

# THE MIRROR

New Paltz Middle School Student Newspaper  
Edition I Fall 2007

## SCHOOL NEWS

### The Middle School Barbeque

By Courtney Smith and Dakota Reinike

On August 17, 2007, the middle school had a BBQ for the fifth graders who were moving into sixth grade. Parents attended the barbeque and the assembly where Dr. Wiesenthal told everyone about the school.

Some of the seventh graders helped out by setting up, and packing up the tables. They also gave the (soon to be) sixth graders a tour of the school.

These incoming sixth graders set up and learned how to open their lockers. They received their schedules and then went on the tour.

There were hamburgers and hotdogs that Dr. Wiesenthal and other staff had prepared and served. The sixth graders got to meet their old friends and play on the new playground equipment that the school built. The new playground equipment is not just an ordinary playground; students can exercise and still have fun.

Dr. Wiesenthal had tips for the sixth graders on how everything goes in the school, like the Co-Recs, lockers, field trips, and the classes. Also, he answered any questions the students had asked.

The students had a great time and they may even want to give a tour for the upcoming sixth graders next year!



Aodhan Fogarty, Jamie Ferrante, Lindsay Takacs, Deja Clement, Honour Butler, and Michaela Labare



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## **Final Farewell**

By Caroline Aurigemma

This fall, the new sixth graders took a bus to their last Mohonk trip. The students had great weather most of the time, but they also got a little chilly as they walked up near the mountain. Students went to study the effect of acid rain on the Mohonk property. Some of the lakes tested were Lake Mohonk, Lily Pond, and the Reservoir.

All the lakes tested were in Mohonk. Students later tested the water from Lake Minnewaska which was kept in a container in a freezer for 2 weeks so the ph was probably a little off. Students find the ph of a lake by using a testing kit like the La Motte testing kit. Students drop 10 drops of this chemical substance, shake it and then slide the test tube in the color coated box to read what the ph is.

They had to drop down a 4 tube container that filled with water and that's how students got the water. It took about 3 minutes to fill the container to the top. Students had to ask about the bottom material in the lakes and they had to look for any life in the lakes.

Then students climbed all the way to the tower to eat lunch. Students thought hiking and testing the water was fun.

Ashley Mazzei said that she liked testing the water sources and finding the ph. Kelly Wingfield said, "It was fun but my legs hurt."

Sixth graders would like to thank the Mohonk preserve educators for helping them learn. Students will miss Mohonk.

## **From Nimi to New Paltz**

By Matthew Landolfa

In September, New Paltz Middle School had the students of our Japanese sister city visit once more. On September 21, Ms. Pereira and Ms. Gruver picked up the Japanese students at J.F.K. airport. For the next week the students of Nimi, Japan stayed with host students and enjoyed the sights of New York.

The host students were Emily Copeland, Anna and Leah Sturgis, Brendan Purcell, Margaret Stanne and Annette Rodriguez. For the next five, days the Japanese students lived with these students.

On their first day in New Paltz Middle School, the Japanese students took part in an assembly welcoming them to New Paltz. First, the seventh and eighth grade choruses sang a Japanese song "Hotari

Koi," followed by the band's presentation of "Echoes of Kyoto." After that, the students left the stage and the Japanese students performed a dance for the students of New Paltz.

After the assembly the Japanese students followed their hosts around to their classes and saw what school life is like in New Paltz.

The next day Japanese students returned and enjoyed their day by continuing to follow their hosts, but they also made their own tie-dye t-shirts to take home.

For the next few days, the Japanese students traveled around New York. They visited Mohonk and hiked to the Sky Top Tower. Also, they got to go to New York City where they got to enjoy the rest of their stay before leaving on Thursday morning, on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **Cross Country**

By Evan Pallor

Fall Sports have started again. Among these sports is cross country. Coach Vance coaches this magnificent sport with first time coach, Coach Shafer. Every Monday-Friday directly after school, people in cross country go to the locker room to get changed. After they are changed, they meet in the cafeteria for a snack and attendance. When they leave the cafeteria, the running starts.

Cross country runs at home, at an apple orchard, at the college, and at the rail trail, among other places. There is also an optional practice on Saturday which can be at an even wider variety of places. After this Saturday practice, there is bagels and juice for all. On Fridays, cross country runs to Hasbrouck Park to play fierce and unforgettable games of capture the flag. After playing this extreme form of capture the flag, normal capture the flag feels tame. Cross Country can be really busy!

There have been seven meets, six of which New Paltz has won. The first one was against Wallkill. The second one was against both Ellenville and Rhinebeck. The third one was run against Coleman, and the fourth one was against Saugerties. The fifth was against Marlboro. The sixth was an invitational and the only one that was not won. The seventh was the MHAL (Mid-Hudson Athletic League) championship. There were over 500 people at the MHAL meet and New Paltz won handily.

Cross country is an incredible sport, but much harder than some people might think. Many just

think, "Oh, all you have to do is run. Anybody can do that." But in reality not everybody can do it. You need speed, stamina, and most importantly, determination. Without all 3 of these, you will never succeed in cross country. However, the reason determination is the most important thing is that if you keep up and stick with it, you'll gain speed and stamina.

Cross country is a fabulous sport that will strengthen your resolve until you conquer your doubts a run like the wind. It ended on Friday, October 26.

Remember that cross country is a good sport and it is as challenging a sport as football or soccer.

## SPIRIT WEEK!!!!

By Tamara Tasker and Kristia Thomsen

Spirit week is a week when students dress differently to encourage unity in the school. Spirit week was October 22-26. Students are encouraged to tune out drugs.

On Monday, to kick off spirit week students wore red. It was so much fun to see everyone in the halls wearing red. Students got a red ribbon for wearing red shirts or pants.

Tuesday was come to school dressed like a twin day and students walked around together dressed alike. At recess and lunch, Ms. Pines gave a sticker to all twins.

Then on Wednesday, students came to school with wacky hair and wacky clothes, like striped pants and a pink shirt, or blue leggings and a green skirt, and a yellow shirt and red hair.

On Thursday, students wore their favorite sports jerseys. Remember our school colors are Maroon and White. Support our school.

On Friday, many students wore maroon and white to support the school colors. Many students wore jerseys for the school. Many students participated in Spirit Week. The message of the week is "Don't do drugs!"

## Get to Know Books!

By Camila Ferguson and Michaela Labare

The library is full of great books. Ms. Lis-Simmons orders many more books that she thinks kids will like. Unfortunately, nobody checks these books out. Ms. Lis-Simmons does not know how to let us know that she ordered them. How do we find out about

these books? Some of us had useful ideas. Honour Butler says, "Maybe there should be a book of the week, and the book is displayed for people to read it." The librarian thought it was a great idea. Then, Camila Ferguson suggested, "What if we have a Newberry Award Winner week?"

Some of these books haven't been touched for months. Have you ever picked a book up that had nothing stamped in it? This means either it has had a full card of stamps, or nobody has checked it out. Usually, nobody has checked it out since it was ordered. There are many of these books in the library, and we want to see them checked out. A few others made some suggestions.

Quinn Harlow says, "There should be a hand-out that teachers give that comes out each month listing the new books that were ordered."

"There should be posters on the walls so everyone can see them when they're walking in the halls." Verenice Castellanos suggests.

Another great idea we received was from Camila Ferguson who said, "We should post quotes outside of the library with the title of the book. After reading some quotes, people might like the style of writing so they can check that book out."

Michaela Labare told us, "There should be a genre week every week. Ms. Lis-Simmons could pick a genre and say one best seller in that genre every day that week." Those are some great ideas but we still need help. If you're ever in class and you think of an idea to get people to read more, jot it down and tell Ms. Lis-Simmons. The Mirror asks you the reader to tell people about books if you hear about them. And Remember

GET TO KNOW YOUR BOOKS!



## Who Was That Man?



By Adam Comi and Hudson Carroll

His name is Jack Maguire and he is an impersonator! Actually, he came to the middle school and told sixth graders about John Burroughs who wrote great stories about nature. He first talked about himself and then put a shirt on and became John Burroughs! He talked about how he was friends with Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, and President Theodore Roosevelt. Henry Ford actually gave him one of the first cars. But he only agreed to give it to him so long as he got some of the books John had written. Man did he dish out some road rage! He got in many crashes and got most of the first tickets that were ever given out for speeding.

One of the times he was in a big city with his friend, and he was being deafened by the cars speeding by. All of a sudden, he heard a cricket in the grass. To his friend he said, "Did you hear that cricket?" His friend said no and to hurry up. So John decided to have some fun with his friend. He dropped a quarter and people 10 feet around looked away to see where the change was.

So John Burroughs lived a pretty good life and managed to make some good friends along the way. Jack Maguire managed to find out enough about him to make a living off of it, which makes him a good man too.

## POETRY CORNER

### The Maze

By Haley Kwak

Life is like a maze,  
One most do not understand.  
But some do get through the maze,  
With help from one single hand.

The hand is nothing but a friend,  
Who sticks with you to the end.  
Now to a duty I must tend,  
So I'm afraid this poem must end.

### Going

By Haley Kwak

Floating slowly,  
On and on.  
The river keeps on flowing.

Turning quickly,  
Over and over.  
The wheel keeps on turning.

Thinking on,  
The mind keeps spinning.  
Thoughts do not rest.

Life goes on,  
So just keep going.  
Don't stay mad, stay strong.

### I See You

By Haley Kwak

I see you in the night,  
I see you in the morn.  
As long as I may see you,  
My heart is never torn.

*The following is the first installment of a short story.*

*Enjoy.*

## **The Earth Conspiracy**

By Blake Edwards

The G.F.S.S, or Galactic Federation of Star Systems, was as many people argue, a dumb sounding acronym. Not only that, it was a group of star systems across the galaxy joined into one government.

The capital of the G.F.S.S was a planet named Capion, in the Capion star system. The Capionians were a species of prim and proper creatures who drank tea and made plans on how best to mix tea with wine all day.

The President of the G.F.S.S. was a humanoid creature from the planet Waax, named Wixkl who was always looking for ways to make his life more interesting. Apparently being president of the entire galaxy isn't interesting enough.

One of his plans to make life more interesting was to go to the Sol System, dress up as a Martian (the Martian visualized through human eyes) and run around making fun of humans.

He was on the ship heading to Earth when he got an important call on his lightspeed pager.

"Hello?"

"Yes, this is the President I assume?" said an unfamiliar voice.

"Obviously. So what do you want?"

"It seems that the Sol System has disappeared from the communications grid."

Wixkl contemplated for a few minutes.

"Sir? Sir? Sir...?"

"Well, I'm going to Earth to make my life interesting, and I demand you to fix the problem." He cut off the call and settled back in his chair.

Then the ship's computer piped up: "Hey guys! This is your beloved computer that wants to make your life easier and happier for both you and me and everyone else in the whole universe and beyond because I love you! Guess what? You know Earth? It's wiped of the communication grid! So dude, tell me what to do and I'll do it, because this is your beloved—"

"SHUT UP!!" If there was anything Wixkl hated more than a Capionian's idea on how to mix red wine and tea, it was an annoying sentimental computer like this one.

"Okay, I'll do that, because this is your beloved—"

"Look, just keep going until you see a dumb blue planet, okay?"

"Sure thing dude, let's just cruise on through—"

yeah, that's hip..."

Wixkl decided to go and make wine-free tea. He walked through the door, which said "Pleased to open up for ya," and went to the kitchen.

He was just telling the Drinkx-Machine-X80 to shut up and make tea when the ship buckled and swayed.

"Hey dudes! Guess what? We hit an asteroid and we're drifting off course! Isn't that totally rad? It's so groovy! Peace out!"

Well, Wixkl thought, at least something exciting is happening.

"Well, why didn't you avoid it?" he inquired of the computer.

"I was using all of my beautiful sensors to look out for a dumb blue planet! Whee, my thrusters are messed up! This is hip!"

Wixkl groaned. The computer was created by a Human programmer, who apparently programmed the computer to act like the Humans in the 1970's for a joke. When he got his hands on him, he would...

No time to think about that now, he thought. The computer was now ranting on about how groovy it was to be drifting off course.

"Look, can't you just try to come to a full stop?"

"Oh yeah! Forgot about that! Let's see... Full retro rockets...KABOOM!! Now THAT'S hip..."

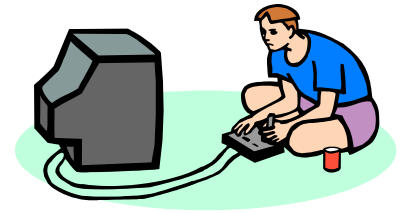
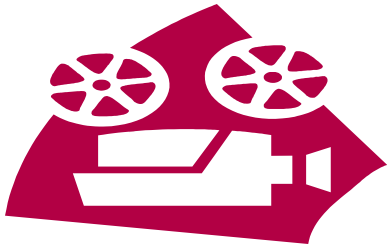
Wixkl freaked out. Obviously, when a computer that controls a spaceship forgets to do something a primitive computer would put on its high-priority list is enough to freak out over.

The computer exclaimed over the intercom: "We have regained control and are steering to the nearest planet... THAT'S SO DARN HIP!!!"

There goes the excitement, Wixkl thought.

*Look for the next installment in the winter edition.*





*Book Review*

## **Wicked:the Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West**

By Anna Gilmore

Some of the more mature readers and the fans of Broadway plays might know of the book, *Wicked: the Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*. This book, I must warn, is for the very mature readers because it contains adult language and situations. Besides that, this book gives you a new opinion on the classic Wizard of OZ tale and makes you feel sympathetic to the witch of the west.

The book explains her childhood and high school years; her story of how she became so wicked is explained in her point of view. By the end of the book, everything becomes very clear. Also anything that wasn't explained in the original story will be explained in this book.

If you think you'll enjoy hearing both sides of the story, then you will like reading this book because it is very detailed and takes you through the whole story until the end.

*Video Game Review*

## **Final Fantasy XII Revenant Wings**

By Kyle Meek

Final Fantasy Revenant Wings is the sequel to Final Fantasy XII. It's on the Nintendo DS, whereas the others are on Playstation. Final Fantasy XII Revenant Wing, is a real-time strategy RPG (role playing game). This game is coming out in the United States in November 20, 2007.

One year after the events of Final Fantasy XII, the main character Vaan is now a sky pirate possessing

his own airship. He is joined in a new quest by his friend and navigator, Penelo. Llyud is a member of the Aegyl race, who have wings protruding from their backs and a life-span of forty years. Their treasure-hunting adventures take them to the Purvama (Floating Continent) of Lemurés and the ground below, where the story begins.

Final Fantasy Revenant Wings has a new setting called Lemurés, a legendary Purvama raised into the skies by a god. This land is ruled by a magical stone. The "Sacred Crystal" erected a barrier around the island, and shielded Purvama from the rest of the world. In time, the "Legend of the Floating Land" became an ambition for sky pirates and what riches are on the island. The ruins of Lemurés are where the Aegyl reside. Since they are shielded within Lemurés, the Aegyl have no knowledge of the outside world.

I would recommend this game to all the fans of final fantasy.





## Advice for You!

By Danielle Schmalz, Kayla Brill, Natasha Bynum, and Morgan DeSimone

***Problem: Do you have problems balancing homework, after school activities, and getting to bed before 10:00? Read on to get some advice from The Mirror staff.***

Danielle Schmalz says, “Even though it may be fun to be in lots of after school activities, only pick a couple.”

Natasha Bynum says, “Don’t procrastinate! Do homework right after you get home from an activity or school. Then you can do the fun stuff.”

Morgan DeSimone says, “With all of today’s new technology you get caught up in going online, using your cell phone, watching T.V., and doing normal kid stuff. Try to only do one of these things a night.”

Hudson Carroll suggests “Do your homework well the first time so you don’t have to do it over.”

Michaela Labare To stay organized, she says to: “Make a schedule, so that you do certain subjects at certain times.”

Camila Ferguson-Sierra, “If you get frustrated with a certain subject,” she states “do homework from a different subject and then go back to it.”

Kayla Brill suggests, “ Do the easiest homework first and then get help on the other homework.”

Different strategies work for different people so try a couple of these!

## *Students’ Thoughts*

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### Adjusting

By Craig Poskanzer and Daniel Profaci

This article is being written to help all the sixth graders here at N.P.M.S. Daniel and I are also sixth graders, and we’ve had an easy time adjusting to the middle school, so here are some tips on how to adjust.

One thing that helps is hanging out with your friends. So if you haven’t realized this fact, be aware that lunch monitors will let in half of the grade into first lunch and send the other half to recess. If you want to sit with your friends during lunch, you should make a good plan with your friends.

Another thing is that starting next month, you will HAVE to make it to class on time, so start practicing now. Make a path that you follow every day, but remember taking certain hallways are forbidden.

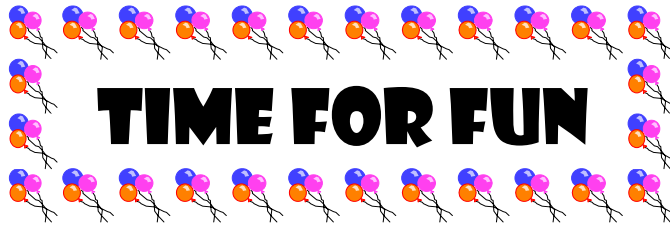
If you have a different binder for each subject, take two at a time, because you can only stop at your locker after odd periods. If you have a morning and afternoon binder, then after lunch switch your assignment book to the other binder and you’re good to go. Don’t forget your assignment book. Carrying a backpack is not allowed so make room for more books and clip your assignment book (and other loose papers) into your binder.

We hope that these suggestions will help you during your time here at the New Paltz Middle School

## **ATTENTION**

### ***Mirror gets a New Face***

After years of the same old front page, we at the *Mirror* have decided to let the students of New Paltz Middle School create a new front page for your newspaper editions. All you have to do is design your new idea for our front page and submit it to Ms. Pereira in Room 3. The *Mirror* staff will choose the best design. This new cover will be coming in the next edition. Good luck and may the best designer win.



## Horoscopes

By Courtney Smith and Dakota Reinike

**Aries** (3/21- 4/19) - Try to focus on your most important goal, and try to achieve it. Spend time with your friends that listen and respect you, instead of time with people that don't even care what you say.

**Leo** (7/23-8/22) –Try not to impress people about you. Instead encourage other people that they can have their own time to shine. Be careful what you say, it may cause karma!

**Sagittarius** (11/22-12/21) – You are thinking of things that may be important to you. Give yourself some time by yourself to think about it. Just so you can figure it all out.

**Taurus** (4/20-5/20) – If you're thinking of things that may be important to you, give yourself some time to think about it. Just so you can figure it all out.

**Virgo** (8/23-9/22) – You know what you need to do sometimes, but you might not like it. Try to push yourself a bit until you see some improvement. Then you'll feel better about yourself.

**Capricorn** (12/22-1/19) – Try to express yourself with others, you'll be amazed how many friends you'll get!

**Gemini** (5/21-6/21) – Some people really enjoy what you're saying, and you're having a great time telling them. If you're going out with someone, they might get a little jealous. Don't worry, it won't last long!

**Libra** (9/23-10/22) – Now is a good time to try new things. Try something new, like a challenge or goal, and do that thing you've been itching to do.

**Aquarius** (1/20-2/18) – If you want to tell something don't just write a note, tell them directly with care. Try to be good with communication, be as creative as you can. You'll realize that you can talk to people more comfortably.

**Cancer** (6/22-7/22) – Try to reach out of your comfort zone. Always remember that family comes first. You should always help a family member in need. You may not like it, but this could change into a life experience that could change your life in a good way!

**Scorpio** (10/23-11/23) – If you're looking over your homework or something, make sure you keep your eyes open. Something weird may be going on, but don't worry, you can fix it right away. But if you only know what you need to fix.

**Pisces** (2/19-3/20) – You may be seeing some changes in your life, but it's just a couple of things shifting into place. You can handle a lot of change unlike a lot of people. Just don't be surprised if you see a lot of different things happening to you.

## Fall

By Caroline Aurigemma

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

APPLES	AUTUMN	FALL
FUN	HALLOWEEN	HAPPY
JOY	JUMP	LEAVES
PUMPKINS	SCARECROW	SCARY
TREES		



# Cafeteria Circus!

by amy bishop  
and rebecca malinowski



The End!



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The school store will be open on Tuesday and Thursday during lunch periods. Thanks to Ms. Meeks for all her efforts in opening the store.

There will be a Book Fair on November 26-December 2. Monday—Friday from 8am to 2:30. Thursday night will be “Family Night”. Join the Fun. There will be raffles, contests and “Great Books. Start your holiday shopping early.

*Next Co-rec will be December 14*



## ***HALLOWEEN FUN AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL***



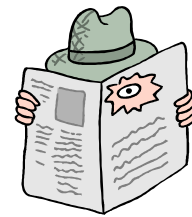
## The Mirror Staff

Caroline Aurigemma, Amy Bishop, Honour Butler, Hudson Carroll, Adam Comi, Morgan DeSimone, Blake Edwards, Ernest Figueron, Camila Ferguson, Anna Gilmore, Jackie Hart, Haley Kwak, Michaela Labare, Matt Landolfa, Rebecca Malinowski, Ashley Mazzei, Kyle Meek, Evan Pallor, Craig Poskanzer, Daniel Profaci, Dakota Renike, Danielle Schmalz, Courtney Smith, Tamara Tasker, Kristia Thomsen, Kelly Wingfield, and Travis Wolfe

## Advisor

Susan Pereira

A special thanks to Fran Lamb for all of her help and expertise!



Meetings for *The Mirror* are held ON WEDNESDAYS in room 3. Think about joining.

**\*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.