



# The Barry Avenue Journal

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## Diwali!

By Kompal Kumar

The bright, energetic New Year is coming up! The Indian New Year, known as Diwali is October 30th, 2016.

Recently, Mark Dayton made October 30th the official Diwali Day. This festival is the festi-

val of lights, and fireworks are basically a necessity. On Diwali, every household in India is filled with chores to do. They clean their whole house, buy gifts for family and neighbors, and make delicious food and treats. Kids don't have school; they spend their whole day celebrating and preparing. Diwali's date is not specific, as it changes are based on the Hindu calendar. It is known as the last

harvest of the year before winter.

Diwali is celebrated because of King Ram's return to Ayodhya from the forest where he was sent for 7 years. It is also celebrated as the celebration of Goddess Lakshmi, who is the goddess of blessings. Once she is in a

home, that household is forever in peace and is blessed. Usually during the festival, kids and adults dress



up and wear their newest or best *Sari*, *Kurta-Pajama*, or *Salwar suit*. A *Sari* is a piece of traditional clothing that are in many different colors, and very stylish. They are generally heavy and hard to handle. A part of the material gets thrown over the one shoulder, while the rest of looks like blanket shaped like a skirt. A *Kurta Paja-*

*ma* is a long shirt that goes down to the knees. For boys, they usually contain quite simple colors and designs. In contrast, girls wear *Salwar suits* that are usually the same as boys' *Kurta Pajamas*. However, *Salwar suits* contain more colors and designs. Kids choose the biggest, most-dangerous, fireworks to spend the night blowing them up. For many Indians, Diwali is the start of a wonderful new year, and there are big celebrations across India. People pray for a good year in business, their studies, and weather. Diwali is a fun, celebrative and colorful festival that is celebrated by Indians around the world. ♦

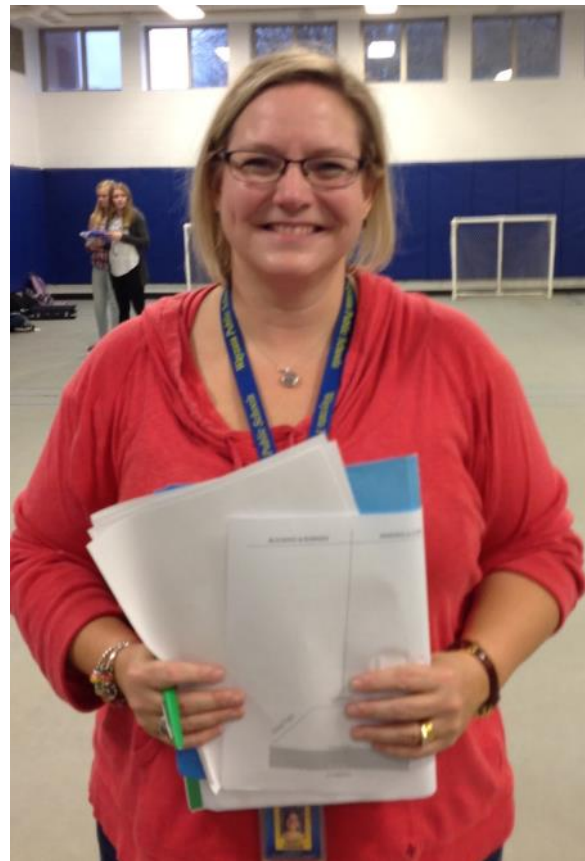
## Teacher Awards

By Greta Johnson

Featured in this issue of Barry Avenue Journal is a wonderful teacher - Mrs. Kraus. She is a distinguished teacher at Wayzata West for her diversity of lesson plans and assignments, as well as her cheerful spirit. In an interview I conducted with her, she explained to me in more depth why she uses these different methods. "Every student has strengths, and we all learn in different ways," she told me, along with the ideology that if we can help students be confident about what they are good at, they will feel confident enough to tackle things that are difficult. As a former student in her seventh grade class, it felt good to have a teacher who appreciated talent in forms other than just multiple choice tests. When Mrs. Kraus presented us with the assignment of drawing a political cartoon, I was

ecstatic about the chance to use one of my talents as an assignment. Mrs. Kraus also brought up the idea that touching on different areas is good because not all of us will go into the same line of work. As she said it - "Build the kid, and many real world possibilities. It's all about the kid's success in the future."

Another factor we discussed was Mrs. Kraus's cheery attitude and environment she built for the classroom. Whenever a student walks into her room, they are met with a smile and a happily-delivered daily plan. As she explained it, "If you can have a positive and happy environment, the kid is more likely to be successful." Kudos to Mrs. Kraus for her open mind and positive attitude! ♦



## Advice Column

By Miss Know It All

Hello West students! My name is Miss Know It All and I will be the host of our advice column this year. The advice column is for students to submit inquiries, thoughts, or simply problems about middle school. I will go through our submission box often and choose letters to respond to in each edition. This is anonymous by choice, so you may put your name in if you wish. The only restriction is to be school-appropriate, as always. And remember, if your problem is serious, either talk to an adult or go see Mr. Binnie at an appropriate time. If you wish to submit anything to the advice column, all you need to do is write your grade at the top of your piece of paper, and submit it. Submission will be in Student Services with Mrs. Fortin. Good luck, and happy writing!♦

## The Extinction of Jamaican Rock Iguanas

By: Aleeza Amin

As you might know, many animals have gone or are going to be extinct. One in particular is the Jamaican Rock Iguana. These rocky tex-



tured reptiles are a moderate size (14.9-16.9 in.) and their bodies can

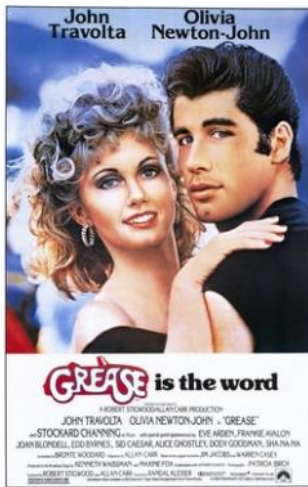
expand to about 2 feet, not including its tail. Stale blue spikes climb along it's spine, and a

saggy sack of loose skin wraps around it's head. When on the defensive, it strikes with its front claws, which can rip a dog's eye out. The diet of the Jamaican Rock Iguana usually consists of fruit, leaves and flowers of many categories. This Rock Iguana is a seasonal nester and lays 6 to 20 eggs in a burrow of loose soil. The eggs are laid in mid-June and hatch approximately 85 to 87 days later.

These creatures were once common in Jamaica, but now they are critically endangered. There are only about 300 breeding pairs of the Iguana left and they live within a remote 6 square mile area of Hellshire Hills, Jamaica. Without the hard work of many Conservationists like the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Iguana Specialist Group, an international team of universities, conservatives, zoos, and other Jamaican Iguana Recovery Groups, this iguana would most likely be extinct. However, for the past 2 years their home has been threatened by government plans to build an international seaport. Luckily, Jamaica's prime minister, Andrew Holness reassures that there will be no seaport. So what are you thinking about these amazing creatures going extinct?♦



## Grease Review



Personally, Grease is one of my favorite movies to watch with friends. It has great music, is set in the 50s, and is a romance set in a high school. The pressures of society keep the two main characters apart. These are a few elements that make Grease a classic, but my

favorite thing about the movie is the music. It's fun, and easy to dance to with friends. My two favorite songs out of the many in this movie are, "You're The One That I Want", and "Born to Hand Jive." This is a great movie to enjoy with friends, but it's VERY cheesy. I would give it about 3.5 stars out of 5 stars. However, if you're looking for a movie that you can laugh with and dance to, then this is the movie for you.

*-Audrey E. S. Jirak ♦*

A man runs into a smoothie store and orders a drink saying, "Give me a drink before the trouble starts." The smoothie maker gives him one and he drinks it in three seconds flat. He then says, "Give me another drink before the trouble starts." He drinks that in a few seconds too. This goes on a couple times when the smoothie maker asks, "When will the trouble start?" The man says, "When you realize I don't have any money."

## Bad Jokes

By Corbin Oleson

What do you call an ugly dancing loaf of bread?

A bun dance

What do you call an unauthorized sick bird?

Ill eagle

Why couldn't Ganondorf surf the net?

It had too many links

Stay tuned for another  
exciting issue of...



*2016-2017!*

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