

# The Paw GMS

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Tech. Director: Justin Cohoon

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## The Debate: How Early Is Too Early For Christmas?

By Gabriella Rosado, Natalie Obuchowski, Owen Pappas, Isabella Romero, Ava Mehrens, and Ava Casey

**Natalie:** “Today we will be debating how early is too early for Christmas. I think that anytime before Thanksgiving is too early, because you still have another holiday to celebrate.”

**Owen:** “Yes, but the problem is with that so many stores automatically start throwing out so much Christmas items and it’s still in the middle of Thanksgiving.”

**Ava M:** “Even, two weeks ago, which the date is the 18th of November, Walmart had a huge Christmas tree on display along with a countdown.”

**Natalie:** “Companies like to sell early-”

**Owen:** “When it comes to Christmas time, many companies like to start making products that relate to Christmas. Like Starbucks starts making Christmas cookies and gingerbread and food and drinks like that.”

**Gabby:** “Personally, what I think is that it is too early to put decorations out before Thanksgiving-”

**Natalie:** “The only thing about that is though it is really cold after Thanksgiving and so if you put them out before Thanksgiving then you can light them up.”

**Gabby:** “True, but in most states, you don’t get snow until after Thanksgiving so there really is no excuse to put them up before Thanksgiving.”

**Natalie:** “But in other states down south, they don’t get as much snow as us. We are in New England. The climate is very different compared to down south.”

**Gabby and Ava M:** “True.”

**Natalie:** “The weather is very unpredictable too.”

**Gabby:** “True.”

**Owen:** “There is no excuse for having a Christmas tree up until April.”

**Natalie:** “A Christmas tree doesn’t make sense, however outdoor decorations like putting lights on the house does.”

**Owen:** “Yeah, and like blow-up snowmen.”

**Ava M:** “It’s mostly preference also, it depends on what you're comfortable with and what you’ve traditionally done for the span of your life.”

**Gabby:** “Another thing I’ve heard from studies is the people who put up decorations are more happier and jolly. Honestly, I disagree. There’s a fair line between jolly, happy and overexcited.”

**Ava M:** “So there is a difference between putting up too many decorations and not having enough decorations”.

**Ava C:** “There is also something called just right.”

**Ava M:** “Or there’s also timing that is crucial too and the festivities that your family does too. Timing is a big factor in all of this.”

**Isabella:** “It also depends on what your personality is too. If you are really extravagant and you’re all out and all, you definitely want to put more stuff out, but if you really love whatever celebration you are celebrating like for example, Christmas... You’re going to want to go all out. Favorite holiday, money, everything. Just like a neighbor. [random incomprehensible argument occurs] One of the more people are easy to spot by looking at their house. If they have more decorations and go all out-”

**Owen:** “So about the expenses of all the decorations and stuff, what about the expenses of Christmas in general?”

**Ava M:** “That could embody a lot of things about Christmas. The presents, the decorations,-”

**Owen:** “The tree...”

**Natalie:** “Christmas isn’t all about money, it’s about spending time with your family. “

**Ava C:** “But people don’t take it as that nowadays.”

**Ava M:** “As a result of that, people don’t think about that because of companies, they attack you with “Hey, look at this new product.” It’s about your family members.”

**Natalie:** “You don’t even have to buy something. You could always just make something.”

**Ava M:** “As my parents say, the best gift is made from the heart.”

**Gabby:** “Homemade gifts are the best.”

**Natalie:** “Yeah.”

**Ava M:** “Those gifts are the ones that are most cherished. It came from your heart.”

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## *Snapchats Safe Editions*

By Ava Casey



If you’re a 2019 teenager you’re primarily familiar with the well-known social media app Snapchat. Snapchat allows you to see your friends inside life and be able to chat with them. Snapchat also allows people to see where you are located with a setting called Snap Map.

### **Why Snap Map is unsafe:**

Snap Map is unsafe because it provides your known location at all times. There is a mode to turn off Snap Map called Ghost Mode, but most people who are using the app don’t even know they are on this well-known setting. When entering the app, Snapchat does not notify you that you are on the Map. Due to this, many threatening situations could happen such as burglaries, blackmail, etc. This edition has been active since 2017, just after 6 years of being established.



### **What the people think...**

On the Irish Times website, they took a survey on whether people think Snap Map is a good idea or not. The results are, 15% voted yes, 81% voted no, and 4% voted no opinion. Snapchat is obviously failing to provide appropriate safety information for its users. What are your thoughts on Snap Map?

Tell us your thoughts at [Gpaw@griswoldpublicschools.org](mailto:Gpaw@griswoldpublicschools.org)

### **Sources:**

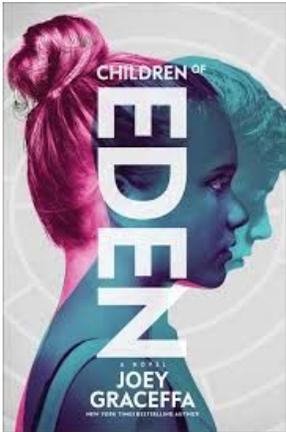
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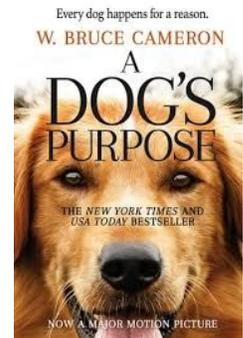
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## Book Recommendations

By Natalie Obuchowski



- **A Dog's Purpose** By W. Bruce Cameron
  - Toby is born into the world with a purpose. He has to live many different lives to find it though. While living five lives with six different names, he has to be many things, including a girl. This is a sad but sweet dog story.
- **Children of Eden** By Joey Graceffa
  - Are you a second child? If you are in Eden, then you wouldn't exist. In Eden, all second children are exiled. Rowan is a second child and a twin that is hidden away. After almost being discovered, she decides to leave home and fend for herself. In this book, you can follow her journey as a second child.
- **Legend** By Marie Lu
  - Legend is a dystopian story about how criminal adolescent, Day, is suspected for the murder of Metias Iparis, June's brother. When the news reaches June, she is furious and plans to get revenge. After finally catching Day, June begins to second guess herself. Is Day the murderer or has a big mistake been made?



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## Cafeteria Food

By Amaya Smith

Cafeteria food is a hot topic all over our country. It depends on your school system, how good the food is. Some kids in other countries around the world are not as fortunate as us, they would love to have even just the apple you always throw away. At lunch, you shouldn't be expecting food by Gordon Ramsay himself, but I would love to see more options. Peers often complain about the food. The cafeteria staff is doing their best with what they are given within their budget! It is not expected of us to always love the food, at least respect it though, because

they're simply doing their job. Try to avoid saying things such as, "Oh, this is gross!" Some food may be frozen, but it costs a lot of money to feed a whole school. If fresh food is such a requirement for your consumption make your own lunch, don't create such a burden for the lunch staff. They do make some great dishes and options, and you can always have a grinder or a wrap!

Children don't have a very fair reason to complain about the school food. Please be grateful for what you are provided, because you never know what others would do for just a scrap of the food you are offered from our cafeteria every day.



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## *Distracted Driving, A Deadly Trend on American Roads*

**By Ava Mehrens**

Our own world has been affected by a new deadly habit, distracted driving. "The act itself is illegal in 47 states and restricted in 15, but it happens in broad daylight". Surprisingly it's criticized by those who discover themselves doing it. Even so, a sum of 3,500 people die and 390,000 are injured in the U.S. crashes every year. As of lately, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety has conducted studies on how to minimize driving distractions.

### What Is Distracted Driving?

Distracted driving is any activity that redirects attention from the road ahead. Activities of this nature include talking or texting, eating and drinking, talking to others within the vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment or navigation systems-anything that limits away attention towards the road.

## Cell Phone Use and Driving

The National Safety Council reports that cell phone use in vehicles leads to 1.6 million crashes each year.

The most alarming of these diversions is texting. Sending or reading messages takes your eyes off the road for about 5 seconds.

“At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.”

-National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

The act of sending text messages while driving is illegal in all areas of the U.S., other than Montana, Arizona, and Missouri. Calling someone on a handheld cell phone while physically driving is banned in 15 states. Laws in 38 states ban cell use by younger drivers.

When in the car, merely put your phone away. This simplistic choice can preserve a life.

## Flaws in Our Vehicles

Our distractions don't always generate from our individual actions. In the cluster of AAA studies, it was observed: "that automakers aren't necessarily the best at deciding what to install in their vehicles." The assumptions correlated with these built-ins can be if it's installed in the vehicle and is encouraged to be utilized when in motion, then it is safe.

“The AAA Foundation commissioned Strayer, a professor of cognition and neural science at the University of Utah, to compare two aftermarket modes of communication with the ones the manufacturer's installed in their cars on the assembly line.”

Extensive studies found that Apple's CarPlay and Google's Android Auto eliminated seconds from a driver's total attention loss when compared to the “infotainment” certain cars are proffered with. In true retrospect, these very seconds can prove to be crucial ones.

It was also ascertained that drivers were able to fix their eyes on the road with optional sources (Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, etc.) at a swifter rate. These aftermarket

sources were an entire five seconds faster when making a call and 15 seconds more rapid when programming the navigation system.

Strayer states, “If you start to take your eyes off the road for more than two seconds you start to see the crash risk increases, the matter of time it takes to read a text is about 4½ seconds, so the shorter the interaction and the easier the interaction, the less it competes with driving.”

Any possibility to abolish competing diversions makes a colossal difference.

### What Are Some Ways to Eliminate Distraction?

To fully be engrossed in the task of driving, eliminate all forms of distraction. With misdirection, the likelihood of crashing increases substantially.

One thought to reflect upon is while you're driving, a cell phone should only be used for emergency purposes. If an emergency arises, it's best to pull over safely to a shoulder when making a call.

Eating is a primary cause of distraction. You are less attentive to the drivers around you during consumption. Food spills can create a potential mishap.

Having a controlled number of people in your vehicle can limit dangers. For example, driving with friends can generate a dangerous driving environment. Novice drivers are focused on their friends rather than the road.

Keeping these procedures in mind can avoid a web of dangerous happenings.

### Company Consideration

While consumers go through certain measures, companies need to sanction that their products require modification.

Jake Nelson, AAA's director of traffic safety advocacy states, “If the industry continues to say safety is a top priority, they will follow the recommendations of the federal government to lock out certain actions like the ability to program navigation while driving down the road or to send text messages while driving, and that has not happened among many of the vehicle manufacturers.”

Car manufacturers need to follow through with safety precautions. With more recent gadgets in cars, it seems as if safety is in mind. But manufacturers should contemplate a more dependable option for their products.

In the end, simple acts can protect those around you from death.

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## *Famous People in Connecticut*

By Gabriella Rosado

Have you ever heard of the famous Katherine Hepburn? Perhaps George W. Bush (former president)? Did you know that they all were born in Connecticut? Yes, Connecticut!

**Katherine Hepburn** was born and raised in Litchfield, Connecticut and she loved it! After, she settled in Old Saybrook, until she passed away after stardom.



**Bruce Jenner**, born in Newtown, made the 1972 Olympic team as a decathlete a year after taking up the sport. He set the world record in 1975 and shattered it to win gold in 1976.

**Calvin Murphy**, born in Norwalk, has the fourth-highest scoring average in the NCAA. **George**

**W. Bush**, the 43rd U.S. President), born in New Haven, who was an American politician and businessman who served as the president of the United States from 2001 to 2009. He

had previously served as the 46th governor of Texas from 1995 to 2000. Bush was born in New Haven, Connecticut, but grew up in Texas. **Lindy Remigino**, born in Hartford, was the only Connecticut athlete with two Olympic gold medals. She won the 100 meter and ran on the United States' 4 by 100 relay in



Helsinki in 1952. **Walt Dropo**, born in Moosup, was the 'Rookie of the Year' and tied for A.L. leader in RBIs for the Red Sox in 1950 after spurning an offer to play football for the Bears. **Gary Merrill**, born in Hartford on August 2, 1915, began his career acting in summer stock plays. He then served a brief stint in the Army. After the Army, he landed in New York, where he was chosen to join the already popular play "Born Yesterday" . **Steve Young**, born in Greenwich, he was a top-rated passer in NFL history and Super Bowl MVP in 1995. The only quarterback with 30,000 yards passing and 4,000 rushing. Infamous **Benedict Arnold**, born on January 14, 1741, was a member of the Sons of Liberty and he rose to the rank of General in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

<https://www.thefamouspeople.com/connecticut>.

## *Mueller Report on CNN*

By Cristien Walworth

### An Unclear Election

One major current event right now is the election for 2020. No one has a clear view for who will win it. The Mueller report apparently indicates that the current President shouldn't be reelected and should be impeached. Since this reporter believes it was a hoax, there will be information in later articles talking about, in depth, what happened. If you didn't know, the Mueller report is an investigation into President Trump and if he had a Russian connection regarding the 2016 election. It goes from hacking on the 2016 election to the FBI even getting in trouble. There are even sources saying President Trump is a fraud. Currently, everything's a conspiracy.

### Rival Parties

The first thing to address is what the view is on political parties. Republicans and Democrats seem to hate each other. There is always one against the other, blaming false allegations on each side.

Then add the news. The people report the situation in a way to just get people to read on. This is exactly the situation in the news. Neither Republicans nor Democrats are always right. There are always

decisions that people get unhappy with. This is what's going on with Trump. Democrats are trying to get him out. It would be the same thing if Hillary was president. People would try to get her out. It's all about who wants the vote.



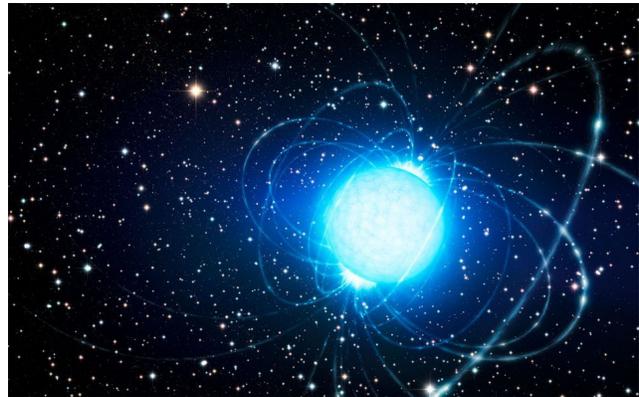
## Redaction

CNN posted the Mueller Report back in March, with an issue lots of people complained about. The government gave out the report to the public, but redacted out many phrases and even complete pages. Many people have asked why is there redaction? It's because the government needs to shield items out so they can continue to work to obtain the facts. There could be current and active investigations, or top secret information that not everyone should see. Many people have gotten upset and from their view, "if the government really wanted us to know about what happened they shouldn't have redacted anything." Currently in November, some think this may be connected to the impeachment of Trump. The separation between fake news and real news is hard to identify. That's why so many news sources believe they have to report the most popular statements made. They clearly want viewers, but do they want to discover and report the facts?

## Magnetars

By Cristien Walworth

Magnetars are a kind of neutron star with a powerful magnetic field. So powerful that if one placed 160,000 kilometers away, it would wipe out all credit cards on Earth. They're formed when a star at least 30 times the mass of our sun collapses in on itself. If you were to stand next to one, the cellular structure of your body would begin to stretch down to the atomic level. The good news is that we're nowhere near one. They last 10,000 years compared to Neutron Stars which last millions of years. After this, they retire into Neutron Stars. The closest know one is 9,000 light years away.



These guys are also powerful and heavy. So much so that if you were to take a spoonful of a magnetar that it would weigh a mass of 100 million tons.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhnDQnwDW5Q>)

( <https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/02/politics/read-mueller-filings/index.html> )

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