

# The Mirror

New Paltz Middle School Newspaper

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★ Success Through Attitude and Responsibility ★

## The Sixth Grade Ashokan Field Trip

Article written by Willa Ashton, Mia Gagne, J.P. Fabella, Mia Welz, and Emma Keeler

The Ashokan field trip that sixth graders took in late September was the earliest trip of the year. Most, if not all, the sixth graders attended. It was teaching the sixth graders team building exercises and about the nature surrounding us. The sixth graders did several team building activities such trying to “capture a unicorn,” and going to a team building obstacle course where groups need to do things like trying to balance a whole group on a large seesaw and trying to fit everyone on a tiny square without touching the ground. There was an activity that challenged our speed and quick thinking. That activity was really fun, and several people said that they would do it again.

Everyone had mixed opinions about this field trip. Some people thought it was boring and easy; some thought of it as fun; and some thought it was fun and hard! Here are some sixth grade opinions about this trip. Emma Koz. says she liked the trip, especially the fishing portion, and believes that this school should continue this trip. Dylan Freidman says that she liked the trip, specifically the team building groups, but does not believe that it is a worthy trade for Frost Valley, which we got quite a bit of rave about because no sixth graders are particularly happy about this trade. An anonymous student says that they didn’t like the trip, and that it was too similar to the recurring Mohonk trips that we get every year. He believes that we shouldn’t continue this trip. Another anonymous student says that the trip itself was fun, but the staff were not handling the trip well.

One of the activities the sixth graders participated in was finding all sorts of wildlife! The groups of sixth graders saw a small man-made waterfall as part of their experience. Some wildlife found in the water activities were crayfish, frogs, small salamanders, turtles, newts, small clams, and

algae. Some of the students got to wear waders. Waders are like jumpers (overalls) with boots that keep you dry in the water. It is also extremely cold! The students who participated had lots of fun doing this and want others to do it as well!



A lot of sixth graders enjoyed the small amount of walking. For every station you had gone to, you would at most have to walk across a field to get there. You just had to be careful when in the forest because the acorns falling from the trees hurt! I think everyone can agree to suggest putting your hoods up and using any sort of protection you can. But other than that, it turns out, most of the sixth graders enjoyed one of the earliest field trips of the year at The Ashokan Center. We also hope that other students will get to enjoy this trip in the next few years in New Paltz Middle School.

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## The Pros And Cons of Homeroom

By E.

Homeroom is a classic part of the high school/middle school day, right? Well, not anymore. At the New Paltz Middle School, they have decided to put an end to the practice of homeroom. Instead of the usual 10-15 minutes at the beginning of the day set aside for attendance, that time has been added on to first period. This move can be viewed in both positive and negative ways.

### PROS

Some would say that transforming homeroom into additional time is beneficial. One of the main arguments for this is that, by eliminating homeroom, there are fewer classrooms to travel to, therefore decreasing the possibility of being late. It is more convenient to stay in one place as opposed to moving between rooms. Homeroom was only 15 minutes to begin with, so why would it be any different this way?

### CONS

Although it can be said that the removal of homeroom is for the better, many disagree. Homeroom was a daily time to socialize and interact with peers from all grade levels. The absence of this important social gathering can cause someone to feel alone or distanced. In addition, it is easier to hand out flyers and take attendance in a smaller class. It seemed simpler for teachers too.

Homeroom is a key element in a high school/middle school environment and will probably continue to be for years to come. So far, the New Paltz Middle School is one of the first schools to discontinue homeroom, and the High School still has a form of it. The argument can go both ways. What would you choose?

## 8th Grade Spanish Students Create “Un Camino” to Represent “El Dia De Los Muertos”

By Lizzie Roff

This year, 8th grade Spanish students are studying “El Dia De Los Muertos”, or known as “The Day Of The Dead.” This Mexican festival is not to celebrate the dead, but is to celebrate the living. This festival or holiday is not Mexican Halloween - it is to honor dead ancestors. The festival is held on November 2. During the festival, families try to welcome back their ancestors by using or creating a number of things that include:

- *Papel Picado* : This special paper is a decoration made of tissue paper. With the tissue paper, you cut elaborate designs into it, to usually tell a piece of a story. Papel Picado is usually hung from the ceiling or a high place.
- *Un Calaca* : This is a skeleton. It is a humorous and playful way to represent the dead after living. Colorful skeletons are very common for this holiday.
- *Una Calavera* : This special decoration is a skeleton head; commonly cut into el papel picado. You usually see them on cards, *ofrendas*, or even on faces! Many people paint their faces as a colorful skeleton to really celebrate the occasion.
- *Cempasuchil* : Also known as a marigold, or the flower of the dead. These flowers are traditional as decoration for *ofrendas*, *caminos*, and houses during this season.
- *Ofrenda* : Altars that have a collection of objects placed on a ritual display during the Day Of The Dead season. They are typically created to honor an individual ancestor.
- *Un Camino* : This is a pathway going from a house to a cemetery. This path is used to guide the visiting dead. Traditionally, people surround the perimeter of the path with petals of marigolds, as they are to illuminate the path.

Last week, students in Ms. Holmes and Ms. Moller’s Spanish classes created a pathway connecting the two spanish classrooms with a pathway made of paper flowers, to represent marigolds. Hopefully, you’ll see the creative and colorful pathway that the 8th graders have created to represent this important festival.



## New Paltz Middle School Student Council Representatives

These are the peers who will represent you in the Student Council this year! Read on to hear some of their great ideas! If you have ideas of their own, please be sure to talk to these classmates!

### 6th Grade Peer Leaders

**Matty Short** - I would like to create a snack cabinet for those in need, make a 4-square court, create book swaps, and make school feel like a better environment for everyone. I would like to create a snack cabinet for those in need, make a 4-square court, create book swaps, and make school feel like a better environment for everyone.

**Nafi Diedhiou** - I want to help people feel comfortable in their skin, and be able to talk to others. I think this important because I don't want people to feel left in the dark .

### 6th Grade Representatives

**Maki Pine, Sadie Lauchaire, and Bella Morales** - We will listen to our peers to create guidelines to make our school a better place. We will make transferring to the middle school easier as we will put up helpful signs and directions all over.

### 7th Grade Peer Leader

**Maeve Eisenhandler** - The reason I would like to be on student council is to voice my opinion about what we can improve in the school to make it easier for our peers, and to hear the opinion of other students on what we as a school can improve on.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Council Reps

#### **Kate Suchowiecki , Caroline Hansen, and Molly Saunders**

1. Have fundraisers to raise money for better playground equipment!
2. Song suggestion box for Karaoke Friday!
3. More activities for the co-recs!
4. We would also like to have National Munchkin Day where you can get a munchkin at lunch from Dunkin Donuts!
5. We don't only want to make our school a better place, we would also want to make our community a better place by having food and clothing drives!

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Peer Leaders

**Melanie Kniffen** - I would like to make sure every student gets the support they need. I will make the school more eco-friendly. I would like to swap the plastic in the cafeteria with metal, mostly utensils. I would like to hold more food and clothing drives too.

**Lizzie Roff** - I would like to have some sort of gradely study group, where students from each grade

can sign up to be in a study group after school or during lunch, which can help other students have a different perspective on learning. (Also, it could be fun!)

**Charlotte Hjeltnes** - Even though I left for a few years, my time at another school has shown me a few things that I think could improve this school.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Council Reps

**Soleil Miller, Gabby Lutz, Mae Rogers** - We have lots of experience and enjoy the position. Last year we successfully installed planner holders in every bathroom and we would love to do something beneficial for the school again. We would like to invest in paper straws. We would hold a Winter Day(copyrite) which would include hot chocolate and pajamas.

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### Too Much Sun, but No Sun

*By Andres Galvan, Dylan Friedman, Emma Kozlowski, Sofia Gorosh, Quincy Walsh, Mason Sutton*



We have been thinking about the plane of asphalt that is our “playground,” and how there is not much shade to hang out in. In this article, we will talk about people’s views and opinions on this matter. We will hear about what recess used to be like and how we think that we can improve the playground.

**Our Thoughts** “We need structures, like playground equipment,” said the editor of the article.

**Other Views** An anonymous 6th grade girl that we have interviewed has reported that she does not like our playground, and would like some improvements. Another 6th grader, Maki Pine, agrees and says that she wants a “real playground.” Another person said recess should be a place for fun, and for that we need more than a sad piece of asphalt where people are bored to death.

**Recess In The Past** Our playground in Lenape was so much better. We miss the equipment for exercising and being able to do more than just stand on a slab of concrete.

**Recess equipment suggestions** An 8th grader said that we should at least have a swing set because a playground is not a playground without a swing set

The Middle School administration is aware of the less than ideal circumstances involving the playground. Fortunately, this is a temporary situation caused by the construction. We empathize with current students who never experienced the old Middle School playground and will miss the new one that is coming once the construction is complete.

# Global Warming

By Bella Morales

## Global Warming: Introduction

I wanted to write about Global Warming because this topic is really important and everyone needs to know what Global Warming is and how it's affecting the earth. We should also all know what we can do to help save our planet.

## Global Warming: What is it?

Global Warming is the gradual increase in temperature of the earth's atmosphere. Human beings increase deforestation and constantly increase the presence of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere. Deforestation is just like the name. Forests are getting cut down. Instead of replanting our planet, we are crushing animal habitats and endangering ourselves with less and less oxygen to breathe.

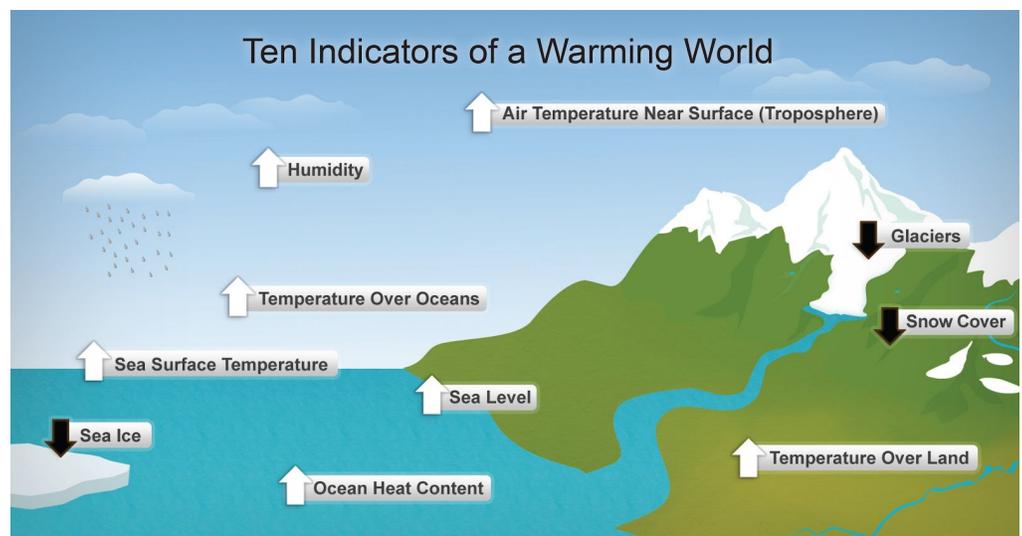
## Global Warming: What effects does global warming have on our planet?

Ice is melting in the polar ice caps and mountain glaciers rapidly. Lakes are warming around the world fast and global warming is affecting the animals' migration patterns. The dates of activity in plants is changing. This includes budding leaves earlier in the spring and dropping them off later in the fall.

We also experience weather changes. Sometimes we have extremely hot summers and strangely chilly winters. Changes in climate can cause the polar jet stream to bring it's cold Arctic air, causing a cold snap or extremely freezing winters in some specific areas. The extremes are getting more extreme.

## Global Warming: Increase in average/extreme temperatures

The average global temperature has increased by 1.4 °F. I know that seems like a very small number, but over time, 1.4 will add up quickly.



## TEACHER' S PAGE : *Our Most Embarrassing Middle School Moments*

<p>First, I must say I'm not a dancer - never took dance classes or anything like that. So, in 8th grade I was selected to be part of a small group of students who would emcee (host) the school talent show. To open the show we were going to perform a lightly choreographed dance routine to a popular song at the time. Well, we got out on stage, ready to go, but whoever was taking care of the music (these were the cassette tape days!) started playing the wrong song. From there, we had to improvise dance moves to this new song, which had a completely different rhythm. I felt so foolish, but at least there was a group of us going through the same thing!</p> <p>-- Ms. Hayden</p>	<p>Eight Grade! I had finished my assignment early in tech class. While I was waiting for my friend to finish, I jumped up on the workbench and sat down. While sitting there, I mindlessly started fiddling with the handle of the vice, which was located at the end of the bench. The bell rang, and I jumped off the bench and heard a loud ripping noise. I had accidentally closed my jeans in the vice! My jeans ripped all the way from the top of my leg to my ankle. I was mortified! (But I did manage to get a good grade on my assignment despite my wardrobe malfunction!)</p> <p>-- Nurse Erin</p>
<p>Science class was my least favorite class with the most boring teacher ever. I probably didn't love science because I wasn't very good at it. Anyway, I was sitting in class and tipping back in my stool. Of course, I wasn't paying any attention in class. My entire stool fell and I ended up horrified and on the floor. What made it worse was the teacher was lecturing at the time so it was completely silent. I disrupted the entire class and drew all the attention to myself. Can you guess? I hated science even more after that! - Ms. Conrad</p>	<p>My most embarrassing moment in Middle School happened to me as a teacher! Earlier this year I wore two different shoes to school! That morning I was rushing to get dressed, and didn't want to turn on the light in my closet because everyone was still asleep. I grabbed my shoes and ran out the door. My class was so sweet. They noticed right away but didn't say anything until I looked down half way through second period and announced "Oh my gosh, I'm wearing two different shoes!" Everyone laughed. To my defense, the shoes were very similar! :) -Mrs. Costello</p>
<p>I was kicked out of band because I was so bad at drums. They decided a guitar class would be in my best interest after that. I failed it! This is why I didn't become a music teacher. The next year I was put in a study hall for my own good. -Mr. Pizzarello</p>	<p>My most embarrassing moment happened at middle school lunch. I was going to return my lunch tray to the back of the cafeteria and I tripped over my own two feet, landing on my face and my lunch tray slide across the cafeteria. The whole cafeteria got silent but as I got up, everyone started to clap. I was so embarrassed, but at least my lunch tray was next to the garbage so I could quickly go sit back down! - Mrs. Nosovsky</p>
<p>The fact that I'm an English teacher probably makes this the MOST embarrassing thing that happened to me, because if I'm completely honest, there are many memories that I could choose from. I was having trouble articulating my answer to a question in English class. As I struggled to find the right words, I blurted out, "I can explain it, just not in words". The good thing about that moment was that I realized my blunder and everyone was laughing with me, not at me. -- Ms. Denman</p>	<p>For those of you that know me, Mrs. Olson, you will not be surprised to know that I was clumsy (hasn't changed much today). In my middle school, students were allowed to carry their backpacks and one always seemed to find its way right in front of me. The number of times I fell because of a peers backpack is something I will never forget. Needless to say, I am so happy that NPMS does not allow backpacks; I think I would end up spending most of my time on the floor. -Mrs. Olson</p>
<p>When I was in middle school, I was into trying new things with my hair and clothes. I had heard about "at-home beauty remedies" like hair and face masks. I decided to experiment with what I had in my own bathroom, so I covered my whole head with Vaseline! I thought it would moisturize my hair, and oh, it sure did! I had slicked back, greasy hair for about a month! I shampooed my hair multiple times a day to try to get it out, with no success! Needless to say, please learn from my beauty fail and DON'T try this at home! -- Ms. Sharpe</p>	<p>Deciding what to wear to school each day was not something I did in seventh grade. Our school had uniforms! We even had gym uniforms! One day while changing from my school uniform to my gym uniform, I realized I never took my pajamas off from the night before. Luckily my pajamas were not visible under my uniform, but you could see a piece of my nightshirt through my gym clothes. How embarrassing when the teacher called attention to my pink nightgown in front of the whole class! If you notice, I rarely wear pink these days!</p> <p>- Mrs. Guirma</p>

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# Pollution

By Bella Morales

## Introduction

Pollution is a very important topic that gets overlooked sometimes. I am here to advise you about pollution and why we have to stop polluting our planet.

## What is it?

Pollution is the introduction of a substance or something harmful let out into the environment.

## What can it do?

Pollution can kill people. And it does. In 2015, pollution killed 9 million people. That is not okay. Pollution can also damage trees, plants, crops, lakes, animals, waterways, oceans, and coral reefs. Pollution affects the environment greatly.

## Different kinds of pollution

There are different types of pollution for sure. Some types are air pollution, pollution through toxic chemicals, litter in the ocean, pesticide/fertilizer pollution, noise pollution, and light pollution.

## What can different types of pollution do?

**Air Pollution:** Air Pollution is the contamination of natural air mixing with different pollutants such as harmful fumes and chemicals. This contamination can be emitted by vehicle fumes or burning material from factories. The more pollutants, the harder it is to remove them from natural cycles. Some effects from air pollution are an increase in smog, higher rain acidity, crop depletion from inadequate oxygen, and higher rates of asthma. According to experts, global warming is one of the main causes of air pollution.

**Water Pollution:** Water Pollution is the contamination of the water on planet Earth. Pollutants, such as chemicals, bacteria, and particulate, reduces the purity of the water around us. Oil seepage is a big part of water pollution. Water pollution occurs in lakes, oceans, even underground water reservoirs. Water pollution is one of the most dangerous and scary form of pollution because it decreases the amount of drinkable water available to animals and humans.

**Noise Pollution:** Noise Pollution might not seem that important, but I'm telling you from research that noise pollution is very important. Noise pollution is the loud noises that are created by humans and human activity that disrupts a standard living habitat for humans and animals. This type of pollution can stem and come from traffic, railroads, concerts, loud music, fireworks, airplanes, et cetera. Any noise that disrupts a human/animal's hearing is considered noise pollution. This can lead to hearing loss and/or disruption to wildlife.

**Thermal Pollution:** Thermal Pollution is the gradual increase of temperature; thermal pollution is related to climate change. Most of the time, thermal pollution is caused by air pollution, see left/down. The rising temperatures can be caused by deforestation, power plants, high carbon

footprint, et cetera. While slight changes in temperature are normal, bigger, faster changes in temperatures can result in loss of wildlife or reduction and loss of drinking water.

### **Why is pollution a thing?**

Pollution is caused by us as human beings. We cause pollution in many ways, such as burning fossil fuels, excessive use of natural resources, driving vehicles, mining, and manufacturing items.

### **Can we stop pollution?**

We can stop pollution if we all work together in something global like National Walk Day or Week!

### **How do we stop pollution?**

There are many ways we can stop pollution. Here are a few examples:

1. Walking/Biking: Instead of driving short distances, if the weather is nice or you think you'll be able to bear the weather, do it! Don't waste gas and pollute the air! Walk or bike instead! Trust me, it will make a BIG difference!!!
2. RECYCLING! Recycling will make a big difference. Printing on one paper for two things, even reusing paper, will make a big difference even if you don't think so.
3. Cooking at home: Instead of getting plastic containers or paper containers, cook your own food without plastics or papers. PLEASE!!!

Thank you for reading this article! I hope you try to quit polluting our Earth!!!

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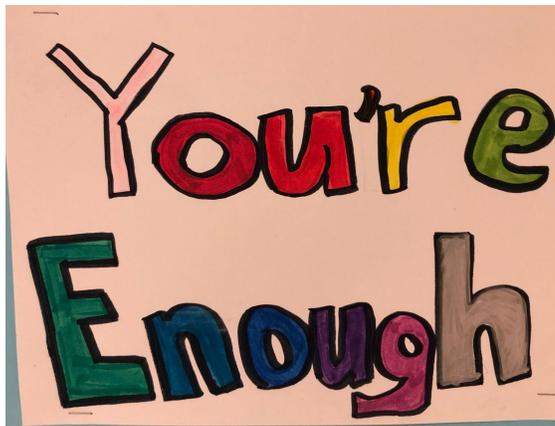
## **Thank you, Veterans**

The Middle School paid tribute to all of our veterans this November by displaying some military artifacts from servicemembers in our very own district! Thank you, Mr. Judge, Mr. Burns, Mr. Russo, and Ms. Easterlin for your service to our country!



# Middle School Students Spread Messages of Kindness

Photos by Sam DePaola





# B's Debate



## Sports vs. Video Games?

By Bella Morales

### Sports

#### GOOD:

Kids play sports for many reasons. Some kids play sports to meet new friends or see their friends. Some teammates that you will meet on a team will be your friends for a long time. Sports are also good for you because you are able to be kids and let loose. You can wear your energy out, and get fitter every time you play. Studies show that kids who play sports excel or at least do well in school.

#### BAD:

Sports can produce stress in kids and they might lose self-worth with every loss.

### Video Games

#### GOOD:

Video games are good for you because they burn more calories than playing board games. They also increase your heart rate as you play them more often. Some games can increase your focus and coordination, though not all.

#### BAD:

Video games can make kids behave worse, create poor eyesight, increase violence, and create laziness.

### B's Debate: Conclusion

Which one would you choose, or would you choose a balance of both?

# Cafeteria Food

By Dahlia Haselton, Miriam Bickoff, and Iliana Melissis

Many people wonder if cafeteria food is really what it tastes like. We are going to interview the lunch ladies and learn how its done, is it microwaved or cooked, how is it shipped to schools, where is it made? Is it mostly handmade or already prepared? We will be answering all these topics and questions later in our article so just keep reading!

As most public health officials know, students should be consuming nutritional sustenance. Does the cafeteria food meet those standards? The New Paltz School District's cafeteria food mostly comes from government resources and local venders. We learned from our interview with the lunch ladies that these meals are shipped to all schools in the district and prepared in the kitchen. Another concerning issue is the environmental effect our school's lunch menu has on our planet. All the plastics used in the cafeteria is a bit concerning. If our school students and staff work together, we can bring down that level. The cafeteria workers already have plans to improve this situation, like working to switch out plastic straws for paper ones.

To add onto that, many heart problems start off with obesity which are caused by high fat and low nutrition foods. But 8 years ago when Obama was president, a new requirement was issued for cafeteria food: each kid is required to get at least one fruit with their meal. This rule was reinforced, but do the kids really eat the fruit? Last year in elementary school we had something called the sharing table. Basically, it was that after students got their food and paid for it, they had the option to put fruit or milk on the "sharing table" if they didn't want it. Apparently the school decided to create the sharing table, because kids just bought the fruit that was required then later threw it out.

The New Paltz Middle School is expanding the kitchen in the cafeteria! They are going to take down the wall near where snack is served. This will all be happening in January next year. The lunch ladies also said that they want an air conditioner. "I hope to have a bigger lunch room and have more kids eat lunch at a time," says a fellow classmate who wishes to remain anonymous. New Paltz Middle School is very excited for the new kitchen!

## Extra questions

Q . "Where is the cafeteria food made?"

A . "The cafeteria food is made in the middle school"

Q. "Is the food sanitary?"

A. "Yes,the food is checked by professionals."

Q. "Do you need any training to get the job?"

A. " Yes, To get the job you need to have training"

Thank you to all the lunch ladies who work in the cafeteria for us everyday!



# STUDENT VOICES

## Passing Time Now Considered A "Sport"

By: Thatcher S. and Zenon Z.

Passing time is the time allotted for students to get from class to class. Sometimes you might just stop by to get something from your locker, or refill your water bottle; *that is if you want to get to class late.*

With the new school rules established, passing time is rapidly becoming more like a race against the clock; trying to get from one side of the school to the other in less than ***three minutes***. With this in mind, people might even consider this a "sport". The school's sub-par layout doesn't help with this, with classroom numbers jumping from 2 to 62 much faster than they should. Let's see what other students think on the matter:

Interviewing Alex, a 7th grader:

Thatcher: What are your thoughts on passing time?

Alex: It's too short. There are many people including me who don't have enough time to get to class because you only have ***3 minutes***.

Thatcher: How long do you want passing time to be?

Alex: I want it to be 5 minutes, maybe even 8.

Thatcher: That sounds about right.

Alex: Some people like me take a long time to pack their stuff up, and when they actually get [out] to the hallway, they only have about 1 minute to get to class. Even people who pack up quickly are late.

Thatcher: Very true.

One suggested resolution for this issue is having students carry their backpacks around with them. This is widely regarded as a good idea, as it resolves other problems like visiting lockers too often and 6<sup>TH</sup> graders needing to carry around a nearly exploding binder.

Interviewing Quincy Walsh, a 6th grader:

Zenon: What are your thoughts on passing time?

Quincy W.: It's too short and I'm usually late to a lot of classes and I'm always asked why, even though there's only 3 minutes.

Zenon: Yes, I think we can all agree that passing time is too short.

Quincy: I think my friend Sadie would like to say something about this.

Interviewing Sadie Lauchaire, a 6th grader:

Sadie: I think passing time is really short because sometimes when you get late to Chorus or Band [and other classes], you have to sign a “Late Sheet” and if you get 3 lates you will be written up for detention and it’s cruel and unfair.

Though this may be a bit of a hyperbole, it definitely is a valid point. The school is attempting to cut down on the number of students late by adding the 3 lates equals a detention system. Though this has somewhat helped, as it motivates the students who like to loiter in the halls, increasing the length of passing time by two or three minutes would also help, probably even more than the current system.

Interviewing Sophia Gorosh, a 6th Grader:

Zenon: What are your thoughts on passing time?

Sophia: I think passing time is a little too short because usually I have to run to my classes without being late. I mean just today I was late to class just like I usually am which can get very annoying.

The opinions of all the people interviewed clearly show that many agree that passing time should be extended. If the authorities made the passing time even 1 or 2 minutes longer, it would have a great impact on the number of on-time students and the student’s stress level.

**=[END]=**

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### **Socktober** By Patrick O’Donnell



*Socktober* is a fundraiser our school has done for three years. The 6th grade collects socks for the Family of New Paltz. They are for people in need for warm socks for the winter. This year we collected over 100 more socks than last year. We are hoping to collect even more next year! Thank you for all your support!

*Socktober* is a result of our increasing awareness about poverty and homelessness, inspired by *How to Steal a Dog*, the book we are reading in 6th grade ELA.

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### **An Informative Assembly**

By Clea Spring

On November 12, Mr. Cook, a Social Studies teacher from New Paltz High School, came in for an assembly on the N-word. He talked about how the N-word came to be and what it meant. He also talked about how black people started to make it less worse, by saying it to other black people in a positive way, instead of white people saying it to black people in a negative way. He also talked about how being rude to someone that doesn’t look like you is not right. This assembly was very informational and helpful. Credits to Mr. Cook for taking part in this assembly!

# Poverty

By Bella Morales

## Poverty: Why?

I decided to do the topic of Poverty because some parts of the world are going through it or has gone through it. That's the sad part. I hope this article will inform you about this sad situation that many people are going through.

## What is poverty?

Poverty is the fact that someone is extremely poor. Pennilessness is another word for poverty and it's like you can't get enough money to live healthily each year.

## What can poverty do to a human?

People are affected by poverty greatly. Many people suffer from poverty-related health conditions like the contamination of water, the absence of water/sanitation, and/or the lack of proper healthcare. Not to mention, the sadness and the loss of self-worth in a child. Can you imagine, not having enough money or food to feed your family or having to work multiple jobs and barely get paid? That you can't afford a proper meal, ever?! This topic is serious!

## The difference of Homelessness and Poverty.

Poverty is defined as someone having less than a certain amount of money after their expenses are paid. The federal poverty line for a family of four (Two parents and two kids under the age of 17) is \$24,000. Being homeless is described as someone or something not having a home.

Not all homeless people are below the poverty line and not all people living in poverty are homeless. You could be homeless and not necessarily rich, but you could have an okay amount of money and still not have a house. Something could have happened to your home and you are now homeless. Or, not all people who don't have a lot of money are homeless. You could have, like, \$10.00 dollars left in your piggy bank but could still have a house. Get it?

## How do kids/adults feel about themselves after living in poverty?

Some kids think of their family living in poverty as their fault. How sad is that? The way their parents handle their situation affects the kids as well. If parents are yelling at their kids because they're bothering them about something, the kid is going to feel some sort of way. That feeling most of the time won't feel great. Some kids feel like they aren't good enough as the kids with perfect lives. They lose self-worth in themselves depending on how hard and how bad their situation is.

## Statistics

About half of the world's population (more than 3 billion people) live on less than \$2.50 a day. It only takes 8 of the richest people of the world, to own as much combined wealth as half of the human population.

To make something, like an Apple product, it takes a lot of workers to complete all the little details, and most of the time, they don't even see the finished product. In some parts of the world, some industries are paying their employees very little. Some employed people earn only \$4.00 a week! Not even \$4.00 a day! A week!

In Africa, for example, poverty is more about disease and illnesses. Malaria, tuberculosis, and AIDS prevent a society from success. Studies show that 1 in 5 kids live in poverty. Some might have

employed parents and some might not. Either way, their parents aren't bringing enough money in in order to have a stable household consistently.

### **Why don't kids understand what others are going through?**

Sometimes kids make inaccurate assumptions about others, who could be living in poverty. There is a good chance that at least 1 kid you know or encountered is dealing with food insecurity, and/or poverty, or homelessness. Sometimes a parent will say, "Eat your veggies, there are starving kids on other continents that would love to eat that!" Kids should be aware that there are people living in poverty possibly right down the street.

### **Generational Poverty**

This type of poverty requires two or more generations born into poverty. Usually when someone is born into poverty after two or more generations of a family living in poverty you probably don't have the tools to get out of it and more and more generations will be born into poverty.

### **Situational Poverty**

This type of poverty is usually temporary. Sometimes people live in temporary poverty because of divorce, environmental problems, or severe health problems.

### **Absolute Poverty**

This type of poverty is rare in the U.S. but common in places like India and China. People in absolute poverty don't have the basic essentials of having a roof over their head, food, and water. Their only focus is to survive each day.

### **What effect does poverty have kids' schoolwork?**

Poverty has a very negative effect on a child's academic performance because sometimes kids aren't able to do their homework or their appearance is affecting their performance in school. Kids who aren't very likely to experience poverty are usually more academically sound in school. Kids who have or live in poverty are more likely to do worse in school.

### **What can we do about poverty?**

1. We can create awareness: We can spread the fact that there are many innocent humans suffering from poverty on social media or just by mouth
2. We can take action: We can fund a poor child's education, or sponsor a family and influencing others to do so. Raising money and donating to a non-profit organization can also help
3. DONATE: Not all donations have to be in money form, they can take place in possibly donating books or food to a family. Donating clothes/furniture can also help out someone.
4. Proper sanitation and water: Access to clean water and sanitation directly affects a child's health and/or education. 800 million people live without safe drinking water and 2.5 billion live without adequate sanitation. Dirty bathrooms prevent girls from attending school, thus stopping them from getting a proper education. Lack of clean water can spread disease which will take more than 1 million lives each year.

### **Conclusion**

I hope you learned a lot on the topic of poverty! Poverty is a very sad topic and even though I was sad while writing this I decided to push past my sadness and set a goal to inspire people to help and inform people on the topic of Poverty.

Thanks for reading! B.M.

## Is Disney+ Actually Worth Buying?

By Patrick O'Donnell



Is Disney+ actually worth getting? Disney+ is the newest streaming service. It includes Disney, Pixar, Marvel, Star Wars, National Geographic, 20th Century Fox, and other lesser known shows. You can get it for \$69.99 per year or \$6.99 per month, or you can get a bundle for \$12.99 per month. The bundle includes Disney+, ESPN+, and Hulu. One negative thing is that it has fewer movies or shows than any major streaming service except for Showtime! Disney+ is available on most devices like PS4 and Xbox One.

One thing to consider is how much you watch Disney. After an interview I conducted with Jennifer Probeck (who has Disney+), I learned that most of the content on Netflix is also on Disney+. Disney+ also has stuff you can't get anymore on other streaming services. So, unless you enjoy watching Netflix originals a lot, there's not really a good reason for keeping Netflix. It's just going to use up money you could use on something else. In conclusion, if you like ESPN, Hulu, and Disney a lot, you should get the bundle. If you like Disney, but not ESPN and Hulu, then you should only get Disney+ and not the bundle. If you don't like Disney very much, Disney+ may not be the right thing for you.

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## The Beatles

By Clea Spring and Sienna Manco

*The Beatles* were a group of four men: John Lennon, Ringo Starr, Paul McCartney and George Harrison. These men met in 1957 and formed a band three years later in Liverpool, England, in 1960. They have been regarded as the most influential band of all time. They mostly write songs in the genre of rock and pop, but their genre of music also varies. Paul McCartney, John Lennon and George Harrison were a core trio and had been together since 1958, and they had a succession of drummers including someone named Pete Best before they asked Ringo to join in 1962.

In late 1962, their first hit came out and they became more and more popular. Soon, teenage girls all over England were swarming the stages where the Beatles performed. On February 11, 1964, The Beatles performed their first US concert that took place at the Washington Coliseum. The Beatles's most famous songs are probably "Hey Jude", "I Want to Hold Your Hand", "Strawberry Fields Forever", "Penny Lane", "Here Comes The Sun", "All You Need Is Love" and "Let It Be". Unfortunately, in September 1969, John Lennon privately told the Beatles that he was leaving the group, and then on April 10, Paul McCartney announced that he was leaving the group also. On December eighth, 1980, John Lennon was shot and he tragically died. In 2001, when George Harrison was 58, he died from lung cancer. His ceremony was held in India where they scattered his ashes. But, Ringo Starr and Paul McCartney are still alive, living in luxury and making more and more songs. They both still will remember George and John forever.

## What Teachers Think About VSCO Girls!

By: Sadie Lauchaire, Lily Nocito, and Emma Keeler

We interviewed teachers to see what their opinion is about VSCO girls!

### What Mr. Mead thinks:



We first asked him what a VSCO girl is and he said “ I don't know” then we explained what one is and this is the information we got! Mr. Mead said that he is all for saving the turtles and helping the environment. Then we asked him who he thinks in 6th grade is a VSCO girl. He did answer, but we will keep that a secret!

Then, we asked Mr. Mead about some of his other experiences. First we asked him how many grades he has taught in his teaching

experience and he said that he has taught five grades! Then we asked him what his favorite grade to teach was and he said 6th grade. The final question we asked him was what his favorite subject to teach was and he said Social Studies!

### What Mr. Krebs thinks:

We first asked him what a VSCO girl is and (again) he didn't know. So we told him what a VSCO girl and here is his answers!

Question: Do you have a Hydro Flask?

Answer: No.

Question: Do you know a VSCO girl?

Answer: No.

Question: Do you want to be a VSCO girl?

Answer: No.

Question: Finally, do you like it when students go “sksksksk” and “save the turtles?”

Answer: No. It's annoying!



## Interviewing School Janitors

By Maya Pizzarello and Nafi Diedhiou

Janitors, also known as custodians, pick up the trash and clean the school. They have to deal with the mess we leave behind us after we leave the cafeteria and the school. You might think cleaning the school is quick and easy but you should rethink that.

Interviewers: Is it hard being a janitor?

George: Sure it is, but our main goal is to keep people happy.

Interviewers: What is the hardest part of being a janitor?

George: When kids throw things on the floor and we have to pick it up.

Interviewers: Where do you keep all of your equipment?

George: All of the tools we use; we keep in a janitor's closet.

Interviewers: What is your name?

Janitor: Juanita.

Interviewer: What is your main duty?

Juanita: Cleaning.

Interviewer: What is the hardest part of your job?

Juanita: All of it.

Interviewers: How long do you stay after school?

Juanita: {till}about 11:00 {pm}.

Interviewers: What time do you go to school?

Jaunita: 2:00pm

Interviewers: What is the worst thing that could be thrown on the floor?

Juanita: Food.

Interviewer: What do you want kids and teachers to do to make your job easier?

Juanita: To be neat and respectful.

This person wants to be kept anonymous:

Interviewers: What is your main job?

Janitor: Just clean.

Interviewer: How long do you stay after school?

Janitor: Depends.

Interviewer: What time do get to school?

Janitor: 2:30

Interviewer: What is the worst thing to be dropped on the floor?

Janitor: I don't know, everything.

Interviewer: What do you want kids and teachers to do to make your job easier?

Janitor: Be helpful.

Interviewer:What is your name?

Janitor: David.

Interviewer: What is your main duty?

David: 6th Grade hall, main hall, ramps, lunch duty.

Interviewer: What is the hardest part of your job?

David: Shoveling snow on snow days.

Interviewers: How long do you stay after school?

David: 9:00 P.M.

Interviewers: What time do you go to school?

David: 11:00 A.M

Interviewers: What is the worst thing that could be thrown on the floor?

David: Gum and adhesive from tape.

Janitors pick up after us and we don't really pay attention to how much they do to keep the school clean. They clean up the bathrooms, sweep up papers and pencils, mop up spilled food and drinks, and more... much more! So, pick up after yourself and respect the janitors because they do more than you think!

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## **Interviewing 6th Graders**

By: Sienna Manco

Since the year began, I've wondered what my peers think about the Middle School.I have always wondered what others thought compared to what I thought. To find that out I have interviewed some of the other 6th graders in some of my classes using the Voice memos app on my phone while leaving the school.

The first person I interviewed was Clea Spring and asked what she thinks about the Middle school, She said "I think it's a really good place that is safe for kids, And has a lot of activities after school, so parents don't have to pay money to give their kids extra activities after school'. Then I asked her what she thinks about how short of a time we have to get to class, then she said "I think the hallways could be a little wider downstairs, because I think there's a lot of cramped space and lots of people tripping"

The next person I interviewed wished to stay anonymous, I asked them what they liked and disliked about the school. They said "I like how there are after school clubs and how you don't have to pay for them, and you can just go there and walk home or take the late bus and the bus is very accurate in timing. It's nice because your parents don't have to drive to the school and pick you up. One thing is how we only have 3 minutes to get to class, and that's really difficult to get from class to class

because some people have to go from one side of the school to the other side of the school. The bell is very helpful so you know when you're late and when you leave class.

The final person I interviewed was Ruby Stelmaszyk. She said : "What I love about the Middle school is... that we have a lot of freedom and we can pick if we want to go to lunch or recess first. The Middle school is also a nice environment to learn in, the teachers and staff are so nice and supportive. I LOVE THE MIDDLE SCHOOL!"

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## HOW DO THE AND 6TH AND 7TH GRADERS FEEL ABOUT THE 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS GETTING CHROMEBOOKS?

By Addison Mumford and Kelsey Hacker

We interviewed students and heard what they thought about 8th graders getting Chromebooks.

**6<sup>th</sup> grader: Nafi Diedhiou-** I think it would be nice if the seventh graders got chromebooks however, I don't think that the 6th graders are really responsible enough to have chromebooks.

**7<sup>th</sup> grader: Thatcher Shuryn-**

Okay, first up, What do they even need them for? Maybe they use them for school or work or other important stuff. What about the rest of the kids that have things to do?The sixth and seventh graders would also benefit from having Chromebooks because there are some people that have trouble writing.

**6<sup>th</sup> grader: Clea Spring-** I think that we are responsible enough to have Chromebooks. It would be nice to have Chromebooks because we didn't have some of the field trips that others had the opportunity to go on in the past.

**7<sup>th</sup> grader: Michel Verney-** The 8th graders do more typing and I get that - but it is also annoying because teachers can rent out Chromebooks or go to the computer lab if they want to type.

**6<sup>th</sup> grader:Sam DePoala-** So basically they just have another expensive device that the school could lose a lot of money for. That money could be useful for other things. Maybe they should trust giving Chromebooks to the sixth graders, especially since they trust the 8th graders. Otherwise Chromebooks aren't really cool. They have no mice! Plus we aren't going to Frost Valley which is kind of upsetting. Well, I think one of the reasons that we aren't going to Frost Valley because the school is trying to get with the new era so they're trying to renew their technology a little bit.

**7<sup>th</sup> grader: Sienna-** It's really upsetting that 8th graders get Chromebooks and they get to type school work, but we have to physically write things down.

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## REVIEWS

### Luigi's Mansion 3.

By J.P. Fabella and Phoenix Johnston.



Luigi, Peach, the Toads, and Mario are invited to stay at a fancy resort, not even beginning to suspect that this will be the spookiest stay of their lives. In this game, the main objective is to defeat Hellen Gravely, the main antagonist. Hellen Gravely has set King Boo free from Professor E-Gad's laboratory. King Boo has trapped many in picture frames and it is your job to set them free. These picture frames are hidden throughout the resort floors. Each new floor that you unlock has a new theme and boss ghost. When you defeat each ghost, you get the

elevator button to the next floor. You free your friends along the way.

Single player story mode isn't your only option. You can play mutli-player with Gooigi, your slime-made companion who can slip through spikes and closed gates, but cannot touch water, adding a whole new level of strategy to the game. There are various strategies to playing this game, containing the different abilities that Luigi's "vackpack" has. Some ghosts require you to use its suction cups, while others need you to use its strobe light and vacuum- like suck function. There is also the possibility to switch between Gooigi and Luigi because multiple bosses require Gooigi's abilities to move on in the main story. The game itself will take hours to complete, if you are willing to complete it in one sitting. I mean, who doesn't like a long game of Luigi? We here at Game Reviews personally feel that this game is the best in the Luigi's Mansion franchise, and that this game's seventeen exciting floors of fun are definitely worth \$60. See you next time on Game Review.

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### Shrek the Musical comes to New Paltz Middle School.

By Josh Strauss and Mason Sutton

Shrek, Jr. will be the New Paltz Middle School play this year. All interested students are encouraged to audition! Typically, many students are involved in the cast and crew and it is the biggest club in school!



## **Reviewing the Middle School Plays of the Past**

By Audrey Shannon, Sienna Manco, and others

*The Little Mermaid* was an amazing well put together play! When I saw it I was able to tell it took a lot of effort and hard work and that everyone had to work together to make it come together. If there was one less person contributing I don't think it would have been able to work as it did. It shows how much people can come together to make something happen. The actress who played Ariel had such a powerful voice that added so much to the character. Overall the show was outstanding and left audience members shocked of the talent with the kids in our school!

*Peter Pan*. What a well put together show! So far Peter Pan is our favorite show the middle school has produced. All the cast members worked very hard and it showed! So did the dedication to individual lines, solos, dances and songs. Some standouts in this show were Lindsey Clinton as Wendy, Jenna Triguero as Peter Pan, Jack Iovenella as Captain Hook and many more!

*Mary Poppins* was one of my favorite plays done by the Middle school. I loved how they used pictures on a green screen to make Mary Poppins fly with her umbrella! I thought that the kids who played Wendy, Michael, and John were amazing and were just perfect for the part. I don't even know how everybody got their lines down, I know for sure that I wouldn't be able to! I also thought that everyone worked together well.

Overall the middle school puts on fantastic shows! We can't wait for more to come! Remember Shrek The Musical Jr. auditions are coming soon! We recommend auditioning for the play because it's a great club! If you don't enjoy acting you can be stage crew or help with the sound system! Not only is it filled with people who have a passion for performing, but also its a great way for all the grades to come together to put on an amazing production!

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