This year, the Walker Mill Middle School girls basketball team won the championship. They fought hard all year long and played an awesome game against the James Madison girls team in the championship. Fortunately, I was there to witness every step of this incredible game.
It was about 5:00pm when the Walker Mill school bus arrived at Fairmont High school. By this time the James Madison girls had already been there waiting for their opposition. The atmosphere was awfully terrifying and intense. As I look around, each and every basketball player had their game faces on. Cheerleaders were loud and rowdy, preparing for this heavily anticipated game. Finally the game had started.

The referee blows his whistle. Now we know it is "show time". James Madison won the tip-off. The game started off moderately. A few missed shots and turnovers was all that the first 2 minutes of the game offered for parents and fans in the stands. Then out of nowhere the two ferociously intense teams started warming up, and before I knew it, it was halftime and the score was 19-18 Walker mill was up. Cheerleaders were cheering with pride, flipping and flaunting all over the court as players say and waited until it was time to get back on the court. When the game started back up, James Madison began to take it over. They scored 8 points straight without a return from Walker mill. WHISTLE! A time-out is called by walker mill to regroup. The players were out of breath. They got some inspiring words from their assistant coach and now Walker Mill is ready to win. They started to capitalize on the other team's mistakes, and by the third quarter of the game the Walker Mill Panthers were up by 5 points. The James Madison cougars looked like they’d given up already...like they knew that they were going to lose. After the 2 minute break, the two teams were back on the floor. The walker mill panthers played the best in the 4th quarter. The Madison Girls had already given up by then. Walker Mill got open layups and three pointers several times. When you looked up at about the halfway mark of the 4th quarter, all that I could see was a crowd of James Madison students all storm out as if their team couldn't comeback. This discouraged the cougars even more. When I looked at the scoreboard I was astonished. There was only 30 seconds left and Walker Mill were up by 10 points. There was shouting from both sides of the stands for the Walker Mill team. ALARM! The shot clock had expired and everyone poured out onto the floor with cheer and laughter. Everyone was chanting “2 time champs”because walker Mill girls won the championship 2018-2019 year as well. Walker Mill played a wonderful game and earned every title they have.

Peace Pays with...Peace Days? (Demi Coley & Sara Orantes)

This school year, Walker Mill has started a new competition between grades called “Peace Days”. One day of peace would be classified as a day without any major trouble, fights or other types of altercations. If any of those things happen, that grades peace days will drop back to zero. The competition is between 6th, 7th and 8th grade. At 26 days of peace that grade will receive a dress down . Some students feel as if it is unfair to hold all of that grade accountable for an individual team's behavior. When one team messes up and causes the whole grade to lose our peace days other teams feel as if that is unfair because that is one team's behavior, not the whole grade. Peace days can also be a reason for students to act accordingly, a grade will behave well so they can receive many peace days and celebrate the rewards.

Kobe Bryant: My Idol (Cameron Ward)

Kobe Bryant died suddenly on January 26 in a helicopter crash with his daughter Gigi, her teammates and their parents. Sadly, there were no survivors. Kobe Bryant impacted a lot of people during his 41 years on this Earth. He inspired people to play basketball like myself and thousands of people who had the same dreams as me to be the best basketball player ever. Kobe Bryant is in that conversation in every aspect of the game. Kobe was a really good person and he was taken from us way too soon. Kobe showed how much he won the game on and off the court. Everyone is very sad by his passing and now everyone has been elevated by the way he affected everyones life. The NBA was hurt by the
news but someone that we thought never to hear from said some touching words that really lifted up peoples spirits. His name was Magic Johnson and he said that Kobe is the best player to ever be in the Lakers organization. That meant that people really care about Kobe Bryant and I feel that many people should have a special place for him in their hearts because of who he was and what he has accomplished in his life. Several fans have started a petition to have Kobe replace fellow Laker Jerry West as the player inside the NBA logo. I feel that would be a fitting tribute to Kobe, because of how hard he competed, how he dominated the NBA, and because of how, after TWENTY seasons, he came to symbolize what the ideal NBA player should be.

Fight to the Finish with WMMS Cheerleaders! (Kennedy Holland)

Cheerleading competitions are coming up and the Walker Mill cheerleading team is determined to win. The beginning of the cheer season came to a little bit of a rough start. The cheerleaders cheered for both the boys and girls basketball team. Their support goes miles deep and they definitely deserve their recognition and credit. Even so at many of the games they cheered until they lost their voices and were out of breath.

What goes into an effective cheer team? Enormous preparation. They had endless cheerleading practices and the amount of dedication, commitment, and time along with effort is astounding. Also, Their coach made sure that when they go out they’ll go with pride and they have a good cheerleading routine. The blood, sweat, and tears involved with the preparation for competition is honestly shocking and they make it seem easy.

Walker Mill cheerleaders are definitely not to be messed with. The cheerleaders are ready to compete and won’t let anything get in their way. In fact when they went to their invitational competition at Charles Herbert Flowers High School and they took home first place in their division along with getting a high score passing high schools. Also, Amanda Core took first place for her tumbling pass and also first place for her jumps, and Brooke Banks took second place for her tumbling. The cheer team had no doubt they would take home the win for the Panthers. Nothing is getting in their way and that’s final.
They’re willing to fight to the finish and give it their all. At their next competition they will hopefully keep the same ambition and energy they had at their last competition. All the late practices and time put into the sport has definitely paid off. Coaches Ms. G and Ms. Perry can certainly be proud of this year’s cheer team!

What do YOU think about WMMS getting a new building? (Gabria Cooper)

The new school is technically a very big deal. It may not be as important to some of the kids in the school but it is important. Not only is it important environmentally but it is also very important euphorically. This is because it is designated to be more eco-friendly and that helps the environment and our health. Many kids don’t know this, but the new school is going to have a greenhouse. This is an interesting thing but what do some kids think of it? While some kids think that it won’t have an effect, others think that it will help create new ideas. So, what do the kids of Walker Mill think of the new school to be?

I went around the school and interviewed kids to get their thoughts. One student (Scarlett Bridges Wren) thinks the school needs a new look and could be updated. Other students think it’s for a good cause because the school has rodents (Ainsley Bell), while some think we simply need more space to move around (Tatum Bell). Even some sixth graders have opinions. Students Armoni Davis and Isaiah Johnson think that the school will just become dirty just as this one is, making it pointless. Mya Randolph thinks that the school is a good idea for more space also. Lastly some students think it should’ve even been built earlier.

In conclusion the kids of Walker Mill have split ideas. Some think it is a good idea for health and space reasons. While others think there is no point considering the kids will mess it up just as the kids do at the school now. So is the new school a good idea? That can only be answered when it is built.

Valentines Day in Middle School (Liberty Carter & De'Monte Shields)

With Valentine’s day just around the corner you may be hoping to find your “special someone”. Whether you’re in a relationship or at the age where you want to start dating, it is good to have some idea of what you can expect. Today we will give you some tips, ideas, and the do’s and don’ts of middle school relationships.

Before you would like to get to know someone romantically, you should talk to your parents. A relationship can never work out if both people involved don’t have permission from their parents. If you can’t do it in front of your parents you shouldn’t do it. You should also try not to rush into anything. People can act different than you thought when you first met. You should get to know their personality as much as possible. It can also help you get more comfortable around that person. You should ask questions, meet their siblings or parents. Make sure that you can be comfortable around that person. The moment they put you in a situation where you are uncomfortable, you should leave.

When in a relationship at such a young age, you should focus on how you feel in the moment. Your significant other is more of a friend than anything. You should be able to laugh and make jokes, mainly just enjoy each others company.

There are also some things you should watch out for in relationships. Not everyone will have good intentions in your life and there are some clear signs of them. Being hurt when you’re young can affect you for the rest of your life. One way to really know that they aren’t good for you is if your friends don’t like the person. Your friends will be able to see some character traits that you may ignore because you like the person.