

Northwestern Middle School  
**NORTHWESTERN MONTHLY**

Post-January 2022 Edition

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# January Editorial

This editorial is from co-editor Hunter Davis

On any given day, a person will experience any things vying for their attention. Billboards, advertisements, TikToks, text messages, push notifications, ring, ding ding ding, ring. They all want you to listen to them. We also pick up information from sources that try a little less hard, books, movies, TV shows. They lack the snap response and ending of a TikTok or a short, and are still popular forms of entertainment. The difference here is patience, at what point should the consumer expect to be engrossed, should their attention be grabbed. That is for us to decide, is it a time for us to do a slow burn book reading, or to quickly fire through TikToks. We all have numerous taps for information, and we choose to spend our days with different ones open.

Pieces of media that seek to grab our attention and dispense information quickly are things such as short videos. The benefit of watching something like this is that you can get through them in a short amount of time, and be entertained throughout. The drawback is the fact that it shortens our attention span, and teaches us to subconsciously expect and want those bite-sized pieces. Despite that, I'm still quite the fan of TikToks, and those quick bits myself. Watching one can be the best way to make the most of those few free moments.

The vast majority of shows, movies, and games fall into the middle. They want to keep a consumer watching and listening, but are willing to sacrifice interest and

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rapt attention for worldbuilding, or a long panning shot. The best creators of these pieces know exactly how to draw an audience member in, and to keep them invested and interested. The difference between this and the aforementioned shorts is that these will require a forward cost of time and sometimes money to participate in. You have to drive to a movie, you have to boot up a game, and you have to navigate a show. While some mobile apps can cut down on these times, it rarely approaches the speed at which you can understand and be entertained by a TikTok. I enjoy games immensely, and they often give the best return of investment on my time. Exciting matches, overarching stories, fast paced battles, are all things I enjoy about gaming.

The most exceptional works are those that, as is necessary, will seek the consumer's attention, but are willing to require incredible patience, especially in our world of shortening attention spans. The most predominant of these are books, but articles and most written works also fall into this category. I love reading, and find it to be a great way to spend my nights. It's no coincidence that books are a common bedside item. The slower pace naturally leads into sleep, and can even put some to sleep. I wish this were the case for me, but I still find plenty of joy in reading a book before I try to fall asleep. After repeatedly getting notifications and flipping through apps, books help me slow down and ground myself back into the world.

In short, our world is encouraging us to move quicker, think shorter, and watch less longer. By writing this, I wanted to summarize what I felt about this world. I'd like to thank my cousin for such a fantastic idea, and keep your eyes peeled for a future revised version of this. I have more to say.

-Hunter Davis

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# January Crossword Puzzle

q l m x y o u x q h f c f r v  
x l p v u z s r a a k o i n g  
k w g q f t j v v v k l m o l  
f s s n o w f l a k e d s e o  
e i f r o s t m p h n c t t v  
h i r c j p t e k c a j x a e  
w i f e y a v r o r s e a l s  
t u l v p g n r f w y n s o r  
e f j r k l e u e w a x u c h  
d i r z e l a a a m f o w o f  
z l h u c t t c w r c d o h q  
d k r i n e n o e c y x n c h  
s p c k r p n i u p b w s t h  
m i o u k s s j w l y s w o e  
z g f r k x t j a e z b m h l

cold	fireplace	frost
gloves	hot chocolate	icicle
jacket	january	milk
scarf	snow	snowflake
snowman	sweater	winter

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## Fun January Poll

By: Lily Hebert

## New Years Resolution Poll

By: Sarah Netto

## Winter Break Poll

By: Kaylee Kim

### **FANTASTIC ADVENTURE BOOK SERIES 100% READ (KM JAN)**

Ok so a few months ago, I started this based book series called Ranger's Apprentice. It's a very good series. It is set back like in the Dark Ages, where there are kings and queens and stuff and perhaps strange phenomenons such as idk, maybe ghosts. The series is written by John Flanagan, who is old but very smart. There are many side series from Ranger's Apprentice, such as the sequel series, Ranger's Apprentice: The Royal Ranger. The first series has 10 books. The latter is what the author is writing right now. The newest book in the Royal Ranger series is Escape from Falasie, which is book 5. There is also a side series in the same universe, which is called Brotherband, which is like a Viking ripoff but is very good. The first series surrounds an orphan named Will, who doesn't know his parents cuz they died XD, but he has talents, talents that caught the attention of Halt, a ranger. A ranger is like a person who shoots a bow and rides horsey and very surreptitious. He trains and does stuff for 10 books. Ok this is a very good book, read it or be bored for the rest of your life BYE!

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# Sudoku

By: Yusra Mohammed

7	8	2	6	1		9		5
5	6		9	4	2	8		3
					7	2		1
	7	6	4		5			
3							2	
			3	6		5		
6	1					7	9	
	2	3		9			5	
					4	6		

## How to play

The goal of sudoku is to complete a 9x9 grid with numbers so that each column, row, and 3x3 grid have the numbers 1-9. At the start, the 9x9 grid will have some squares filled in. The goal is to try to fill in the missing numbers and complete the grid. A row, column, and 3x3 grid can only use numbers 1-9 once. So, if a row has a number in it, it can't be used again in that row, even in another column or 3x3 grid. Good luck!

For more info check out... [sudoku.com](https://www.sudoku.com) (inspo)

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# Shadows Amidst Snowstorms

By Rebecca Gee

On the snow-capped mountains of Dragonspine a pair can be seen walking in the snow. They were planning on surprising their friend Felix, an Alchemist from the city, Mondstadt (Mond-stat) “Do you think he will be surprised to see us, Alex?” A girl asks him. “We didn’t tell him we would be coming, so most likely Penny” The girl named Penny responds, “You’re probably right.” After walking a little more, they see a small camp in the distance and start speeding up. Once they arrive, they see Felix standing there and after looking past him they see that his camp had been wrecked. “What happened?!” Alex yells running up to him with Penny following. “Oh, Alex, Penny?” he says surprised to see them and continues, “Well, it appears a thief broke in because some of my alchemy notes are missing.” “Are they valuable?” Penny asks. “They are just records of some of my experiments on Dragonspine, so not too important but I would like them back,” Felix said. “Fortunately, I discovered some tracks not too long before you appeared and was about to follow them.” “Well, we’re coming with you because you’re our friend so we can’t let you go alone,” Penny says passionately. Felix looks surprised at this before saying, “Thank you, but before we leave, I have something to tell you.” Alex and Penny look at him confused and followed him back to the camp, they cleaned up a little and Felix began to speak, “I know I have a lot of secrets, some of which I have been meaning to share with you.” He spoke. Alex and Penny were silent waiting for him to continue,

“I am a synthetic human being... a human forged by human hand. The one who created me, my mother and teacher’s name is Gold- a researcher from the nation Khaenri’ah (Khan-ri-ah).” Alex and Penny were taken aback by the sudden revelation, “A synthetic human!? What the... how the heck does that work?” Penny shouted very confusedly, and Felix began to speak again, “When the pinnacle of attainment in alchemy is combined with unimaginably vast learning... the apex achievement is the creation of human life.” he explained. “Also, when you say Khaenri’ah, do you mean... the Khaenri’ah that was destroyed 500 years ago?” Penny asked again, “Yes; I am indeed somewhat older than my appearance might suggest. But when I came into being Khaenri’ah had already been destroyed. I have no memories of it.” Felix said shaking his head and continued, “My master raised me and taught me everything. Like her, I am a pure alchemist. I live for academic knowledge. Nationality and identity are not what ultimately defines us.” He then turned to Alex and asked, “Alex, what is your general feeling toward Dragonspine? You’ve visited numerous times now. Would you say it’s a cold, eerie, and melancholy place?” Alex didn’t say anything, not knowing how to answer, but before he could

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respond Felix spoke again, "Gold created two miraculous beings. One is me, and the other is the venomous dragon, Durin, who died here." "Durin!? So that makes you guys... brothers?" Penny shouted again confused. "As sons of Gold, Durin and I are indeed inextricably linked to one another. The phenomenon of our creation defies definition within the scope of a typical human worldview, but if we may so tentatively call it "birth" ... then yes - we by extension, are family." Felix finishes. "Wow that was a lot to take in." Penny says still shocked, "I'm sorry for not saying so earlier." Felix apologized, "It's fine." Alex said smiling at him making Felix smile in return, "Let's get going now, time to catch that thief!" Penny said excitedly and began running towards the area Felix told them he found tracks.

"I didn't have much time to look at them before because you two showed up but upon closer inspection the tracks seem to be fresh, so it hasn't been too long since they made their escape." Felix tells Alex and Penny, and they follow the tracks for a while until they come to an end. "The trail ends here." Felix says puzzled before spotting three familiar figures up ahead. "Oh, hey it's Elizabeth, Amber, and Bennett!" Penny says excitedly before running up to the trio. "Penny, Alex what are you doing here?" Amber questions before seeing Felix. "You!?" Elizabeth yells walking up to Felix, "Felix! Why did you attack us earlier?!" Elizabeth questions. "What do you mean?" Penny asks Elizabeth. She replies saying, "Well, when we were planning on going down the mountain Felix here suddenly showed up and attacked us!" Elizabeth yells "Elizabeth! Calm down!" Amber says and rushes to Elizabeth with Bennett following. "Felix, what the devil do you think you were doing attacking us like that!?" Elizabeth questions Felix once again. Felix says nothing for a while before quietly saying, "Quite amusing." Elizabeth got even angrier at this comment, "What's so amusing?!" After a pause Felix looks at her, "It would seem there is someone or something that is impersonating me." He says to a confused Elizabeth. "He's right, he couldn't have attacked you because he's been with me and Penny for a long time." Alex chimes in defending Felix.

Elizabeth still looks suspicious but says, "fine, I will trust your word, only because it's you." And stops questioning Felix. "Thank god you're here, we've been stuck on this mountain forever." Bennett says, chiming into the conversation. "If you would like, you are free to stop and rest at my camp." Felix suggests and Bennett says, "Wow really! Thanks Felix, who knew we would get this lucky?" and happily follows Felix towards his camp and everyone follows suit. After they arrived, they ate and rested up before getting ready to set foot down the mountain the next morning, "hey Felix?" Alex asks Felix as everyone is getting ready to leave. "What is it?" Felix turns around towards Alex. "Didn't you want to find the person who stole your notes?" he says questioningly. "Well yes, I still want to find them but-" he stopped mid-sentence and glanced down at a rock that fell



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into his path before looking further up the mountain and shouted, "Oh no... avalanche!" That's when everyone noticed the avalanche quickly approaching. "Look out!" Bennett shouts at the others and Elizabeth quickly grabs Amber, pulling her away. Bennett then lost his footing and fell off the cliff, he yelled as he began to fall, and Felix jumped after him before they both fell off the cliff. Alex tried to go after them, but Elizabeth grabbed his wrist and led him away with Amber following.

After it was over, they all ran to the edge of the cliff, "They fell off, we need to go help them!" Amber cried out in distress, "I know they are both robust enough to survive the fall, but if they got knocked unconscious by a rock and are lying out in the cold, they need our help." Elizabeth says sternly. Amber and Alex nod and they all run down the cliff where Bennett and Felix fell. "Bennett! Felix! Where are you, call if you can hear me!" Amber shouted and started looking around. "Is that you guys?" they heard a familiar voice in the distance, "Bennett!" Amber shouted and ran towards him. "Are you okay?" She asked worriedly, "Nothing major, just a little banged up is all." He replied to reassure her. "But..." he started and looked at the group before continuing, "Where is Felix? I remember he jumped after me." "We haven't seen him since we came down here." Elizabeth said, "Let's split up and look around." Alex suggested. The others nodded their heads and split up to look for Felix, after an unsuccessful search they met up again. "No luck." Amber said, "Where could he have gone?" Penny asks before they all hear someone, "Everyone!" they turned their heads to see Felix walking up to them, "Are you hurt at all?" Alex asks, "Nothing major." he replies, "I'm sorry guys, I've always had awful luck, this must have happened because of me." Bennett said dejectedly as he hung his head, "Don't say that Bennett, avalanches are part of the territory on this mountain, it's not your fault, it was just an unfortunate accident." Amber said to comfort Bennett, "But was it really an accident?" Alex thought to himself.

"From our current position there are two paths we can take, one is the safer route that is long and the second is the shorter route that is a little more dangerous and since Bennett may be injured, it would probably be best to go down the shorter path to get back to the camp as soon as possible." Felix then started walking away from the group and led them down the path he recommended while everyone followed behind him. After a bit of walking Elizabeth says, "I think we should take a break, Amber and Bennett don't seem to be feeling well." "Huh?" Amber says confused, "Don't think I didn't notice you swaying a little earlier." Elizabeth noted making Amber sheepishly laugh and sat over by a rock nearby. "I could use a break too." Penny says and runs over to where Amber and Bennett were." Alex was about to walk over when Elizabeth suddenly said, "Alex, may I speak to you for a bit?" "Sure, what's up?" Alex replies and walks a little bit away from the others. "I know you could feel it too earlier, something was off." Elizabeth explains, "Yeah I felt

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something was off and I may have an idea but..." Alex trails off glancing in Felix' direction before turning back to Elizabeth. "I know it would be rude to speculate out loud but, you're thinking what I'm thinking right?" Alex nods. A small smirk can be seen on Felix' face "Alex... I think"

Elizabeth didn't get to finish her sentence before Alex shouted, "Look out!" and pushed her out of the way as Felix pulled out a sword and suddenly attacked them. Alex did his best fending off the surprise attack with his own sword, but Felix found an opening and was about to deal a blow to Alex before Elizabeth stepped in front of him and deflected his attack with her own claymore and shattered the ice shield he made. Felix, a split second later jumps up into the air as a blueish-white circle appeared behind him and he unleashed a rain of deadly icicles. Elizabeth puts her sword in front of her to defend herself from this attack. After hearing the boom, Amber, and Bennet spring up to see what was happening. Once Felix landed Alex quickly jumped in and began attacking him, Felix pulled out his sword again and they spent a short while trading blows, then he jumped back to gain some distance before being charged at by Elizabeth and deflecting her attack.

Amber sees the fight and pulls out her bow and fires a flaming arrow towards Felix. Felix quickly sees the arrow and dodges; he then gathers energy in his hands before slamming them into the ground causing spikes of ice to appear from the ground that headed towards the group. Bennett dodged the spikes with expertise and was quickly approaching Felix he jumped up, his sword surrounded by flames, as he smashed all the spikes in his path resulting in a big burst of fire. Everyone gathered with their weapons armed at Felix while he slowly stood up looking at the group, he held out his hand and a crystal-like shape appeared in it before it slowly started flying into the air and seemed to be getting bigger, the group looked up in shock wondering what he was doing. Felix smirked evilly at them before stopping. The spell he was preparing started to vanish as Felix slowly looked down to see a sword protruding through his stomach. The others noticed and gasped, Penny ran behind Alex while he shielded her. Felix slowly turned his head to see the real Felix behind him, he pulled his sword out sharply looking down coldly as the fake Felix grunted and collapsed onto the ground gasping and holding his stomach in pain. "Felix... what's...?" Penny cautiously said while peeking out from behind Alex, she didn't get to finish before Felix shouted, "It's not over yet!" and jumped away from the imposter. As he said that, the fake screamed as a strange energy burst from him and ice encased his body. Cracks formed along the ground weaving through the group's feet before a giant plant monster emerged from the cracks.

The plant monster was ferocious and attacked them with no mercy, they avoided its attacks and were finally able to finish off the giant monster as it collapsed and faded

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away. After making sure everyone was alright, they regrouped. “Felix, just what is going on?” Amber asks, still very confused about the whole situation. “That creature was a very rare type of mutated plant called a whopper flower. As you all know, whopper flowers tend to disguise themselves as native flowers and wait to strike their prey in disguise.” He stated, making everyone nod in agreement. “But this whopper flower somehow mutated in such a way that it was able to completely mimic itself to look like another human being. The thief in my camp, the one who attacked you, and the avalanche, was most likely caused by that whopper flower. After me and Bennett fell off the cliff I purposefully hid, and once it saw that I was nowhere in sight, it followed its instinct and slipped into your group pretending to be me.” He finished explaining. “Oh, so you only appeared till so you could draw it out and defeat it. But you really gave me a heart attack, you know!” Penny shouted at Felix, “I apologize.” Felix said. “But Alex, you seemed to be able to tell that the whopper flower was not really me. How could you tell?” Felix asked Alex. “Well, I noticed that it didn’t have that star shaped mark you have on your neck.” Alex responded pointing to his neck as Felix touched it, “Oh, I see.” “Wow, I didn’t even notice.” Bennett says in awe.

“Well, I’m glad that’s over with, now let’s get back to the camp.” Amber says cheerily and starts walking away “Agreed.” Penny says and runs over to Amber, as do the others. Only Felix stayed behind, “Felix...?” Alex turns and asks, “It’s nothing I’m coming.” Felix says dismissively and walks up to the others briskly. After arriving at the camp, they head their separate ways, “I still need to help out the camp here so see you around.” Bennett says and walks away, “Me and Elizabeth also need to go, we had a great time with you guys well, aside from that giant whopper flower impersonating Felix.” Amber says jokingly as they all laugh. Alex then looks at Felix and says, “Bye Felix.”, “Goodbye,” Felix says in return giving a small smile to Alex as he walks away with Penny. Felix sighs and begins walking back to the camp once he arrived, he stood there in the snow, he stuck out his hand as a snowflake slowly collapsed into it. “My story..., yes, this is where my story really begins, and masters failed specimen in the dragon's belly. If... you... were the survivor, then as the abandoned experiment, the failure of the Primordial Human Project, I’d want to replace you too.” He says as he looks up to see a figure who looks exactly like him standing above on the cliff. “I’d replicate your appearance, study you research, create miraculous life-forms to divert your attention, and when you and Alex were alone, I would dispose of them, the only ones to have known your secret.” He said as he drew his sword and started walking away. “And then, I could finally experience the joy, of being brought into the world.”



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## New Machines that Can Reproduce!

By Aryan Sharma

Scientists from Vermont university, Tufts university, and the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering at Harvard University discovered a new way of biological reproduction. This inspired this team to create the first ever self replicating living robots. These machines gather together and assemble a “baby” nanobot. These machines can find new cells (in a closed environment) and make carbon copies of themselves. Consider this, it is all man made and from scratch. Imagine a man-made living being, this is extremely impressive and interesting. These “robots” are made from frog cells, so in a way these things are little cyborg frogs. They are made from about 3,000 frog cells. Funny enough a supercomputer cluster “came up” with the idea of the shape of the small machine, and how it is able to reproduce. These machines are in the earliest stage of development, but the use cases for these machines are incredible. Imagine if there could be a bacteria fighting model of one of these machines, and if one is released into the immune system and it multiplies, killing the bad bacteria. Unfortunately this can be used to create tumors and cancers, which is why this technology needs to be put in the right hands and the right hands only.

[CONTINUE READING??? - CLICK HERE](#)

## How to be Good at Life

( School Edition )!

1. Don't procrastinate on your homework. You will do better if you DON'T procrastinate.
2. Turn everything in on time. You will be less stressed.
3. Make friends who will help you in a class.
4. Study regularly and often. It can be 5 minutes. You will do way better.
5. Time Management is KEY.
6. If you need to boost your grade, email your teacher for extra credit.
7. Email your teacher for questions you have for the subject. Chances are they will respond.

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