



## **FUNDING CRISIS IN CCPS: WHAT CAN STUDENTS DO?** BY ALLISON STOUDT, GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

When I was first informed about the funding crisis within our county, I was immediately alarmed. Some of the consequences from the lack of funding could be the cutting of AP courses, the moving or cutting of teachers, larger classroom sizes, etc. Sports and fine art programs are likely to experience changes as well. Out of the 24 counties in Maryland, Cecil County is currently the lowest funded school district. Over the past three years, CCPS has

received Maintenance of Effort funding, which is the legal minimum the County Executive is required to allocate for our local Board of Education.

In order to prevent these detrimental consequences from occurring we must convince the County Executive to change her mind. As Cecil County Public School students, we can do this by advocating for full-funding of our public schools. This can be done by speaking

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# FUNDING CRISIS IN CCPS: WHAT CAN STUDENTS DO? (CONT'D)



at County Council meetings, writing letters and/or emails to the County Executive, showing her that her actions have consequences. Once the County Executive presents her budget to the council on April 1, 2024, the council cannot add to the budget; they can only rearrange money by taking money from one worthy cause and moving it to another.

Another important thing to note is that the primary election will take place on May 14, 2024. As a student, if you turn 18 before the general election in November, you are eligible to vote in the primary. Please consider registering to vote if you have not already done so! Students interested in registering to vote can also do so at a table in the cafeteria on February 28 and 29 (must be 16 or older to register).

If I were to suggest anything to my fellow students, it would be to get involved! Please show up to the upcoming County Council meetings and to the rally before the County Executive Budget Town Hall on February 29th. Feel free to speak out at these events as well! Register to vote and follow *Fund CCPS* on Facebook and Instagram to stay updated about upcoming meetings and events. As students, we have very powerful voices and can make amazing things happen.

## A BAND KID VS. A KID IN BAND: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

BY ANONYMOUS

Now you might have heard of a band kid. Actually, yes, you definitely have heard of a band kid. Now if you come across someone carrying an instrument case or lurking around the music hallway of the school, you might think, "Oh, a band kid." If you call them a band kid, they might get rather offended and say something along the lines of, "I'm not a band kid! I'm a kid in band!" Now you must be thinking what's the difference? And as a band kid, I can tell you that there most certainly is a difference.

Band kids are a...different breed of human beings. Now I'm going to be specifically talking about marching band kids (but this can apply to anyone who plays an instrument). They can be unbelievably serious or unbelievably immature. Band kids will find a fake tree backstage, put it in the closet in the band room, hang glow sticks from its branches, and name it. (No, this totally 100% did not happen whatsoever...) But band kids will also dedicate hours and hours and hours and HOURS to their craft. Marching band requires you to be present



Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-9, Friday afternoons for football games, an entire Saturday every now and then for competitions, as well as two weeks out of their summer for "band camp."

Band kids will make a joke that hasn't been used since 2016 while also being in the National Honor Society and earning their seal of biliteracy in Chinese. Band kids can be seen as cringey because of their particular sense of humor, or they can be just extremely awkward. And even though this is just the stereotype, you can see why people might not want to be associated with this title. Hence why there are "kids in band."

Kids in band are simply people who participate in any of the band events,

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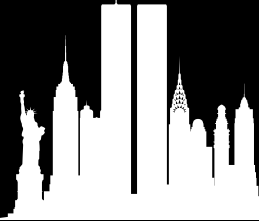
# A BAND KID VS. A KID IN BAND: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? (CONT'D)

extracurriculars, or classes. Kids in band are also referred to (by me) as nerds who deep deep down are just as much of a band kid as any of us, they just won't embrace it for the sake of their dignity. I respect that.

What should you get from this? Band kids are complex creatures. We're as balanced as Mr. Massmiano's diet, but as unpredictable as one of Mrs Keane's chem labs. We'll annoy you till the sun goes down, but help you with your math homework nonetheless. Hopefully you now understand the difference and will take this information with you for years to come.

## THE WORLD TRADE CENTER: A DREAM COME TRUE

BY JOSEPHINE MARSHALL



*Please enjoy Part 2 of our ongoing look at the World Trade Center.*

Minoru Yamasaki, an American architect whose buildings are notable for their appeal to the senses, different to the simplicity often associated with post-World War II architecture, was hired in October of 1962 to be the primary designer of the World Trade Center. He would go on to design twin 110 story towers as well as four smaller buildings surrounding a central plaza. This completed design would be presented at a press conference in 1964, the same year the first New York World's Fair would open in Queens. With the New York State Court of Appeals turning back the final legal challenge to the trade center, demolition of the existing structures on the site would begin. The construction of the World Trade Center would be revolutionary; instead of stacked glass and steel box construction, Yamasaki, along with structural engineers, designed two hollow tubes, supported by closely spaced steel columns encased in aluminum. Floor trusses connected this exterior steel lattice to the central steel core of the building. This would make it so the "skin" of the building would be strong enough that internal columns wouldn't be necessary to hold it together.

As construction began in 1967 the Port Authority faced criticism about the towers' safety/viability from many powerful figures, including Empire State Building owner Lawrence Wien. Wien even ran an ad in the New York Times in 1968 predicting that a commercial airliner would likely fly into the towers. Plans had already been made to prevent an accident like this, which had happened in July 1945 with a smaller plane and the Empire State Building. The towers were designed to be safe in a collision with a fully loaded 707 plane which was the biggest at the time. It was assumed a plane would have to be lost in fog for an event like this to occur.

When the towers were finished, each one would have 97 passenger elevators that could carry loads of up to 10,000 pounds at speeds of up to 1,600 feet per minute. The towers were assembled from more than 200,000 pieces of steel, 3,000 miles of electrical wiring, 425,000 cubic yards of concrete, 40,000 doors, 43,600 windows and six acres of marble. One World Trade Center was completed in December of 1970, while Two World Trade Center was finished in July of the following year. Finally, on April 4, 1973, the Port Authority would hold the official ribbon cutting ceremony in the north tower where New York Governor and later United States Vice President, Nelson Rockefeller proclaimed, "It's not too often that we see a dream come true. Today, we have."

*To learn more about the history of the World Trade Center, be sure to check out Part 3 in our Spring issue!*



# WINTER MONSTERS & CREATURES OF FOLKLORE

BY NORA SNYDER

*We've all heard of the monster Krampus, who is the polar opposite of St. Nicolas, and punishes the bad children in the month of December. But did you know that there are other winter monsters that exist in different parts of the world too? There is, and lots of them will be covered in this article!*

We will be starting off with Krampus, who everyone has at least heard of before. Krampus is a half-goat, half-man, who originates from the Eastern Alpine region of Europe. It is told that he punishes the naughty children on the evening of December 5th, called Krampusnacht. These punishments could include whipping the children, eating them, or dragging them to hell, a punishment you definitely don't want to endure. Many European towns celebrate Krampusnacht today by hosting events where men dress as Krampus and cause chaos, running amok.



Next up are The Yule Lads from Iceland, their parents, and their cat. The Yule lads are 13 mischievous boys who cause mayhem in the 13 days before Christmas. Their dad is named Leppaluoï, and their mom is named Gryla. They all live in a giant cave in a mountain with their cat, Jolakotturinn, or the Yule Cat. Their dad is lazy and stays in the cave, and their mom is a giantess who seeks naughty children to add to her stew. The Yule Cat is a giant black cat who stalks the countryside to devour any person who isn't wearing new clothes.

Another Scandinavian creature is the Nisse from Norway. They are gnome-like in appearance, standing at about 6 inches tall and wearing a red, cone shaped hat, and adorned with a white beard. They live around farms, helping with chores and other things. They request a bowl of porridge with butter on top in return, and if they don't get it, they will cause much trouble, such as killing your livestock or uprooting your garden.



Next is Hans Trapp from France. Hans Trapp's legend says that he was a greedy man who was exiled for working for the devil to get more wealthy. During his exile, he was disguised as a scarecrow, and he stole children away to eat. Eventually he got struck by lightning and died, but it is said that he reappears as a scarecrow during Christmastime, devouring any naughty children that may be unfortunate to pass by.

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# WINTER MONSTERS & CREATURES OF FOLKLORE (CONT'D)

Finally, there is the kallikantzaroi from Greece and Southeastern Europe. The kallikantzaroi are a group of blind goblins that live underground during most of the year sawing at the world tree, which is said to connect the heavens to the earth. They emerge during the 12 days of Christmas to cause chaos and to transform any children born during that time into kallikantzaroi as well. To protect your children, you must wrap them in garlic and straw, and to protect your house, you must keep a fire burning and place a colander outside your door. The kallikantzaroi will try to count all the holes in the colander, but will run away at 3 because it is a holy number.



*So be sure to keep your garlic and porridge on hand, and make certain to wear new clothes, or you'll surely get devoured by one of these winter beasts!!!*



## JAPANESE YOKAI

BY CAYDEN BARKSDALE



Have you ever had an interest in the paranormal? Perhaps you have created your own theories to explain strange events? Don't worry, this isn't uncommon, and it definitely does not make you crazy. There are many cultures around the world with an entire system of explanations for strange phenomena. From the simple theory that perhaps a ghost is trying to communicate with you, to extraterrestrial life studying humanity, to a river god defending his patrons, cultures around the world have different superstitions, myths, legends, and omens that they believe in. Arguably among the most interesting of these is that of the Japanese Yokai.

Yokai is a Japanese word which means, "strange apparition." From the Kappa, a turtle-like God known for drowning trespassers or those who disrespect them, to the Kitsune, a fox spirit known for their wise and cunning nature as well as for bringing good fortune, the multitude and diversity of the Yokai is incredibly immense, and each one seems to have their own personality. In fact, the idea of Yokai has become increasingly popular throughout the world, and some Yokai have even found their way into worldwide pop culture!

Perhaps you may have heard of some Yokai? Maybe you didn't even know they were Yokai? Either way, this article aims to bring light to this fascinating piece of Japanese mythology and folklore by emphasizing some of the most popular and important Yokai and their stories.

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# JAPANESE YOKAI (CONT' D)

It would only feel right to start with a Yokai who is considered the "supreme ruler" of all Yokai, the Nurarihyon. The Nurarihyon, whose name means "slippery gourd," due to his gourd-shaped head, is known as the ruler of the Yokai, and he is also known for leading the night parade of the hundred demons (the Hyakki Yoko) in the streets of the archipelago. This Yokai, known for his resemblance to both an elderly man and, oddly enough, a catfish, is famous for intruding on peoples' homes and taking a spot around the dinner table. He commonly will enjoy drink and tobacco products as if they were his own, and the owners of the residence are often unbothered by his presence due to an interesting influence, almost like a sort of hypnosis, which he induces upon them. The Nurarihyon is generally not dangerous to humans, but is often seen as a nuisance, due to his habit of treating himself to others' possessions. Besides the annoying reputation the Nurarihyon has, he is known for commanding other Yokai to cleanse homes of any bad or evil Yokai. I think it is safe to say that a couple glasses of tea and a cigar is a fair price to pay to rid your house of any evil spirits, right?



Next up, we have one of the more famous Yokai in pop culture, the Kitsune. The Kitsune, or "fox spirit," was originally made popular due to its significance in Japanese culture and folklore and, quite frankly, how adorable they are. This Yokai soon found its way into worldwide pop culture through several mediums, one of the most recent and notable being the video game Overwatch by Blizzard Entertainment, who introduced Kiriko, a shrine maiden for the Kitsune, in October of 2022. The Kitsune is commonly known to help ward off evil yokai, provide luck, and even safeguard people or places. The Kitsune are often seen as messengers of the Gods, and are often known to provide wisdom and guidance to righteous and devout individuals who accept said guidance. Overall, if an adorable little fox spirit offers you wisdom, it is generally a good idea to accept it. Just be careful that it is indeed trying to help you.

Speaking of which, some Kitsune are known to be tricksters. These are Kitsune that fit the typical definition of a "sly fox." It is generally easy to rule out a bad Kitsune versus a good Kitsune. This is because only good Kitsune are associated with the god Inari, and they are unable to harm people, and bad Kitsune typically target the unfavorable traits in humans, like greed, envy, pride, lust, etc.

Moving on to a more dangerous and yet much less intelligent Yokai, we have the Kappa. The Kappa are aquatic, reptilian, humanoid creatures who dwell in Japan's rivers and streams. The Kappa are very comfortable in water but awkward on land. The Kappa is usually roughly the size of a human child, but their strength is so immense that you may describe it as "godlike." That is because they are considered gods. The Kappa, like many reptiles, thrive in warmer months. The Kappa is known to be very territorial. If you trespass in Kappa territory or are disrespectful



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# JAPANESE YOKAI (CONT' D)

to a Kappa, you may find yourself victim to the Kappa's incredible strength as you are drowned by the offended god. However, the Kappa has two weaknesses, their dish on the top of their head, which must always be filled with water or they become immobile and may die, and their stupidity. Kappa are very cordial, so if you ever come face to face with one, give it a nice bow. It will almost certainly bow back, spilling its water. Upon refilling it, legend says the Kappa will fall under your command. An interesting fact about the Kappa is they have three anuses, allowing them to expel three times as much gas as humans can. Disgusting, but intriguing.



Now let's get a bit more evil, let's talk about the Gashadokuro, or the starving skeletons. This horrifying creature, said to be made up of the bones of the deceased, is often said to be fifteen times the size of a human. The Gashadokuro is a humongous human skeleton which resides in places of mass tragedy, like war or famine. For this reason, there have often been sightings of this beast in places like Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and even Kyoto (A very influential samurai once died there, and his death caused much grief among the citizens). The Gashadokuro is known for ravaging the citizens of the town it resides in at night, hunting down those out past sunset and biting their head off before drinking their blood. The Gashadokuro will literally fall apart at sunrise, its bones will lie on the ground until nightfall, when its regime continues.

These beasts will always make a rattling sound with their bones, when they move, and they will hunt humans night after night until the tension of the event which they haunt (example: the bombing of Hiroshima) has been resolved. Despite its size and power, you will scarcely find stories where this beast will destroy buildings to find its prey. To avoid this beast, maybe don't enjoy the nightlife of places where this beast is known to live.



Finally, it's time to permanently scare you away from any public restroom in the near future. The final Yokai we will talk about is the Aka Manto. The Aka Manto is said to haunt the last stall in a restroom, and is not very kind to visitors. This more contemporary Yokai, whose name means "Red Cape," is known for presenting their victims with two capes, rolls of toilet paper, or something similar. One cape will be red, the other will be blue. This poor victim will then be asked to choose one. Upon choosing the red cape, you would be stabbed to death until you are so covered in your own blood that it appears you are wearing the red cape.

Upon choosing the blue cape, you would be choked to death until you appear blue. You may think you can outsmart this Yokai by running away, or saying another color, but running will result in the Yokai blocking your path before repeating the question, and for any other possible answer you give, the Yokai has other equally gruesome ways of killing you. Surely, an encounter with this Yokai would result in your death. The worst part? This Yokai is of modern creation, the earliest known case being in the 1930s. There are several theories about this Yokai, some more terrifying than others. Some say that the Aka Manto is a vengeful spirit. Others believe that this terrifying story is that of a serial killer. Either way, the Aka Manto is surely nightmare fuel.

Overall, Yokai are a quite intriguing topic of study and discussion. From their vast and deep history, to the introduction of new Yokai in more recent years, there are countless interesting Yokai to study, and all of them has a uniqueness which is unmatched by other Yokai, and yet they all find a way to intertwine, make sense, and draw intrigue.



# SNOW MUCH FUN!

BY THE TIGER TIMES STAFF



After last year's disappointing lack of snow days, we are happy to report that the fluffy white stuff has made its way back to Cecil County this winter. Whether you love going outside to enjoy traditional snow day activities like sledding or snowball fights, or if you are someone who prefers to enjoy the scenic views through the window while cuddled in a warm blanket, it's always nice to have spend a day at home, away from the classroom.

Here are some pics of some of Cecil County's finest furry friends enjoying a romp in the snow and a fun snow cone recipe for your future snow day enjoyment.



## KOOL AID-SNOW CONES

1. To make the syrup, start with one packet of kool-aid, one cup of water, and one cup of sugar.
2. Over the stove, add the water and sugar to a pot and bring to a boil over medium heat, and let it boil for 3 minutes.
3. Remove it from the heat and stir in the kool-aid until it dissolves. Then let it cool and pour it into containers to put in the fridge to chill.
4. Once chilled, go outside and scoop up some fresh (CLEAN!!!) snow! Then add the syrup you made earlier and enjoy! 😊