

## MY DAYS AT FREELAND

By Ben Assad

I still remember the first time I walked into Freeland Elementary-Middle School. It was September of 2013. I was six years old, and the building was buzzing with kids that were all older than me. It's crazy to think that most of the 8<sup>th</sup> graders back then have either gone to college or graduated by now. I don't remember being nervous, just overwhelmed. The district still had their uniform policy, so everyone had nice clothes on. Once I got into the school it took me and my parents a while to even find my classroom. I met my teacher, Mr. Canella. I don't



Current 8<sup>th</sup> Graders in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

even know where he ended up. He left after one year of teaching at Freeland to teach at Maple Manor. That was the last I've heard of him. He's still to this day, one of the best teachers I've ever had.

I remember we had a storage room in the back corner of our room that none of us were ever allowed to ever go in. We had...

See MY DAYS on page B2

## What's Happening in Freeland

The annual Freeland Memorial Day Weekend festivities are upon us. Every year, attendees can enjoy food booths, a car show, and entertainment throughout the holiday weekend. For decades, citizens of Freeland and surrounding neighborhoods gather together to remember what this holiday is all about: a day of remembrance for those who have died in service to our country.



Freeland Memorial Day Parade in 1951 courtesy of  
[https://www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/ct0u/freeland\\_home.html](https://www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/ct0u/freeland_home.html)

Freeland Memorial Day Events:

- Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> – Philharmonic Concert in the Freeland Public Park from 6:00-10:00pm
- Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> – Robert Kenvin Memorial Car Show from 8:00am-3:00pm
- Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup> – Pub Run begins at 3:30pm
- Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> – Freeland American Legion program and parade at 12:00pm. Tip Tap Toe Dance Studio will perform in the Pavilion in the afternoon

## MR. LAGOWY – A NEW ERA AT FEMS

By Mateo Feola

I was recently able to interview Mr. Lagowy through email about his start as Principal of FEMS. The following are his answers to my questions:

**How long have you had an administrative position?** This is currently my 9<sup>th</sup> year as an administrator.

**What inspired you to go into the administrative field?** My goal in education was to always help as many students as possible. I felt that being an administrator, I could work with an entire body of students and not just the ones that I may have taught in class.

**Do you have any plans for our school as principal?** My goal as an administrator is to always make decisions that have the most positive affect on our students and staff. My goal is to continue to make Freeland a safe, happy, and exciting learning environment for all our students.

See LAGOWY on page C3

## YOUR FAVORITE LUNCH LADY MARKS A SPECIAL MILESTONE

When you think back to your time at Freeland Elementary Middle School, some of your fondest memories might have happened in the cafeteria. Lunch was a time where you could sit with your friends and talk without having to worry about work.

As you enjoyed your time, you might have had a few exchanges with Miss Carol. She has been a lunch lady at FEMS since 1997. One of the friendliest people on staff, Carol has just celebrated her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday! We wish you the very best.



*Miss Carol is seated on the bottom right with her fellow coworkers*

## MY DAYS

*continued from A1*

... a lot of fun that year. From the guitar songs he would play for us every day, to the time we switched out the identical twins from ours and Mrs. Staruch's room. They didn't find out for a few hours. The school was much different back then. We had a different principal, vice principal, and guidance counselor than we have today. The pool was still there, too, and the library was still one big room. Not just Freeland, but the whole District was much different than it is today.

I never would have thought that one day I would have to wear a surgical mask to school. And I don't think I'm the first person to say that. Covid took away a whole year from my time at Freeland. That is one day I'll never forget. That day in March when our teachers made us clean out our cubbies, because we didn't know when or if we would come back that year. My friends and I would joke around saying, "See you next year, see you next year!" to all the kids in our classroom. Little did we know we were right. I can't even imagine how hard it was for the



*Current 8<sup>th</sup> Graders in Kindergarten*

teachers. It seemed like an impossible task, but they did their best with what they were given, and I am grateful for that.

I am grateful for all the teachers I've had over the years. I have a bunch of amazing memories that I owe to them - the Christmas sing-a-longs, field trips, and Halloween parades.

And on days where you least expected it, those were the times that I'll cherish most. The times where you laugh so hard you think you're about to pass out. The times when you're so nervous about a test your stomach hurts, but when you begin to take the test, you realize that there was nothing to worry about. When you're in gym class against an older grade and it feels like you're at battle with them, those are the times when Freeland becomes more like home than school. Work feels more like play. I'm going to miss

***"Cherish your time here, it goes by fast."***

all my friends that I grew up with that will be going separate ways. They made school much better than you thought it would be. They make you feel better on the days when you don't feel like being there. I look back on it and my classmates became more of a family than friends. One of my favorite movie quotes is from this movie called *Stand By Me*. It says, "I never had any friends later on like the ones I had when I was twelve. Jesus, does anyone?" That's very true. As you're reading this as a parent of a student that goes to Freeland, just know that there is no better place for them to grow as a person. If you're reading this as a student, I have one thing left to say – cherish your time here, it goes by fast. If you don't look around every once in a while, you might miss it.



*Ben Assad, article writer, in 5<sup>th</sup> grade.*



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade members of the Boys' and Girls' Basketball Teams and the Cheerleading Squad on a wonderful season!



## SOCIAL MEDIA – DOES IT HELP US OR HURT US?

by Jessica Tatis

Social media could be good or bad. You can reach large audiences, you can gather knowledge, or even build a brand. But it can also be bad for you. It can decrease face-to-face communication skills and facilitate laziness. It can even give people a license to be hurtful. Don't take this as a warning to not be on social media at all. Just remember that you also have a life in the real world and not just in the virtual world.



## LAGOWY

*continued from A1*

Unlike last year, we have a full year of school. Do you think that our students can regain the learning and experiences that they missed out on last year? The last two years have been a challenge for everyone. I do believe that our students can regain the learning and experiences, but it will not happen overnight and will come along with hard work. I challenge our students to focus while in school and work hard at home to reinforce the skills that were taught in class. With the hard work from our teachers, the focus of our students, and support from parents/guardians, we can overcome the challenges we have faced and continue to grow in a positive manner.



**Ever since coming to Freeland a few years ago, do you have a favorite memory at the school?** Every day in Freeland has brought memories to me. I cannot speak to one specific incident, but watching the students leave in June and return the next school year is always great to see how kids have matured and grown.

*The FMS Newspaper Club welcomes Mr. Lagowy as our new Principal, as well as Mrs. Platek as our new Vice Principal.*

## Results of the 2021 General Election

by Mateo Feola

In the 2021 general election, there were many important races, and some results left some in surprise. In some races, history was made, some incumbents kept their jobs, and many new faces entered the political world. Let's look at some of the results.

The most talked about race of November 2021 was the election for Virginia's Governor. Republican businessman, Glenn Youngkin defeated Democratic former governor, Terry McAuliffe in an upset victory. Also in Virginia, Republican former State Delegate, Winsome



Sears became the first female elected Lieutenant Governor, and Republican State Delegate, Jason Miyares defeated incumbent Democratic Attorney General, Mark Herring. In another Governor's election, Incumbent Democratic Governor of New Jersey, Phil Murphy defeated Republican State Representative, Jack Citarelli, to become the first Democratic Governor of New Jersey to win reelection since 1977.

Some other races included the Congressional Special Elections in Ohio's 11<sup>th</sup> district, and Ohio's 15<sup>th</sup> district. In the 11<sup>th</sup> district, Cuyahoga County Council Woman, Shontel Brown won, keeping this district in Democratic hands. In the 15<sup>th</sup> district, Republican businessman, Mike Carey won a slightly closer than expected race. In the New York City mayoral election, Brooklyn Borough President, Eric Adams defeated talk show host, Curtis Sliwa, in the Pittsburgh Mayoral election

Ed Gainey made history by becoming the first African American mayor in Pittsburgh's history, and in the Boston Mayoral election, Michelle Wu became the first female and first Asian-American elected Mayor of Boston.

## SMITTEN WITH KITTENS

By Jessica Tatis

A cat, or a *Felis Catus*, is a domestic species of a small carnivorous mammal. A cat can either be a house cat, farm cat, or a feral cat. There are a lot of reasons why cats could be a good pet.

For example, cats are quiet. Quietness is usually a common problem for most other animals or pets. Another positive is that owning a cat can also bring you unconditional love and companionship to your life. Taking care of a cat requires less responsibility than some other animals.

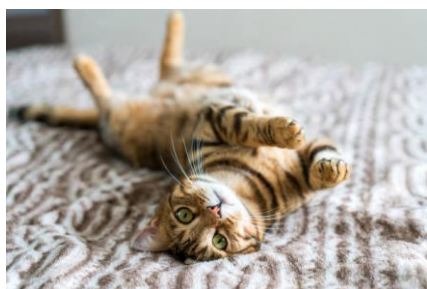
Now a fact about cats that I actually found interesting is that cats may control your blood pressure better than medicine. Petting a cat may also lower your



Image from [freebiedepot.com](http://freebiedepot.com)

stress levels.

Cats are ideal if you have a busy life and limited time to care for a pet, since they are extremely independent animals and usually do their own thing. Properly caring for a cat requires a ton of love, space, and money.



Getty Images



"Coda" won the award for Best Picture at the 2022 Oscars



## CURRENT AFFAIRS

By Mateo Feola

There are many interesting events going on around the world, let's take a look at them. Starting us off, Republican US Congressman, Don Young passed away at the age of 88. Young was born in 1933 in Meridan, California. In 1959, Young moved to Fort Yukon, Alaska, and was later elected as the town's mayor in 1964. He was later elected to the Alaska State House of Representatives in 1966, and the Alaska State Senate in 1970. In 1973, following the mysterious death of Congressman Nick Begish, he ran for his seat in the U.S. House and won. In 1995, after Republicans took control of the U.S. House, Young chaired the House Committee on Natural Resources until he resigned from the committee to chair the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure until 2007, when the Democrats retook the house. In 2017, following the resignation of Congressman John Conyers, Young became the longest serving current member of congress, thus becoming Dean of the House. Two years later, he became the longest serving Republican member of congress in history. He died on March 18th, 2022 and was honored by being lain in state in the US Capitol Rotunda.

Locally, on April 5th, there was a Special Election to fill the seat in the PA State House of Representatives, vacated by



Tarah Toohil

Tarah Toohil, who was recently elected to be a judge on the court of common pleas. The election was contested between the Republican nominee, Sugarloaf's Robert Schnee, and the Democratic nominee, Hazleton's Amilcar Arroyo. In the end Schnee defeated Arroyo with 66% of the vote. Schnee, 62, started his career as a meter reader for the Hazleton City Authority, and was later elected to the Hazleton Area School Board. In 2015, Schnee was elected to the Luzerne County Council, and won reelection in 2019. Schnee has pledged to eliminate school property taxes, fight I-80 toll increases, and provide funding for the HASD.

## We Don't Talk About Bruno...



Smash hit of the year, "Encanto" was released in 2021. This movie is a visually stunning animated film that brings fun and silly characters (and a house) to life. It includes wonderful songs and an emotional, yet positive, family relationship story. Watch Mirabel help her family save their blessings. ★★★★★

## NY TIMES BEST SELLER'S CHILDREN'S SERIES

1. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*
2. *Harry Potter*
3. *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder*
4. *Percy Jackson & The Olympians*
5. *Throne of Glass*
6. *Wings of Fire*
7. *Five Nights at Freddy's: Fazbear Frights*
8. *Folk of the Air*
9. *Who Was/Is...?*
10. *I Survived*

## Musical Middle School Student



Josephine Polly at Marywood

Josephine Polly, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student at FEMS, attended the Marywood University Jr. Honors Band Celebration in December. Playing her trumpet, Joey placed in the top honors band at the festival. She had the opportunity to work with a nationally recognized band director to present challenging music on the stage of the Sette LaVerghetta Performing Arts Center. Joey was also selected to perform in the PA Music Educators District 9 Band Fest on May 6, 2022 at in the HAHS Auditorium. We wish her luck in all future performances!

## 2022 BEIJING OLYMPICS

Every four years, we get to witness the talent and performances of winter athletes – athletes that have prepared for this moment all of their lives. This year, from February 4-20<sup>th</sup>, we were able to watch 224 of our fellow American athletes compete in various sports in their attempt to bring home an Olympic medal.

### WAYS TO GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY!

Over the course of the pandemic, we have realized that it is more important than ever to help out our fellow friends and neighbors. The concept of sharing, loving others, generosity, and compassion are vital traits that every one of us should have. Acts of charitable giving will help youngsters become more aware of people and places around them and how they are able to help. Here are some ideas on how you can give back to your community:

#### OUT IN THE COMMUNITY:

- ☐ Donate Clothes
- ☐ Plant a Tree
- ☐ Donate Unused/Unwanted Toys
- ☐ Give Books to Local Hospitals or Daycares

#### FROM HOME:

- ☐ Recycle
- ☐ Make Handmade Cards for Nursing Homes
- ☐ Do Chores or Yard Work for Elderly Neighbors



*Beijing Olympic Stadium*

There were 91 total National Olympic Committees participating in the Beijing Olympics which was selected as the site back in 2015. Beijing is the first city to host both the summer and winter Olympics. Over the course of the two-week event, 17 Olympic records were broken, 2 World records were broken, and 2 countries competed for the first time (Haiti and Saudi Arabia). The Beijing Olympics, although dealing with strict Covid-19 restrictions, powered all Olympic venues with 100% renewable energy – a first at the Olympic Games.

For Team USA, the Beijing Olympics showed how talented our athletes are. They finished with 8 gold, 10 silver, and 7

bronze medals. Gold medalists include Lindsey Jacobellis for Women's Snowboarding, Nathan Chen for Men's Singles Figure Skating, and Erin Jackson for Women's 500m Speedskating.

The Beijing Olympics was not free from scandal, however. Athletes were unable to celebrate with family since spectators were not allowed into watch the events due to Covid-19 protocols. Russian athlete Kamila Valieva tested positive for a banned substance but was still able to compete. Concerns over China's human rights record created many boycotts throughout the games – something they could not seem to escape from.



*Figure skater Nathan Chen*

## 2021-2022 FMS COLUMNISTS



**Ben Assad**

Ben is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student. He has attended FEMS since Kindergarten. He plans to attend the HAAS for 9<sup>th</sup> grade.



**Mateo Feola**

Mateo is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student. He has attended FEMS since 1<sup>st</sup> Grade. He plans to attend the HAAS for 9<sup>th</sup> grade.



**Jessica Tatis**

Jessica is a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student. This is her first year as a student at Freeland.

## HOROSCOPES 2022

## WEATHER – Freeland, PA

**TAURUS –**

Taurus children are expected to concentrate more on their studies. It is advised not to opt for group studies, as their unproductive time may increase. If a systematic study plan is created, much success will be evident. Luck will favor a Taurus in major aspects of life. (April 20-May 20)

**GEMINI -**

Gemini children are certainly going to be able to give their best right from the start of the year. They will implement the learnings from the past and that will help to gain success across numerous aspects of their life. Geminis will thrive for excellence, as time will be fateful for them. (May 21 – June 21)



Average Temperature: High 66°F and Low 45°F

Average Precipitation: 3.4"

By May 31, 2022, the Sunrise will be 5:34 am and the Sunset will be 8:29 pm

## TODAY IN HISTORY

**May 2, 1933** – The Loch Ness “Monster” is sighted for the first time, igniting the modern legend.

**May 6, 2004** – The final episode of “Friends” airs on NBC. 51.1 million people tuned in for the final original episode of the long-running comedy series. The series ran for 10 years and had a total of 237 episodes.

**May 13, 1607** – Some 100 English colonists arrived in Virginia to found Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in North America.

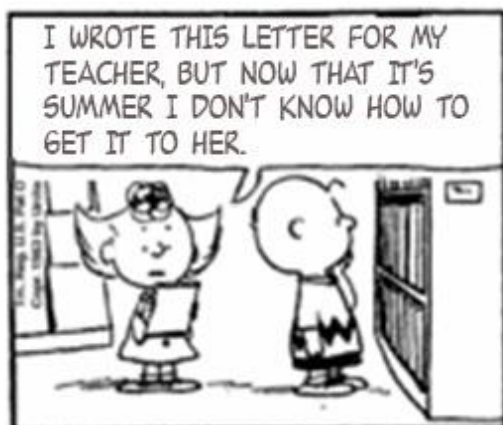
**May 17, 1954** – In a major civil rights victory, the US Supreme Court handed down the Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka decision ruling that racial segregation in public school is unconstitutional.

**May 24, 1883** – After 14 years, the Brooklyn Bridge opens. It was the largest suspension bridge ever built to that date.

**May 28, 2006** – Barry Bonds hits his 715<sup>th</sup> home run to pass Babe Ruth on MLB list.



## COMICS





# 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE “MOST LIKELY” LIST...

Most likely to be drawing in class... <b>KALLI GAUTHIER</b>	Most likely to be President... <b>MATEO FEOLA</b>	Most likely to write the next Harry Potter... <b>JAZLYN SEARFOSS</b>	Classmate that is the tallest... <b>ETHEN YANAC</b>
Most likely to be your boss one day... <b>CHRIS BERROA</b>	Most likely to win an Olympic medal... <b>ALEX VALOVICH</b>	Most likely to cure the common cold... <b>ALEXA PUK</b>	Most likely to sleep through their alarm... <b>CRYSTAL BONNEY</b>
Best group project leader... <b>MIA CALABRESE</b>	Most artistic... <b>MATTHEW DELMAN</b>	Best Snap Chatter... <b>LANDON STONE</b>	Most involved in clubs... <b>OCTAVIA ZITO</b>
Most likely to walk into a wall texting... <b>JAYLA EBERTS</b>	Most likely to become a teacher for FEMS... <b>LUCAS SMOLINSKY</b>	Most likely to win Chopped... <b>DEVAN MECIR</b>	Best shoulder to cry on... <b>KARISSA KOKINDA</b>
Best person to be stranded with on a deserted island... <b>THOMAS NOWAK</b>	Most likely to beat Stephen Curry's records... <b>YANDEL VALERA</b>	Most likely to survive The Hunger Games... <b>ALYSSA VAJDA</b>	Most likely to put something off until tomorrow... <b>DONOVAN MORALES</b>
Most likely to be sorted into Gryffindor... <b>JORDAN HERBERT</b>	Friendliest classmate... <b>KAMILA BAEZ PAULINO</b>	Student with the best eyes... <b>KYLEE FORSCHNER</b>	Most likely to be a motivational speaker... <b>BEN ASSAD</b>
Most athletic classmate... <b>JOSE JIMENEZ JIMINIAN</b>	Classmate with the most school spirit... <b>NAVAYAH CHERRY</b>	Classmate with the best laugh... <b>ROMEO FIRRINCILI</b>	Most likely to make millions... <b>JAKE ZAPOTOCKY</b>
Classmate with the best accent... <b>BASSAM BITTAR</b>	Classmate that is most unique... <b>JONATHAN MALDONADO</b>	Most likely to travel the world... <b>JULIANA VALERIO</b>	Most likely to break a world-record... <b>DESTYNEE WORTHINGTON</b>
Most environmentally conscious classmate... <b>KARIM BITTAR</b>	Student with the best gaming skills... <b>SAMUEL SCHENK</b>	Classmate that is the strongest speller... <b>CAYDEN HALL</b>	Most likely to play professional sports... <b>DOMINIC MARINO</b>
Student that always took the notes... <b>MASON PANCO</b>	Best storyteller... <b>MICHAEL EPP</b>	Most caring classmate... <b>IZABELLA MCCULLOUGH</b>	Most likely to become a superhero... <b>MERALI MARTINEZ PENA</b>
Most likely to win the lottery & lose the ticket... <b>TYLER MILLER</b>	Most likely to be on a reality TV show... <b>NAYERIC SEVERINO</b>	Most likely to be late to graduation... <b>JACOB DACUNHA</b>	Most likely to visit Mars... <b>RAIDERICK GIL JIMENEZ</b>
Most likely to invent the next iPhone... <b>LIAM SHIVE</b>	Most likely to win a Nobel Peace Prize... <b>OWEN HOUSER</b>	Most changed since 7 <sup>th</sup> grade... <b>GEORGE ESPAILLAT ESPINAL</b>	Best basketball player... <b>YADIEL IRIZARRY</b>
Best (and cleanest) locker... <b>ALYSSA MATOS</b>	Most organized... <b>ALYSSON WOLFE</b>	Most likely to be caught sleeping in class... <b>KAIDEN NOLASCO</b>	Best dancer... <b>SAVANAH GARCIA</b>
Most likely to become a politician... <b>JACE CAPUTO</b>	Most likely to win The Voice... <b>GRISLAURY APONTE</b>	Most likely to be found in the library... <b>JAEDAN LIGUORI</b>	Best swimmer... <b>CHRIS BLANYAR</b>
Best nickname... <b>BRANDON DERING</b>	Most likely to trend in a TikTok video... <b>JORDANLYNN GIPSON</b>	Best helper... <b>BRENNA MOYER</b>	Best football player... <b>ASHTON KARLICK</b>
Most likely to become an evil scientist... <b>JEREMY KEIPER</b>	Student with the best hair... <b>HAMIGHTON PENA SANTANA</b>	Student with the best personality... <b>BARRY WALKER</b>	Most dependable classmate... <b>WALESKA CASTILLO VELAZQUEZ</b>
Quietest classmate... <b>ETHAN JAQUEZ RIJO</b>	Most likely to cheer your up... <b>JOSEPH MARCUS</b>	Classmate with the best smile... <b>ADARA SILFA</b>	Most likely to go to a trade school... <b>CHRIS HERBENER</b>
Classmate that is the best rapper... <b>DINO MACALUSO</b>	Student with the best facial expressions... <b>CARL SIME</b>	Most likely to become a farmer... <b>LUKASZ WIDUCH</b>	Most likely to go bungee jumping... <b>LILLIAN BETTINE</b>
Student with the best comebacks... <b>LEANA BROWN</b>	Most likely to become a comedian... <b>JULIAN CASTILLO</b>	Student with the best handwriting... <b>AYANNA CHERRY</b>	Most likely to own a bakery... <b>GRACIE YOUNGCOURT</b>
Most likely to get the teacher off topic... <b>MIA CALABRESE</b>	Most likely to become famous... <b>RAFELIN MEDINA CESPEDES</b>	Most creative classmate... <b>MADELYN CRAWFORD</b>	Most likely to eat something gross on a dare... <b>JASON PERRY</b>
Most likely to be Field Day MVP... <b>GAVIN BURNS</b>	Most likely to have perfect attendance... <b>RYAN MYERS</b>	Student that is the best overall performer... <b>TYLER TROELL</b>	Most likely to become a hairdresser... <b>CHEYENNE FRYMOYER</b>
Most likely to cry during a movie... <b>ISABEL OVALLES MENDEZ</b>	Most unforgettable classmate... <b>ANDREW ADOMSHICK</b>	Classmate that is the shortest... <b>AZARIA VELEZ</b>	Most likely to spend all of their money at Starbucks... <b>JORDAN JUREWICZ</b>
Most likely to talk your ear off... <b>ABIGAIL MCNULTY</b>	Most accident-prone classmate... <b>JUSTIN VERAS</b>	Most opinionated classmate... <b>CAMDEN CALARCO</b>	Most likely to end up on Broadway... <b>AMAURY ABREU YNFANTE</b>
Most likely to open a yoga studio... <b>MADISON DIAS</b>	Most likely to remain in Freeland for life... <b>KAITLYN KOKINDA</b>	Classmate that plays the best instrument... <b>JULIAN SCHOLL</b>	Most likely to run off with the circus... <b>LUIS ORTIZ</b>
Best baseball/softball player... <b>BRANDON BLANYAR</b>	Best singer... <b>LUCY REYES</b>	Best soccer player... <b>CAROLINA PEREZ</b>	Best track/cross country athlete... <b>ADRIEL JIMENEZ DURAN</b>
Most likely to become a veterinarian... <b>PAMELA CRUZ</b>	Most likely to go to college... <b>YULIANNI SANTOS CORDERO</b>	Most likely to lose their wallet... <b>EDWIN GOMEZ BAUTISTA</b>	Most likely to live at the beach... <b>JORDANLYNN GIPSON</b>
Most likely to prove that aliens exist... <b>DAMIEN DUFFY</b>	Most shy classmate... <b>LAYLA COLLINS</b>		

\*Survey was given to all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and votes turned in were tallied by teachers. The student that received the most votes in the category was declared the winner. Students could only be selected for one category (their highest voted category).