

THE MIRROR

New Paltz Middle School Student Newspaper
Edition I

Fall 2008

SCHOOL NEWS

The New Assistant Principal

By Georjon Tanzi

On Wednesday, October 15, I interviewed the new assistant principal, Ms. Rooney.

Q: *Have you ever worked as an assistant principal before?*

Ms. Rooney: This is my first position as an assistant principal. Last year I worked as an administrative intern. Prior to that I taught at the elementary, middle and high school level.

Q: *What did you think when you first saw The Middle School?*

Ms. Rooney: I thought it was small. The school I had previously worked at had over 2,000 students. In addition, I was very impressed with all the smiling faces and pride displayed by the students.

Q: *What made you want to become an assistant principal?*

Ms. Rooney: I wanted to work with students and help them understand the importance of making healthy decisions academically, socially and mentally. I also wanted to help teachers and work as a team to improve instruction, raise academic success and create a safe, productive culture focused on education.

Q: *What would you do to improve the school?*

Ms. Rooney: I would like to have a 10th period.. During this period students would meet with an advisor, teacher, and study an area of interest. For example, if someone is interested in becoming a pediatrician, they might work with Mrs. O'Brien and study child development. If they were interested in sports, they might work with Mr. Constable and study the positive effects of working out.

Q: *As an assistant principal, what are your favorite things to do?*

Ms. Rooney: I really enjoy meeting and working with students, parents, and teachers. I believe in teamwork and feel most effective when we all work together.

Q: *What is stressful about your job?*

Ms. Rooney: When a student continues to make poor choices and doesn't seem to understand

that they are in charge of themselves and they are more capable of making controlled good decisions.

Q: *Do you enjoy your job and why?*

Ms. Rooney: I love my job! I love the fact that every day is different. I also enjoy working with such a talented group of teachers.



Photo Sydney Bagley

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Q: *Do you go home happy with your day's work?*
Ms. Rooney: I always drive home happy and racing with thoughts of what I want to do tomorrow.

Interview With Ms. Lerner

By Sarah Stamberg



Ms. Lerner is a new sixth grade teacher here at the New Paltz Middle School. The Mirror interviewed her to see how she likes it here.

Q: *Do you have any pets?*

Ms. Lerner: "Yes. I have a dog named Angel, a cat named Oscar and 11 chickens."

Q: *Have you lived anywhere else?*

Ms. Lerner: "I used to live in Buffalo for three years. That's all."

Q: *Where were you born?*

Ms. Lerner: "I was born in Kingston, New York."

Q: *What do you do to stay connected with your family?*

Ms. Lerner: "We get together for family dinners, and during the summer, we meet at our summer home."

Q: *How do you like teaching two subjects here?*

Ms. Lerner: "I like it. Social studies was my minor in college, and I have always loved science because my dad is a science teacher."

Q: *How do you like graduate school?*

Ms. Lerner: "I go to SUNY New Paltz. I think it is a great place to meet fellow teachers and continue my education."

Q: *How do you juggle them both?*

Ms. Lerner: "I use my time wisely."

Q: *How hard are the kids to work with?*

Ms. Lerner: "Not hard at all. It's fun, and I have a great group. The students have been making my first year a great experience."

Welcome Mrs. Holmes!

By Morgan DeSimone

As a determined reporter, I was intrigued to know how a brand new teacher could adjust so well to a new school, while being involved in an original morning broadcasting series, and meeting tons of new students and teachers at the same time! So in order to answer all of my questions, I interviewed her. From what Mrs. Holmes responses are, I cannot wait to get to know her more!

Q: *How did you know how to broadcast the "New Paltz in the Middle" television show? Have you had prior experience with filming?"*

Mrs. Holmes: I used to work with a group of seniors



in the Saugerties school district, and we would produce our own little fairy-tale films in French, so I guess that I had some practice before-hand on how to direct some short shows. She adds, I get so much help from Mrs. Lamb with the technical producing though! She is absolutely terrific!

Q: *There are rumors that you are going to start a drama club after school this year. Is that true?*

Mrs. Holmes: Yes. When I worked in the Marcellu school district for about 15 years, I directed many different plays. Every year was a High School Musical and another one called Middle School Musical. As far as the drama club at New Paltz, we will be performing a play called Annie Jr. Rehearsals will be held during January and February. There will be a meeting in late-October about auditions, which anybody can try-out for.

Q: *So overall, how do you feel about your transition to the New Paltz School District.*

Mrs. Holmes: I have had a great experience so far. All of the teachers and the students are very friendly and welcoming. I think that this is a very nice school!

I hope that everybody will enjoy the show!

FAMOUS QUOTES

By Sydney Bagley and Kylie Donahue

Minds are like parachutes. They only function when they are open.

James Dewar, Scientist (1877-1925)

It's kind of fun to do the impossible.
Walt Disney

I haven't failed, I've found 10,000 ways that don't work.
Thomas Edison (1847-1931)

The important thing is never to stop questioning.
Albert Einstein

Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools, because they have to say something.
Plato (429-347)

Sixth Grade Mohonk Trip



By
Eric
Law-
son

Spread throughout the first three weeks of October, sixth grade science classes went to the Mohonk Mountain House to test the pH of different water

sources that had been affected by acid rain.

After a 5-10 minute bus ride, students went to the recreation pavilion and tested rainwater that was collected early in September. Once they had determined their results, they walked to the hotel **dock on** Mohonk Lake and tested water from the top and bottom of the lake. Also tested was water from Lake Awosting that had been collected two months earlier.

Students then hiked to Skytop, by the reservoir, and ate lunch by the old fire tower. They were then allowed to go up the tower and walk around by it. After testing at the reservoir, students walked to Lily Pond and took observations using four of their five senses.

The result of their experiments was then discussed. Apparently, the bottom material of the lakes, including the rocks quartz conglomerate and shale, was affecting the way acid rain was changing the lakes; it was making them less acidic.

After they left, some students seemed sad since this was their last trip to Mohonk. However, this trip was definitely one of their favorites!

Egg Lab Project

By Haley Kwak



Some of the New Paltz Middle School's seventh and eighth grade science classes were able to do an Egg Lab. In this lab students created a contraption that could be dropped from a three-story building with an egg that must not break. This lab took place everywhere around the school from September 29th-October 8th.

The rules of this lab were: no parachutes, and no padding at the bottom. It must be less than one pound, and it must be one piece and self-contained. Students had to work with a partner.

If you are wondering how this could possibly work, the answer is simple. Rubbing two objects together creates friction. The more friction created, the slower an object moves (eventually coming to a stop). This friction slows down the egg, which helps keep the egg from breaking.

The following are some comments about the project: "Each class did an excellent job in getting all the projects dropped in one period. The students worked very efficiently," commented Mr. Devorkin.

"It was super fun!" said Caroline Stafford.

Jennica Cochrane remarked, "It was cool because I learned how to create friction with paper towel rolls."

"It was very interesting and creative. We had a great time and Mr. Devorkin is an awesome teacher," said one participant.

Slabsides

By Elena Ingenio

"If I were to name the three most precious resources of life I should say books, friends, and nature; and the most constant and always at hand is nature" - John Burroughs

Slabsides was a trip for sixth graders. The purpose was to learn about John Burroughs, how he wrote and the



nature that he loved. The sixth graders also learned

how to find non-poisonous things that they can use in the wilderness, how to respect nature, and to look out for the bugs that destroy the hemlock trees.

Burroughs called his home Slabsides because the logs on the outside still had the bark on it so it looks like it was just cut down. On the side of the cabin, the wood was flat.

John Burroughs had one son and a wife. He was friends with Henry Ford (the maker and founder of the car/truck "Ford") Thomas Edison (inventor of the light bulb) and President Teddy Roosevelt. Burroughs also attended the first expedition to Alaska.

Sadly, this nature loving man died of an illness. He was very sick and died on a train going back home in 1921 at age 84. Burroughs loved his home in West Park. Burroughs last words were, "Are we home yet?" Today, if he was still alive, he would be 110 years old!

The quote at the beginning of this article shows

how Burroughs loved nature. Burroughs explained how nature will always help you and is always at hand. Hopefully the sixth graders felt like Burroughs did after this trip.

Amazing Assembly

By Eric Lawson

On October 27, Mykee Fowlin, a psychologist and performer, came to the middle school during an assembly called, "The World Is My Stage." He talked about how people are different and how people should learn to accept the diversity of others. In other words he is not worried about bullies; he is worried about the "zebras." The zebras, he says, are people that don't do anything when their friend or someone else is being picked on. He did not make the performance boring either; he added lots of humor to it. Mr. Fowlin took on the role of different kinds of people to make his point. Students and teachers alike, enjoyed Fowlin's performance!

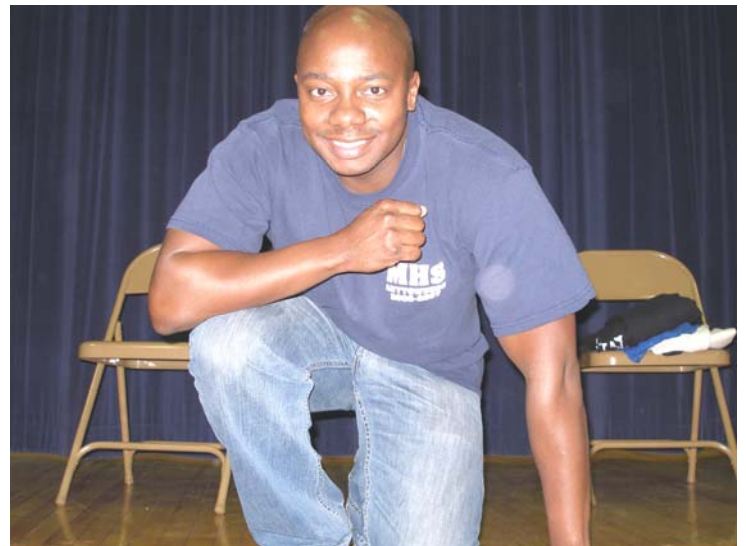
Here are some quotes from students:

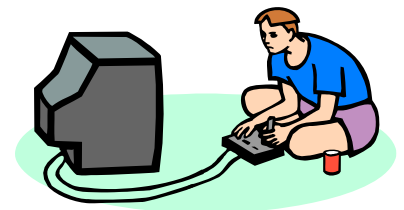
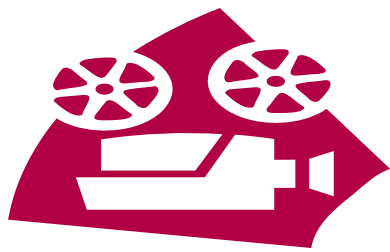
"Heartwarming, yet realistic."

"It was very touching and inspiring at the same time."

"Inspiring and meaningful to all."

As you can see from these quotes, Fowlin was a big hit. He certainly left his audience with a lot to think about.





Movie Review **Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants**

By Morgan DeSimone & Marissa Bravo

In the movie “The Sisterhood Of The Traveling Pants 2,” the four girls are being separated once again. In case you didn’t see the first movie, the girls are friends who pass around a magical pair of jeans that brings them good luck.

In this movie, Tibby and Brain get into a serious relationship but then their relationship goes seriously wrong. Carmen can’t find her place in life; she is used, then is sabotaged. Carmen doesn’t have any self confidence, but she eventually lets the true Carmen shine through all of that. Bee (Bridget) goes to Turkey. Also, when she returns she meets her grandmother, who lives in Alabama. Lena matures, and realizes that she doesn’t need a man immediately in order to enjoy her life. There is a surprise ending and all four girls reunite, but the rest you will have to watch for yourself.

Super Mario Galaxy By Matt Eriole

#1: The Concept

Few people have not heard of the video game hero, Mario. But the new game Super Mario Galaxy is taking Mario to the next generation of gaming.

Mario’s world is no longer in 2D, and the game actually looks good for a Mario game. The game’s plot is pretty straight forward Mario formula: Princess Peach gets captured and you have to save her. Not much different. However, there are a few things that are different from the first Super Mario.

#2: The Setting

The setting is in multiple galaxies connected by “launch stars” that Mario can use to blast off to other galaxies and planets. When Mario’s not on unique planets, (mostly weird and enormously unrealistic) he’s on zero gravity ‘planetoids’ floating around in space. The planets are never *huge* but again, they have come a long way from the first Super Mario Bros.

#3: The Game Play

The game play does get annoying sometimes because of the constant glitches and lack of moves, but

when it comes through, it’s the best Mario’s ever had. The bosses are ridiculously easy, but it’s strangely exciting when they’re finally finished. Fighting regular enemies (such as ‘goombas’) is like trying to kill a crippled fly, but it doesn’t affect the game at all. The game play could have been better, but it doesn’t do much to make a great game any worse.

#4: The bottom line

Super Mario Galaxy is by far the best Mario game I’ve ever played, and that’s why I gave it a 4.5 out of 5.

World of Warcraft By Karin Blake

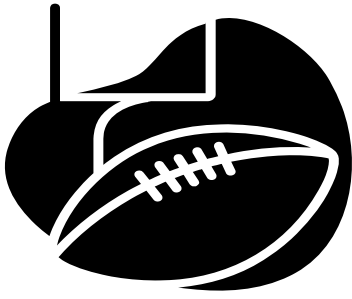
World of Warcraft is an online game that you can buy at any store that sells electronic games, like GameStop. It’s a very good game, with hundreds of details. It’s a little like Runescape, but better.

The main point of the game is to level up to the highest level, which is 70. An expansion pack is coming out soon, so players will be able to get up to level 80. You’re probably wondering how to level. Well, it’s easy. Players complete quests and kill things near their level. The players can also raid dungeons and instances with friends. The instance or dungeon must have monsters near their level, or else they won’t get enough experience to level up. The player’s friends who raid with them also must be close to their level, so the monsters don’t kill them. Players can also group with friends, and interact with each other. It’s tons of fun!

There are two rations, Alliance and Horde. Players can pick which side they’d like to be on, and make a character, or a race. There are many races that players can choose from. Alliance has Gnomes, Dwarves, Night Elves, Humans, and Dreaneis. Horde has Undead, Taurens, Trolls, Orcs, and Blood Elves.

With each race comes a class. There are many classes that the players can choose from. Hunters, Druids, Rouges, Paladins, Mages, Warlocks, Priests, Shamans, and Warriors are all the classes. The problem is, not all the races have the same classes. For example, a Night Elf has the classes of a Hunter, Druid, Rouge, Priest, and Warrior. Unlike a Tauren, a Night Elf can be a Rouge, but a Tauren cannot.

So, as you can see, World of Warcraft is one amazing game!



New Paltz V.S. Highland

By Elena Ingenio

This was the game of truth, the rivals Highland, dared to come to the New Paltz field on October 14. As they walked on the field, the Huguenots weren't scared one bit. Our football team played their **VERY** best that day. (No, they really did!)



Photo by Poppy Vaughan

TOUCHDOWN!!! The Huguenots won the game! The final score was 27-0. Coach Constable and Coach P. were dancing for joy (well, not really, but they were happy!) as the game was finally over. Daryl Clark scored three touchdowns. Anthony Tufano was a strong defensive player and a good job was done by the linemen Devon Dixon, Will Stamberg, Brock Miller and Sal De-quarto.

Interview with Football GIRL:

Arianna Brenner #50

By Elena Ingenio

Q. How does it feel to be the only girl on the football team?

Arianna: "It feels kind of weird!"

Q. Are the boys respectful to you?

Arianna: "Yes! They think it is cool that I play football."

Q. Why did you join the team?

Arianna: "When I found out that a girl can try out for football I wanted to give it a try!"

Q. Is it weird tackling a boy?

Arianna: "No, it is fun! It makes me feel like I have power!"

Q. Do you recommend the team for girls and anyone in general?

Arianna: "Yea! I guess. If you like football you should try it!"

Girls Soccer Games '08 Stats

By Kayla Brill

1. 9/22/08 4:15 Home New Paltz Vs. Onteora 2-3 Lost
2. 9/24/08 4:15 Away Saugerties Vs. New Paltz 1-1 Tied
3. 9/29/08 3:00 Away Highland V.S. New Paltz 0-4 Lost
4. 10/1/08 4:15 Away Rondout V.S. New Paltz 4-0 Won
5. 10/3/08 4:15 Home New Paltz V.S. Wallkill 1-0 Won
6. 10/6/08 4:15 Home New Paltz V.S. Marlboro 2-0 Won
7. 10/8/08 3:15 Away Ellenville V.S. New Paltz 1-2 Won
8. 10/10/08 4:15 Home New Paltz V.S. Rondout 4-0 Won
9. 10/16/08 4:15 Away Onteora V.S. New Paltz 0-0 Tied

10. 10/20/08 4:15 Home New Paltz V.S. Saugerties 0-1 Lost
 11. 10/22/08 4:15 Home New Paltz V.S. Highland 1-4 Lost
 12. 10/24/08 4:15 Away New Paltz V.S. Wallkill 0-0 Tied
- Total Goals this year- 17
Goals Last Year- 01
Looks like hard work paid off for this year's school soccer players.

Tops in Tennis

By Julia Cohen

Jessica Staub is an eighth grade student at The New Paltz Middle School. She is the only middle school girl on the High School Girls Tennis Team! Jessica is an outstanding player, who commits to coming to practice every single day. Can you believe that? Every day plus Saturday! You have to be committed to the sport to stay after school every day, and Jessica definitely is. I interviewed her about playing tennis, and this is what she told me.

Q: *When did you start playing tennis?*

Jessica: When I was five years old.

Q: *Do you enjoy playing tennis with the tennis team, and why?*

Jessica: Yes, because the feeling of playing the sport is enjoyable.

Q: *How do you feel being the only 8th grader on the tennis team?*

Jessica: First I was nervous, then I made friends, and I am living up to the standards, and that feels good.

Q: *What spot are you on in the tennis team?*

Jessica: I am second doubles.

Q: *Is it hard to make a commitment staying after school every day plus Saturday, for two hours?*

Jessica: Sometimes it is hard, but it ends up being a daily routine.

Q: *What is your favorite stroke, and why?*

Jessica: I like to do the forehand, because I get more power then the backhand.

Q: *How many games have you won so far?*

Jessica: So far I have won all the games I have played.

Q: *What was your best match that you have won so far?*

Jessica: Marlboro, because it was a good tough game.

Q: *Who teaches you tennis?*

Jessica: My tennis coach Jay.

Q: *Who first taught you how to play tennis?*

Jessica: My Dad, Rusty.

Q: *Do you plan on doing tennis for the rest of you high school experience?*

Jessica: I am planning to do it for a while, but I have to pick between tennis and soccer.

Michael Phelps

By Lauren Apuzzo

Michael Fred Phelps was born on June 30, 1985 at 5:30 a.m. in Baltimore, Maryland. He was the first Olympian to ever win eight gold medals at a single Olympics. He broke the record in Beijing, China this year. The record was held by Mark Spitz for 36 years.

Spitz received seven gold medals at one Olympics. Michael also participated in the Olympics in 2004 in Athens, Greece. He earned six gold medals and two bronze medals while there. In Beijing Michael received his medals swimming the 400-meter individual relay, 4×100 freestyle relay, 200 free-style, 200 butterfly, 4×200 free-style relay, 200 individual relay, 100 butterfly, and the 4×100 medley relay. His closest race was the 100 butterfly. He beat Milorad Cavic by 100th of a second.



Michael Phelps recently wrote a book, *Beneath the Surface*. It has 25 chapters and about 225 pages. This is a book about how Michael Phelps' swimming career started. He talks about how in school he was bullied about his big ears and his strategies of how he became the best swimmer in the world.

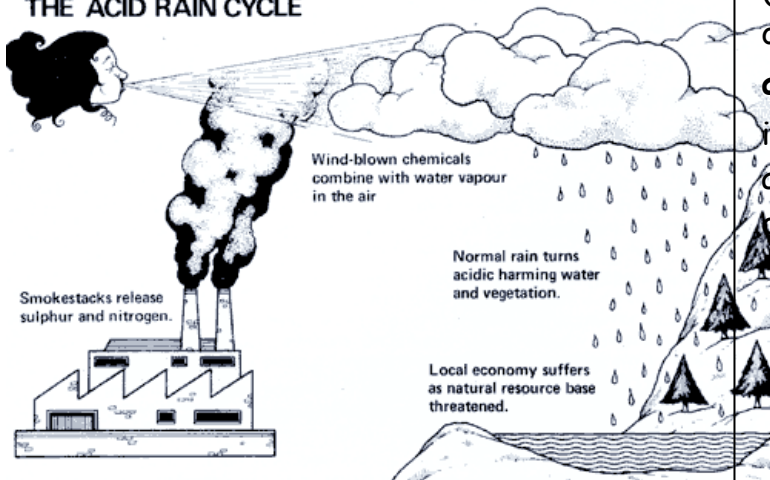
Michael Phelps is a very well rounded man, playing golf, writing books, and breaking world records in

ACID RAIN

By Elena Ingenio

Acid rain has been a question to a lot of scientist. How is it formed? What can we do to stop it, and the most

THE ACID RAIN CYCLE



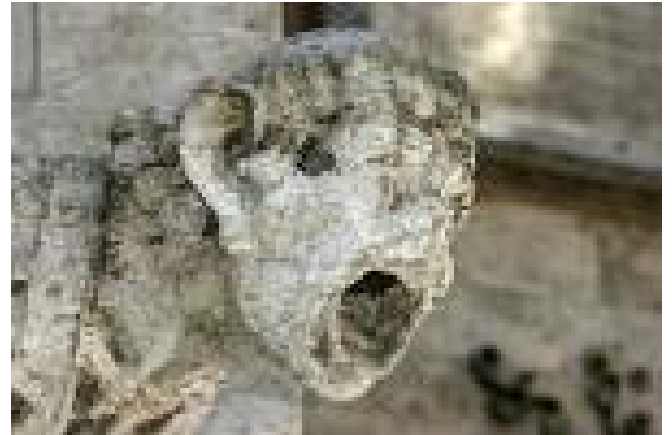
important question of all what is acid rain? Well Ms. Lerner's, Mrs. Graves' and Ms. Ritter's classes wanted to find out!

When **fossil fuels** like gasoline and oil are-burned they give away oxides of sulfur, carbon, and also nitrogen from our cars and trucks. (Above). The oxides fuse with moisture in the air to form **sulfuric acid, nitric acid, and carbonic acid**. When it precipitates (rain, snows, ECT.) it falls down to the earth which is called **acid rain**. That is how it is formed!



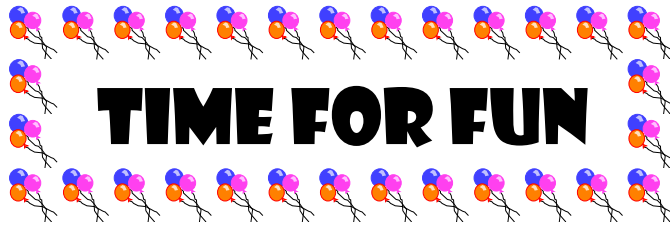
The effects of acid rain can be dangerous to many forms of life, including our lives. **Acid**

rain in water kills all fish and other living things in the environment. In the early 1990s thousands and thousands of bodies of water in Norway, Sweden and northeastern North America, became "dead" by acid rain. The acid rain also **damaged mountains and trees** (Picture to the left bottom) in Vermont and other states. Some of the effects to us are **asthma, heart disease, and emphysema**. (This is a lung disease that involves damage to the air sacs in the lungs.) It also burns the faces of statues. (Picture below)



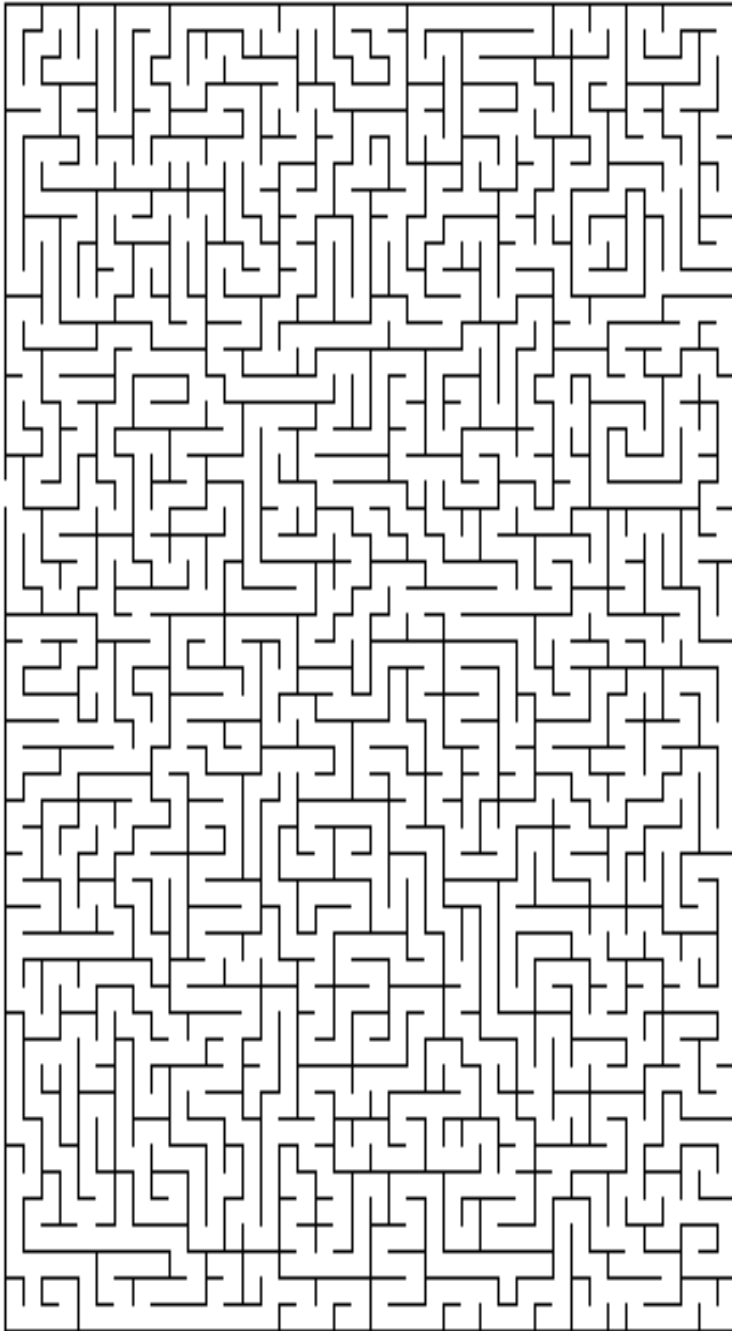
How can we reduce acid rain? Well, you can stop driving cars and start riding bikes. You can also turn off the water when you brush your teeth and when you're putting soap on your hands. **The state** can reduce acid rain by reducing **power plants** which means that we'll be cutting acid rain in half. Please be sure to do all of those things to reduce and maybe stop acid rain. Remember, one person can make a difference!





FIND YOUR WAY HOME

by Elizabeth Cottrell



Created by Puzzlemaker at DiscoveryEducation.com

Horoscopes

By Marissa Bravo

These are horoscopes for October 2008. Enjoy!

Aries (3/21-4/19) - You'll be feeling many different emotions today. Go through them one at a time.

Leo (7/23-8/22) - You'll get honest feedback that might be a little too honest for your bruised ego.

Sagittarius (11/22-12/21) - Your days of feeling moody and slow are coming to an abrupt end to-day! Have fun.

Taurus (4/20-5/20) - You've been focused on your latest goal with too much intensity. You must step back.

Virgo (8/23-9/22) - Give credit where credit is due today -- communicate to others what you think.

Capricorn (12/22-1/19)-One of your friends is going through tough times, but don't help unless they ask.

Gemini (5/21-6/21) - A health concern you had recently will turn out to be nothing. Celebrate today.

Libra (9/23-10/22)-A friend will offer you unsolicited advice that could hold the key to a new romance.

Aquarius (1/20-2/18) - You are entering a phase where your ambition will take a back seat for a while.

Cancer (6/22-7/22) - It's a good day to try new

methods of adapting to stress.

Scorpio (10/23-11/21) - If your authority figure has ceased to be inspiring, it's time to find a new mentor.

Pisces (2/19-2/20) - Sometimes dreams are just dreams. These odd images might not hold valuable clues.

<http://shine.yahoo.com/astrology/> methods of adapting to stress.

Break the Code!!

Kylie Donohue

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

 E A A E A I E I E

 Z U E N T O N U E O V N U M O J A R P E W J U E

 O E U U E .

 G W R P E W Y R Y U E

Created by Puzzlemaker at DiscoveryEducation.com

One Day in The Science Room



Fall Word Search

m y l a y o b c o n x r s o i f t n y i
v m b t t e r c m b z e o c n b b r l r
b e j v c m y c s n l h z n b f w h l s
l z w m z b a p o p h p q s d h e k i a
l w j p z b d t p t q x s b o c j h h f
i j p o o e n a x p a b m o u b e h c u
h f h a l l o w e e n d l a c p a b t p
u r o l n t i v m d d g s a s c h o o l
y t f q t k t b x t h e z p c m e t t y
r r s l d j c k a j l c f k g k z r j z
r f t a l y e s s p h o n u f n c m y v
x h y n d q l r p o o s x b p r h a y t
v s b i u z e a f t v t e f o a k t t j
s p n j j o f y b g i u r z c b x e c s
r e a j g z c a b v h m r w v c b n n w
k a v a g q l s l q r e t r o h s n a z
u v d a w l v a s y n s u g w a u i g k
f d p g e g m i v o f r t y z d h s u j
n x b n k l n n n o r v p k a j j d x r
v c e t h s o c b i c c k l k q c x s o

Words to find:

apples
applesauce
blackcats
chilly
costumes
crosscountry
days
electionday
football
halloween
leaves
school
shorter

Coloring Page



*This edition of the Mirror is
dedicated to Kyle Meek.
You were an inspiration to all of
us. Missing you has made us share
feelings in your guest book and
tell
people funny stories about you.
The New Paltz Middle School
wishes that you were still here.*

**Brighter
by Haley Kwak**

★ The moon is brighter for dreamers,
★ The stars sparkle all day for the kind.
The fire burns brilliant for believers,
★ So keep a clear state of mind.

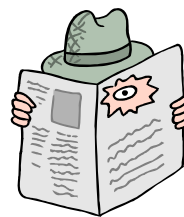
The Mirror Staff

Lauren Apuzzo, Sydney Bagley, Karin Blake, Marissa Bravo, Josh Cohen, Julia Cohen, Elizabeth Cottrell, Simon Deschamps, Morgan DeSimone, Kylie Donohue, Matt Eride, Elena Ingenio, Haley Kwak, Eric Lawson, Even Pallor, Sarah Stamberg, Georjon Tanzi, Poppy Vaughan

Advisor

Susan Pereira

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



Meetings for *The Mirror* are held once a week in room 3. Think about joining us.

***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.

***The Mirror* is also online at
www.newpaltz.k12.ny.us**