

# *Pleasant Valley Newsletter*

## *Memorial Day Weekend*

by: Amelia Glasgow

Memorial Day is the day that we celebrate those who died serving actively in the military. It is traditionally observed on the last Monday in May. Memorial Day was first celebrated on May 30th, 1886. Memorial Day was originally made to commemorate the sacrifices of the people who served in the Civil War, and it was called Decoration Day. Memorial Day has been celebrated for more than a century.

One of the Memorial Day traditions is for people to decorate veteran's graves with flowers, wreaths and flags. During the first commemoration, the former Union General and sitting Ohio Congressman, James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery. After the speech, more than 5,000 participants helped decorate more than 20,000 Union graves. They also decorated Confederate soldiers' graves. Memorial Day has been celebrated for over 154 years.

There are many things you can do to celebrate Memorial Day today. One way you can celebrate is by supporting veteran owned businesses. Another way you can celebrate is by watching the Memorial Day concert. You can also make a Memorial Day poppy. The red poppy represents remembrance and death. You can do this by getting red and black tissue paper. Next, you need to get a flower punch. Finally you need a stapler, pin bar back, and glue.

Using your punch, cut 6 red flowers and 2 black flowers. Stack all of the layers together, with the red on the bottom and the black on the top. Staple in the center of your layers of petals. Starting with the black, once everything is fluffed, go back to the black layers. Crumple them tight into the center. Add a pin bar back with a little glue, and fasten to your shirt or lapel with a straight pin.



Sources:

<https://www.pbs.org/national-memorial-day-concert/memorial-day/history/#:~:text=It%20was%20first%20widely%20observed,national%20commemoration%2C%20former%20Union%20Gen.>  
<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/a32389447/memorial-day-facts/>  
<https://heyletsmakestuff.com/tissue-paper-poppy-pin/>

# 8th Grade Survey

by Arianna Dunigan and Aislynn Moran



We decided to give the 8th graders a survey as they are about to go to high school. We received a lot of answers, and these are the results.

The 8th graders are about to go on to high school, and they have mixed opinions on it. Most are excited to leave middle school for a multitude of reasons including greater opportunities in high school. Most wanted to join new clubs and continue their favorite sports. Some just believe that they are done with middle school, and are ready to move on. A lot of people are looking forward to meeting new people and making new friends. Most people really enjoyed their time here at Pleasant Valley, but are excited to leave. However, a few students are not as excited to leave middle school due to missing fellow students and staff members. They have good memories here, and aren't ready to leave them behind.

Many students are excited for the opportunity to learn a new language in high school. At Limestone, there are only two different language classes you can take: Spanish and French. Most of our 8th graders are ready to learn Spanish. In America, people speak Spanish far more often than they speak French. Because of that, it is incredibly useful while in the U.S. and when traveling. Others want to take French because it's complex, and they can learn to talk to others in different countries like France, Canada, and Belgium.

All of us enjoy food so we decided to ask the 8th graders for their favorites! The 8th graders favorite fast food chain is Chick-Fil-A. McDonalds came 2nd, and in third place is Chipotle. However, there was a big difference between Chipotle and McDonalds.

Overall, 8th grade is ready to go on in high school, and make their dreams come true.

*The 8th grade promotion ceremony will be held at the Pleasant Valley Intermediate School gym at 7:00 on Thursday, May 26th, 2022. The doors will open at 6:30.*



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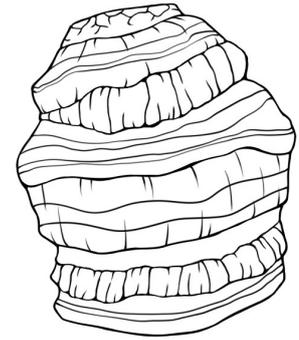
## *The Agarikon Mushroom*

by George Smith

The Agarikon Mushroom (*Laricifomes Officinalis*) is a fungus native to Europe, Asia, North America, and Morocco. Agarikon Mushrooms feed on dying wood and grow in a large beehive shape.

The Agarikon Mushroom has been used for its medicinal properties for thousands of years. It is most commonly used as an anti-inflammatory, but it has also been known to reduce spread of the bird flu, swine flu, and cowpox viruses. The Agarikon Mushroom gets its healing properties from a compound called agaric acid, which can also be made in a lab.

The life span of the Agarikon Mushroom is 75 years. They live in older forests; however, due to deforestation the Agarikon Mushroom is becoming increasingly harder to find.



**Sources:**

<https://www.forestfloornarrative.com/blog/2018/4/20/fungi-friday-the-mighty-agarikon-laricifomes-officinalis>

<https://www.ellenkingrice.com/post/agarikon-king-of-the-medicinal-mushrooms>

## *Movie Review: Turning Red*

by Savannah Ward



**Directed by: Domee Shi**

**Savannahs' Rating:**



“Turning Red” is a movie about a girl named Mia. She turns 13 and starts making her own choices and struggles with following her mother's directions. When she gets upset, she turns into a big red panda!

The movie shows her life with her best friends: Miriam, Priya, and Abby. They love a boy band called 4 Town. Mia also struggles with connecting to her family in middle school, and faces challenges with them. In the end, they overcome their differences and work together to make amends.

I think that you should watch it because it is a movie of reality and conflict.

## At Home Summer Snacks

by Kyli Pearson

### TRASH BROWNIES

#### Ingredients:

- 1 box of brownie mix plus ingredients that are on the box
- 12 oreos
- ½ cup chopped mini reese's peanut butter chips (Or any substitute)
- ½ cup crushed pretzels
- ½ cup crushed potato chips
- ½ cup mini marshmallows
- ¼ cup of m&ms

#### Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line a 9" x 13" baking pan with parchment paper and grease with cooking spray.
2. Prepare brownie mix according to package directions, then pour into the prepared pan.
3. Top brownies with Oreos, Reese's, pretzels, potato chips, marshmallows, and M&M's.
4. Bake until a toothpick can be inserted into the center and comes out with a few moist crumbs (about 30 minutes). Let cool before removing from the pan.



### HOMEMADE FRUIT SNACKS

#### Materials:

- Blender
- Fruit Snacks Molds
- Measuring Spoons
- Measuring Cups
- Spatula

#### Ingredients:

##### Green:

- 1 cup of green grapes
- ¼ cup of spinach

##### Red:

- 1 cup of diced strawberries
- ¼ cup of beets

##### Orange:

- 1 cup of peaches chopped
- ¼ of carrots

##### Blue/Purple

- 1 cup of blueberries
- ¼ of zucchini



#### Ingredients Continued:

- 1 cup of chopped fruit
- ¼ cup of chopped or peeled vegetables
- ¼ to ½ cup of pure apple juice (No sugar added)
- 2 TBS of raw honey
- ¼ tsp of pure vanilla extract
- 3 TBS of gelatin

## *At Home Summer Snacks Continued*

by Kyli Pearson

### HOMEMADE FRUIT SNACKS

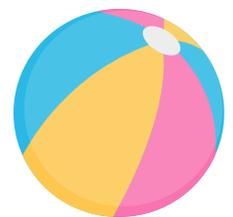
#### Directions:

1. Place silicone molds on a large baking sheet or line an 8x8' square dish with wax paper and lightly grease, and set aside.
2. Place fruit, vegetable and ¼ cup apple juice in the container of your blender and secure the lid.
3. Turn the machine on, and slowly increase the speed to high. Blend until mixture is smooth. (add more juice 1 TBS at a time if necessary, until the mixture reaches a smooth consistency).
4. Add honey and vanilla, and blend until just combined.
5. Taste mixture and add more honey if desired, blending until it's completely combined.
6. Transfer mixture to a small saucepan and whisk in gelatin.
7. Heat on medium heat until gelatin is dissolved and mixture is no longer grainy when touched (about 3 minutes). Make sure it does not boil.
8. Using a dropper, fill the silicone molds. Or pour your mixture into your prepared baking pan.
9. Transfer to the refrigerator to set for at least 2 hours.
10. Once set, remove from molds and enjoy. These homemade fruit snacks can be stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to one week!

## *5 Activities To Do Over Spring Break*

by Halleigh Hines

1. You can go swimming in Peoria. Places like the RiverPlex, Central Pool Park, and Limestone Community Pool are great places to go swimming.
2. You can stay the night at a friend's house. Some things you can do at your friend's house is have a pillow fight, make cookies, or play video games.
3. You can do some crafts or make some paintings. Here are some examples of crafts you can do: felt flower bookmarks, pour painted flower pots, or DIY sidewalk chalk paint. You can find the directions for these crafts and more online.
4. You can go outside, go for a walk, or go to the park. Some parks include: Alpha Park, Becker Park, or Laura Bradley Park are great places to spend time outside.
5. You can decide to start a summer sport like softball, volleyball, or basketball. Highschool's such as Limestone and community centers such as The Peoria Park District offer great summer programs for these sports and many other activities.



# Puzzles and Riddles

by Elizabeth Lunsford

## SUMMER WORD SEARCH

F	H	G	J	J	Q	E	X	I	E	H	T	X	J	E	SUMMER
G	R	I	L	L	P	L	C	C	S	S	O	B	J	Q	WATER
V	A	U	F	H	Y	C	I	B	P	P	W	M	P	X	POPSICLE
B	R	R	Z	E	E	I	C	R	E	M	M	U	S	T	ICE
N	A	E	V	U	X	S	Q	S	V	L	W	V	B	F	FLOWER
E	E	R	T	D	R	P	Z	C	P	Q	J	L	I	N	GREEN
L	Q	G	B	A	X	O	F	L	O	W	E	R	K	U	BIKES
P	X	M	G	E	W	P	F	U	E	J	F	Z	E	S	FRIENDS
V	O	C	W	U	C	R	Q	D	G	C	Y	N	S	B	BRIGHT
E	Y	F	J	M	I	U	I	Z	F	S	B	X	N	G	HOT
R	C	W	G	E	P	S	E	Z	A	M	A	Z	H	T	SUN
Q	H	M	N	R	T	T	B	P	C	U	Y	U	A	K	OUTSIDE
O	R	D	F	U	E	L	O	X	E	W	Z	A	P	W	GRILL
J	S	F	O	A	R	E	T	H	G	I	R	B	P	V	BARBECUE
H	I	F	W	B	P	S	N	C	I	Z	G	M	Y	D	HAPPY

## JOKES/RIDDLES

Why did the M&M go to school?

*Because he wanted to be a smartie!*

What's the best way to throw a birthday party on Mars?

*You planet!*

.....

Knock Knock!

*Who's there?*

A broken pencil!

*A broken pencil who?*

Neverminded...it's pointless!

## SUMMER CROSSWORD

**Across:**

- 2. green floor
- 5. color circle
- 7. the opposite of inside
- 8. read under
- 9. do in pool
- 10. thing with wheels

**Down:**

- 1. nice person
- 3. sleeveless shirt
- 4. sniff
- 6. frozen stick

