

Generational lingo: Whether good or bad, they add to our lives

Each generation has their own set of words that are “hip,” yet can be cringeworthy to any other generation or equally cringeworthy to the generation itself when they’re used the wrong way.

I couldn’t begin to explain why these words are so important to us, why some can make someone smile because they remember their life before true adulthood and how some make us roll our eyes in disgust. There’s really no rhyme or reason from what I can tell. You either appreciate the vibe, or you don’t.

My grandpa, my dad’s dad, didn’t use a whole lot of lingo from his generation. However, he did recite his fair share of

Polish words and phrases, and would get a wry grin on his face when it was particularly sassy. But one time he said something was “cool,” and that meant the world to me. He used it correctly, especially since he heard my siblings and I, as well as my cousins, all use the word in his presence numerous times.

One of the cringeworthy words my dad forbade us to use was to call him “dude.” He just never liked it. He would rather we use just about any other word in the dictionary rather than that. So, that was banned around my dad.

Nowadays, you really can’t be on any social platform for more than 5 minutes without seeing

MELISSA KOWALCZYK



Something Extra

Gen Z lingo. I’m going to steal a term that I heard on TikTok, and refer to myself as an “elder Millennial.” Because of that, I tend to side a little more with the Gen X crowd when it comes to lingo. About half the time I hear something from someone in Gen Z, and my reply is “What now?”

A former coworker of mine, Marissa Tharp, would share her Gen Z knowledge with me on a regular basis during the work day. And, although I don’t see her everyday at work, I continue to proudly tell her when I say something is “lit fam,” and it comes out naturally. She was also always talking about, “spilling the tea,” and about things being “valid,” and someone might be “just vibing.”

With that said, there is a plethora of lingo from any generation that just gets on my nerves. Like I said before, I couldn’t tell you why they bug me so much. Maybe its because there was one person who said them all the time

and I really wasn’t fond of them. Or maybe it’s because my sister was saying it to annoy me more times than I can count. Whatever the reason, certain words and phrases practically hurt my very being when I hear them.

Please for the love of music, don’t say any song I like is “a real banger.” And if you’re thinking of using that, try one of the following instead: It’s a great song. It’s an amazing song. It’s a song that really moves me. I dig that song.

At the end of the day people do what they do and will use the words they’re familiar with and that they have grown accustomed to using. And it really does be like that sometimes ...

Peshtigo district values its substitute teachers

FROM A1

There’s a shortage of subs in the district

By Special to the EagleHerald

PESHTIGO—Have you ever thought about becoming a substitute teacher? The Peshtigo School District is short of substitute teachers and in hope that some community members apply.

“A lot of Peshtigo’s subs from last year have now gotten different jobs,” Peshtigo Middle/High School administrative assistant Jodi Evancheck explained, stating the schools are often short of staff and have to shuffle people around.

“We used to have a list of 20-30 people to choose from, but now the numbers are in the single digits,” principal Chad Sodini said.

When the regular teacher cannot come to class due to illness, it is possible for the learning of that classroom to come to a complete stop, officials said. Having a good substitute who can follow a lesson plan ensures learning continues.

“Substitute teachers can oftentimes be the difference between keeping our schools open or considering other more frustrating options,” said Kate Willett, the principal at the Peshtigo Elementary Learning Center (PELC). “Last year there were a few times we had to close classrooms due to a shortage of staff at the Peshtigo Elementary Learning Center.”

Willett wants to assure the public that substitute teachers are an integral part of the education



Special to the EagleHerald

Peshtigo substitute teacher Crystal Dorschner teaches first grade recently. The Peshtigo district, like many others, is short on substitute teachers.

process. They allow students the ability to keep learning even when their teacher is unavailable for class.

Someone interested in substitute teaching has the flexibility to choose their schedule and work when they want. There are retirees, stay-at-home parents, new college grads and anyone with a desire to make a difference in the school district. Willett reminds parents of school-age children that they can work during the school day while their kids are in school and says, “we hope members of our community hear our plea.”

Also, many substitute teachers have learned they love working with children so much that they went back to earn their certification to become regular teachers.

“Your days are never boring or too routine,” said Donna Hart, who

retired as a teacher in the Peshtigo School District and now works as a substitute primarily because she loves being in a learning environment. “You get to teach in different classrooms, at different age levels and different subject areas.”

“You’re able to experience the curriculum of different grade levels and participate in school activities such as assemblies or field trips,” Hart said.

Substitute teacher Megan Bero said she loves to learn about new topics along with the students. She loves being “more informed about my community” and is able to “see first hand how the goals of my school district are being met in each classroom.”

Lance Pesch wants to do what he can to be sure Peshtigo students don’t miss out on learning when a teacher is out. He has

been a substitute teacher for the Peshtigo District for several years and has gotten to know the students he works with and he cares about their success.

Pesch said he loves “engaging with students and their growth is important to me.”

Bero agrees saying she finds satisfaction in “working with students to ensure their education continues. They make me laugh with their expressions and honesty.”

Substitute teacher Ranny Betts has been subbing for over 20 years and said she loves working with kids. She loves working in an environment of learning.

“Teachers put a lot of effort into making their classes engaging. I learn with them,” she said. “You must love children and care about what and how they learn. If you love learning, your students will, too!”

While substitute teachers don’t often get the public credit they deserve, the public school cannot survive without them. Sodini said, “You’re able to create your own schedule, learn new skills, gain knowledge, make a difference with children and earn money. This is an awesome opportunity.”

RIDE:

roughly 490 miles. Usually there are 14 people biking, with a 6-person support crew. This year two people had to drop out, with one who is training for the Chicago Marathon and couldn’t do both events and the other having to take care of family matters which didn’t allow for the proper training.

The group, including Michael Lopez, one of the riders, will make a special stop in Menominee during the journey. Only a couple of blocks off the route is the home of Michael and Lorraine Karpinski. The Karpinskis’ son, Michael, and daughter-in-law, Robin, were both friends with Lopez since the Karpinskis moved next door in McKinley Park, in the center of Chicago, years ago.

Reminiscing about the “kids,” Michael Karpinski said, “We can’t say enough for (Michael). Because it used to be, if you saw Michael (Karpinski), you’d see Robin and (Michael Lopez). Then eventually, my son married Robin. They were best friends. They were The Three Musketeers, I’ll tell you.”

Lopez had the chance to visit with Michael and Lorraine at a graduation party in the Chicago area and mentioned the upcoming ride.

“We got to talk to him and his wife,” said Lorraine. “And I actually really did not know that (Michael) did all of this, you know, riding the bike for so many miles. So we were kind of surprised at that.” Lorraine and Michael shared the sentiment that Lopez was always athletic and talked fondly of him coming over to swim at their home in Chicago as a child.

Menominee isn’t the only stop they’re making along the way. The riders will also make a stop in Port Washington, Wisconsin, to drop off a check for the family of a firefighter who recently died.

“We don’t just help members of Chicago,” Lopez said. “We heard about a firefighter that was out collecting money doing small bike rides to get more AEDs (automated external defibrillators) for the fire department. As he was doing that, he was struck by a car on his bike and (died).”

Ignite the Spirit, a nonprofit organization, was developed in the wake of 9/11 to help firefighters and their families who need help. Since its inception in 2003, the group has helped more than 500 families and raised over \$1 million dollars.

To donate, people may visit <https://www.ignitethespirit.org/> and scroll down to the Bike to Fight Cancer graphic.

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Tricia Hurley
715-750-2122

CIRCULATION OFFICE

715-750-2099
715-750-2108
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NEWSROOM

Editor Dan Kitkowski • 715-750-2103
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