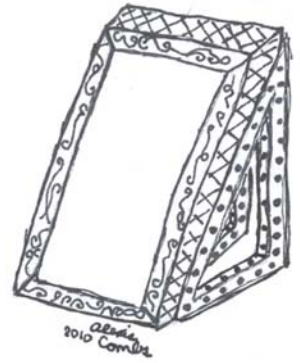


THE MIRROR

New Paltz Middle School Student Newspaper
Edition I Fall 2011



SCHOOL NEWS

Red Ribbon Week

By Josie LaPolt

Red Ribbon Week is a national campaign to help students stay drug free. So student council planned a week of activities from October 24 to October 31.

On Monday, students wore red to show a commitment that they would be drug free and they signed posters in the cafeteria. Many students signed the pledge to not use drugs.

On Tuesday, students wore knee high socks and/or wore their favorite team jersey or tee shirt to team up against drugs. Students wore football, baseball, volleyball, softball, soccer and cheerleading shirts.

On Wednesday, students wore a crazy tie to suit up against drugs. People wore polka dot ties, character ties and homemade ties. It was colorful to see all the different ties.

On Thursday, students wore mismatched sneakers to show that they wouldn't let drugs sneak up on them.

Then, on Friday students showed their school spirit by wearing maroon to get rid of drugs. Maroon and white are the school colors.

Finally, on Monday, Halloween, students wore their Halloween costumes to scare away drugs. Student council came up with this to help our school stay drug free. Students had fun and hopefully will never use drugs.



Posters



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Halloween at the Middle School

By Sophie Constable and Alexa Stropoli

Ghosts and goblins filled the halls as students headed to class. It was Halloween at New Paltz Middle School. Students and teachers alike were dressed up in all different costumes. There was excitement in the air and thoughts of candy all around. Dr. Wiesenthal was absent and his twin brother, Clem filled in. Ms. Ritter was a valiant Viking. Two of the most popular costumes were vampires and mad hatters. Some of the seventh grade teachers dressed up as playing cards. There were many great costumes this year. Some of the most original costumes included a hotdog seller, peacock, a slice of pizza, a goth princess and an angel of darkness.

This year, Halloween at the middle school was filled with fun, games and learning of course.

Frost Valley

By Megan Geher

Sixth graders headed to Frost Valley in early September. They participated in six learning activities.

In Low Ropes, students climbed across ropes which were a few centimeters thick. Other students were spotters so if the person fell someone would catch them. This activity was a crowd pleaser because one student said, "I loved Low Ropes, and it was my favorite activity."

Other highlights included James Childs, the "Bird Man" and a scary story told by Doctor Wiesenthal himself. Everybody had to see the "Bird Man" but students could choose to not hear the scary story because of its terrifying reputation. During the "Bird Man" show, birds flew over students' heads and perched on different things around the dining hall.

Frost Valley was a good learning experience for 6th graders, and they had a lot of fun. Low Ropes

and Project Adventure were amazing and the other activities were too. The food was pretty decent and so were the cabins. This was a great trip for

6th grade students.



Staff at the New Paltz Middle School

Mr. Milici's Interview

By Megan Geher, Ginger Baur,
and Josie LaPolt

Q. What inspired you to teach?

A. Mr. Milici's first inspiration was Mr. Seymour. He was the first one not to just teach music but to play with other people which motivated him to play and sing in groups.

Q. Do you enjoy teaching at the Middle School?

A. Mr. Milici enjoys teaching at the Middle School because he likes that middle school age students can work on more difficult music.

Q. What is the hardest and easiest part of your job?
A. The hardest part of Mr. Milici's job is staying organized because he has all 6th 7th and 8th grade music and chorus. The easiest part of his job is he loves teaching music.

Q. Did you grow up playing an instrument, and if so what did you play?
A. He started playing the piano when he was 6 years old and also played the clarinet starting in 6th grade.

Q. What is your favorite song?



A. He has a lot but if he had to narrow it down he would choose "Something" by the Beatle's.

Q. Are you a baritone, tenor, alto, soprano or falsetto?

A. He is a tenor, and sometimes baritone.

Q. Did you go to the Middle School when you were growing up?

A. He grew up in New Paltz and went to the Middle School and to all the New Paltz schools.

Q. Did you have any other music jobs?

A. Yes. He did teach students at Rondout Middle School and Rhinebeck Elementary school.

Q. Where did you go to college?

A. He went to college at St. Rose in Albany.

Q. If you were not a music teacher what would you be?

A. A rock star.

Mr. Seymour Says

by Marta Pankowska

Q. Why did you start teaching band?

A. I started teaching band because I liked band teachers when I was a student. I enjoyed playing music with my friends and being part of an organization that existed for that reason.

Q. Is it hard to teach 6, 7, and 8th graders?

A. If kids trust you and understand that you're trying to help them, not only with their music, but with life in general, they enjoy being with you. So I try to do that and I feel I have a very good relationship with my students.

Q. Do you enjoy teaching?

A. I enjoy teaching because I get to share what I know about something that I am passionate about. You can't have any kind of occasion without music, can you?

Q. What instrument did you play?

A. I play all the instruments. I started on trombone, and then went on to guitar and piano. In college, I had to study all the instruments, including strings and voice.

Q. If yes, how old were you when you started?

A. I gave my first music lesson when I was 20 years old. I started as a music teacher when I was 21.

Q. For how long are you teaching?

A. I've taught for 42 years. I started teaching General Music in Saratoga Springs (1 year), Clifton Park (outside of Albany) for 5 years, Camden and Rockport, Maine (25 years). I came to New Paltz on March 5, 2001 and have taught here ever since.

Q. Were you ever a music teacher?

A. For all of my years in teaching except the first, I've been a band teacher. Most of those years were spent in Middle School, but I also taught High School for 11 years as well.

Q. Do you think you're a good band teacher?

A. I think I'm a good band teacher because I have a pretty good idea of what's important in learning to play instruments in a band but, more importantly, I care about the students that I teach.



Children of the Prophet Part 1

A short story by Eric Lasko

In a cave, a sword floated in mid air. As if it was a human, it began to sing. "The river is flowing, flowing, and flowing. The river is flowing, back to the sea." A man in black robes entered the cave. He made a grab for the sword but it flew just out of reach. The man cast a spell to attempt to capture the sword, but the spell did not work. Once again a voice emanated from the sword, but this time it was not singing. "I am not yours to take, sorcerer. I belong to the children of the prophet."

The sun hung high in the Black Sands and the air was hot and dry. A boy no older than thirteen or fourteen walked across the desert wearing a brown fur cloak and a grey cape, which was unusual for a desert but the boy seemed comfortable. He stopped for a second and pulled out a silver necklace. He opened it which revealed the drawn image of a girl. She was somewhat pretty with shoulder length black hair and skin the color of ice. He smiled at the image and kept on walking. Towards what? There were no people or towns for miles. But he was looking for something.

To be continued!

Final Shuttle Launch

By Hannah Benenati

On July 9, 2011 my dad took my Grandma, my brothers and I to Florida to see the *Atlantis* shuttle. The reason we went to Florida to see the shuttle is because my dad always tries to go down to see the shuttle. The shuttle got held back 11 minutes. It took off on time. It was a cloudy day so we could not see the shuttle but we could see the fire from the bottom. It was supposed to launch on March 12, 2011 but it was can-



celled. The bridge I was on was packed with people anxiously waiting for the shuttle to launch. The launch pad area was full too. The shuttle retired when they got back. The NASA administrator Charles Bolden announced the retirement of the shuttle Atlantis on April 12, 2011.

Students get Recognized

By Nicholas Zaccheo

On November 10, 2011 in the New Paltz Middle School cafeteria, a Student Recognition Breakfast was hosted to celebrate students who helped make the Middle School a better community.

A special speaker, Superintendent Mrs. Rice, said "I am very proud that 22 students got this very special award."

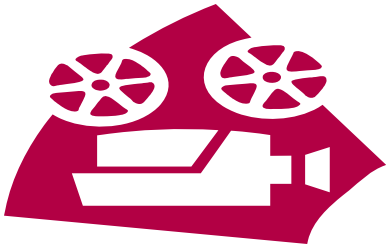
Dr. Wiesenthal said, "I am very proud that I can say at middle level meetings that I can take my kids to Frost Valley, Boston and Washington DC. I never have to worry about any problems because my students know how to act."

Students were honored for such things as helping new students, cleaning lunch tables, outstanding work, coming prepared to class and helping teachers if needed.

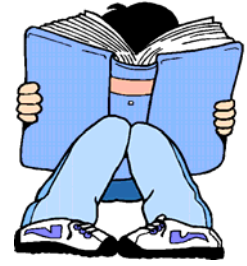
Congratulations to the following 6th, 7th and 8th grade students: Luke Gerber, Philip Dorman, Grant Harlow, Alexandra Hekking, Adam Joyner, Benton Kaufman, Kayleen Keeney, Tanvir Khan, Madison Koch, Ethan McConnell, Raymond Morton, Jacob Nielson, James O'Connor, Nicole Olarsch, Hannah Pizzuto, Julianna Rock, Alex Salanitri, Catie Scaduto, and Nicholas Zaccheo.

Thank you to Dr. Wiesenthal, Mr. Tantillo, Ms. Tracz, Mrs. Metzger and all the other faculty and staff members who put this special ceremony together.





REVIEWS



The Son of Neptune

Book review by Eric Lasko

In San Francisco, California there lies a camp. But this is no regular camp. Everyone at this camp is the child of a Roman god or goddess, but when a strange boy named Percy Jackson shows up, bad and interesting things start to happen. First during War Games, Gwendolyn, one of the centurions, is stabbed. But not in a friendly, competitive manner like it normally is. Then Mars Ultor, the god of war, shows up. A quest is called. Percy, along with two other campers, Hazel and Frank, are sent out to find the lost eagle of the camp and free Death. Why would anyone want to do that? Find out in The Son of Neptune by Rick Riordan. On this quest Percy makes a grave realization as to just how different the world is from where he is from.

I rate this book a 5 out of 5 and would recommend it to anyone who enjoys Greek and Roman mythology or fantasy in general.

Dolphin Tale Review

Movie review by *Alexa Stroposi*

The movie, Dolphin Tale is, an excellent movie to see. I teared up through the whole thing. It's about a dolphin named Winter, and an 11 year old boy named Sawyer. He's special because Winter (the dolphin) was confined to swimming without a tail. Amazingly, he learns to swim with a prosthetic tail.

I rated the movie a 10 out of 10. It was a really emotional movie and it leaves you feeling satisfied, especially since it is based on a true story.



DEATHLY HOLLOWES PART 2

Movie review by Hailey Newell

The anxiously awaited premiere of the final movie, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2, came out this July 15th.

I would rate this movie 5 out of 5 stars because I was on the edge of my chair the entire time and even though it was a midnight showing, I was alert the whole time. This movie was full of action. It was also very elaborate.

Part 1 left off when Dobby dies, and Voldemort gets hold of the elder Wand. In this amazing finale, the battle between good vs. evil forces in the wizardry world amplifies into an absolute war. The amount of deaths has never before been seen in any other Harry Potter movie. No one is safe anymore. It's up to Harry to defeat "he-who-must-not-be-named" once and for all. It all ends here.

The Secret Series

Book review by Josie LaPolt

The Secret Series by Pseudonymous Bosch is a series about three kids named Cassandra, Max-Ernest, and Yo-Yoji who are trying to find the mysterious secret that has been passed down through centuries.

They have trouble finding it because of the evil Midnight Sun. The Midnight Sun is a group of 500 year old people who drink elixirs to keep them alive, and they wear white gloves on their hands because that is the only part of them that ages. Cassandra is the secret keeper which means she is the only one who can know the secret. Cassandra, Max-Ernest, and Yo-Yoji join the Terces Society which is a group of people trying to stop the Midnight Sun from finding the secret.

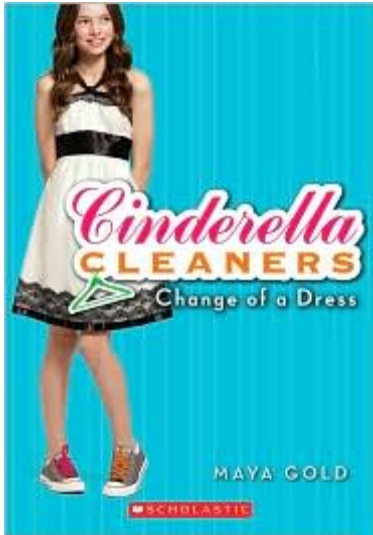
The Secret Series is a great series. If you want to know the secret you have to read the series for yourself. I would rate the series a five out of five because it was full of mystery and very action packed. There are five books: 1 *The Name of This Book is Secret*, 2 *If You're Reading This It's Too Late* 3 *This Book is Not Good For You*, 4 *This Isn't What it Looks Like*, and 5 *You Have To Stop This*.

Cinderella Cleaners

Book Review By Sophie Constable

Cinderella Cleaners is a very good book. It is the first book in the series. I gave this book four out of five stars because it was a good book, but the plot was confusing at some parts. The plot and at some parts suspenseful. The genre of this book is realistic fiction.

The main character, Diana works at the Cinderella Cleaners. She likes to imagine what type of people wear different outfits. One day she finds an invitation to a party in New York City. With the help of her friends, Diana makes it to the party, pretending to be someone else. I recommend this book to people who are looking for a good read.

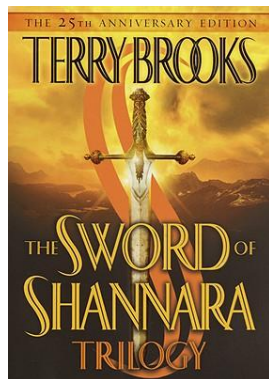


DJ Augie and mix master Rob (a.k.a. Mr. Russo) delight lunch crowd with music to celebrate Mix-it Up Day. Students sat with new friends at lunch to get to know them.

The Sword of Shannara

Book review by Jacob Sirof

The Sword of Shannara by Terry Brooks is an enthralling fantasy book and the lead into the “edge of your seat” series called the Shannara Trilogy. It is about a young boy named Shea and his brother Flick who are thrust on a terrifying quest to find the legendary talisman, the Sword of Shannara. Only someone who has Elven blood and is a descendant (distant or direct) of Jerle Shannara can wield the sword and use it to its full power. Jerle is one of the elven generals who led the elves to survive the first war of the races.



I would give this book five stars because of the superb detail, suspense and an overall sense of adventure that makes you feel as if you are inside the story!

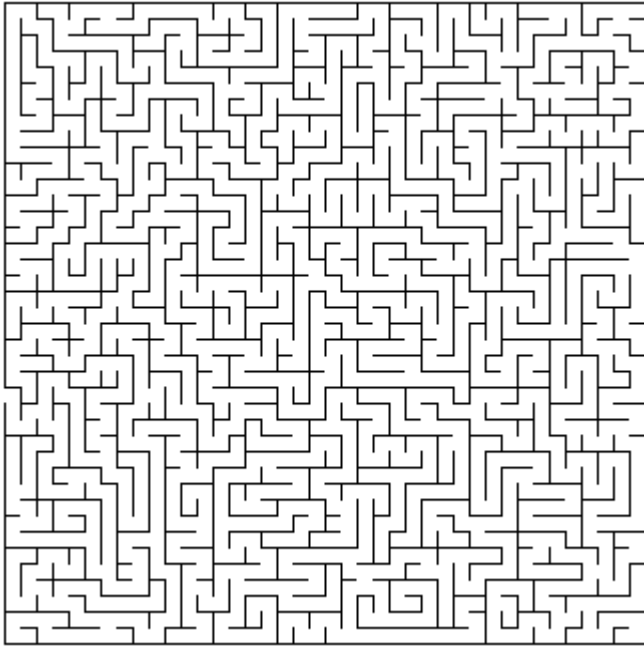


Students wrote what they appreciated about each other in language arts and English classes. Then they made a put-up card about the person and all are displayed outside the cafeteria.

TIME FOR FUN

MAZE #1

Back to School word search



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

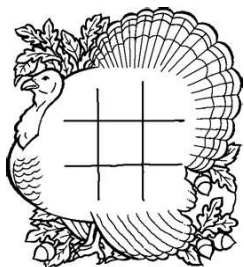
Maze #2



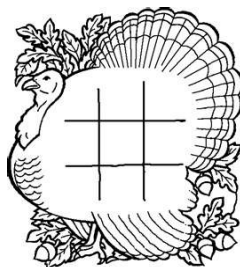
- | | | |
|----------|---------------|----------------|
| BOOKS | CLASSROOMS | CLUBS |
| ENGLISH | GYM | MATH |
| PENCILS | PENS | PREP TASKS |
| PROJECTS | QUICK CHECKS | RECESS |
| SCIENCE | SKILLS CHECKS | SOCIAL STUDIES |

Fun Facts about the First Thanksgiving By Jacob Sirof

- The Plymouth Pilgrims were the first to celebrate the Thanksgiving.
- The Pilgrims sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to reach North America.
- They sailed on the ship, which was known by the name of 'Mayflower'.
- They celebrated the first Thanksgiving Day at Plymouth, Massachusetts.
- The Wampanoag Native Americans were the people who taught the Pilgrims how to cultivate the land.
- The Pilgrim leader, Governor William Bradford, had organized the first Thanksgiving feast in 1621. He invited the neighboring Wampanoag Indians to the feast.



Tic-Tac-Toe



- The first Thanksgiving celebration lasted three days.
- Mashed potatoes, pumpkin pies, popcorn, milk, corn on the cob, and cranberries were not foods present on the first Thanksgiving's feast table.
- Lobster, rabbit, chicken, fish, squashes, beans, chestnuts, hickory nuts, onions, leeks, dried fruits, maple syrup and honey, radishes, cabbage, carrots, eggs, and goat cheese are thought to have made up the first Thanksgiving feast.
- The pilgrims didn't use forks; they ate with spoons, knives, and their fingers.

<http://www.whsv.com/seasonal/misc/33852054.html>

Thanksgiving Recipes:

Rice Krispies Turkey

Ingredients:

- 3 tablespoons [butter](#) or 3 tablespoons [margarine](#)
- 10 ounces [miniature marshmallows](#)
- 6 cups Plain Rice Krispies or 6 cups COCOA KRISPIES® cereal
- red licorice
- fruit licorice
- candy corn
- 1 cup [chocolate chips](#), melted.
- wooden skewers or toothpick

Directions:

1. Follow the Rice Krispies Treats recipe on the cereal box.
2. Drop heaping spoonfuls of the mixture onto waxed paper and let them sit until they're cool enough to handle.
3. For each turkey body, create a ball the size of a fist. The heads should be about the size of golf balls. Stick the heads to the bodies. (Coat your hands with butter or cooking spray if the mixture gets too sticky.)
4. To make feathers, thread licorice onto the skewers or toothpicks. Poke about six into the back of each turkey. Use the melted chocolate chips as "glue" by pouring the melted chocolate into a ziploc bag and snipping a tiny hole in one corner. Use this to attach the following items: for eyes, use the marshmallows with chocolate for pupils; for the beak and feet, use candy corn; for the wattle under the bird's neck, use licorice.

Makes about six to eight turkeys.

<http://www.food.com/recipe/rice-krispie-turkey-325996#ixzz1afQv3Dpe>



CLUB NEWS

Student Council is meeting every other Wednesday in room 45. Some of our events are Red Ribbon Week and the Thanksgiving Food Drive. We are always looking for students who have ideas on how to improve the Middle School community. Students have met several times so far but new members are always welcome.

Middle School Drama Club is doing Disney's *Mulan jr* this year. There will be an after school meeting in November for anyone interested in participating. The meeting will be announced on the morning announcements. At the meeting students will:

- learn how the auditions run
- get an explanations of the characters
- see the rehearsal schedule
- learn the obligations and time requirements of each part
- crew obligations
- crew selection
- crew schedule

Auditions are in mid December. The performances are the second weekend in March. Stay posted!

PS. any students wanting to help make posters and commercials for the meeting, please see Ms. Holmes in Room 25

Reflections: NPMS's literary and art magazine is open to all 6th, 7th, 8th graders interested in helping to put the magazine together. Students can submit their artwork and creative writing to the magazine. They meet in room 38 on Wednesdays, about once a month. Listen to the announcements or ask Ms. Rosen for details. Students who just wish to submit work and not be on the staff can give it to Ms. Rosen or leave it in her mailbox.

Wonderful Wednesday Social Group meets in the art room after school. (It is NOT a club; it is a "group".) We welcome some new 6th grade members this year.

Looking forward to a new year. Advisors are Ms. Ibrahim, Mr. Scarpati and Ms. O'Brien.

Art Club meets on Mondays in room 36. It is presently open to interested students. Projects will be designed weekly, and are mostly crafts. See Mrs. Sturgis for more information.

New Paltz School of Rock is a brand new group meeting after school a few times a week. This group, which is co-directed by Mr. Milici and Mr. Seymour, is a pop music group that held auditions and selected the top 20 singers in the school to form a rock choir which will be backed up by a small, 10 piece all-star band consisting of some of our school's best instrumentalists. Everyone will soon have a chance to hear this group! We look forward to giving you our best!

The Mirror (this newspaper) Meetings are held on Wednesdays in room 3. The advisor is Ms. Pereira. All students are welcome. See you there!

Geo Bee Interview with Ms. Naclerio. By Lillian DePuy

Q. How long have you been doing Geo Bee club?

A. This is my fourth year.

Q. What is Geo Bee club about?

A. Students practice their geography skills and learn about the cultures around the world. Students prepare for the National Geography Society Bee which is held in January. The top winner goes on to compete with other school winners.

Q. How do you want to help students learn?

A. I set up games, website links, smart-board activities and other fun study methods.

Q. About how many students do you get to come to the Geo Bee each year?

A. There is about 25-30 students coming each week.

Q. How do the students work in your club?

A We practice and compete in groups and by improving individual goals.

Q. Why did you decide to host the Geo Bee club?

A. Because I love Geography!

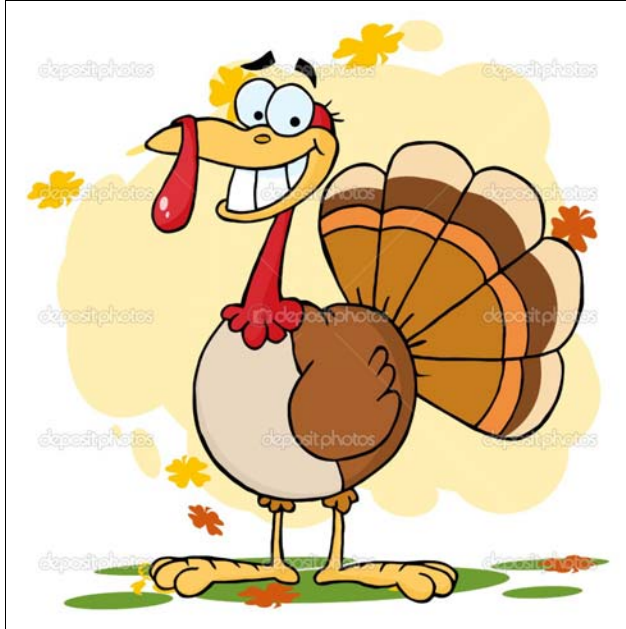
The club meets on Thursdays in room 1.



Blood Donations Save Lives



Seventh and eighth grade students volunteer to help with Election Day blood drive. Ms. Gruver-LaPolt and Nurse DuBois helped organize this event in the auditorium of The Middle School.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

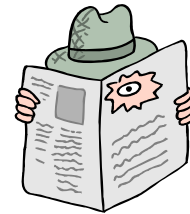
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Advisor

Susan Pereira

A special thanks to Fran Lamb for all of her technological help and Jeff Lipton for his editing expertise .



***Important:** If your club, organization or sports team is having an upcoming event, please let a Mirror staff member know so that he or she can cover the event.

Thanks for reading *The Mirror*!
Look for our next edition coming soon.

