

The Bridgian Herald



Highlights

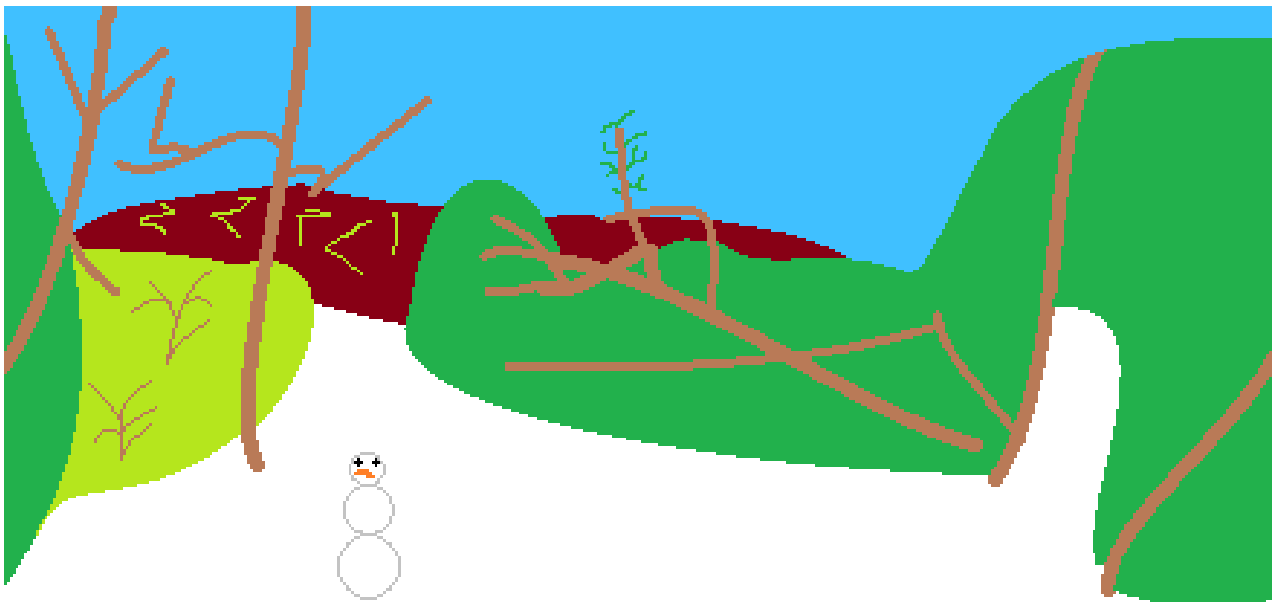
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Lowest quality image ever...



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Credits

Activities: Tim, Zachery.

Articles: Leia-Rose, Tim, Sam, Zachery.

Cartoon: Kai.

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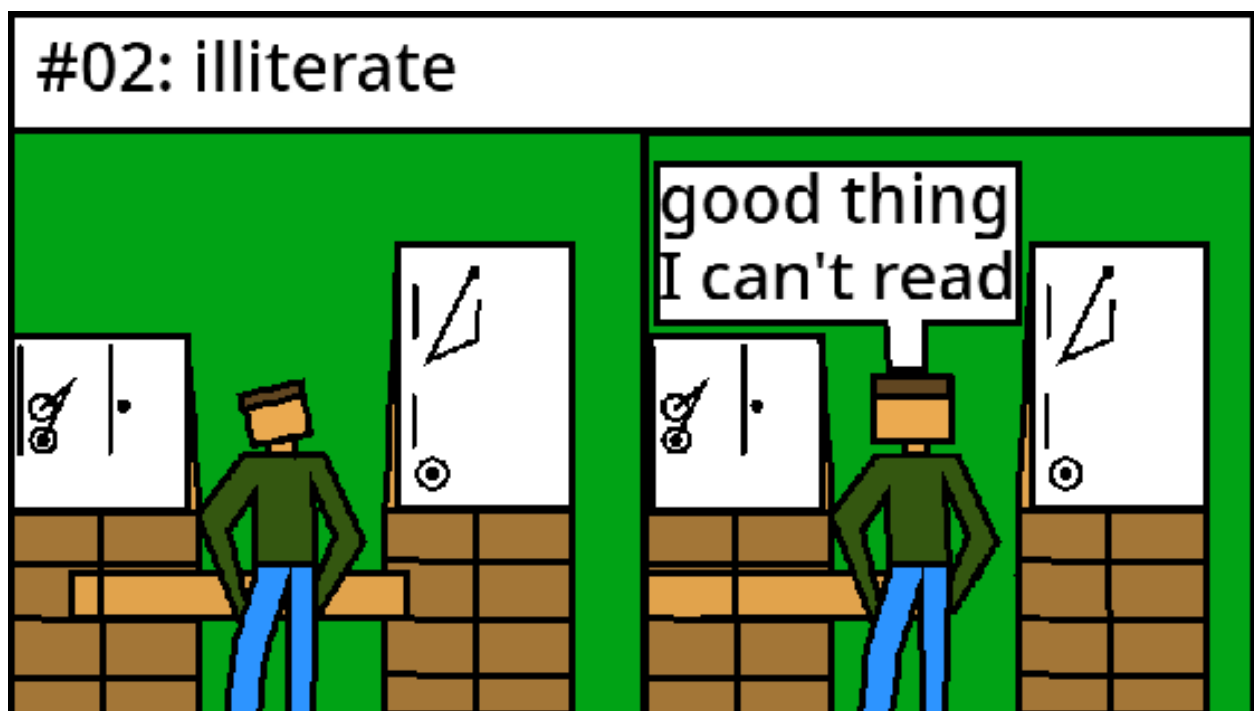
Design: Zachery.

Editing: Zachery.

Note from the Editor

The *Herald's* release-schedule has been slightly altered – it will now be on the last Monday of the last school-week in every month, rather than every four weeks. Exceptions may be necessary for holiday-months, where there will not be much to write about.

Merry Bridgemas!



Bridgian News

BridgeCon

The greatest Bridgian festival of the year

THE BRIDGIAN CONVENTION, marking the fourth anniversary of Bridge Base's naming, was held on the 18th of November this year in Base *v*. The main attraction was the announcement of many Bridgian media-projects in a speech written by Zachery. For comparison, last year's Convention was held in Bridgehaven, with the speech being delivered from the rebuilt Treehouse. (It announced the start of these annual Conventions, along with the 2023 School Map.)

This year, Zachery started off his speech with, 'an obligatory comment about the state of Bridge Base, the weather, and the purpose of the Convention', expressed in the form of a sonnet. He snuck in a line of Bridgian (see page 5) as an example of the "sub-Bridgianity" that was – and still is – taking hold in the Foundation.

He started off the main part of his speech by announcing the "syllabic" writing-system that he and Kai were working on, where letters are placed in a lattice with lines between them to construct words. (This may warrant an explanation in the next *Herald*-issue.)

The next announcement was that of the School Map – the greatest change from last year's being, 'the return of colour'. Also mentioned was the change of many names for regions and bases, such as the Bridgianisation of Edge Forest into Dthenden.

Finally, he announced the release of this *Bridgian Herald's* first issue, though he complained that there was not enough written content

in it. After the speech was over, Tim started distributing copies of the *Herald* across the School.

So in total, BridgeCon announced a lot of important projects from the Foundation – much more than last year – but there was nothing from outside the Bridgian echo-chamber. Equally, nobody from outside the Base attended, though that was also the case last year. Could next year's Convention be further-reaching? (Probably not...)

Not another fight...

A recount of Bridgian drama

THIS *HERALD*-MONTH, like all others, has been filled with Bridgian drama. Many arguments and fights have occurred within the confines of the Base. Firstly, a fight between Iris and Tim on the 29th of November. Tim claims that Iris had provoked him by shouting, "Scrap! Scrap! Scrap!" at him, and so he punched her in the face. Sam got angry, proceeding to call Tim by many rude names.

The next week started off without much of the Christmas cheer that would be hoped for in the month of December. On the 3rd day of that month, Tim again became angry when Sam repeatedly called his name; he swung his arm, almost whacking Leia-Rose in the process, to hit Sam above the eye.

Finally, another fight between Tim and Sam, stemming from an issue in the former's Minecraft world. Sam started off with his usual name-calling, which angered Tim enough to initiate a fight, though Tim denies almost all the actions he took. The moral of this article is that Bridge Base would be much better off – though less interesting – if these fights did not occur. Can we just get our act together again?

School News

Football for KS2s!?

The latest news from Student Council

THIS TERM'S Student Council-meeting discussed various improvements that could be made to activities during breaks. The School's head teacher, Shane, suggested providing artificial grass to the area behind the Key Stage 2 buildings in Extéria. This was divisive in the student body: some are excited for a new project, whereas others believe that KS2s are being prioritised over secondary students, using this as an example of systemic bias.

Also discussed in this meeting was the School's budget. The students want Shane to spend more money on breaktime provisions, such as rebuilding the Lintæan playground or upgrading the Bridge Down's tennis-courts. It was suggested that an "outdoor classroom" could be installed in Seldeth, though its practicality (or lack thereof) was not evaluated.

More policy-discussion by students would be helpful to improve the quality of the School for all those within it, in a precise manner that most accurately meets the needs of the staff and students. The *Herald* reminds class-representatives to attend meetings of the Student Council if able to, as it benefits both them and those around them.

Correction: In the previous issue of the *Herald*, we stated that William had "gathered signatures from over twenty of his fellow students" to start talks on rebuilding the playground in western Lintæ. While not strictly incorrect, William let us know that the number was in fact over forty.

We are hiring

Looking for a School News correspondent

The *Bridgian Herald* needs a correspondent for their School News section, who will report on all non-Bridgian matters in the School. Applicants must:

- Be well-connected and acquainted with School matters. Being a part of Student Council is useful, but not required.
- Be fluent in the English language and able to write effective notes for the *Herald*.
- Be able to regularly communicate with Zachery, Tim, or any other Bridge Base-member.

Essay-writing skills are not essential, but helpful to reduce the need for editing.

Applications may be submitted to the Foundation between the times of 12:45 and 13:30 Monday-Friday, excluding school-holidays.

Address

Meeting Room,
Gilnar Base / Base β,
Gilnar,
Ephkaí,
Unsted Park School.



Seasonal

The Bridgian Mass

Christmas-celebrations in the Base

CHRISTMAS IS A merry time of year, or so they say. All around the School, celebrations have been going on to mark the end of the autumn-term (see next article). In Bridge Base, this is no different, with the name of “Bridgemass” being devised to distinguish the Bridgian events.

The peak of merriment in the Base starts at the time this issue of the Herald goes to print, in the last week of term. A “Bridgemass tree”, brought from Bridgehaven, has been set up in the Meeting Room of Base β to emphasise this – aptly for the Foundation, it has orange, wilted leaves as it was the same tree used last year.

To celebrate Bridgemass this year, your correspondent has Bridgianised the Christmas carol *Deck The Hall*, with new lyrics over the song. This will be sung alongside the pre-existent *We Wish You A Merry Bridgemass* – if the Bridgian members would do such things.

However, the general Christmas spirit will not be lost in the Base, with the Meeting Room playing host to games, songs, *et cetera* over the next week. A game of charades was played just before this issue released, though it was short and only three people were there to play it.

In conclusion, Bridgemass in the Base will be at the greatest it has ever been, with a new song and a merrier atmosphere than in previous years. The addition of new members to the Base adds to this effect, with Base β being a more suitable location for celebrations. (Last year’s Bridgemass was celebrated in Bridgehaven, which has the downside of being far away from the School.)

The time has come!

How the School celebrates Christmas

AS YOU KNOW, Christmas is just around the corner. The School has been diligently holding events to celebrate this time of year. Christmas jumper day and Christmas lunch were held on the same day. Lunch consisted of roast turkey, Brussels sprouts, parsnips, red cabbage, and Yorkshire puddings, with cranberry sauce on the side; ice cream and cheesecake were available as desserts.

For those of you who wore a Christmas jumper on the 12th, you may have attended the group photo that took place at the end of the day. (Not many jumper-wearers attended it, probably because its existence was not effectively communicated.)

There will be a Christmas concert and assembly in the week after this issue goes to print; Zachery is planning to play the Foundation’s Bridgemass-songs as well as *Jingle Bell Rock*.

We expect that there will be more celebrations of Christmas to come which have not been covered here. Bridge Base certainly has its share of these, some songs having been devised specifically for the occasion (see previous article).

Guides

How To Raid, Part 1

A guide on raiding, by the Raider himself

So, you want extra resources for your Base, but nobody will give any to you? Raiding is the Answer To Having Nothing – collect stuff without needing any invitation! However, the practice is forbidden by the *Pestoral Group* from Lintae, so it must be done with great caution. If, despite this warning, you wish to perform a raid, there are rules you should follow to stay safe: **Stay quiet.** Being loud attracts attention to yourself and others around you, and is estimated to cause around half of all failures. Avoiding this is paramount to ensuring a successful raid.

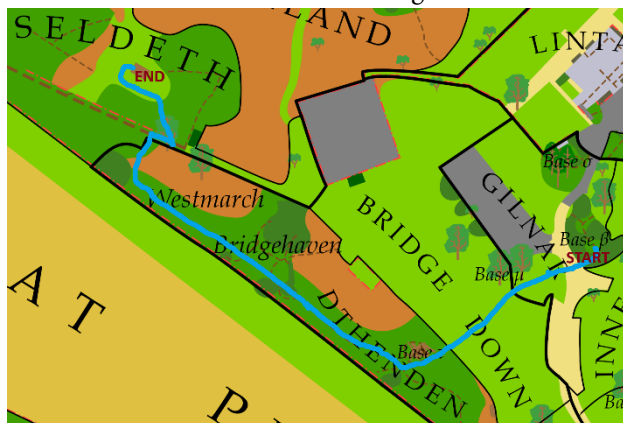
Be quick. This reduces the chance that the *Group* will catch you, as they are on an orbit that brings them around to your location around every ten minutes.

Bigger ≠ Better. Make sure to only bring few people along with you. This helps with the previous two points.

Stay alert. Watch out for the *Group* to prevent them from sneaking up on you. They will typically not search too hard, so hiding – say in the Bridge Gap Fernland – works well.

Choose your destination wisely...

If you are going to raid, you must choose a location and resources. Common raid-targets include



Seldeth, Æthûsa, and Entébia. Seldeth is the easiest, so it will be covered in more detail here. Assuming a departure from Base β (Gilnar Base), first head south-west across the Bridge Down to Base γ, or Bridge Base. Then turn right onto the path to Bridgehaven. Bridgehaven is a good place to wait before starting on the final stretch to Seldeth, on the path through the Westmarch.

Once you are there, run into the wooden shed and grab as much useful stuff as you can carry. Useful items include: planks, often found scattered around the shed; pallets, usually found by the Westmarch entrance; beams, preferably long ones; anything metal; tyres; string or rope; and, if all else fails, large sticks. Ensure to maximise the resources taken – perform multiple trips if possible and stockpile items in Bridgehaven.

If you spot a teacher whilst you are raiding, do not drop your stuff. Instead, it would be better to sprint all the way back to Bridgehaven, potentially continuing along to Bridge Base. If they have not spotted you yet, you may be able to hide. However, there is often no way to do so – you need to make a good judgement on this.

Part 2 of the “How To Raid” trilogy will appear in the next issue of the *Herald*.

Bíshbés nádoíðà?

Revealing the Bridgian language's secrets

THE BRIDGIAN LANGUAGE lies shrouded in mystery. How, for instance, is one supposed to intuit the meaning of the phrase “*Thae kae thai: be sèl rídà entae!*” when they don't even know what the words mean? (By the way, it means “Go to the eastern building!”, a phrase familiar to those trying – and inevitably failing – to coax the Bridgians into their lessons.)

Let us start with the basics: writing. The Bridgian language uses the alphabet of Bridgian Phonetics, which can be written in three ways – in anglicised, syllabic, or traditional form. All Bridgian words in the *Herald* use anglicised Phonetics, so phrases may look different due to them

being written in a different Phonetical form. To illustrate the difference, the fourth line in the BridgeCon sonnet is *Bisbbés-sà fae pae thensà ephenden*, which would be written as “*Bycbeys-sa vey bhey þensa evenden*” in traditional form, and as follows in syllabic form:



(Translating this phrase is left as an exercise to the reader.)

But I want to learn it!

The basic syntax of the Bridgian language is largely the same as in English: verbs are still expressed in the order *subject, verb, object*; prepositions are still placed after verbs with noun/verb objects.

There are a few differences though. Adjectives may be put either before or after the noun they are describing, respectively, if they prescribe or describe a quality. Though the words stay in the same order as in English, hyphenation is slightly different – compound words are often combined without needing a hyphen or en-dash.

The main, obvious obstacle to Bridgian-learners, however, is that the root-words and affixes are completely different to those in English. As an example, the Bridgian prefix *en-* applies to a verb and refers to its result, similarly to the English *-ate* or *-ation*; *tal* becomes *ental* in the same way that “found” becomes “foundation”.

The easiest way to go through all this is to consider a simple noun-phrase: *kas gè Bishkai là thensà endol delde*. By simply replacing the words with those in the table below, we get “map of the School and its divisions numerous”, which is

Bridgian	English	Notes
<i>Bisbbésental</i>	the Bridge Base Foundation	Made up of <i>bish</i> , <i>bés</i> , <i>en-</i> , and <i>tal</i>
<i>Bishkai</i>	the School	<i>bish</i> and <i>kai</i>
<i>delde</i>	numerous	<i>del</i> and <i>-de</i>
<i>Divyúswon</i>	Devious One	Phonetically written
<i>endol</i>	division(s)	<i>en-</i> and <i>dol</i>
<i>ephenden</i>	plant-life	<i>eph</i> , <i>en-</i> , and <i>den</i>
<i>fae</i>	person	Plurality unknown
<i>gè</i>	of	Like “representing”
<i>kas</i>	map	
<i>là</i>	and	In the sense of a list
<i>le</i>	by	Referring to the actor
<i>pae</i>	destroy	Equally, “kill”
<i>sil</i>	for	
<i>tae</i>	made	Tense unknown
<i>thensà</i>	its	<i>then</i> and <i>-sà</i>

almost correct English. However, the adjective *delde* is placed after the noun *endol*; this should be swapped around to yield “map of the School and its numerous divisions”, a description of the 2024 School Map.

That is not the full description of the School Map though, which appends on *tae le Divyúswon sil Bisbbésental*, using a comma to indicate its additionality. Again copying meanings from the Table, this means “made by the Devious One for the Bridge Base Foundation”, which is true for the Map. Note that articles – that is, “a” or “the” – are omitted in Bridgian, along with plurals and tenses.

Now there are only a few loose ends to tie up. Firstly, how are these words supposed to be pronounced? Anglicised Phonetics is disliked by many because some letters can turn into different sounds depending on their context, such as the two-letter sounds “sh” and “th”, seen in *Bishkai* and *thensà* respectively. The anglicisation was designed to be self-evident, but there are still a few issues – like “th”, which is pronounced two ways in English. Be careful, English-speakers, not to pronounce the Bridgian pronoun *then* the same way as the English adverb “then” – the *th*-sound is pronounced like the “th” in “three”.

Secondly, stress-patterns. Generally, people don’t think about the specific syllables they stress in a word – only poets writing in metre would have to deal with it. This is because people pronounce the words how they have heard them pronounced by others; however, this is impossible in Bridgian – someone must define the syllable-stress. The example from before would be stressed as: ***kas gè Bishkai là thensà endol delde, tae le Divyúswon sil Bisbbésental***, stressed syllables being highlighted in **bold**. (The only true rule is that only root-words, not affixes, are stressed – so not *endol*.)

What do I do next?

The first thing to do is to look at the Phonetics and language-documentation on the Foundation’s website, accessible via the QR-code on the front of this publication. Investigating traditional, or even syllabic, Phonetical writing would be useful, though not necessary. It would also be beneficial to analyse the few translations given there.

Activities

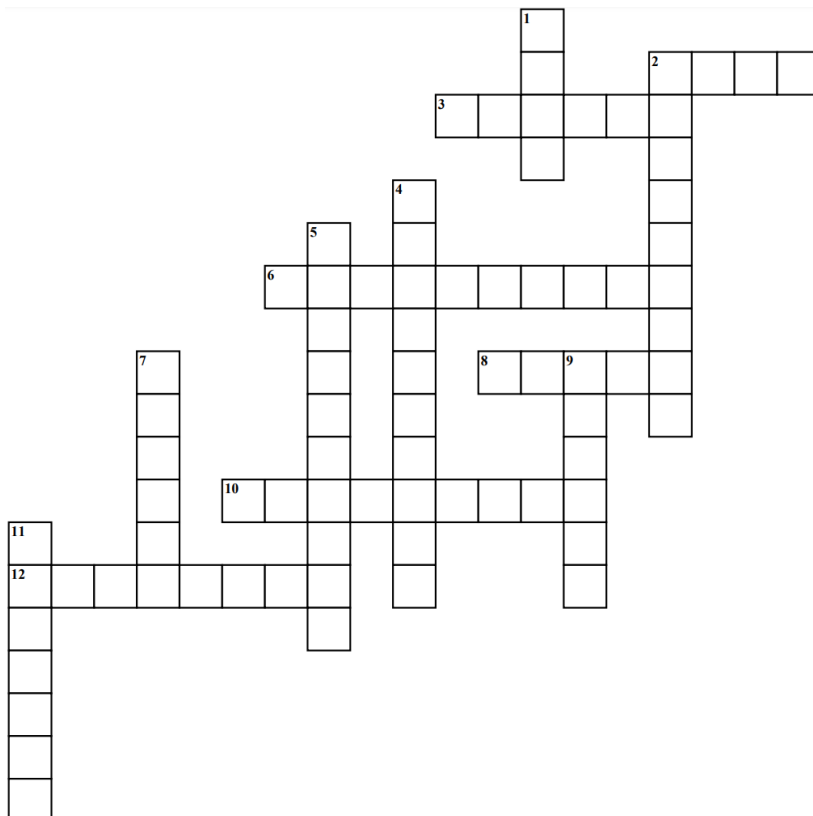
Wordsearch

I N A A K I A F M I A A D S A E M S
 R D E E E N O E R D A I A O A P R A
 I D S A B R I D G E M A S S O N G S
 A S D M O N E O R U M G F S E I I J
 M D I T A D A M S G B J O E M R N J
 S O G P R R O I I E I F R O S A M O
 T A R R S U T B A G E T E N A A A O
 B E P E T A B P P R S N P O I S D E
 F L A B B K P D K A D R I I O E D G
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 P T B D J K E P D E E I R F J E P B
 A E N S R A M D B M S N E G S F S S
 O K O M N M O I F S M E E A I A G I

Words

- Base Kappa
- Bridgemas
- Bridgemas songs
- Bridgemas-tree
- Foundation
- More bald Jamie

Crossword



Across

- 2. What we call Ben (4)
- 3. Region/name of main base (6)
- 6. Title for Zachery (7,3)
- 8. Greek letter for Domebush Base (5)
- 10. Convention held in Base γ (9)
- 12. Bridgian for "plant-life" (8)

Down

- 1. What Jamie D is (4)
- 2. Bridgian Christmas (9)
- 4. Fun Bridgian activity (5,5)
- 5. Our enemies, of Base γ (10)
- 7. Base in central Dthenden (6,4)
- 9. Bridgian building-material (6)
- 11. Commonly raided region (7)

Colouring



(Good luck on this one... all the coloured areas are black so you can't even draw on them!)