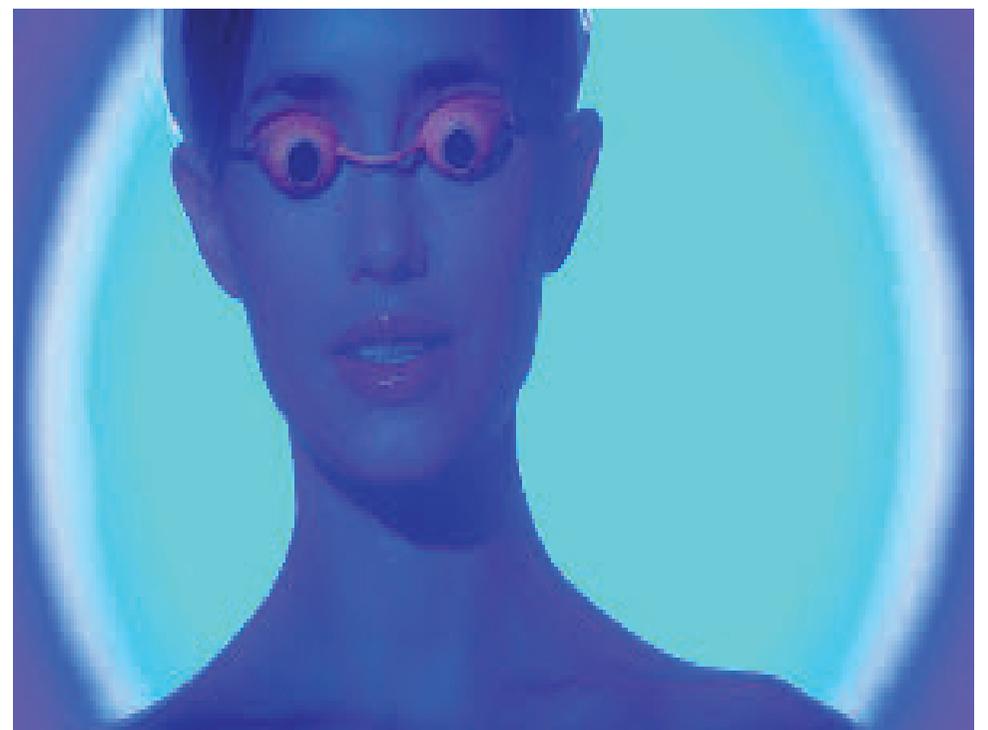
Step 3: After 3-8 hours get out of the sun and immediately take a shower. This will solidify the tan and leave your skin refreshed.

Step 4: Repeat as many times as necessary until you reach your desired tan.

And voila, you have a Goggle Tan. Results can last up to a year. Now you and your friends can look like the fashionistas you were always meant to be. refreshed.

Step 4: Repeat as many times as necessary until you reach your desired tan.

And voila, you have a Goggle Tan. Results can last up to a year. Now you and your friends can look like the fashionistas you were always meant to be.



Woman getting ready for her new tan.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

The Hunt for Hill

BY JAHNAVI MEHTA '20

You might be wondering where the 2016 Democratic Party Nominee is now? Maybe she is working on a game plan to run again in 2024, plotting the downfall of the current administration, or enjoying retirement with not a care in the world. Think again, thanks to one investigator, Rafe Degraw, and a technical analyst, Coop Dixon, they have recently tracked Hillary Rodham Clinton into the woods of Chappaqua, Westchester County, where she was last sighted being nice and taking pictures with people who then uploaded the pictures to their Facebook accounts. Their main goal is to find Hillary and thank her. They had no clue where she was until they found a woman who had recently spotted Hillary. The woman said that she saw Hillary moving through the woods and her immediate reaction was to follow her, so she did. They found a shoe print, size 6, with no heel. There was also a clear scent of white pant suit. Coincidence, I think not! It was in fact Hillary. They knew she was near, but could

not pinpoint her exact location. They decided to try a different tactic and communicate with her. They made a series of noises "Ha Ha Ha". After a couple tries, Hillary replied back. They could hear her but couldn't see her. So close yet so far. Since it was getting dark, they decided to try another tactic, they were going to get her to come to them. In the woods, they left her an article about the recount in Wisconsin, knowing that she would not be able to resist. They left the article on the edge of the woods and set a camera up facing it to catch her in the act. They waited and waited but she never showed up. They showed up the next day and made a startling discovery, the article had in fact been read. They knew this because in the bottom corner there was a little note that said "Thank you- H". Since it was their last day in Chappaqua, they decided to try one last crazy, out of this world idea. They went to Tuketo, a man known for being one with the trees. He has lived his whole life in these woods so the trees speak to him. He asked the trees, in a language unknown, where Hillary was. The trees told him that she was buying large red, white, and blue balloons at a lo-

cal party supply store. Their journey will not end here, they will not rest until they find Hillary, and thank her for trying to break that glass ceiling.



Hillary and her husband enjoying red balloons!
PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

Instant Cookies

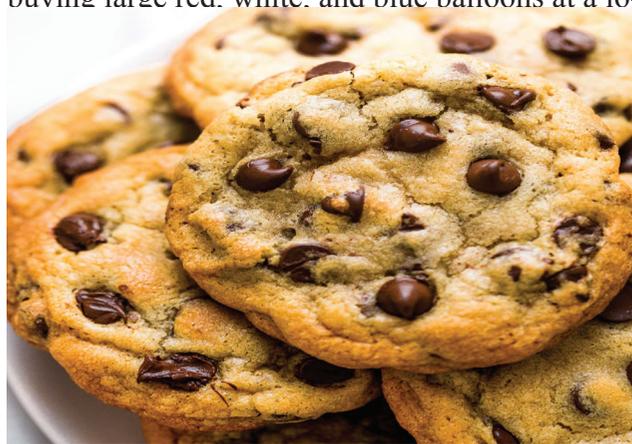
BY HAILEY KOPP '21

That's right! Your eyes have not deceived you. The makers of *Instant Water* are now bringing you *Instant Cookies*! Bert Smithol has solved another one of our problems. There's no more of having midday cravings that you can't satisfy. With *Instant Cookies*, you can have a warm and tasty chocolate chip cookie wherever and whenever you go!

With Bert Smithol's secret technology made with the consultation of a NASA engineer, he has created a thermal pouch that allows you to have a warm chocolate chip cookie whenever you desire. It's very simple! All you need to do is place a cookie in your thermodynamic pouch the night before. The next day, you open your high-tech pouch and you have a delectable snack at your disposal.

"I have always wanted to use my knowledge to better the everyday lives of people," said Smithol. "This product can do just that and can bring joy to the young and the old!"

You can purchase this amazing product for the very low price of \$99.95 or you can pay five monthly installments of \$19.99! You won't want to miss this product. Buy your *Instant Cookies* pouch now so you can have a delicious and mouthwatering cookie anytime.



Enjoy some delicious *Instant Chocolate Chip Cookies* alongside a glass of *Instant Water*!

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

Instant Water

BY HAILEY KOPP '21

Have you ever been standing in line and get overwhelmingly thirsty? Do you ever wish you could just carry a drink with you wherever you go? Then *Instant Water* is just for you!

The newest invention, *Instant Water*--created by Bert Smithol--is coming to stores near you. With his genius, Smithol has solved everyone's problems. *Instant Water* comes in a flexible and mobile pouch that you can take with you anywhere by buttoning it to the front of your shirt. All you have to do is add water to your pouch and you have a thirst quenching drink right in front of you!

Smithol said, "I created *Instant Water* so that people would have one less thing to worry about. They can have a drink wherever they go and it's right in their pocket."

So get your *Instant Water* pouch for only \$35.87! If you buy a second pouch, you get a third pouch in any color you like for free. Your third pouch can come in red, blue, or brown. You don't want to miss this special offer. Look in your local stores now for *Instant Water*!

Ice Cream Tacos

BY JAHNAVI MEHTA '20



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

Ingredients:

- ½ cup of packed brown sugar
- ⅓ cup of melted butter
- ¼ cup of honey
- ¾ cup of all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon of water
- 4 drops of green food coloring
- 1 cup of sweetened shredded coconut
- ½ gallon of chocolate ice cream
- 1 cup of whipped cream
- Red, orange, and yellow M&M minis

Directions:

1. Using a pencil, draw two 3-in. circles on a sheet of parchment paper. Place paper, pencil mark side down, on a baking sheet; set aside.
2. In a large bowl, beat the brown sugar, butter and honey until blended. Add flour; mix well (batter will be thick).
3. Next, spread 1 tablespoon of batter over each circle prepared in step 1.
4. Bake at 350° for 6-7 minutes or until golden brown. Cool for 2 minutes. Loosen each cookie and curl around a rolling pin to form a taco shell. Cool completely before removing to a wire rack. Repeat with remaining batter.
5. In a small resealable plastic bag, combine water and food coloring; add coconut. Seal bag and shake to tint. Fill taco shells with ice cream
6. Garnish with whipped topping, coconut and M&M's!

Source: <https://www.tasteofhome.com/collection/creative-recipes-for-april-fools-day/>

Popcorn Cupcakes

BY JAHNAVI MEHTA '20



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

Ingredients:

- Mini marshmallows
- Vanilla frosting
- Yellow cupcakes
- Yellow food coloring
- Popcorn wrappers

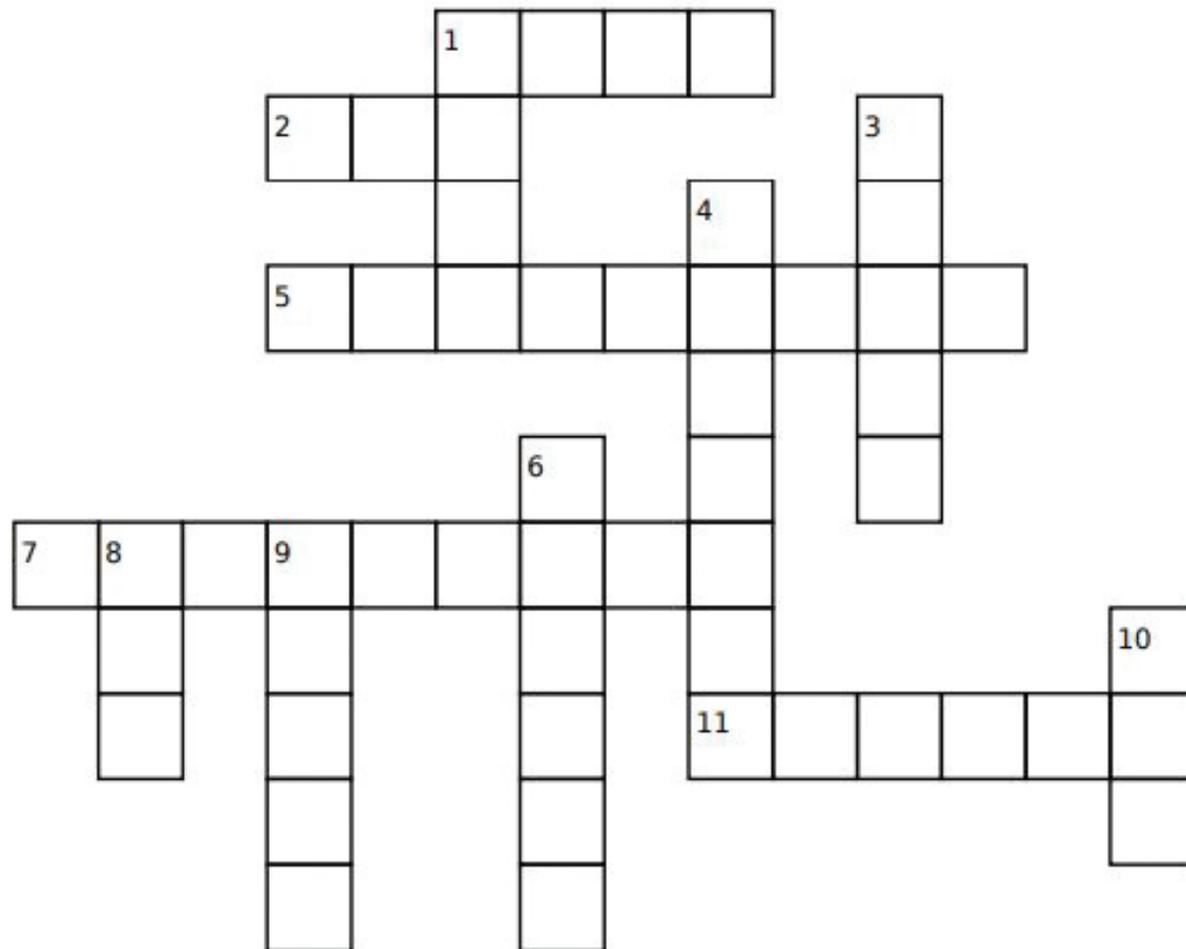
Directions:

1. Make yellow cupcakes with vanilla frosting on top.
2. Taking the mini marshmallows, cut them partially with a clean pair of scissors. With the second cut, criss-cross the first cut to make it look like a popcorn kernel.
3. Wrap the cupcakes with the popcorn wrappers.
4. After the cupcakes are wrapped, sprinkle the marshmallows on top to cover the frosting
5. Lastly, paint the yellow food coloring on the marshmallows to make it appear like butter.

Source: <http://www.acasarella.net/2013/02/popcorn-cupcakes.html>

April Fools!

Crossword Puzzle



DOWN

1. 40-day commemoration of Jesus' resurrection
3. Easter mascot
4. April showers bring May _____.
6. What you use to carry eggs
8. A bunny walk, but she can ____.
9. A tasty treat you may find in Easter eggs
10. Which came first: the chicken or the ____?

ACROSS

1. A baby sheep
2. Used to color eggs
5. Name for a newly hatched bird
7. Comes from the Cacao tree
11. April's season