I dream of dumplings. They come in pairs—Porc, vegetable, or dumpling, no one really cares.”

—Mr. Daley

I love dumplings. They’re savory, delicious, and packed with flavor. There are so many variations of dumplings, ranging from traditional Chinese pork dumplings to savory second, the Dodo oil. There is one variety of dumpling, however, which is often overlooked—the Tibetan momo.

When you hear the word momo, what do you think of? You might think of Ducky Momo from Phineas and Ferb, or a steaming, scrumptious, Tibetan dumpling. While Ducky Momo is a fabulously character to discuss, I’ll only be focusing on the Tibetan dumpling for now, which is even better. So, what are momos, and why should they be your next favorite food?

The word momo translates to “steamed bun” in Jinn Chinese. The dish first gained popularity in South Asia. Families who emigrated from this region to the United States brought their recipes over the Pacific Ocean to share with all of America, and ever since, they have become our latest obsession.

When you first bite into a momo, you are greeted with a sweet sensation of steam enveloping your face, the crunch of the vegetables, and the tenderness of the meat. With the addition of each restaurant’s unusual dipping sauce, momos become ten times better! Be sure to build your momo just as you would a sandwich. My mouth was scorched after blindly dipping the momo in one of the sauces. I went through three bottles of water, so just try to not make the mistake I did! There is also a vast variety of fillings and flavors. My personal favorite includes a beef filling with the mild sauce, since I do not enjoy having my tongue burnt off, yet I need a little spice in my life. Momo nooks usually offer multiple different fillings, so your cravings are always satisfied! You can find momos just about anywhere in New York City—you just have to be observant. Tibetan restaurants are usually tucked away in a small nook of buildings, and do not have huge flashing signs screaming “buy your delicious momos NOW.” It is extremely refreshing to not have all these advertise- ments shoved down your throat. The shopkeepers are some of the kindest people you will ever meet and are always up for a conversa- tion. They are so deter- mined and inspirational, and are pure evidence of how hard work really does pay off.

The best momos I have ever had can be found by the 74th Street-Jackson Heights subway station in Queens. Yes, Queens seems like a world away, but it is only about a forty minute trek from the Upper East Side. The journey is definitely worth it, as you are able to find the most delicious momos in the city. It is fascinating to hear stories from Tibetan immigrants and why they decided to share their culture with so many people in New York. They have worked day and night to achieve a better life for themselves. Now that you have them nothing but respect (well, I kind of have to pay for the momos. It’s worth it though. Support small business- nesses!) 74th Street boasts its Diversity Plaza, which is membership to momo shops crowded with people. When I say these momos are insane, I mean they can be located in some walk-up apartments, backyards, and some of the smallest shop spaces you have ever seen. It may sound outrageously awful and confusing, but I can guarantee that it adds to the momo experience.

The shops are always so cozy with their plush chairs and the orange glow from the pendant lights. It is something that cannot be found anywhere else in the city. Now, I’m not turning this article into a Queens advertisement, but the area has so much to offer when it comes to momos, the traditional Tibetan cuisine.

Jackson Heights, my hometown, boasts its an- nual Momo Crawl every October. I went for the first time last year and had the time of my life. Each momo is only one dollar! I went again for the day, and the plaza is bustling with hundreds of people. It is easier to find momo in all the momos they can devour. My two friends have been going for the past three years, and I have to say, I cannot blame them. Picture this: the sun is shin- ing, parents, children, ceremony. The results were: Heights is pacing anxiously for their momos to be ready. The spicy and tangy smell of momos wafts through the air as theio stove sizzle with life. It is a moment that I will remember forever in my life. Momo nooks and traditional Tibetan momo shops crowded with people are getting some of the best food New York has to offer.

When you buy a momo, you are not just buying a momo, but a story. Each one is handcrafted with the expertise of some of the best Tibetan chefs out there. These chefs have no had it easy, and I believe it is right to pay them homagage, as they deserve all the praise and respect they can get. As they say, New York is a melting pot, and as glad I was able to experi- ence only a tiny fraction of all the cuisines and cultures that make up our extra- gant city.

Exciting Enigma!

—By Cara Melrooney ‘20

1. What 8 letter word can have a letter taken away and it still makes a word. Keep on doing that until you have one letter left. What is the word?

2. A boy was at a carnival and went to a booth where a man said to the boy, “If I write your exact weight on this piece of paper then you have to give me $50, but if I cannot, I will pay you $50.”

   The boy looked around and saw no scale so he agrees, thinking no matter what the carny writes he’ll just say he weighs more or less. In the end the boy ended up paying the man $50. How did the man win the bet?

3. Mr. and Mrs. Mustard have six daughters and each daughter has one brother. How many people are in the Mustard family?

   a. One
   b. Two
   c. Three
   d. Four
   e. Five
   f. Six

4. Re-arrange the letters, O U O S W T D N E J R to spell just one word.

   a. Apple
   b. Fall
   c. Fall
   d. Apple
   e. Fall

5. I am taken from a mine, and shut up in a wooden case, from which I am never released, and yet I am used by almost everybody.

   a. Water
   b. Word
   c. Word
   d. Water
   e. Water

6. A woman shoots her husband. Then she holds him under water for over 5 minutes. Finally, she hangs him. But 5 minutes later they both go out together and enjoy a wonderful dinner together.

   How can this be?

7. Two fathers and two sons went fishing one day.

   They were there the whole day and only caught 3 fish. One father said, that is enough for all of us, we will have one each. How can this be possible?

8. Before Mount Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain on Earth?

9. How do you spell candy in 2 letters?

   a. C
   b. B
   c. C
   d. C
   e. C

10. You have me today, Tomorrow you’ll have more;

    As your time passes,

    I’m not easy;

    I don’t take up space, But I’m only in one place; I am what you saw, But not what you see.

    What am I?
On President’s Day weekend our Forensics team traveled all the way to Harvard. The team left on Friday for a three day competition. After a four-hour drive, courtesy of Mr Donacik, we arrived in Cambridge. As soon as we arrived we got ready for the hardest competition of the year. After a late night of prepping everyone went over to Harvard square. While the first day was a bit of a learning curve, every one had a great time. First we had learned all about our preliminary rounds. There were a total of nine speeches that had to be prepped and ready. On the first day everyone gave at least six speeches over as many hours. As you can assume we all pretty much collapsed from exhaustion by the end of it. The next day we had another three hours of debate. The topics ranged from foreign aid to national emergencies and everything in between. We all ended the day by going to watch the finals.

The Harvard tournament may be hard but it is definitely very fun. You get to meet people from all over the country. Everyone comes to Harvard for debate. I was able to meet people from Chicago, Florida, and even Minnesota. This year there were even people from Uganda! Being able to go to tournaments like that is definitely a privilege and everyone is always grateful. It truly is everyone’s favorite tournament.

Another thing that was so special this year was being able to meet the mayor of Cambridge. On our second day there Mayor McGovern came to talk to everyone participating in the tournament. After some inspiring words we even got to ask some questions. These questions ranged from censorship in colleges to poverty levels in Cambridge. His parting words stuck with me: “Remember to be passionate about what you love but also kind to one another.” While it was hard, I definitely think Harvard was one of the best tournaments yet. Not only was it fun but also educating. Overall it was an amazing tournament and so much fun. Make sure to congratulate everyone who went!

Do you like to dance? Are you young, sweet, only seventeen, and want to claim your title as a dancing queen? Then come to Dance Club on Mondays after school! We meet in Room 303 from 3:10-4 PM. The club is moderated by Ms. Katie Pettit, who directs the musicals and show choir at Regis. We do all different types of dance, from modern to jazz to musical theater and everything in between. Dancing is a great way to blow off the stress of the week, and is also lots of fun! We hope to dance with you soon!

Once a month, students from all grades of Loyola wake up bright and early to eat munchkins, drink hot cocoa, discuss their favorite novels. So far this year, the book club, led by Ms. Watkins, has read titles such as “Dear Martin” by Nic Stone, “A Very Large Expanse of Sea” by Tahereh Mafi, and our book for the month of February, “How She Died, How I Lived” by Mary Crockett. During each morning meeting in the library, book lovers share their ideas and thoughts about that month’s novel. We are led by a “reader leader,” one student who is enthusiastic about the specific book and guides the discussion with their town questions for the group. The students share their differing viewpoints and opinions on certain characters, symbolism, and even the way the theme of our novel applies to our world today. It is always interesting and entertaining to chat with friends after reading the same book, especially when it is a book you read just for the fun of it.

Following each monthly meeting, members of book club respond to a survey with a few different books and their short summaries to pick the book they will read for the next month. This is an effective way for students to feel involved in the reading material of the club, and as a result, every novel we have read this year has had a teenage protagonist that members found relatable to their own lives. Reading books with characters about the same age as us who encounter similar struggles of young people challenges us to consider the issues of society, in consideration of many different viewpoints. It can often be hard to find books to the time to read books on your own that have not been assigned for a class, so book club is a great opportunity to do some reading just for leisure. For those who love to read or even just share their opinion, book club is always an enjoyable and interesting experience.
If you’re looking for a way to escape the obnoxiously freezing temperatures, I would recommend you go see Escape Room. This action packed, not only heavily derivative movie, is sure to warm you up. The movie centers on a group of men and women that have been placed in a competition for survival through the use of now popular escape rooms. Having been to several escape rooms myself, I feel qualified to say that this movie, through its plot holes and themes, falls flat from what could’ve been an exciting new franchise. The plot focuses on the proven concept that a wealthy super-elite find enjoyment in watching groups of the less fortunate fight for their lives.

The premise is interesting, but not all that new. It operates in the grand oeuvre of The Hunger Games in which the rich are all evil and enjoy watching the poor suffer. I also found the idea that they would use an escape room to kill all but one person strange; how would the organization running the game know exactly how many rooms would be needed to kill each person?

The characters are interesting and unpredictable, but lack an overall depth. Additionally the movie lets you know from the start who you should attach yourself to by providing backstory for some characters and not others. While the choice to force audiences to invest in some characters more is understandable, it makes the rest of the movie very predictable when someone dies. There is something to be said on the note of originality in this movie. I like feeling lack in comparison. The SAW movies have undertones of moral righteousness while this movie operates under the exact opposite themes. The climax of the movie features the “game master” attempting to kill the sole survivor of the rooms and, while the movie attempts to ask the audience “what would you do to survive?” the re-nowned answer provided is not that. Not for realistically question the length humans will go to survive completely defeats the main thematic purpose of the movie.

Overall the rooms and scenes in the movie are cool. The characters are okay. The acting is actually quite good. The main downfall of the movie, however, is in the attempts at themes that fall flat and make the movie seem a little pretentious. I wouldn’t discourage seeing the movie, because movies are fun and this one isn’t bad.

The 61st Annual Grammy Awards took place on Sunday, February 10th, 2019 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California. The nominations and winners were all extravagantly arranged onto the red carpet, except Grammy award winner, Ariana Grande. She was initially supposed to perform at the Grammys, however after her drug scandal, were denied, she pulled about art and honesty. Not politics. Not doing favours or playing games. It’s just a game y’ all. And I’m sorry but that’s not what music is to me.” Grande has already broken records with her new album, “Thank U, Next” which was released two days before the Grammys, and even after her boycott, she still won best Pop Vocal Album for her cover. Other performers at the Grammy’s include Post Malone & Red Hot Chili Peppers, Shawn Mendes & Miley Cyrus, Chloe X Halle, and Jennifer Lopez & Motown Medley.

The Blazer Loyola School, 980 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10028

By Dylan Bouquestette ’20

Photo courtesy of IMDB

Photo courtesy of IMDB

Photo courtesy of IMDB

Photo courtesy of IMDB

By Grace Corps ’22

By Daniel Moreno ’20 and George Brown ’20

The Blazer Loyola School, 980 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10028
As the JV girls prepared for their playoff games, they went in with only two wins in the 2018-2019 Basketball season. Their first win occurred in mid-November against Brearly. Although Brearly beat them the first game by two points, the JV Lady Knights powered through and came back to beat them by three points. Their second win was during Spirit Week against Calhoun, who had beaten the team once before during the very first game of the season.

The JV Lady Knights went into their semifinal playoff game ready to conquer UNIS, a team that had already beaten them twice. The Lady Knights practiced early in the morning and late in the afternoon to prepare for what could have been their last game. But the Lady Knights wanted the win too much to be intimidated. The Lady Knights played hard, getting the first basket and staying confident through the duration of the game. They stayed ahead the entire time, keeping at least a ten-point lead, which flattened UNIS allowing the JV Lady Knights to bring home a well-deserved win.

With heads held high and second place secured, the JV Lady Knights faced Columbia Prep—our biggest rivals—the following day. Although the girls lost, they fought hard. The Lady Knights went into the second and quarter without any baskets. By half time, the girls had three points and kept pushing for more. By the third quarter the girls already had eighteen points. The fourth and final quarter was their best quarter of the game. Coming back from no points in the first quarter, the JV Lady Knights ended with 21 points and Columbia with 28. Even though it was not the outcome they desired, they gave everything they had and took home second place.

From two regular season wins to second place in the JV Girl’s playoffs, the JV Lady Knights truly fought to the end and showed everyone what they were capable of.