



# THE ISLINGTON CIRCLE

**Islington Junior Middle School Student Paper**

## What We Should Change About Canada's Flag Day



By Azima Chowdhury

Let me tell you what I think about the way we celebrate Canada's Flag Day. In my opinion, I don't think it is celebrated appropriately, and I feel like Indigenous people would have issues with Flag Day. One reason is because the Indigenous people were here first and they currently don't get enough money for healthcare or education, but the government spends millions of dollars on celebrations. Also, to the Indigenous people, Flag Day is like a celebration of when their land was taken away, so it's like a symbol of colonization.

One way we can make Flag Day better is to include and celebrate the Indigenous flags from around Canada. Maybe then the Indigenous people will feel respected and more a part of our country. Can you believe that the children who live on the First Nation reservations get about fifty percent less money per student for education? When it is Flag Day the government could talk about the Indigenous people so others are more aware of how they live today. I hope the government helps the Indigenous people in the future, but it needs to be quick!

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**Recipes and much more!**



**Let's talk: How do you think we can make sure we are more inclusive with Canada's Flag Day?**



## Student Life

# The Dawn of Video Games

By: Waeys Ibrahim

In this day and age, Video Games have become an integral part in many people's lives. From the first Pong systems to the PlayStation 4. Video Games have come a very long way. In this article, we will explore the first generation of video games.

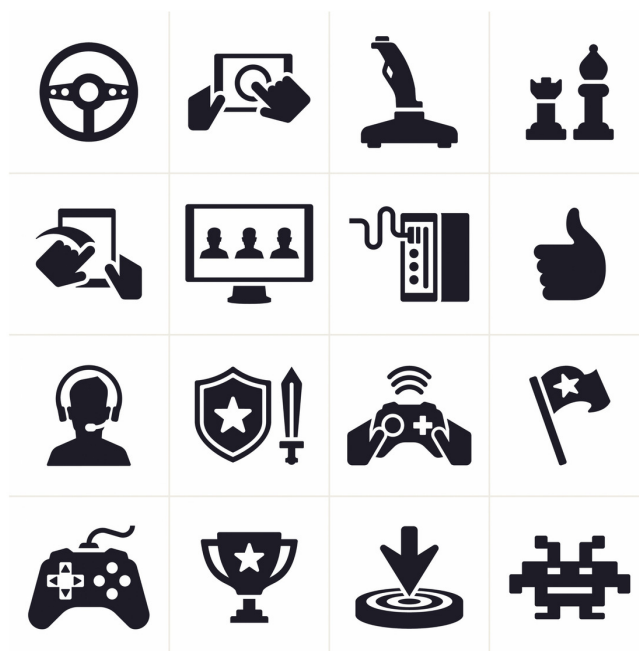
Although the first video games appeared in the 1950's, they were based on massive computers connected with vector displays. Yet it would not be until the early 1970's until Video Games would come into fruition. A major game of the early 1970s was an arcade based game called Pong which was released in 1971. This basic game became a great success for its creator Atari Inc. and became one of the driving forces for the Game Industry in North America.

It was not until 1972 when Magnavox released the Magnavox Odyssey that a real Home console was created. The Magnavox Odyssey was the first ever home console that could connect to a Television set to play games in homes. It introduced the revolutionary cartridge design (which allowed developers to create games without having to redesign the entire console.) As the dawn of video games unfolded a new powerhouse in that industry would emerge with the creation of the Atari 2600.

In 1977, Atari Inc. dreaming of the same success that Pong had, decided to create a new home console called the Atari 2600. This console included the first ever 4 bit CPU which helped to drive the innovation of games. Unlike the Magnavox Odyssey, which had simplistic games. The Atari 2600 had bigger and better games, which helped to drive the imaginations of kids who were lucky enough to play it.

Yet as the Atari 2600's success became widely known, many companies decided to flood the market with home consoles and cheaply made games. Consumers began to distrust gaming entirely, which caused the and industry wide crash in 1983.

In the next issue of the Islington Circle, we will focus on the revival of Gaming with the rise of Nintendo.





# Creative Block

By: Nicolle Lima

Creative block is something that everyone goes through throughout their lifetime. But, how do we get out of this block? To create something new, people need to go through a process of thinking and bringing ideas to life. It is not easy to know exactly how to create a story for a book that no one has created before or how to start a new song. All of the steps to make something new can take a really long time to become the perfect shape of the creation. This type of block can come from a lot of different things and all of them have a solution.

Sometimes, it happens to people who are doing too much at once. This means that they are being responsible for a lot of different tasks and they can't focus on thinking about an idea to do what they love most. In this case, it is hard for everyone to slow down and find their own pace, but if all that you're doing is making you feel overwhelmed, finish it and after, try to slow down. Creative block also appears to people who overthink their ideas a lot. This may be one of the most common reasons for the block to come, but it is also one of the easiest to resolve. When people think about an idea, it doesn't have to be perfect from the start. The solution to this problem is to relax, go to a cafe, walk around the city, do some scribbles in your notebook and just stop thinking.

Another thing that might bring this block of creativity is the feelings the person is having at the moment. Doesn't matter what they are feeling, but if makes them feel distracted, sad, mad or happy, the solution for these individuals might be trying to work with what they're feeling. This type of solution is often used by songwriters as a strategy. Looking at the lyrics of a song, it's very clear that the artist is trying to tell about how they feel or felt about someone, something or telling a story that brings them some kind of feeling. Maybe some of them use this strategy trying to understand what they're feeling or just move on.

These are some solutions and strategies to use or teach whenever your friend may need help with an idea or an inspiration to start something new.

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## Should Colour Determine a Gender?

By: Eden Khawaja

Have you ever been to a gender reveal party? Whether you have been to one or not, you probably know they reveal the baby's gender by selecting colour: blue for boys and pink for girls. This is a big problem because we are preparing children that certain things, in this case colour, will define them based on their gender. We do this with their toys, dolls for girls and cars for boys. Things specified by colours for different genders are something we don't really think or talk about. In my opinion, we should not associate specific colours, toys, cartoons, books, education and professions with gender. This way, from childhood we will break the unconscious stereotyping and bias of genders.

It is also hard for parents to buy different toys, books, clothes, etc, for each child. For instance, if they have a boy first and he has blue bicycle and then they have a girl, she will not want to ride that bicycle because it's blue. It is a sneaky way for companies to get more money by making girls like pink and boys like blue. So people have to constantly buy "gender" specific toys that meets the stereotype of what a girl should like and what a boy should like.

Though making everything gender neutral will not solve the problem, but it is an important part of the solution. We need to break away from what we "should" like because it is masculine and feminine and just be able to enjoy things that we do like. As a girl, if I want to be a scientist, or an athlete I shouldn't have to second guess myself because in the media it is considered to be a "boy" profession. We have to stop labeling things based on gender.





**Art Nook**

# Jean- Michel Basquiat

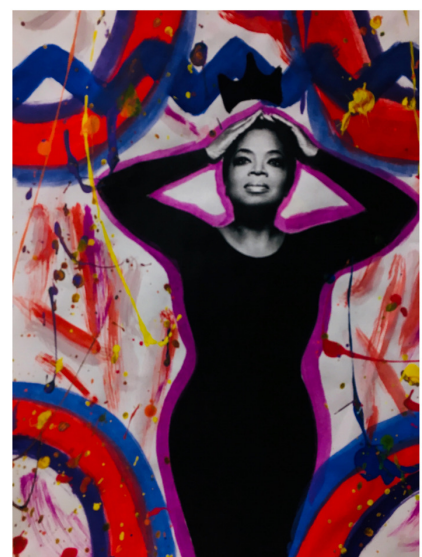
**By: The Grade 7 Art Class**



Jean-Michel Basquiat was an influential artist that rose to fame in the 1980's. He was an African-American artist that influenced many through his spray painted crowns, bright colours, and abstract styles. His unique ideas and references to politics and societal issues aligned him with the street art of Keith Haring.



The Grade 7's in Mrs. Kyprianou's art class were inspired by his style and passion for art. They decided to create a tribute to the the many inspirational people of African decent who have helped shape our society. Each student selected an inspirational figure and created a background using water colour paint. Afterwards, students used a splattering technique to create an abstract and colourful background.



*"I wanted to build up a name for myself."  
-Jean- Michel Basquiat*



## Sports

# All- Star Game

**By: Ayaanle Gasshaan**

In February, the NBA All-Star Game took place where leading players voted to pick their teams and become team captain. The two teams were: Team Lebron, and Team Giannas.

Team Lebron featured ( Kevin Durant, Kyrie Irving, Kawahi Lenard, James Harden, Anthony Davis, Klay Thompson, and etc.)

Team Giannas featured ( Stephen Curry, Joel Embid, Kemba Walker, Paul George, Russel Westbrook and etc.)

The game was set to be on Feb 14th. Team Giannas had the early lead in the game and at several points in the game they were leading by double digits. After the halftime show, Team Lebron stepped up to the occasion and took the lead after hitting 7 monster threes to take the lead.

At half-time the special editions to the game, Dwayne Wade and Dirk Nowitzki, were praised for the work in the NBA because they are both retiring this season. Dwayne Wade had 3 championships throughout the course of his career and Dirk Nowitzki had 1 championship throughout the course of his career.

The Game Ended with Team Lebron beating Team Giannas (178 to 164) in an epic way to set the halfway point in the season. Also, Kevin Durant won the All-Star MVP for getting more than 30 points in the game.



## Congratulations to the Junior Boys Panthers for bringing home a banner!



- Spring Sports ...
- Badminton
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Senior Co-Ed Volleyball
- Track and Field
- Senior Co-Ed Flag Rugby
- Cricket





**Recipes**

# S'Mores Cheese Ball

By: Sara Moliam

**INGREDIENTS**

- 16 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 c. powdered sugar
- 1/3 c. marshmallow creme
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- Pinch kosher salt
- 2/3 c. mini chocolate chips

**Coating:**

- 1/4 c. mini chocolate chips
- 1/4 c. marshmallow bits
- 1/4 c. crushed graham crackers



**Steps:**

1. First, in a medium bowl using a hand mixer, beat together cream cheese, powdered sugar, marshmallow creme, vanilla, and salt. Fold in mini chocolate chips, then place in refrigerator to firm up for about 30 minutes. Do not forget to chill in the refrigerator!
2. Meanwhile, make the coating: combine mini chocolate chips, marshmallow bits, and crushed graham crackers on a shallow plate. When marshmallow mixture is firm, shape into a large round ball and roll in coating. Serve with graham crackers.
3. There you have it, your recipe! BUT, before you really think it will turn out exactly like the picture, well as long as you didn't eat all the graham crackers instead of placing it around the S'more Ball  
Lesson Learned: you will want to eat the ingredients as you prepare but DON'T!



Hey Islington!

Interested in submitting an article, a comic, or an art piece to the Islington Circle? Please send all submissions to Ms. Grossi by Monday April 15, 2019.  
Looking forward to hearing what YOU have to say.