

October 2024

# BOBCAT TIMES

Mrs. Castillo's and Mrs. Russo's  
Journalism Class

## Table of Contents:

### Page 1

Ana Menendez Interview

### Page 2

Teacher Award

Save the Date

Pizza Sale

### Page 3

Words of Wisdom

Breakfast with Dad

### Page 4

Hispanic Heritage

Spirit Week

### Page 5

Kindergarden Pumpkin Day

Cooking Corner

### Page 6

Beauty

Sports

### Page 7

Chess

Advice

## Ink and Inspiration:

### A Chat with Ana Menendez

On Friday September 19, 2024, the journalism classes had the honor of interviewing Ana Menendez. Ms. Menendez is a journalist and an author of five fiction books. Her grandmother was her idol and her inspiration to become a journalist.

Her career began at the Miami Herald in 1991 where she covered news in Broward County and then moved to Miami to cover news events in Little Havana. She became the first and only journalist in her family. Her family are immigrants from Cuba. Back in Cuba, she was not well respected because at the time, journalism was a low class job. Menendez never planned on being a journalist, but she realized how much she liked to story tell, to observe, and to write. She wrote many papers in college and finished in three years.

Her latest book was The Apartment published in 2020. To end her presentation, she gave advice to the journalism class to read a lot and to pay attention to their surroundings, and to be more in the moment.



## Editors:

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## Co-Editors:

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By: Amparo Cortes and Izabella Miller



## Congrats to our Distinguished Finalist

On the 18th of October, the Bobcat Times team had the opportunity to interview Ms. Rivero, who was nominated for the Elayne Weisburd Excellence in Education Award. This award recognizes and celebrates the dedication and impact of educators in our community. Ms. Rivero represented RKBH8 for her outstanding commitment to inspiring students at our school. During this interview, Ms. Rivero spoke about her experience in teaching and her gratitude for being nominated for this award. Ms. Rivero attended Barry University in Miami Shores from 2004-2008, and then from 2014-2018. Her aunt inspired her to go into a career in teaching, which she has been doing for 16 years. Ms. Rivero first began her career working in Mandarin Lakes K-8, which was a hard place for her to work in, as she felt bad because many students were less fortunate than others. Ms. Rivero considers this to be her greatest achievement professionally and was very appreciative because she had never been the runner up for something so amazing like this award in her career. For anyone to achieve something as great as this in their life, she says to work hard and to do what you love. This award marks a big point in her career and she will forever treasure that moment.



By: Adam Aneiros

## Save the Date

November 5 -

U.S. Elections/No School

November 8 -

Student Council Results

November 11 -

Veteran's Day/No School

November 19 -

Picture Make Ups

November 22 -

Interim Progress Reports

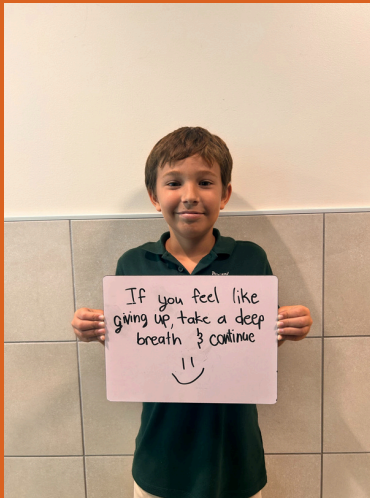
November 25-29 -

Thanksgiving Break

## Pizza Sale

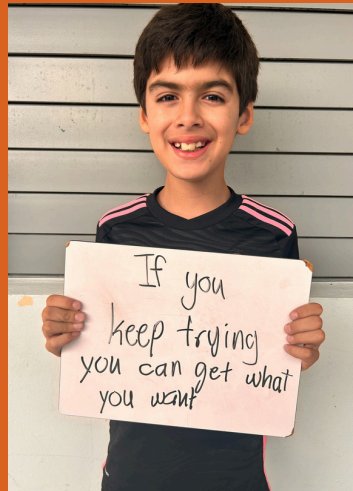


## Words of Wisdom



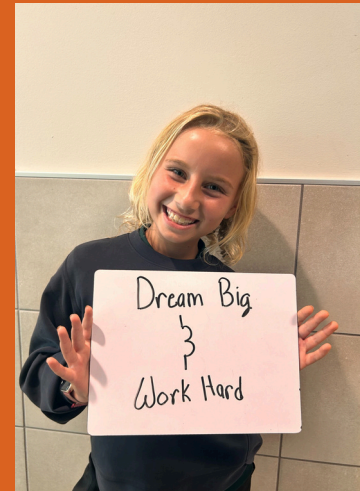
"If you feel like giving up, take a deep breath and continue."

Natan Zuzenberg,  
4th grade, Ms. Mora class



"If you keep trying, you can get what you want."

Mattias Cassani,  
5th grade, Ms. Perdomo class



"Dream big and work hard."

Parker Heiken,  
4th grade, Ms. Mora class

By: Anna Kulenovic, Kali Heiken, and Bella Frye

## Dad's Breakfast Bash

Every year, our school holds a special event called "Breakfast with Dad". Students bring their dad to school in the morning and enjoy a special breakfast with them. This year, it was astonishing seeing how many families attended the event. One of the students that attended the event was 8th grade student, Lucas Baccan. When I asked about the event, Lucas stated that, "It was a fun and interesting experience. Given the fact that dads, nonetheless parents, don't usually come into the school, it was interesting seeing all the dads in the school". He also noted "that despite it being his last year at RKBBH, he would always want to come to such an event". All the students had an amazing time and made memories they will cherish for the rest of their years at RKBBH. Students of all ages will look forward to this event next year, and many years to come.



By: Mateo Robaina



## Celebrating Hispanic Heritage: A Journey Through Culture



It's Hispanic Heritage month! Our school had its traditional parade which has been a part of the school for many years. It was prepared and hosted by Mrs. Rivero with the help of the Physical Education Department, Music, Spanish and parent volunteers. Everyone dressed up and cheered on about their culture. Teachers and students made this parade fun and exciting. While walking through the hallways, the participants showed their cultural outfits and accessories. This parade is very meaningful because it allows children to represent their countries and heritage in a fun way, while allowing others to learn about each other!

By: Felicitas Barenaspina, Emilija Slitere, and Ruben Blumstein

## Spirit Week

On the week of October 21, 2024, a week-long fundraiser for United Way began. This fundraiser was known as "Red Ribbon Week." During this week, students could dress out of uniform to follow certain fun themes for each day. To take part, students needed to pay either \$3 for every day they dressed up, or \$10 for the entire week. Monday was different for upper and lower academy. The lower academy students were able to dress in magical Disney attire, either as their favorite characters or in a simple Disney T-shirt. The upper academy students were given the opportunity to dress in Marvel attire, so a T-shirt of their favorite superhero or villain, or anything with a Marvel logo. Tuesday was the day when students were able to dress in tie dye or any bright color. Students wearing colorful swirls would bright up the room when walking down hallways or even just sitting in their classrooms. On Wednesday, every student was dressed head to toe in different shades of red. Both bright and dark shades of the color were spotted in every corner of the school. Thursday was an incredibly fun day for both the lower and upper academy. Students had the opportunity to connect with their friends by coordinating matching outfits to bring to school. "Twin Day" brought many smiles to our school when students would find their "twin" in the halls or show off their super cool matching outfits. On Friday, students could wear a cap or hat to school. Some students just wore a casual cap or hat with cool patterns, but some students went all out. People were seen in the hallways wearing over-the-top jester hats, burger caps, and some wore cute, themed berets. It's safe to say that students had a bunch of fun in the "Red Ribbon Week" fundraiser. All the fundraising proceeds went to United Way for all they do for our communities.



By: Clarissa Borrelli and Ruben Blumstein



## Kindergarten Pumpkin Day

Kindergarten Pumpkin Day is an excellent opportunity for children to learn about the life cycle of a pumpkin. Ms. Somers organized this event to ensure her students have an engaging and valuable educational experience, just like the one she had in elementary school. The kindergartners who participated in the Kindergarten Pumpkin Day said they enjoyed the many fun activities. Two students were interviewed and when answering the questions, they spoke about how they liked using their senses to learn about the life cycle of a pumpkin. They also said that they would want to do it next year in first grade and possibly years after that. Part of the experience was to feel the pumpkin, then making hats of the life cycle, and roasting the seeds. All of these activities helped students learn about the life cycle in a fun way. Ms. Kolb had her class carve a pumpkin and even thought of a way to hang the teeth. All the teachers were very creative in teaching this activity. When students participate in amazing activities like these, their creativity skills grow, and they learn so much at the same time. What a great opportunity to learn and thrive!



By: Zoey Ader and Emily Frankel

## Cooking Corner

### Challah

1 Kilo Flour  
2 Eggs  
1 Spoon of Salt  
1/4 tbsp Honey  
1/4 cup Sugar  
1/3 cup Oil  
1 1/2 cup Water  
2 tbsp Yeast



By: Penelope Lopez-Casula and Arielle Barcelo-Jeffers





## The Essence of Beauty

When it comes to skincare, the most critical first step if you have the opportunity to do so, is consulting a dermatologist. Unlike generic advice, a dermatologist can assess your unique skin needs, identify any underlying issues, and recommend a routine that's truly effective for you. This saves you from wasting time and money on unnecessary products and ensures you're using ingredients that genuinely benefit your skin. They can most accurately punctuate what steps you should take for your skin. Now here is the truth. You do not need a 17-step routine, that is outrageous, nonsensical, vacuous, and ludicrous. If you go to a dermatologist or a professional your wallet will be rejoiced to know that you need very simple essentials that fit your skin type for an effective skincare routine. Now think of it like this. You can own different products according to how your skin is. You should still have a default routine but say you want to target something particular. You don't need to do it all at once you can instead follow a schedule along the lines of say on Fridays you do something for your pores and if you are breaking out that you add something that helps with that. Now somethings should be used daily, I'm sure everyone stresses SPF but it's likely you may dislike it as there is a high chance it has broken you out hence concluding your skin is better off without it, this is common and understandable however SPF is critical, and its common people make the mistake of not understanding the difference between sunscreen you use for the beach and a daily one. Sunscreen requires more light and it's crucial to remove the sunscreen properly with either a balm or cleansing oil, you should do your research so it suits your skin but here are some recommendations for sunscreen.



By: Noyemi Ataca

## Hoops and Heroes: Kicking Off the NBA Season

With the NBA season officially starting this month, Basketball fans are eager to see how this season will play out. For the last few years, the title has been tossed around different teams. With that being said many fans are interested to see who will be crowned champion. Since the Boston Celtics won the previous NBA championship, they are still favored by most fans to win the new season. There has also been a lot of adjustments to every team, with most teams making trades and getting new players. Fans will be anticipating the debut of those players, as they look to make an impression. With new players coming into the league, players also leave. Some of the players leave due to being old, and others are forced to retire. With the offseason just ending, coaches are training their players so they can be fit for the new season and so they can focus and take the trophy home. Along with the season starting, LeBron and Bronny James became the first ever father and son to play a professional game of basketball, as they took the court together for the first time on October 23, 2024. With all the new adjustments around the league, no one quite knows who will come out on top.



By: Kai-Khalla Oexner and Mateo Robina





## RKBBH Chess Competition

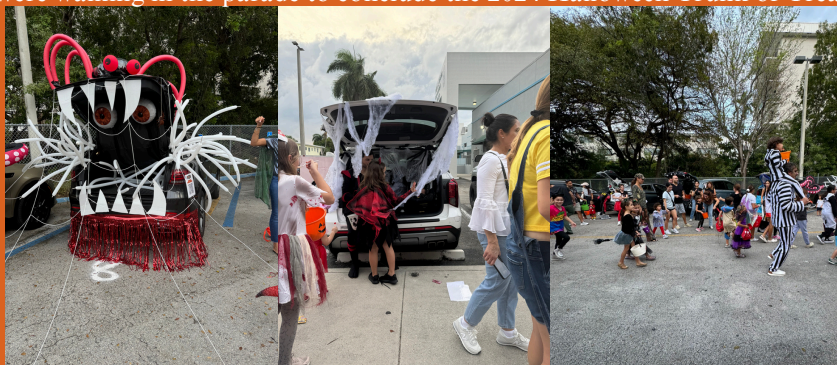
On Saturday, September 5, 2024, the Chess Team performed well at the Doral Grand Prix #1. Their hard work was evident throughout the competition. The K-1 team, K-3 team, and the K-5 team all placed 1st place, while the K-8 team concluded the event in 3rd place. In the individual competitions, Isaac Kim earned 5th place in the K-1 category, and Iker Levi finished 4th place in K-3. The K-5 competitors performed admirably, with Leo Munoz-Perez taking 1st place, Isaiah Kim achieving 2nd place, and Arseni Kolpin finishing in 4th place. They also played Saturday, September 12, 2024, at the FSCL National Day of Chess 2024, the Bobcats had an impressive performance. In the team competitions, the K-1, K-3, and K-5 teams all won 1st place, while the K-8 team finished in 4th place. In the individual competitions, K-1 players did well, with Abigail Goldenberg taking 5th place, Caleb Goldenberg finishing 4th place, Maxim Gonzalez-Amaran achieving 3rd place, and Isaac Kim placing 2nd place. In the K-5 category, Isaiah Kim stood out by earning 1st place with a perfect score in all 5 rounds.



By: Tomas Souza and Geronimo David

## Trunk Or Treat

The Trunk or Treat was an event that took place at our school on October 26, 2024. It was an amazing event where families with children of all ages could decorate their cars with fun Halloween decorations. The children would go around to each car's trunk and collect candy & sweet treats. This event also gave the kids the opportunity to dress up and show off their spooky Halloween costumes! Also, the ice cream store, Serendipity, was giving out ice cream to the families and children that attended. This allowed them to have a sweet treat while attending the event. The Trunk or Treat also included a voting session for the best decorated car. This was a great competition with a fun Halloween twist. The winner of the Trunk or Treat decorating competition was Car 9, who received a rewarding prize that included a cotton candy machine. There were a bunch of cars and even more attendees. Over 250 people RSVP'd and even more attended. To end the event, there was a parade led by our PTA president, Carolina Fernandez. Many children dressed in spookycostumes were walking in the parade to conclude the 2024 Halloween Trunk or Treat



By: Anna Kulenovic and Kali Heiken







## October College



## Miles of Resilience: Cross Country

The 2024 cross-country team has been off to an amazing start this year. As of November 4th, 2024, the team will have completed all five of their races, each at the Larry & Penny Thompson Park on southwest 184 St. This exceptionally skilled team of runners are coached by Dr. J. Balzano and Ms. J. Rodriguez, who many team members agree, have coached them to reach their full potential. These amazing coaches have trained the team in running techniques, stamina balancing, energy control, and most importantly, teamwork. Two team members, Ella Saenz and Ryder Wilson, were interviewed on how their experience with cross-country has been so far, and their answers did not disappoint. Ella and Ryder agreed that cross-country has been an enjoyable experience for them, saying they'll definitely join next year and maybe even the year after that.



By: Clarissa Borrelli and Zoey Ader



## Dear Bobcat: Advice Column

### **“Why do I sleep so little?”**

School can get busy with a bunch of work sometimes causing students to stay up late to finish assignments. I recommend doing your homework as soon as you get settled at home so you can finish early. This will allow you to go to sleep at a reasonable time. Disconnecting from any games or devices an hour before you go to bed will help you fall asleep faster. I hope these recommendations help.

### **“How do I tell my friend I'm jealous of her other friend?”**

In all friendships, communication is the key! If you are feeling jealous of a friend's other friend, it is best if you talk to them about it. Jealousy is a common emotion that lots of people experience day to day, but healthy conversations can help fix everything. It is ok for people to talk others; it is actually nice to have a group of friends to share things with. Speak to your friend; I am sure everything will work out when you tell her what you feel.

### **“What do you do if you want to be someone's friend, but they keep saying I'm doing stuff that they don't like?”**

If someone expresses something that is bothering them, try to listen without getting upset. It is important for you to understand their feelings. Encourage them to tell you specific things you do that annoys them and see if you can adjust some of those behaviors. Let them know you value their friendship and want to improve things. Be patient and if this doesn't work, then consider if this friendship is a good fit for you.

### **“Have you ever had a friend you have known for a long time who is starting to annoy you?”**

This is a very common situation, and there are plenty of ways to fix it. First, think about why this friend is starting to annoy you. Maybe it can be a change in attitude or a specific new behavior. Next, talk to your friend about your feelings and why you feel this way about them. Try to set boundaries with your friends and focus on the positive sides of the friendship. Engage in some activities with this friend to try to repair the bond. Last, remember that everyone has off days so we need to treat everyone with kindness.



By: Danika Padron, Valentina Fernandez, Yeseniya Verloka, and Matvey Sukhanov

