

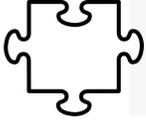


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New Paltz Middle School

The Mirror

The Middle School production of "The Wizard of Oz" took place on February 27th, 28th and March 1st.

The Wizard of Oz comes to New Paltz

By Rachel Reinking

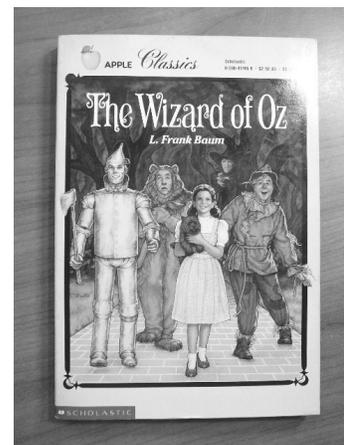
The Wizard of Oz is a classic story and musical that is familiar to almost everybody- and this year, it was the play that was put on by our New Paltz Middle School. The show dates were February 26th, 27th, and March 1st. Cast members auditioned in the beginning of December, and cast and crew members had eight weeks of rehearsals to prepare for the performance. The cast and crew worked equally hard to make the performance a reality, and the outcome was amazing. All of the nights drew big crowds, but opening and closing nights sold the most tickets.

For more coverage on the school play — see inside!

A Review!

By: Annsley Fischer and Olivia Baker

We both saw the play Opening Night! The props were amazing, as well as the cast and crew. I liked the entire thing from beginning to end! The play was in Middle School auditorium and all the seats were filled. Plus, the floor was filled too! The play sold out every show time, Opening Night was especially crazy!



Did you know that *The Wizard of Oz* was a book before it was a movie or a play? The book is written by L. Frank Baum. Check your local library!

Behind the Scenes with the Crew of NPMS *Wizard of Oz*

By Sean Nielson

Stage Crew was not an easy job. The crew had to keep quiet with no peeps as they moved all sets around behind the curtain. It was very tempting to peek out the curtain to see what the play looked like but we had to resist the temptation! The crew wore all black and was lurking in the shadows at all times working hard to keep the sets ready for the next scenes. The curtain was run by the crew as well as the legs of the Wicked Witch of the East and the spinning of the house during the cyclone. Along with moving the sets, the crew also made some sets and painted them. The play had an amazing turn out! The cast and crew worked really hard and pulled off a spectacular play!



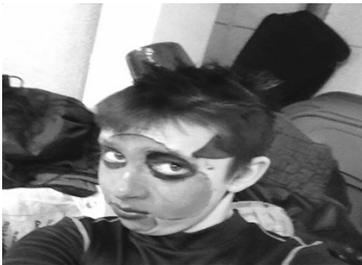
Being Nikko By Andrew Geher

First step: Auditioning

When I walked into the room I was very nervous and I was shivering. I was up first. I got up and they asked who I was auditioning for. I told them Toto. I sang my song, from the Munchkin scene, and sat back down.

Second step: Call Backs

I was so happy when I realized that I had gotten a call back. The next week, after school I went to the auditorium ready for being a dog. It was fun being a dog and I was really excited/nervous to see who (or what) I got. The next week I looked at the board and I saw I didn't get Toto, but I got Nikko! Nikko is the Wicked Witch's monkey assistant.



Third step: Rehearsals

On my first day practicing I had a lot of fun developing a walk and a style of being on the stage. I walked on all-fours and jumped like a monkey! We rehearsed for a few months and I stayed after school every day, being in a "lead" role. It was pretty intense!

Final step: The Show

I was extremely excited for the show but I was also sad knowing it would be done soon! When I got to the stage I had a blast and did not have any stage fright! I'm definitely going to do it next year!



Earth Day By Eliza Behrke

As you probably know, Earth Day falls on April 22nd. Earth Day is a time when we celebrate the planet we call home. The earth has provided us with many vital things including food, water, oxygen, and so much more. So why not give back to the planet that gives us so much? Even though Earth Day has already passed, we can still celebrate it by planting flowers, cleaning up around the community, or just going outside! Everything counts.



An Earth Day Plea By Jordan Bailin

Please help save the animals! They are all getting killed for no reason and you can do something about it! Pick up any litter around and you may save an animal's life! It would surprise you that most animals die from getting trapped in a piece of plastic or litter laying on the ground. That's not fair because they didn't do anything to you so why would you do something to them???

Netflix By Kyle Branco and Sean Nielson

Netflix is the most popular streaming website available. Netflix was founded in 1997 in Scott Valley, California. Netflix costs a small charge of \$7.99 a month. Netflix has recently released a gift card if your parents don't like putting credit cards online, like my mom. Netflix's most popular show is *Orange is the New Black*. Another show that is popular on Netflix is *The 100*. My favorite show on Netflix is the *Walking Dead*, but it has the complete seasons of many other hit shows. In my opinion, Netflix is the best streaming website available to the United States of America.



Netflix has both positive and negative aspects! Some people say that Netflix doesn't update soon enough after a series ends. But, a positive thing about Netflix is that Netflix original shows are released in complete seasons all at once!

Passover By Talia Feinsod

Passover is a Jewish holiday that started on Friday April 3rd, and ended on Saturday April 11th. Passover is an annual retelling of the story of Passover. The story of Passover is set in Egypt when the Jews were held in slavery. The Jews complained to God about the unfairness of slavery, and God sent the ten plagues. 1. Blood, 2. Frogs, 3. Lice, 4. Flies, 5. Cattle sickness, 6. Boils, 7. Hail, 8. Locusts, 9. Darkness, and 10, the death of the first born son. Pharaoh was furious when his own son was killed and he let the Jews go. They fled to prepare before Pharaoh could change his mind. As the Jews hurriedly prepared for their journey out of Egypt, they realized they were in such a hurry that they wouldn't have time to let their bread dough rise; therefore creating matzo (MoT-Za). They were on a journey for a very, very long time, and because they didn't let the dough rise, they ate matzo, a lot of matzo.

Now when Jews around the world today celebrate Passover we stay away from wheat and bread products for 8 days to remind us of how the Jews suffered over their journey.

Do You Know What is Inside of Gum? By Frank Pecoraro

Chewing gum is made of a substance called chicle mixed with flavorings. In other words, chicle is a form of rubber. Just like rubber bands don't dissolve when you chew them, neither does chicle. Chicle is a good bit softer than rubber bands and happens to soften more when it gets warm in your mouth. If you freeze chicle with ice, it gets very stiff -- chicle hardens and softens over a narrow temperature range.



Caine's Arcade By Andrew Geher and Lexcia Eisenhardt



Have you ever thought of creating a full working arcade out of cardboard boxes, duct tape, and some random house materials? Nine year old Caine Monroy from Los Angeles did just that! In 2011 Caine spent his summer in his dad's auto part garage making an elaborate arcade out of cardboard. When a film maker (Nirvan) stopped by to get a door handle for his car Caine asked him to play and he ended up being his first customer! Nirvan liked it so much that the next month he came back with a flash mob to surprise Caine. He also created a short film which ended up getting so much publicity that Caine earned over \$240 for his college. He charged people \$1 for four turns, and \$2 for a fun pass which was a week of fun!

TELEPHONE POLE FALLS ACROSS ROAD, SPARKS FIRE

By Paula Trifilo & Jordan Bailin

ON MARCH 17th 2015, a telephone pole fell across Albany Post Road, sparking an electrical fire outside the Trifilo's house. Eye witness Paula Trifilo said "it was the scariest thing that ever happened to me." Strong winds caused an old tree to fall into an old telephone pole causing the transformer to fall and start an electrical fire. The power was out for 12 hours, from 5:00 in the afternoon until 5:00 the next morning. Jordan Bailin's dad, the Chief of the Gardiner Fire Department, was the first responder and monitored the fire. When the fire died down a bit, the fire department sprayed the site with water to make sure it would not spread. Eventually, Central Hudson, the utility company, came and replaced the entire pole and transformer.

Why Bike Lanes Should Exist On All Town Roads **By Fiona Bevan**

There should be bike lanes on all town roads. There are many benefits to having bike lanes including encouraging people to bike, providing a safe place for regular cyclists, promoting physical activity, and keeping cyclists off the sidewalks.



Bike lanes help keep cyclists off roads and sidewalks. When cyclists ride in the road or on sidewalks it is dangerous for several reasons. A careless driver could hit a cyclist on the road and bike lanes help reduce the risk of that happening. Cyclists on the sidewalks are potentially dangerous to people running or walking. A cyclist could accidentally hit someone and injure them. It would be much safer for everyone if there were bike lanes on all town roads.

Having bike lanes also promotes physical activity and encourages people to bike instead of riding in vehicles. If bike lanes exist, people will more likely want to bike places because the opportunity is right there and waiting. Biking is good exercise so if bike lanes can get people biking they will have a good way to exercise and burn off their energy. If people biked places instead of riding in cars or trucks they could help the environment by not polluting as much. Bike lanes have many great uses.

Some people may argue that putting bike lanes on all or almost all of the town roads is too much money. I think bike lanes should exist on all town roads despite the cost. There are way more pros than cons in this argument. Bike lanes do a lot of good for the public and very little harm, if any. Overall bike lanes should definitely exist on all town roads.

Delish **By Sean Nielson**

Delish is a new business right next to the Middle School and a place to get frozen yogurt! They have a variety of flavors and toppings. They add new flavors and toppings every so often, so keep checking back! They have room to sit-in and eat. They have a comfortable section of booths as soon as you walk in. Then in the back they have tables, couches and chairs to sit back relax and eat your frozen yogurt! Delish is a popular hangout spot for students at the NPMS and I highly recommend it to all frozen yogurt lovers!

Girl Scout Cookies **By Rachel Reinking**

It is about the time of year when Girl Scouts start selling and delivering Girl Scout cookies. Girl Scout cookies come in 8 flavors: Thin Mints, Samoas, Tagalongs, Do-Si-Dos, Savanna Smiles, Trefoils, a new flavor for this year called Rah-Rah Raisins, and Toffee-tastic, which is only available if ordered online. Boxes cost \$4.00, but Girl Scout troops only get only about 5% of the cost. If you want to support the Girl Scout community by buying a box or two, look for a Girl Scout or a Girl Scout troop leader. They are delicious, and the manufacturers are trying to make the cookies healthier by making certain flavors vegan and gluten free.

Skinny Legs **By Cameron DiBernardo**

If you are ever in the Caribbean you should go to a small burger joint called Skinny Legs on the island of St. John. Skinny Legs is an off-the-grid burger place where sheep roam in the parking lot and the restaurant is basically all outside. Skinny Legs opened its doors in 1991 and was voted the best burger in the Caribbean. From personal experience, Skinny Legs makes the best burger I have ever had, probably because they never clean their grill. That flavors the burgers so that they taste really delicious! That is why you REALLY need to go here!

New Faces: Meet Some of Our New Teachers!

Ms. Giordano
By Frankie Natoli

Q: Why did you want to become a teacher?

A: I've always liked working with kids and helping other people!

Q: What's your favorite thing to do as a teacher?

A: I really like to do science experiments.

Q: What is your favorite subject to teach? A: science

Q: Why did you want to teach at New Paltz?

A: I grew up 20 minutes from New Paltz and always thought New Paltz was a fun place!

Q: What's your favorite thing to do on a rainy day?

A: Eat snacks and watch movies.

Q: What do you like to do during the summer, when you're not teaching?

A: Travel and go to the beach.

Q: Where do you like to go on vacation?

A: Where it is warm!

Ms. DeNome
By Frankie Natoli

Q: What inspired you to be a teacher?

A: I've always wanted to be a teacher!

Q: Have you worked in any other schools besides New Paltz? A: I worked in Cornwall.

Q: Where did you grow up and go to school?

A: I grew up in Cornwall and I went to Cornwall schools.

Q: What was your favorite academic class in college? A: History.

Q: What's your favorite thing to do on a rainy day?

A: Bake, cook and eat.

Q: What's your favorite subject and topic to teach?

A: History.

Q: What's your favorite movie?

A: *Sound of Music*



**Questions for Ms. Beard
By Ashley Thacker**

Q: What's it like teaching band?

A: Teaching band is the best job ever and I get to inspire students to keep playing the instruments.

Q: Do you like the NPMS?

A: I love it here. I'm happy to be home (since I grew up here). I really like that the teachers are all about the students. Something I also like is that the students are always excited to learn new things about band.

Q: Is it fun to hang around the kids?

A: Yes they are. Most days the students are excited to learn and have more energy than me.

Q: Do you think that you influence the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders?

A: I really think we influence each other.

Q: What's the best part of teaching?

A: The best part of teaching is when you just see that light bulb go off for a student.

**Mrs. Serrao
By Annsley Fischer**

Q: "How long have you been teaching?"

A: "I've been teaching 20 years. I've taught 3rd grade 4th grade 5th grade and now 6th grade."

Q: "What subjects do you teach?"

A: "I teach reading, language arts and social studies, I love the kids I work with!"

Q: "Do you have a dream job, if so what would it be?"

A: "I've always wanted to be on Broadway in a play, or open my own pizza place."

Q: "Do you have any pets, if so what is his or her name? What would your dream pet be?"

A: "I have an eight year old dog named Louey. She is the cutest dog in the world! If I could fit a giraffe in my backyard, I would keep it as a pet."

Q: "Have you worked at other places? If so where?"

A: "Yes, I started working in a Middle School on Long Island. Then I worked at Lenape and now I work here at the Middle School."

Q: "Where did you grow up?"

A: "I grew up in Kings Park, Long Island."

Q: "When did you decide you wanted to be a teacher?"

A: "I decided I wanted to be a teacher in third grade. I had a teacher that read *The Boxcar Children* to us and I wanted to be just like her."

Q: "Where did you go to college?"

A: "I went to Mount Saint Mary's College for teaching."

Q: "What is your favorite color? Why?"

A: "My favorite color is green because I'm Irish and it's a "Lucky" color."

Q: "What are some fun facts about you?"

A: "I grew up near a beach and spent my summers at the beach. So if you're looking for me this summer...that's where you'll find me."

Reviews

The End of Freddy?

By Elizabeth Medrano

On March 2, 2015, Scott Cawthon released his newest addition to the series, *Five Nights at Freddy's 3*. The game, unlike the others, was set in a horror attraction based on the unsolved murders from the previous



pizzerias. This game also featured only one animatronic rather than multiple animatronics but despite this, you still get to see the other animatronics...only they're used as decorations and hallucinations. The main antagonist has been dubbed Springtrap and is a yellow deteriorating bunny animatronic. In this game, there is a lot to deal with. You have to lure Springtrap into other rooms so he can't find you, block vents so he can't crawl into your office, deal with hallucinations jumping out at you and fixing faulty ventilation, video and auditory errors that might lure Springtrap towards you. The game has been proven to be very difficult, gaining more attention than previous versions. Most of the gamers who have tackled the first and second game have also come back for the last one.

I highly recommend this game for any of the horror lovers or people who have played the previous games. However, just because the game franchise is claiming to be over, there is still a chance of another game. The hype and fandom of this game still hasn't died down either, and recently, Warner Brothers picked up the rights to the game and are now planning to release a feature length film about it! So now, no matter what there is no stopping Five Nights at Freddy!

The creator of Five Night's of Freddy fooled everyone on April Fool's Day by teasing a new edition of the game!

Homestuck

By Evan Trifilo

Homestuck is a web comic made by author and illustrator Andrew Hussie, commonly referred to as "The Huss" by fans. *Homestuck* is the fourth comic on the MS paint adventures website, the others being *Jail Break*, *Bard's Quest*, and *Problem Sleuth*. *Homestuck* is by far the longest story of the four, and it is a challenge. With over 9000+ pages and it's not even done yet! It has been said before that it is the internet's version of *Ulysses*. Even though it is so long it is very worth it. The story is very complicated, so I will try to explain it all without spoilers.

Homestuck is a story of a boy named John and his 3 friends Jade, Dave, and Rose. All the children receive a beta copy of a game by the name of Sburb. The game summons the meteors, and before you know it the kids are in an inter-dimensional realm called the medium. This is a land filled with monsters and enemies. Before the kids go into the medium they prototype a sprite with some object. This object can be anything ranging from a mannequin to a dog to even something as weird as a pencil! When you enter the medium the prototyped divides into 2 parts that go to four pillars of a castle, 1 above and 1 below. Then you prototype the sprite a second time (usually with a human or something that can talk) they turn into a sprite. This sprite helps you along the way thought your journey. Then the kids meet the trolls, an alien race with black skin and horns. The trolls are judged in society by the color of their blood. The kids eventually reach god tier, the highest level of the game. They eventually cause a reset of the game and create an alternate universe that they escape to with their parents / grandparents playing. You really have to read the story to understand

Some characters in the story are John Egbert, Rose Lalonde, Jade Harley, Dave Strider, Karkat Vantas, Terezi Pyrope, Soulux Captor, Eridan Ampora, Nepeta Leijon, Gamzee Makara; the list goes on and on. There really is no main character in *Homestuck*. The closest person we have to a main character is the previously mentioned John Egbert. Too many people I have recommended *Homestuck* to have quit early on but if you have patience and persistence you can get through the bad first acts and get into the meat of the story and it is definitely worth the read.

Reviews

Ib By Elizabeth Medrano

The game *Ib* (pronounced e-b) is an amazing role playing game, or, RPG. This puzzle-horror RPG was created by Kouri. The plot has you playing as a nine year old girl named Ib, going to an art gallery about an artist named



Guertena, with her parents. Upon walking around the gallery, the building goes dark and all the people are gone. The only thing that clues her where to go are mysterious footprints leading to a painting on the floor. Ib steps on the painting and finds herself in a strange and scary world full of moving statues, paintings that chase her, and multiple other things, as well as a rose that acts as her health. For example, the more petals the rose loses, the more Ib gets closer to death. Ib is wandering all on her own till she meets a stranger named Garry who claims he was a visitor of the gallery as well. From there on it's you and Garry, trying to find your way back to the real world.

I think this is an amazing game, definitely one of my favorites. Despite being very pixilated, it still manages to be very artistic and beautiful all while being sinister and creepy. In addition to the artwork, there is also a beautiful soundtrack that can also add to the already scary ambiance. Another interesting thing is that this game has multiple endings depending on how you interact with characters and objects. I recommend this game to any horror, RPG or puzzle fans and would rate it nine out of ten stars. I hope you play it!

Review: *The 100* By Sean Nielson

The 100 is an amazing TV show. It is based on an apocalypse that makes Earth unfit for people to live on, so the people of Earth go up into space stations. Now only one space station, called the Ark, is left. They were planning to wait 100 years before testing to see if Earth was safe again, but the Ark is very low on life support (meaning oxygen) so they send 100 prisoners down to Earth to see if they can survive. They must work to not only to see if earth is safe but to see if they can survive with each other.



Mario Kart 8 Review (Wii U) By Brett Longo

Mario Kart, the series where each new game tops the one before it. Along with *Smash* for Wii U and *Shovel Knight*, it has been considered one of the best Wii U games of 2014. Even though *Mario Kart 8* is a fantastic game (no surprise there), and the visuals are stunning, there are some problems with the game that keep it from being better.



Mario Kart (if you don't already know), is a game where you race with lots of choices of characters on well-designed courses to try to get first place. There are also items along the way,



which can be used to your advantage to help you win, such as a mushroom that increases your speed, or a banana you can drop behind you to slow down

other players that slip on them. There are also coins, which will give you a slight speed boost after each collected. The game is really fun and addicting, and you can even race your friends in multiplayer!

The best feature of *Mario Kart 8* is the excellent online play. You can play with other players from around the world by setting up the Wii U to your Wi-Fi. The online version runs much better than it did in *Mario Kart 7*, with less frequent crashes and faster load times. It is really addicting and fun to play online.



Mario Kart 8 is a fantastic game. It is only \$60.00 and is definitely worth it. If that doesn't give you enough reason to buy *Mario Kart 8*, they are releasing DLC (Downloadable Content) for it, and the DLC will contain new characters, new vehicle parts, and both original and retro courses.

Join the Garden Club By Elizabeth Medrano

Spring has sprung and so have the plants which means the Garden Club is back in session! The Garden Club, run by Mrs. Ehrlich and Ms. O'Brien is a wonderful club that allows kids to enjoy gardening and get their hands dirty. At the club we fix the garden bed, plant and take care of the vegetables and fruits and at the end, we eat! There are a variety of different plants we can grow and you can even suggest your own. In past years we have grown strawberries, kale, tomatoes, carrots, and many others! We are meeting after school and going to meet once a week, depending on the weather. You can contact Mrs. Ehrlich or Ms. O'Brien for more details. You can come by yourself or bring your friends and new members are always welcomed.

Spring Activities , Getting Up and Active this Spring!!

By Nicole Steinback

Spring brings beautiful, warm, erratic weather. New York weather is very unpredictable; one day it can go from raining in the high 50's to 70's and sunny the very next day. Spring started on Friday, March 20th at 6:45 pm, and will end on Sunday June 21st at 12:38pm.

So why not take advantage of this spring? Use the unpredictable weather as a guide to balancing out physical days and lazy days. For instance, take sunny days to play sports outside and rainy days to sit and play indoors. There are many sports that start in spring, you just need to find the perfect one for you! Do you have good hand eye coordination ? If so then lacrosse, golf , or tennis may just be the right sport for you . Are you more into running? Track might just be the sport suited for you, but don't worry there are many events in track. Some of these events would include the 100/200 meter dash, hurdles, triple jump, long jump, and many more. If you want to be active but don't want to commit to anything then maybe at home activities are just right for you. At home you can go outside play jump-rope , hopscotch, or even hula hoop. If you're looking to boost your cardio then take a jog around the neighborhood, go biking, or skateboarding. If you want to take things light even a simple walk around the block will help you keep active.

Staying active isn't as hard as it may seem . All you need to do is follow these three steps: 1. Find a sport that interests you and keep at it. 2. Check the weather and make sure it's a suitable day to play outside. 3. Make plans with friends to play together because you will have fun and it will help keep you motivated. Overall, just try to make this spring fun and physical!!

Why All Schools Should Have School Uniforms

By Fiona Bevan

All schools should have uniforms. Having school uniforms decreases bullying, adds to school unity, and are easier to enforce than standard dress codes.

School uniforms decrease bullying. If everyone had the same or very similar outfits kids would not get bullied for the clothes that they wear. A recent survey done in 2013 by the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and Lands End uniform manufacturers proves this. 86% of school leaders / principals say that school uniforms have "a significant, positive impact on peer pressure." 64% of school leaders say that having school uniforms decreases the amount bullying at school. Bullying is a problem in many schools and having school uniforms will help stop the bullying.

School uniforms also make schools more unified. If students at school had uniforms everyone would feel more included and accepted. School uniforms can help show school spirit and they can represent a school. Unity is an important thing for a school and having uniforms helps the overall school unity.

School uniforms are easier to enforce than regular dress codes. Regular dress codes can be unfair, and students can get away with bending the rules. For example if the rule for shorts is they have to be fingertip length, some students have longer arms than other students. That is unfair because the students with shorter arms can wear shorter shorts. School uniforms makes it hard for students to bend the rules. Dress codes are slack enough that students can get away with minor violations. If schools had uniforms the clothing rules would be fair and consistent.

Some people may think uniforms are really bad, but I have had to wear them are they are fine. Overall, school uniforms are a really good idea. Dress codes are definitely better than no clothing rules but uniforms are the best. Uniforms have multiple benefits and they should exist in all schools.

THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF CELL PHONE USE ON TEENAGERS

By Ména Bonagura

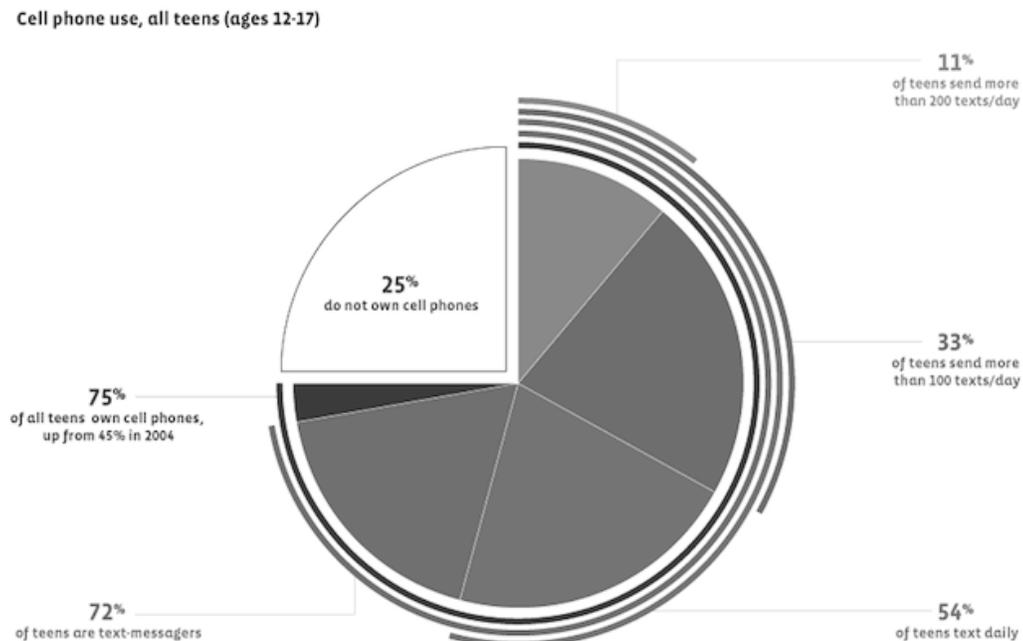
Cell phones tend to make teenagers tired, have trouble concentrating, and can be dangerous. Studies have been conducted by universities, websites, and parents to prove these beliefs. If we don't take care of these negative effects now, by limiting the access teens have to cell phones, it will just get worse for the future of our youths.

In 2009, a study was done at Orebro University in Sweden that found that cell phones affect the biology of young people's brains. Subjects who use their cell phone more often have problems sleeping. In 2010, the American Journal of Epidemiology studied teens and found that those who spend a lot of time in front of a screen, such as a cell phone, are more likely to have an increase of body fat over time. This is because the teens would prefer to be on their phones than to engage in actual physical activity. Teens are 43% more likely to be close to being or to be struck by a vehicle while using their cell phones. This study, which was done by the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2008 and tested 77 kids. They found that kids were less likely to look both ways while using their cell phones.

Teens using cell phones also leads to cyber bullying. In 2006, Fight Crime: Invest In Kids, found that almost one third of all teens have been a victim of cyber bullying. In 2008, a study done by the National Campaign To Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, found that about 20% of teens surveyed sent suggestive images through their cell phones.

Cell phones have many negative effects on teenagers including cyber bullying, sexting, making them tired, and affecting their concentration. The amount of time that teens spend on cell phones needs to be limited. It's important that our future youths have limited access to their cell phones to ensure a healthier and safer lifestyle.

How Are Teens Using Their Cell Phones?



Tennis: Fun for the Whole Family!!!!
By Talia Feinsod and Eliza Behrke

Tennis might sound like an easy sport but it's totally not. You have to have arm strength, perseverance, A LOT of practice, and most importantly, agility. The pros have to play non-stop for hours on end! Hitting the ball with enough power to get it to your opponent is challenging. You need to give the ball top spin and you have to aim the ball at the person (not the wall). It is best to train with a pro to help you become better at tennis. Pros don't have to be people like Serena Williams, Rodger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Andy Murray, or any of the other people who you might have seen playing at Wimbledon, the US Open, or the Australian Open. A pro can be anyone who knows how to teach tennis properly. When you have reached a higher level, you can sign up with the USTA, the United States Tennis Association. The USTA provides you with a certificate that allows you to participate in tennis tournaments at other tennis lodges. Tennis is a great sport and is fun for the whole family!

What do you do on a summer day when there's nothing to do? The answer is actually simpler than you would think! All you need is a racket, a ball, and a court. You can even make your own court right in your backyard! The USTA Youth Tennis Association says to make a functional court, you should "use chalk or masking tape for lines, hang string or caution tape between two trees or trash cans, or draw a line on the ground to use as a net." By just following these easy steps, you can make a court virtually anywhere. According to the USTA, good places to make a tennis court are:

- A driveway
- A playground
- Your backyard
- A local park
- A gym
- A safe sidewalk or patio

So why not try tennis today? If you are interested in tennis, try going to:

Total Tennis, Saugerties NY-- 1-800-221-6496

Or

Hudson Valley Indoor Tennis, Kingston NY-- 1-845-336-5416

Good Luck!!



NBA ALL-STAR BREAK

By Cameron DiBernardo, Patrick Hono, and Jacob Ingrassia, and Shane O'Haron

The NBA All-Star Game is a game where the best players from each conference are elected by fans to play against one another. The NBA all-star is played in many places. This year it was played in Madison Square Garden. There are also many mini competitions played the night before the big game, like the skills competition, 3 pointer contest, and the half court competition between a current player, a WNBA player and a NBA legend. To conclude the night there is the dunk contest. Five NBA legends judge the game and a TV star usually hosts it. There is also a celebrity competition, for non- NBA players who enjoy the game. A couple of the stars involved were Kevin Hart and Nick Cannon.

My First NBA Game

By Cameron DiBernardo

The first NBA game I ever went to was Celtics at Rockets. I traveled up to Boston and stayed in the official hotel of Teide Garden [Celtics stadium]. After we walked around Boston I ate dinner at a restaurant called Nikos. Michael Jordan, Drake, Shaquille O'Neal and Paul Pierce have all eaten at that restaurant as well! At around 7:00 pm I got to the game. The minute I walked in I got so excited! We got to our seats, that were right next to the court, and got autographs and high-fives from bunch of players and watched the action packed game. The Rockets beat the Celtics. This was an absolutely awesome experience.

Club News

Listen to the announcements for exact dates of club meetings!

Art Club always accepts new members! If your winter sports are now over, consider joining!

Geography Bee is growing! Listen to the announcements for upcoming meetings!

Reflections, our school literary Magazine, will be coming out this spring! See Ms. Rosen with writing and art submissions!

Student Council is hosting the Fun-Raiser, an athletic and academic event, in order to raise money for the 8th grade Great Adventure trip. See Ms. Conrad or Ms. Sturgis for details!

The Mirror hopes to release one more edition of the newspaper before the end of the year!

School of Rock has been having informal jam sessions, continuing to learn some great songs!

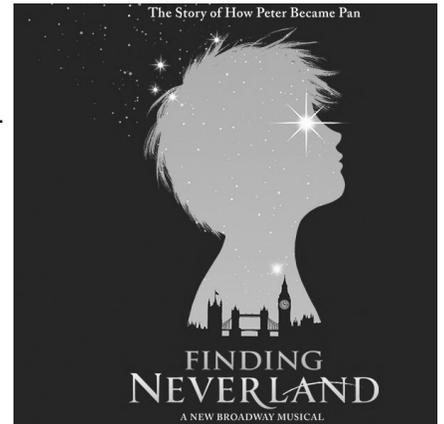
Consider becoming more involved in your school community!!! Listen to the announcements about all club meetings!

NPMS Goes to Broadway! By Zaky Musso

On March 25, 2015, the 7th and 8th grade cast and crew members (and some of their high school helpers) of NPMS's presentation of The Wizard of Oz enjoyed a field trip to New York City to see the Broadway production of *Finding Neverland*. *Finding Neverland* is a musical which tells the story of how a boy named Peter became Peter Pan.

The two school buses from New Paltz arrived in Times Square around 11:00am on a chilly Wednesday morning. After taking a moment to take in the sights and sounds of Times Square, the students and their chaperones gathered on the red grand stands in the middle of Times Square to eat their lunches. Everyone enjoyed people watching during lunch. The life size characters, Cookie Monster, Elmo, and all the Superheroes, were especially fun to watch. For just a few dollars tourists could get their pictures taken with these characters. After lunch, each group had an opportunity to explore Times Square with their chaperones. Forever 21, American Eagle, Toys R Us, M&M World, and Hershey World were some of the popular hot spots. Many students purchased candy, clothes, and other souvenirs. Then the groups all made their way to the Lunt-Fontaine Theater in time for the 2:00 show. Everyone enjoyed watching how a struggling play writer was inspired by three young boys to create the story of Peter Pan. There was lots of singing and dancing and some really funny parts throughout the show.

After the show, the chaperones led the students back through Times Square in search of their buses. After walking a few blocks past restaurants and shops, the students boarded their buses to begin their journey back to New Paltz. It was a fun day!



CURRENT EVENTS

Man Rescued after 66 days at Sea By Nicole Petfield

Thirty-seven year old Frank Jordan was fishing on a 35 foot sailboat a couple miles off coast in North Carolina. That's when he took his sailboat out to the Gulf Stream to find better fishing. It capsized, causing his shoulder to break when the boat flipped. Because of his broken shoulder, he was not capable of lifting the boats' mast. Also, all of his electronics broke with his fall. That was the last time his father heard from him. After a couple of days without contact with his father, Frank Jordan was reported missing on January 29th.

Over 200 miles from North Carolinas shore, Jordan did a lot to survive. After his great fall he was drifting deeper into the Atlantic Ocean. Being in the middle of the ocean, he had to ration food and water until his shoulder healed. He was also able to rig a makeshift mast and sail but that was not much of a help. After running out of food and water it was a huge struggle for him to survive mostly because of the weather. The waves would mix in with the drinking water he collected, but after a while he got the hang of it. He also figured out how to get fish by using his laundry.

After more than two months he was finally rescued. He was spotted on April 2nd by the Houston Express, a fellow ship. He was able to walk from the helicopter into Sentara Norfolk General Hospital at about 7:30 p.m. A truly incredible story of survival!

Kraft Macaroni & Cheese Recalled By Rachel Reinking



6.5 million boxes of Kraft Original Flavor Macaroni & Cheese were recalled for having small bits of metal in them. As of March 17, 2015, Kraft Foods had received eight complaints from consumers who found metal in their Mac & Cheese, although no injuries were reported. Apparently a machine broke down, which caused bits of metal to end up in several million 7.25 ounce boxes. The boxes were sold in the U.S, Puerto Rico, and several countries in the Caribbean and South America. The expiration dates for the recalled boxes range from September 18, 2015 through October 11, 2015 and are marked with the code "C2".

So check your pantries and cupboards! If you find a box that matches the requirements for being recalled, you can return it to the store where you bought it and get a refund. Be careful not to eat any Macaroni & Cheese from recalled boxes!

Could We Drive From N.Y.C. to London?: Russia Plans "Super Highway" By Ashlyn O'Hara

The news has spread worldwide that Russia's Railway President Vladimir Yakunin has proposed a plan that will change travel forever. Yakunin has come up with a revolutionary trans-Siberian highway that could connect Russia's eastern border with Alaska, USA. This highway would have to cross a narrow stretch of the Bering Sea that separates North America and Asia, according to a report in the *Siberian Times*, March 23rd.

Named the Trans-Eurasian Belt Development (TEBD), this plan was revealed at the Moscow-Based Russian Academy of Science. It is planned (if accepted and agreed upon) to run alongside the existing Trans-Siberian Railway. This highway is also planned to have a new train network and oil and gas pipelines. The TEBD would run approximately 12,910 miles (20,777 kilometers).

As for funding, this project would easily cost trillions of dollars. However, it would yield monumental economic returns. (Otherwise said: The money made off of this highway would more than make up for the cost of the TEBT). Vladimir Yakunin and Russia's president Vladimir Putin are often described as friends, and some even predict that Yakunin will be Putin's successor in presidency one day. This obviously puts Yakunin in a good position financially if he can get the President to support his ideas.

Recipes!

How to Make Potted Chocolate Mint Puddings

By Eliza Behrke

Here's a nice spring recipe that's sure to get you connected with nature!

You'll need:

- 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar
 - 3 tablespoons cornstarch
 - 1 tablespoon plus 1 1/2 teaspoons unsweetened cocoa powder
 - Salt
 - 1 1/4 cups heavy cream
 - 1 1/4 cups whole milk
 - 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
 - 6 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped (1 cup)
 - 1/2 teaspoon pure mint extract
 - 1 tablespoon plus 1 1/2 teaspoons unsalted butter, cut into small pieces
 - 10 chocolate wafer cookies
- Garnish: mint sprigs

1. Whisk together sugar, cornstarch, cocoa, and 1/8 teaspoon salt in a medium saucepan. Combine cream, milk, and vanilla in a liquid measuring cup.
2. Pour 1 cup cream mixture into sugar mixture, and whisk until cornstarch is dissolved. Add remaining cream mixture, and whisk until smooth. Bring to a boil, whisking constantly, and cook until thick, about 5 minutes. Reduce heat to low, and add chocolate. Whisk until chocolate melts, about 1 minute.

Remove from heat. Add mint extract and butter, and whisk until butter melts. Quickly divide pudding, whisking as you work to prevent sides from setting up, among eight 4-ounce glasses or

1. glass flowerpot votive candle holders, leaving about 1/2 inch of space at the top of each. Refrigerate until set, about 1 1/2 hours.

Just before serving, pulse cookies in a food processor until finely ground. Top each pudding with 1 tablespoon ground-cookie "dirt," and garnish with a planted mint sprig. Serve chilled.

Recipe from <http://www.marthastewart.com/>



Deviled Eggs

By: Annsley Fischer

- 16 hardboiled eggs
- 2 tablespoon Vinegar
- 3 teaspoon Horseradish
- 2 teaspoon Yellow mustard
- 1/2 cup mayo
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper



Cut eggs in half and remove the yolks. Combine all ingredients together. Mash yolks and all the other ingredients in a bowl. Then fill eggs with filling! After these steps are completed ENJOY!!!! Remember keep them refrigerated!

THINGS TO DO WHEN YOU ARE REALLY BORED

By Paula Trifilo

- Listen to some music- pick your favorite song and dance!
- Go outside – just maybe feed the birds or plant some flowers.
- Play video games – they can be extremely addicting (that’s what makes It fun!)
- Take a bath – If you are stressed get in the tub and let that stress out!
- Google your name – you never know what will come up!

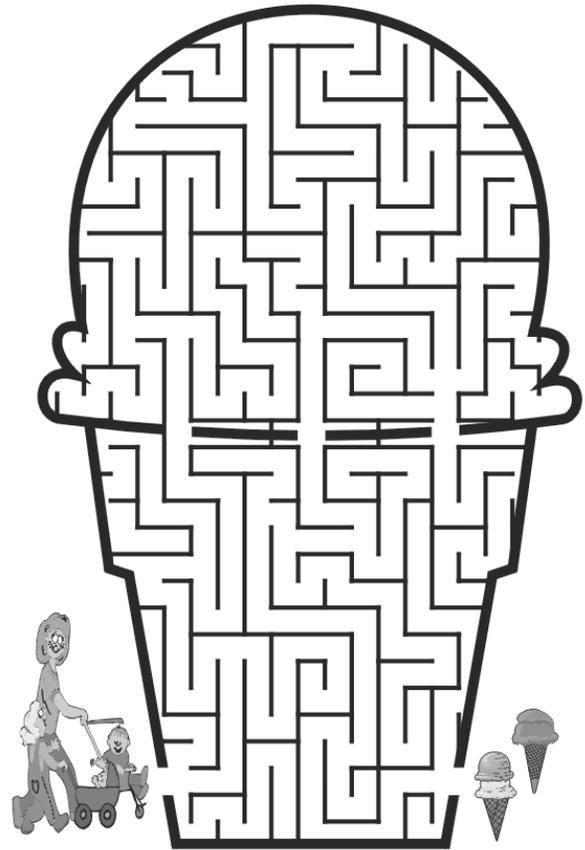
Embroidery Bangle with Charms!!
By Talia Feinsod

You’ll need:

- a set of bangles
- a variety of embroidery floss
- a variety of charms
- several 6mm and 7mm jump rings
- E6000 glue
- a toothpick
- 2 pairs of pliers
- scissors



Start by applying a small amount of glue to the tip of a toothpick. Place a drop of glue onto one area of the bangle.
Place the end of the embroidery floss on the glue and start wrapping tightly around the bangle.
Once you’ve wrapped past the glued section, you don’t need to pay attention to wrapping so precisely. Instead, wrap a generous amount around the bangle and then use your fingers to push the section together.
Continue wrapping until you’ve reached the end. Add a dab of glue onto the bangle and finish wrapping.
Using two pairs of pliers, start attaching jump rings and charms.
One down, more to go.
Have fun with this . . .



The Wizard of Oz

W	A	E	A	U	N	T	E	M	H	S	C	W	L
I	E	I	R	U	R	D	N	K	Y	A	U	I	C
C	D	U	N	E	U	A	T	E	D	N	N	Z	G
K	K	O	T	T	K	L	K	I	A	I	C	A	E
E	D	A	R	W	Z	N	I	M	D	T	L	R	D
D	W	Y	Y	O	O	M	N	E	N	E	E	D	D
W	A	R	N	M	T	I	U	L	G	M	H	A	N
I	G	B	U	M	T	H	S	T	L	A	E	E	A
T	J	L	U	B	A	I	Y	I	I	I	N	R	L
C	O	J	U	D	Y	O	A	N	N	U	R	N	R
H	N	T	N	W	B	T	R	G	D	Y	Y	R	A
P	N	M	O	S	U	N	A	E	A	C	S	S	G
U	O	K	K	I	N	S	L	I	P	P	E	R	S
C	A	T	M	U	N	C	H	K	I	N	S	O	I

- WIZARD
- MONKEYS
- MUNCHKINS
- UNCLE HENRY
- GLINDA
- TOTO
- SLIPPERS
- GALE
- DOROTHY
- WICKED WITCH
- WATER
- GARLAND
- NIKKO
- JUDY
- AUNT EM
- MELTING
- RUBY
- TIN MAN

Play this puzzle online at : <http://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/147/>

ARTISTIC TALENT!



Both drawings by Elizabeth Medrano!

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- Briana Carlini
- Cameron DiBernardo
- Lexcia Eisenhardt
- Talia Feinsod
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- Jack Kaplan
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- Brett Longo
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- Ashlyn O'Hara
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- Rachel Reinking
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- Nicole Steinback
- Ashley Thacker
- Evan Trifilo
- Paula Trifilo

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