

the real  
issue  
is inside

# The LowDoWn RaideR



Loudoun County High School  
The deep end of the pool, LCHS roof

Fools' Day 2019  
Fictional Fun for April Fools' Day

## What's Not Inside

<https://www.wideopeneats.com/mcdonalds-menu/>



NJROTC Annex refurbished into a McDonalds



LeBron joins County basketball after missing playoffs



Students protest for more homework, harder tests

## New workshop explains how to get out of tests

Anna Claire Mitchum  
Raider Staff

This past Wellness Wednesday, **Dan Croyle** from school counseling offered a presentation for students looking for ways of averting high-stress tests. The presentation was originally scheduled for Room 215, but due to overwhelming interest, it was moved to the football stadium.

Some teachers were unhappy, of course. "I was really looking forward to leading underwater calligraphy," said **Tammy Bullock**, who helps with Wellness Wednesday every quarter.

"We know most students don't really want to study. It's an added form of stress, so we're trying to do our part to help them," said Croyle. The presentation featured **Sidney Prescott**, a junior at Loudoun County. So far this year, she has gotten out of 37 tests and other graded assignments.

"My dog ate my homework" is an old one, but relatively reliable," said Prescott. This was a weak start to the presentation, as students have already used this excuse and teachers, for the most part, do not excuse them.

Next, she said claiming you had technical difficulties with your Chromebook is almost always effective. "This works better since many teachers cannot prove that it was working when you tried to do



**Senior Elena Dinman earned an exemption on her physics test by claiming an alien abduction. Alien abduction is among the most acceptable excuses. Dinman said, "Not only did I not have to take the test, but I do not have to do the work for the rest of the year."**

the work." One student spoke up and said that could result in your Chromebook getting taken because it did not work, and you having to use a loan. There is the other problem, some work does not require a Chromebook.

Prescott said, "If you get to know your teacher, figure out what shows they binge. Use that. Say you binged the same show and could not study.

Teachers will have done the same thing and be behind on grading."

The audience was listening very carefully and some students even took notes at this point.

Prescott's next tip was to say your long lost sibling came home. "You have to give a back story that they got lost in the woods and all this time they were raised by animals who encouraged them to find your

family." The student, of course, could not be expected to do work, they had to catch up with their sibling. The risk with a sob story is that the teacher wants updates on how everything is progressing. "You have to make sure you keep your story straight."

The presentation ended with a bang as Prescott spilled her secret on her foolproof excuse. "What teacher can argue with extra-terrestrial interference," said Prescott.

English teacher **Valerie Egger** said, "I have had several students suffer from them this year. They only remember a fraction of what I've taught them."

**Shannon Nerantzis**, school nurse, agreed. "Typically in an alien abduction, aliens go for the hippocampus, which controls memory. Students can't be expected to remember things when the gray matter is quite literally not there."

Student **Fiona Waldorf** said, "This was a great presentation. I took notes for the first time all year."

The counselors are happy with the response to the presentation. They have already starting planning one for next quarter.

**Felicity Hoffman** and Rick Singer will be the guest speakers before their trial.

## Mysterious disease plagues school

Sally Stimpson  
Raider Staff

It's that time of the month again! Every month this school year, students have been falling ill with a strange disease coinciding with the timing of club day. Due to the disease, many students have been forced to miss club day and arrive to school an hour late.

The disease doesn't have any visible symptoms, but students claim that the illness causes them to feel extreme pain and miss out on club day. Senior **Amy Brown** has been forced to miss every club day this year due to the crippling effects of this illness.

"I'm really upset that I've missed club day, but I can't control when I get sick," Brown said. "Whenever I get this disease, I'm unable to go to school on time and am forced to sleep in an hour later to feel better."

"Symptoms seem to include lethargy and sleepiness, and the illness tends to run its course in about an hour," **Shannon Nerantzis**, the school nurse, said. She has been unable to determine what causes the sickness, but she is sure that it will continue to infect students for the rest of the year.

While the cause of the disease is still unknown, it appears to be highly contagious as it infects groups of

friends. Junior **Esteban Ethers** testifies that the majority of his friends fall ill with the disease. "I think it's inevitable that we all get the disease and have to miss club day since we spend so much time together," Ethers said. "It's really unfortunate that we all get sick once a month. I wish there was a cure to the disease."

It's true that the illness has no cure, but many students seem to have found ways to alleviate their symptoms. "Whenever I get sick, I immediately go to Chick-fil-A for breakfast. Their breakfast is the only thing I've found that helps me feel better, and after I eat it I am able to

return to school," Brown said.

As soon as club day is over and the students' symptoms have disappeared, they flock back to school with notes from their parents excusing their absences. "It's almost impossible to keep up with all the students arriving late. The line is always so long we have to enlist extra staff members to check everyone in," **Mercedes Keener**, the attendance officer, said.

"With club day coming up in April, students should be prepared to set their alarms an hour later and stay home from school to prevent spreading the disease," Nerantzis said.



# Students forced to pay to sit in class

Alex Weber  
Raider Staff

Last month, the central office announced its newest initiative, called Pay-to-Sit, which will require students to pay if they want to sit during class.

“In rooms with roly chairs, you always hear students fighting over who gets to sit in them,” said Dr. Michelle Luttrell.

According to the policy, a basic chair will cost 10 cents per class. A roly chair will cost \$1.00 per class. “This will of course, be discounted to 75 cents if the chair squeaks or is stained,” said Luttrell.

“It’s an old school,” said building manager Tom Patrick. “We have to be creative in finding ways to finance repairs.”

“Not only do students already pay to park, buy our lunches, books we need for class, paper, pencils and much more, now we must pay to use a chair,” said senior Matt Adams. “Students are having to get jobs to start paying for all the things the school is asking for.”

Instead of putting the money the school has towards the students so they don’t have to pay for the chairs, parking, papers, pencils and much more, they put it towards upgrading the faculty room and improving the ROTC building.

Freshman Taryn Rogers said,



Students suffer in class because they did not pay for seats this block. With the new policy, chairs come at a premium that not all students are willing or able to pay. Several students have been suspended for bringing in folding chairs from home.

“I’ve had to get a job and work several times a week even when I can’t even drive to and from work and have to find rides, just to pay to have a seat in class and I barely have time to do my homework now. This is an inconvenience to me and my family.”

Adams said, “I’ve been paying for a lot of stuff all year long for the school, parking, pencils, paper, books for class and projects and now adding in paying to use a chair in each class, that’s just crazy.”

“That stuff should be free,”

said Rogers. “We are student. We don’t have jobs or an income at all to pay for any of this.”

“We need this money so we can update the teacher’s faculty room,” Luttrell said. “Another small payment is not that hard to do.”

Many teachers agree with Luttrell because they know that the money they are receiving is going to improvements for the staff, but some do disagree because they feel bad for the students having to pay for to use a chair, park, pencils and paper.

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# Schools now teach Spanish entirely in English

Jake Joseph  
Raider Staff

After numerous complaints from failing students of Spanish being “too hard,” Loudoun County Public Schools has implemented a new curriculum to make learning Spanish a bit easier. Starting

April 31, Spanish will be taught completely in English.

“I’m super glad they’re making Spanish class easier,” said junior James Pantas. “I’ve gotten D’s all four years of Spanish so far, so I’m hoping with the new curriculum I can maybe get a C this quarter.”

With this new curriculum change, many students have tried to switch into Spanish, which may result in overcrowded classrooms. Block 3 Spanish is expected to have over 70 students in one classroom.

“It’s going to suck having that many kids in one block,” said one

anonymous Spanish teacher. “But at least with this new change I don’t have to teach conjunctions. Those are dumb.”

If this initiative succeeds, the district plans to continue by teaching French in English starting in September, with German to follow.

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## The Lowdown Raider

# Donald Trump visits aliens on Mars

**Alison Pichney**  
Raider Staff

On January 20, 2025, Donald Trump was re-elected for a third term as the President of the United States. Since everyone was too afraid to kick him out of the White House, getting elected again was more of a technicality for Trump.

“Getting elected for a third time was a breeze to say the least,” **Donald Trump** said during a press conference via space phone. The Rambunctious Party of Republicans were too frightened of getting blackballed from the party, so they all voted to approve a third term.

Trump’s immigration restrictions for Florida was “a big success,” as now Floridians are no longer permitted in any other part of the US, due to the onslaught of Floridian immigrants because of the heat.

“The Floridian Policy worked so



**In 2025, President Donald Trump addressed the galaxy from a podium in orbit around Mars. The aliens were big fans of the address and hope to see the President again soon. Trump boasts a 99% approval among Martian citizens which “is the highest number a US President ever received in the history of Mars,” according to a tweet by the president. Photo: US Space Force**

well,” Trump said, “that I have decided to let Americans know about the discovery of Martians on our

sister planet.”

According to the US Government, Martians sent us a phone message not too long ago about wanting to come to the US. Trump has said that since it takes months or even years to get

to Mars, he must be allowed a fourth term to govern properly.

The United States Space Force is currently transporting Trump to Mars and will act as his security to protect him from the aliens.

“I hope to form a new immigration bill to regulate the incoming Martians in order to keep the US safe,” Trump said.

According to Trump, he is preparing to move the Asteroid Belt to the median between Mars and Earth, hoping it will act like a wall that will be patrolled by one legion of the US Space Force.

Trump is set to meet Martian officials once he reaches the planet, where immigration policies will be set up and Trump will hopefully get Martian officials to move the asteroid belt to protect the US from the aliens from their planet.

As for who will pay to move the asteroid belt, “the Martians themselves,” Trump said.

## Weather impacts spring sports



**Robert Ferraro gets ready to swing near the library desk. The baseball team has surprisingly only broken two windows and knocked over one shelf in their new practice facility.**

**Marshall Scott**  
Raider Staff

Leesburg weather is always unpredictable. Every week we get a mix of snow days, followed by 50 degree days, and the typical two-hour delay. This weather has drastically affected student athletes, displacing tryouts and games due to field conditions.

As baseball season begins, tryouts have been moved to the library, where athletes can focus in peace away from the rain that has made the turf wet and mushy.

Besides the shattered windows and torn up carpets, the library has become the ideal spot for the boys’ team, and they plan to

continue practicing there for the remainder of the season.

Wrestling and gymnastics has used this to their advantage, changing practice location to the baseball field, realizing the wet turf is a great alternative to old gym mats.

The last months have proven to be the most shifting and unpredictable. Students come to school in the morning with jackets, hats, snow pants, boots, scarves, and gloves, and leave school in t-shirts and shorts.

Many students have purchased new backpacks to hold their clothes from the morning, so they don’t get heatstroke in the afternoon.

## After massive first-floor toilet flood, classes continue as usual



**A sophomore swims to class on the flooded first-floor hallway. The recent flooding has allowed students to exercise between classes, saving time after school for homework.**

**Maggie Sheridan and Olivia Zavadil**

Guest Writers

On Monday night, the bathroom toilets on the first floor of Loudoun County High School erupted and flooded the floors. Water is up to three feet high and school is still on. The cause of the eruption is due to the original bathrooms, dating back to the 1800s.

Students have been finding creative ways to deal with the first floor flood. Sophomore **Mackenzie Munn** stated, “It’s been a great opportunity to showcase my canoeing skills.”

Others agreed and enjoy the interesting new way to get to class.

PE teacher **Bruce Willis** is thrilled and explained, “We’ve never been able to offer a swimming unit in class before. This is a great way for students to stay active throughout the day.”

Teachers can be seen driving

motorboats around the halls on the way to class.

The dress code now allows swimsuits and life jackets as well. The school store also offers emergency life jackets for those who can’t swim.

The crew team said it’s a wonderful way to practice for their meets at school.

During lunch blocks you can fish for your meal if you’re lucky. There are assortments of clown fish, rainbow trout, and the occasional swordfish. Fishing poles and bait are up for grabs in the kitchen of the cafeteria.

Custodian **Albert White** said, “Now there are four fewer bathrooms for me to worry about cleaning during the day.”

At the time of the article, the school had no plans to drain the water anytime soon and was looking into the possibility of flooding the second floor as well.



# Admin moves forward with on-campus Starbucks plans



Construction has begun on campus for the new Starbucks. Students and teachers are thrilled by the new addition and look forward to fueling their coffee addictions while they attend school.

**Kendall Chambers**  
Raider Staff

Students have been showing up late to class for years, coffee and breakfast in hand. In an effort to reduce tardiness, LCHS is taking charge: a Starbucks drive-thru is being built on campus. The decision to install the drive-thru comes after the administration decided they were fed up with the constant tardiness from students.

Recently, the administration noticed how much the school was spending on pink paper for tardy slips. **Dr. Michelle Luttrell** noted the cost-effectiveness of installing the popular coffee chain. "Honestly, spending hundreds of thousands of dollars installing a Starbucks on campus

is cheaper than the amount of paper we waste on pink slips every week," Luttrell said. "We hope that students will buy enough coffee to pay off all the money we've spent on pink paper over the years."

Questions regarding how the school got the money for the coffee shop have arisen, but Luttrell has a simple answer. "We'll just have to tap into our emergency fund. The school board gave us an emergency credit card to be used in a situation like this; you know, when tardies become so out of hand. Students have been tardy so frequently that we're beginning to face a pink paper shortage."

The Starbucks will operate out

of the attendance window, since tardy students spend so much time there anyway. Attendance officer **Mercedes Keener** is thrilled by the location. "It will be so great having coffee every morning. It's such an improvement from filling out hundreds of pink slips a week," Keener said. Keener has also been promoted from attendance officer to franchise owner.

As for who will be operating the coffee shop, the plan is to employ Gourmet Foods students since they already have experience. The profits from the Starbucks will go back into buying pink paper, because even with the convenient location, students will still find a way to be late to class.

# Krepich declared Latin Teacher for Life by the Latina Familia

**Laocoon the prophet**  
Guest Oracle

The omens have spoken and so has **Dr. Michelle Luttrell**: Latin teacher **Lynn Krepich** has been declared Latin Teacher for Life.

Late Thursday afternoon, Luttrell was watching her flock of sacred chickens and noticed one of them eating Skittles.

As the Romans believed, sacred chickens could determine the future in rituals called *auspices*. If the chickens were to drop the food from their mouths, the ritual was considered favorable.

As Luttrell observed the flock, seven purple skittles fell out of the chicken's mouth and formed the number three. The sign was clear: Krepich was to be Latin Teacher For Life at Loudoun County High School.

Luttrell was drawn to consult the chickens out of habit. "I frequently trust the chickens



An artist's rendition of the statue of Lynn Krepich, which has been commissioned and will grace the courtyard this summer. A larger monument is planned for the front lawn, pending approval from the school board, so that the entire town may pay tribute.

with the future of the school. They are my go-to advisors and frequently visit me in dreams."

At once, the Latina Familia and Krepich's faithful Latin students decided a triumph was to be held in Krepich's honor. While riding through the school in a wagon pulled by four students riding scooters, the rest of the Latina Familia followed, chanting the triumphant battle cry "Latina Familia Fortis!"

Celebrant **Devin Mash** followed Krepich, whispering the word "respice" to remind her that she was mortal and to prevent the power from reaching her head.

When the procession reached the amphitheater, known to the plebians as the football stadium, activity came to a halt as Krepich took the stand.

"Friends, Romans, Countrymen - lend me your ears." Krepich started her speech with the words of her predecessors. The crowd

erupted, like Vesuvius, as the powerful oration continued.

Above the roaring of the crowd a testimony to her legacy rang out, "Exegi monumentum aere perennius!"

After Krepich took her throne, students fought to be the first to approach with tributes.

**Oliver Olsen** and **Josh Luzier** demonstrated their love for Krepich by presenting her with a peacock.

Olsen reflected on the moment. "Catching a glimpse of Mrs. Krepich is the greatest moment of my life other than if I was to win SCA President. Voting is on April 3 and 4," he said.

After students presented their tributes to Krepich she left the amphitheater and returned to Mount Olympus, also known as room 106, where Krepich thanked the Gods for smiling upon her and recognizing all the hard work she puts into teaching Latin.

# Renovations keep lowly freshmen out of sight and out of mind

**Cara Hodge and Mackenzie Munn**  
Guest Writers

Loudoun County High School announced to its students that the school will be dividing the different grades in the upcoming 2019-2020 school year. The upcoming freshmen will be making the transition into high school and entering an entirely new learning environment. This new learning environment will be in the basement.

**Dr. Michelle Luttrell** stated that the lack of light and moist conditions in the basement will "teach students how to adapt to their surroundings" and therefore make

them able to learn in all conditions.

"Kids these days don't know what it's like to work for what they want," said history teacher and West Virginian **James Carr**. "When I was in school, I had to walk five miles barefoot to and from school every day. As for the conditions in the basement, well it will just build character." Teachers and staff members think it's a brilliant idea.

After talking to several rising freshmen, we learned that the middle schools are requiring that students take survival and spelunking classes to prepare for their first year of high school. Rising freshman **Patrick Stephens** said, "I think I've been prepared well and have

high prospects for making it to sophomore year." Most students aren't too worried about the class load but are more concerned about the rat population and oxygen levels in the basement.

This new segregation of the grades will use the schools' space to its fullest extent and will limit the constant backups in hallways caused by freshmen students' inability to not travel in hordes. It will also allow sophomores to travel faster through hallways and not be slowed down by the juniors who move very slowly as a result of the weight of AP classes and the impending doom of the future.

Of course there are no seniors

opposed to this idea as they will get a new additional floor all to themselves. The infamous myth of the pool on the roof will finally be reality. The constant grumbling from students about vending machines being closed during the day will no longer be a problem because of the Chik-fil-a coming to the campus.

The plans have been finalized and will be completed before the start of the upcoming school year. All the students are very excited about the new changes to the school. Rising senior **Ben Powell** said, "I'm stoked about the new pool on the roof and I'm glad to hear the freshmen are finally getting what they deserve."