

THE MIRROR

New Paltz Middle School Student Newspaper
Spring 2010

SCHOOL NEWS

New Paltz Middle School PTA Haitian Relief Benefit Concert By Melissa M. Lo Brutto

On January 12th, a horrific earthquake devastated the small, impoverished island nation of Haiti. About 230,000 Haitians lost their lives to this quake. More than 250,000 were injured, and in the small nation of 9 million, 2 million people were left homeless.

The New Paltz Middle School PTA held a benefit concert for Haiti on Wednesday, February 10th. All the generous donations from the concert go to Haiti.

Starting at p.m, there was a bake sale and a penny social kind of event called a Tricky Tray. The music began at 7 p.m. The music was performed by the talented: New Paltz Middle School Jazz Band,

Sound Decision, Banter, and Underground Jazz. "The music was electrifying!" exclaimed fellow Mirror member Eric Lasko.

All proceeds from the concert, the bake sale, and the Tricky Tray will go to the American Red Cross Haitian Relief Fund.

Students raised approximately \$3,735 for Haiti. It was a great turnout.

Many students came with their families and friends to help support the people of Haiti.



Photo by Alexa Kane



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Voting for the Middle School

By Alexa Kane

On February 9, 2010 at the New Paltz High School, many people waited on line to vote for the Middle School's renovations. The New Paltz School district held a vote for a renovation which would have improved the structure and health of the Middle School building.

The range of time on line to vote was one hour to one and a half hours because of the large turnout. People were split into three groups by last name: a-f, g-n, and o-z. Each voting booth could only hold 999 votes. People all over New Paltz came out to cast their votes about the Middle School.

The vote was 2,561 against and 983 for the renovation. So there is no renovation but maybe in a couple years they can try again.

New Paltz Geography Bee

By Mike Paino



Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade met every Thursday to prepare for the geography bee. Then our school had a geography bee to test students' knowledge on social studies. This bee was on January 14th, after school. The students that participated are: Tyler Mitten, Kayleigh Marshall, Brendan Woolsey, Myles Shipe, Mason Secky-Koebel, Nora Sackett, Madison Guiliani, Adriana Crimi, Everett Haddard, Aidan Wolfe, Mo Khan, Charlie Bason, Nathan Greene, Josh Joseph, and Tim Otis.

The 6th grader, Mason Secky-Koebel, won in the last round! This lucky student, Mason, took a written state test to go to nationals!

Exceptional Students Are Recognized at the "Step Up" Breakfast

By Reminy Bacon



The second student recognition breakfast was held on November 19. "The food tasted better because I earned it by stepping up and doing the right thing," said Robbie Mercogliano, a sixth grader who attended the breakfast.

The following students were honored at the student recognition breakfast: Matthew Barbieri, Ruby Bard, Natasha Bynum, Clara Griffin, Khariff LaBoy, Steven Le, Karl Linneman, Eric McCord, Robert Mercogliano, Essence Nuget, John O'Donnell, Brandi Peters, Joseph Powell, Danielle Read, Julianna Rock, Christopher Scaduto, Kyle Scagnelli, Jack Smith, Thabani Thorpe, Jacey Vaccaro, Sam Weinman, Michael Yanik, Elena Yess, and Cadance Young. They were recommended by certain teachers to attend the "step up" breakfast. The Guest Speaker was Maria Rice, the Superintendent of Schools. The closing statements were made by Ms. Katie Magarity, the school counselor.

The students earned the recognition as a result of stepping up and doing the right thing, from returning a full wallet to its owner to helping out a fellow student in trouble.

The American Heart Association fundraiser

By Nicole Schofield



The Middle School students and staff donated money to the American Heart Association and in return they got a red, silver, or gold heart. They could buy a \$1 heart, a \$5 heart, or \$10

heart. The hearts are displayed on the wall by the main office.

The money is for the heart walk, which is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the American Heart Association. The heart walk was held at Vassar College on Saturday, March 11, 2010 at 9 a.m.

The school is doing this because the Heart Association provides research and education for everyone about heart disease and strokes. "Heart disease is the number one killer and strokes are the number three killers in this world. It's important to help them because they will help us," said Ms. Melissa Gruver, health teacher.

Striking Snowstorm

By Mike Paino

Schools closed for the biggest snowstorm of the season. Students enjoyed 3 days off of the school week, Wednesday the 24th, Thursday the 25th, and Friday the 26th. Sixth-grader Chris Bravo mentioned, "I got to *chill* with the people in my neighborhood and we built a snow tunnel." As you can see, some students made the three snow days wonderful, but others had no electricity like Alexa Kane. She expressed, "I had no power but outside in the snow was fun." The snowstorm affected everyone's daily lives.

The Sixth grade Winter Concert and Jazz Band

By Nicole Schofield

The sixth grade concert and the New Paltz Middle School Jazz band performed on February 2. Mr. Charlie Seymour was in charge of the band and the jazz band, and Mr. John Anderson was in charge of the chorus. It was at the New Paltz High School, in the auditorium.

The band played first, then the chorus sang, and then the jazz band played last. The band played the following: "The Tempest," "Painted Desert," and "Omega March." The chorus sang "Comedy Tonight" and "Rhythm of the Reggae." Brooke-Lynn Caso played the drums, Alexandra Jacone played the cowbell, Alexandra Hamilton played the maracas and Jessica Cohen played the piano. The chorus also sang "Cindy" and "Happy Birthday" to Dr. Wiesenthal. Nicole Schofield played the piano, Olivia Cea brought cupcakes and Jessica Koch brought a cake for Dr. Wiesenthal.

The last song was "Seize The Day." There were six soloists: in baritone, Stephen Capuano and Eric Lasko; in alto section Olivia Cea and Tiana Ramic; in soprano, Jessica Merten and Olivia Profaci. The Jazz

Band played "Chameleon." The soloists were Ben Smith and Jackson Beveridge. The Jazz Band also played "Respect." The soloist was Lauren Apuzzo. In "Sidewinder" the soloists were Sergio Nazaire and Jackson Beveridge. The last song was "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy" and the soloists were Sergio Nazaire, and Tal Schwartz. In the band there were 61 students. In the chorus there were 50 students and in the Jazz Band there were 25 students.

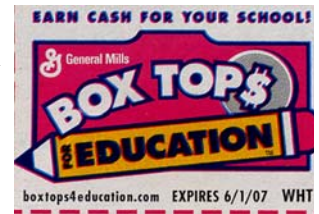
It was an excellent performance!

The Box Top Program

By Augie Scoppa

The box top program is a program to raise money for the PTA. The PTA uses the money for school events and scholarships for students. The raised \$125 this year so far. The person in charge is Ms. Rose Lutz.

You can find box tops on food boxes like cereal boxes, and fruit snack boxes. Students can bring box tops to the main office and put them in a box. Support the school and the PTA by cutting off the box tops.



The Olympics

By Sara Lutz

The Olympics are great. Unfortunately, they only happen every four years. They originated in Ancient Greece. Back then, the Olympics only included combat, tests of strength and some chariot racing events. In modern times, we have the winter and summer Olympics. In the winter Olympics, we have speed skating, figure skating, hockey, downhill skiing, snowboarding and curling. In the summer Olympics, we have gymnastics, basketball, swimming, diving, tennis, volleyball and so much more. When a city is selected to host the Olympics, it must build appropriate venues for the events.

Many people like to watch the opening ceremonies. Usually someone sings the national anthem of the country in which the Olympics are being held. Then all the countries participating come out with their athletes and flags. The countries come out in alphabetical order except for Greece, because that is where the Olympics originated. The country that hosts the Olympics comes out last. In the closing ceremonies, there is a big celebration. Many people enjoyed watching this year's winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada. The next summer Olympics are in 2012 in London, England. The next winter Olympics are in 2014 in Russia.

Overall Pros: This game is awesome.
Overall Cons: My only problem with the game is that not all Beatles songs are included.
Our Choice: ROCK BAND BEATLES!!!!

Here are a few of my favorite songs:

- "Here Comes the Sun"
- "Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds"
- "I Saw Her Standing There"
- "Paperback Writer"
- "8 days a week"
- "Revolution"
- "I am the Walrus"

Check out the following website to see videos of Beatle music:

<http://www.thebeatlesrockband.com/videos>

Alvin & the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel **review**

By Sara Lutz

The movie *Alvin & the Chipmunks (The Squeakquel)* came out on December 23rd, 2009. The characters are as follows:

Justin Long as the voice of Simon
Mathew Gray Gubler as the voice of Theodore
Jesse McCartney as the voice of Alvin
Christina Applegate as the voice of Brittany
Anna Faris as the voice of Jeanette
Amy Poehler as the voice of Eleanor
Jason Lee as Dave Seville
David Cross as Ian Hawke
Zachary Levi as Toby Seville

This film was great. But the critics weren't so nice. The movie got two stars, even though the book got five stars. The movie was supposed to come out on March 19th, 2010 but it was moved to come out on December 23rd, 2009. The director of this film was Betty Thomas. The movie was written by Jon Vitti, Jonathan Aibel and Glenn Berger. There is an unknown date for when the DVD comes out.

If you want to go "Chipmunk," you can go to your local Target or Walmart. The soundtrack was released on December 1st, 2009. A video game was released on the same date for the Nintendo DS/ Nintendo DSI and the Wii.

The movie was excellent. The whole idea of the Chipettes was funny and creative. The music was phenomenal. It was cool when the Chipettes sang Hot N' Cold by Katy Perry. I would definitely recommend this movie.

Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief

By Sara Lutz

The Percy Jackson series is a very popular series. It is about a 12-year-old boy who finds out that his father is the Greek god Poseidon, god of the seas. Percy can no longer go to a normal school. Sons and daughters of Greek gods are called half-bloods. Percy has to attend a summer camp where other half-bloods go to train. He soon meets Annabeth Chase, the daughter of Athena and Grover Underwood, who is half goat and half human. After he settles into camp, Zeus (king of all Gods) thinks that Percy stole his master lightning bolt. Percy and his friends have ten days to find the real thief and return the bolt.

First, they run into a disguised Medusa, who can turn you into stone by looking right into your eyes. The only way to kill Medusa is to cut off her head (kind of disgusting). Dead or alive the head can still turn you to stone. Second, Percy and his friends get to go to a hotel/casino. Percy soon discovers that they have been there five days and it is a trap. Once you check in, you can never check out. But Percy and his friends break the enchantment. Over the next few days, they continue their quest. Finally, the gods find out who stole the bolt, and it wasn't Percy. Who it is, I can't tell you! You have to go see the movie or read the book.

The Lightning Thief Movie Review

By Eric Lasko

Plot: Young Perseus Jackson (Logan Lerman) finds out he is a demigod after a frightening encounter with a fury (Maria Olsen). On the way to save his mother from Hades Percy, along with returning the bolt to Zeus with his friends Grover (Brandon T. Jackson) and Annabeth (Alexandra Daddario), he must face Medusa (Uma Thurman), The Hydra and the Lotus eaters.

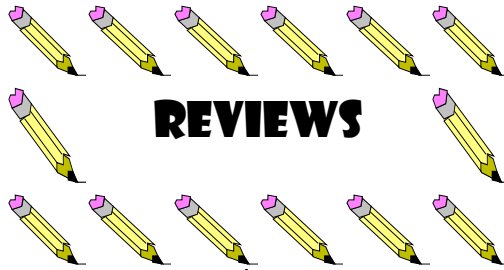
My rating compared to the book: -3.

Reason: I feel that the book was better and the screenwriter (Craig Tilly) messed up the plot and left out the main villain

My rating compared to other movies: 8.99

Reason: Some movies these days are horrible and this movie I think was great.

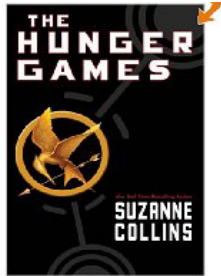




REVIEWS



THE HUNGER GAMES



By Sierra Pardus and Reminy Bacon

The Hunger Games is set in the futuristic society of Panem. The dictatorship demands that one girl and one boy between the ages of 12 and 18 (these pairs are from districts 1-12) will fight to the death in a gladiator arena of 24 kids – this is the Hunger Games. Katniss Everdeen, a 16 year old girl from district 12, takes her sister Prim's place when Prim's name is chosen. Katniss and Peeta Mellark (the boy chosen) travel to the shining capitol city and live in the lap of luxury shortly before the incredibly bloody Games. They meet their stylists, trainers, and fellow competitors. They train and learn survival skills before entering the arena, but neither Katniss nor Peeta expect the challenges that face them in fighting to the death.

It's interesting to see how Katniss and Peeta react to being forced to kill each other. They don't really have a history together, but this one time when Katniss and her family were starving a few years ago, Peeta purposefully burned some good bread (he was a baker's son) so he could give it to Katniss. She always felt unconsciously grateful to him, even though she didn't want to. I would rate this a 4 out of 5 because it's really interesting, action-packed and bloody.

Check out the web site:

<http://www.scholastic.com/thehungergames/> for games, videos and blogs about the book.

Guitar Hero 5

By Eric Lasko and Augie Scoppa

Guitar Hero 5 is the most recent installment in the Guitar Hero series.

Modes:

Career: You play through the story where you go city to city and play songs in specific set lists.

Quickplay: You can play any song in the game and play with friends.

Mii Freestyle: You play using your Mii and can play however you want. (Wii only)

Nintendo Wi-Fi/ X-Box live mode: You can play other people all over the world using your Nintendo Wi-Fi connection or X-Box Live capabilities.

Playable characters that are special to Guitar Hero 5 include: Kurt Cobain, Johnny Cash, Carlos Santana, Shirley Manson and Matthew Bellamy

Our Setlist:



"Smells Like Teen Spirit" by Nirvana, "Ring of Fire" by Johnny Cash, "You Give Love a Bad Name" by Bon Jovi, "Hot Blooded" by Foreigner (Music Store only), "We are the Champions" by Queen (Music Store only), "2 minutes to midnight" by Iron Maiden

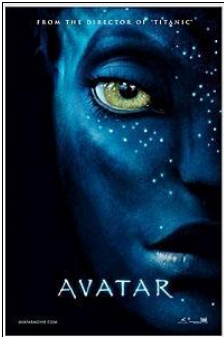
Overall Rating: 9.9/10

Reason for not being a ten: Sometimes the controller doesn't respond to your fingering.

Graphics from amazon.com

AVATAR

By Brendan Morrison



Avatar is a movie about Jake Sully, a US Marine who was paralyzed from a war. His brother was also in the marines and was supposed to be a test subject for the program called AVATAR, which takes a person's body and transfers it into a man-made Avatar body of a native group of beings that live on top of minerals that could make the army and soldiers rich beyond their wildest dreams.

The colonel in charge has different plans. He wants to take out the whole Na'vi tribe that are native to Pandora. Jake is faced with a bigger problem: go with his commander-in-chief or save the cat-like Na'vi?

Avatar was created by using a Capture Motion and Fusion Camera System to create the Na'vi people and the creatures that roam Pandora.

Capture Motion is made by putting thousands of tiny dots on the actor's body, which then turn the actor from white to blue on the screen.

This a thrill ride that will leave you on the edge of your seat. So grab your popcorn and 3D glasses and go see *Avatar*. (PG-13)

Ratings: 10/10

Created and directed by James Cameron

Angus, Thongs, and Full Frontal Snogging

Book Written By Louise Rennison

Recommended By Melissa M. Lo Brutto

Angus, Thongs, and Full Frontal Snogging by Louise Rennison is an excellent book. It is a comedy following the misadventures of 14-year-old Georgia Nicolson.

Georgia meets Robbie, and it is love at first sight. Georgia begins stalking Robbie. Can she help it? She's got a little sister, Libby, who is insane (literally), a cat named Angus that terrorizes the neighborhood, and a dad that went on a business trip in Kiwi- A- Gogo Land

(Scotland). She certainly deserves Robbie!

After making many attempts to impress Robbie, Georgia and Robbie finally get together. But how long will it last? Georgia's life is never, ever perfect. This book is totally worth reading if you are looking for a comedy that you could totally relate to. I give this book 5 /5 stars.*****

Check out the website to find out about the movie: <http://www.angusthongsmovie.com/intl/uk/>

Guitar Hero World Tour

By Christopher Bravo

Compatibility: Good for just about anything.

Game play: The timing on the "strike line" is far off in comparison to a real guitar. But overall, the game play is pretty good.

Graphics: Depends on system

Controllers: Basically, there are 3 different kinds of controllers. There is a guitar, microphone, and drums.

Song Quality: Some are good, some are bad- mainly depends on your opinion. Also, sometimes the instrumental overpowers the vocals.

Overall Pros: Gives you something to do for hours on rainy days. Also, some songs are good.

Overall Cons: Button failure on guitar, drums, and bass, and off tone microphone.

Some Good Songs:

- "What I've Done" by Linkin Park
- "Hot For Teacher" by Van Halen
- "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor
- "Band on the Run" by Wings



The Beatles: Rock Band

By Vincent Aurigemma

Compatible with most game systems

Game Play: very good

Graphics: good

Controllers: microphone is amazing, guitar is great, and drums are HORRIBLE

Song Quality: Extremely, insanely, good

Modes: story, multiplayer, score duel, tug of war and training

Super Star!

By *Christopher Bravo*

On March 8th, 2010, during period 2 the sixth grade met with Jenny Greene on Skype in the library. She is an astrophysicist who specializes in black holes and is a friend of Ms. Eileen Graves, science teacher.

Not long ago she graduated from Princeton University and showed interest in sharing her incredible experience with celestial bodies with students in New Paltz. It just so happened that these students were studying astronomy at the time. Ms. Greene spoke about black holes and answered students' questions.

"She was really smart and helped us understand more about astronomy," said Alexa Kane, student.

Ancient Myth Pack

By Eric Lasko

Greek Myth: Battle of Marathon

Athens and Persia are at War. Then the Athenians are losing. They send their fastest runner to Sparta to ask for help. The Spartans say they cannot. But then the runner hears the voice of Pan! They build him a temple and in their hour of need suddenly a lone horned figure appears. IT'S PAN! He unleashes Panic (An extremely loud yell) and the Persians retreat.

Norse Myth: The Death of Baldr

Baldr is the Norse god of Light. He had a vision where he was going to die. So his mother made everything agree never to harm him, except Mistletoe. Loki wanted to kill Baldr. All the gods were throwing weapons at Baldr for fun. They didn't hurt him because of the deal. Loki appeared as a human and asked Baldr's mother what was going on. She explained and then he made an arrow out of mistletoe. He gave it to the Blind all father, Odin. He shot Baldr, accidentally killing him with the arrow. His brother, Heimdall, went to Hell to visit his brother, but he was not able to.

Egyptian Myth: Horus V.S. Set

Like his father, Osiris, when Horus was murdered he was reborn as a god of the wind. Set found out and was outraged. He had become a god as well. He was known as the great corrupter. He could make things evil. Anubis did not realize by giving Set that power, he was making all of his own creations evil and destructive. So Horus went down to Set and told him to stop using his powers in vain. Yet Set did not. So Horus attacked Set and forced him to stop. This helps explain why today some animals that used to be vicious, may not be.

Student's Thoughts

Ask Nikki

Dear Nikki,

Hi. I'm a sixth grader, and I have a Facebook. It's a great way to connect with friends, but I recently had some problems with it. I recently have made a brand spanking new Facebook, and I put all of my information on it. I added everyone who has friended me. But this guy I don't know, that's like 30 years old (Eeewwww!), keeps "stalking me." I'm so scared!!! Please help me. Facebook used to be fun, but now it's making me upset. What should I do?

Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

I understand what you mean. That is very scary, so here's what I would do. I would report him to Facebook and your parents.

The smartest thing to do... delete him. Just go to his profile and scroll down. Look at the left side of the page and find where it says, "delete this person from your friends list." Click that. You could also go to the top where it says "Home: Profile: Friends: Inbox." Click friends and type his name in. Then click the "x" on the right of the page. And he will be deleted.

Another great idea is to not add everyone, just add people you know. That's the best I can advise you right now. Just be careful next time. Let me know how that works out for you. ☺ ☺ ☺

☺Nikki☺

HAITI

by Robby Mercogliano

Poor Haiti, where the earthquake struck.

Many Haitians were injured and killed.

Oh, poor Haiti!

We can't just hope that Haiti will get better!

We have to help for a change.

That change will happen if we work together.



Sudoku

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9

Numbrix by Alexa Kane

Fill in the missing numbers in sequence.

7		13		15	76			81
6		12		16		74	79	
5	10				64			
	3	20	19	62			69	70
1			60		66			53
24		22		58				
	32		34		44		46	51
	31			36				50
27		29		39		41	48	

Math is Fun By Alexa Kane

Try to fill in the missing numbers.

Use the numbers 1 through 9 to complete the equations.

Each number is only used once.

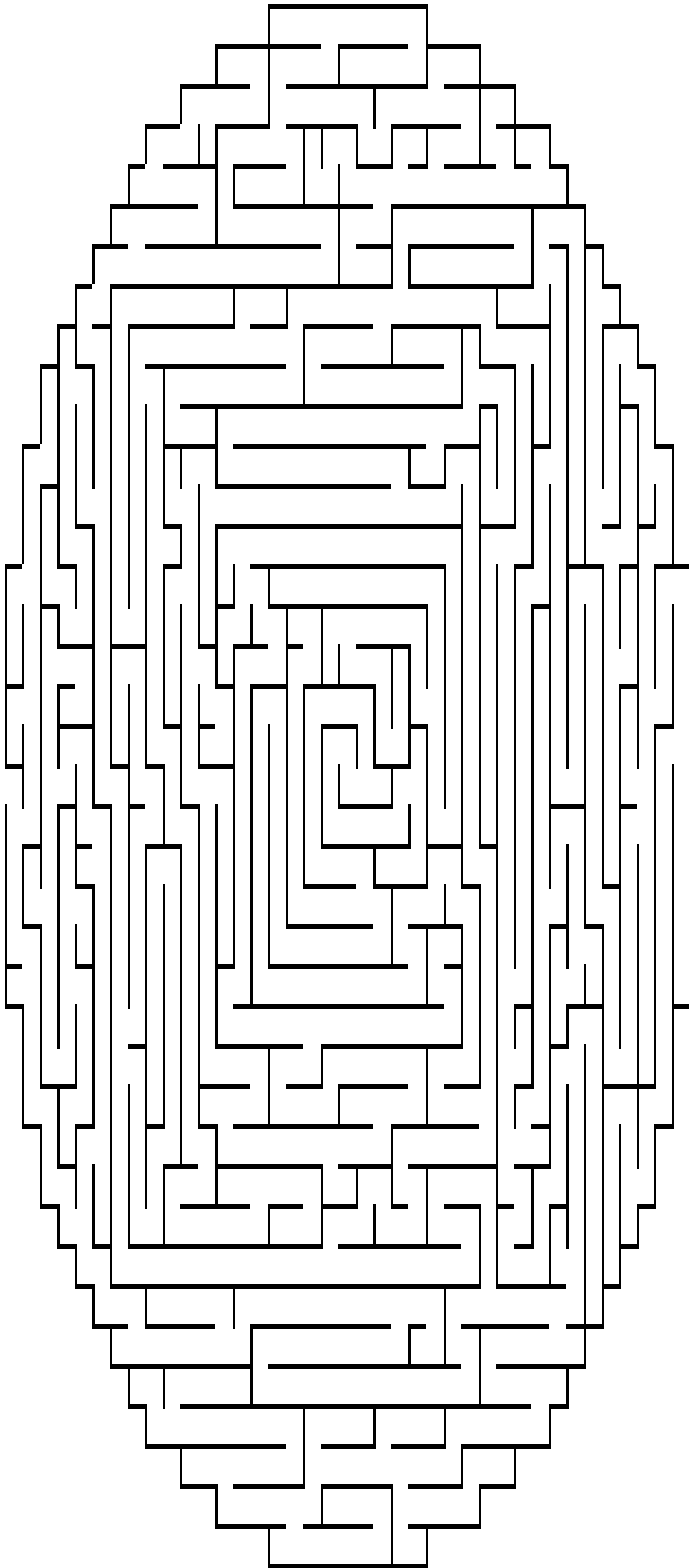
Each row is a math equation. Work from left to right.

Each column is a math equation. Work from top to bottom.

	X		-		32
+		-		X	
	+		-		1
+		X		-	
	/		+		5
19		6		26	

<http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/>

Maze



TECHNOLOGY SURVEY

What kind of technology do you have?

By Alexa Kane

Please fill out this survey and bring to room 3 or drop it off in Mrs. Pereira's mail box in the main office. The Mirror would like to know what kind of technology you use. We will publish the results in the next edition.

Desktop computers

1. Dell
2. Mac
- other _____

Personal laptops

1. Mac
2. Dell
3. Toshiba
- other _____

iPods

1. iPod touch
2. Nano
3. Shuffle
- other _____

Cell Phones

1. enV Touch
2. Samsung alias 2 or 3
3. pay as you go
4. iPhone
- other _____

Video Game Systems

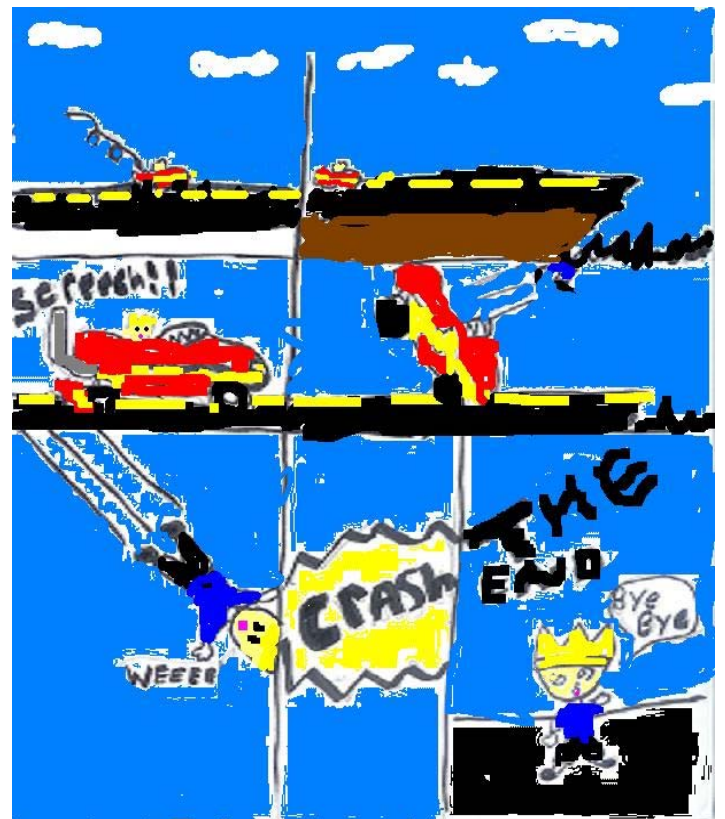
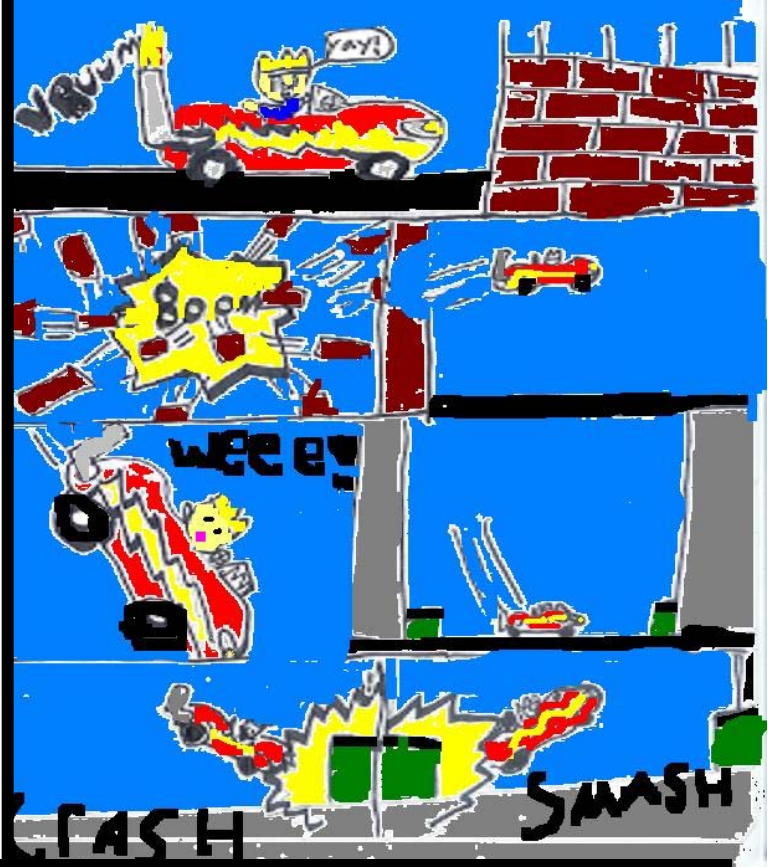
1. Wii
2. Xbox360
3. PS3
- other _____

Thank you.

Johnny



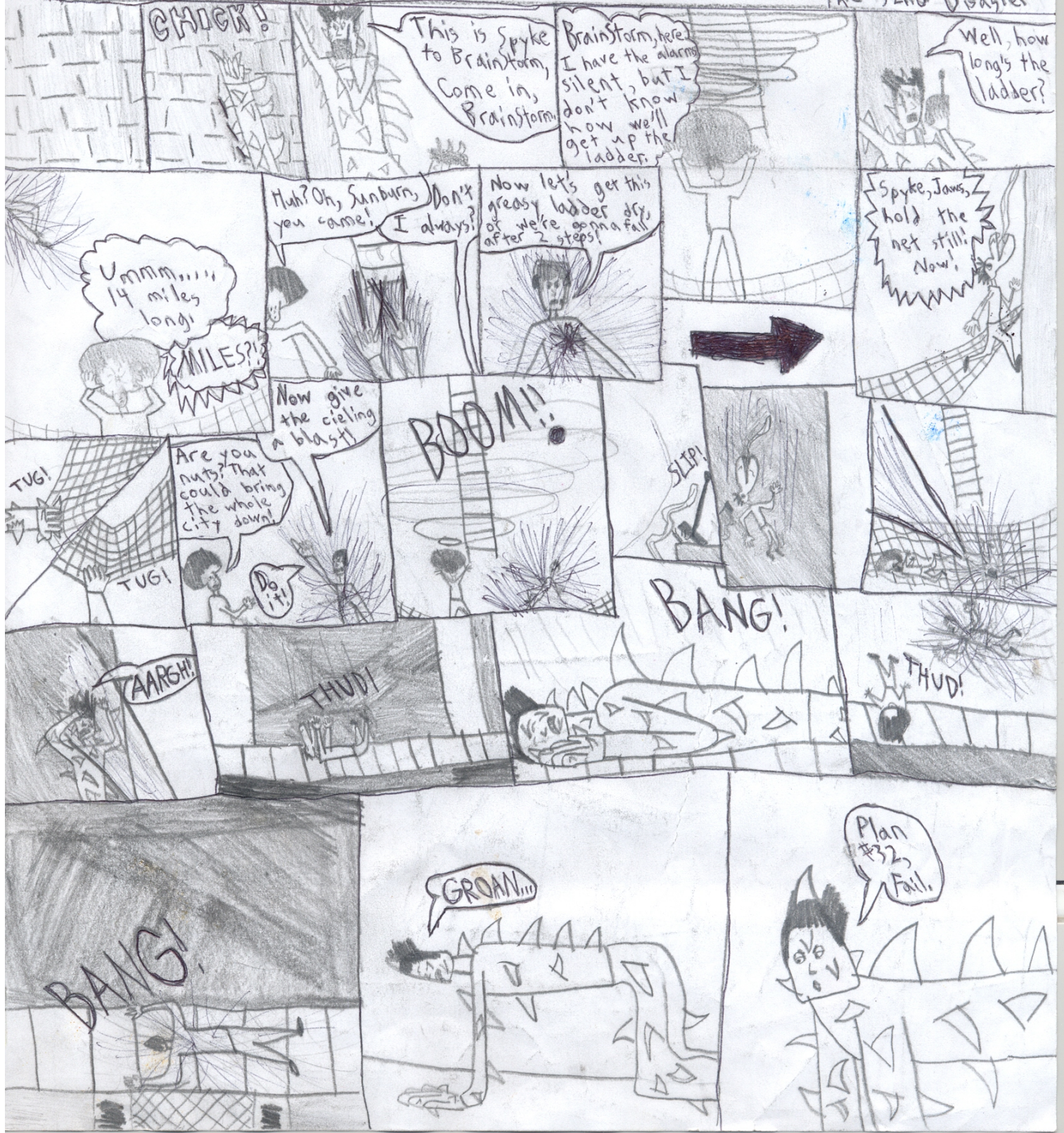
By Vincent Aurigema



14 MILES DOWN

by Ian McAllister

Chapt. 1,
The 32nd Disaster



Club Events

Art club: meets on Mondays and anyone that likes art can join. They are presently making unique room signs that will hang on the door or outside the door.

Advisor: Ms. Sturgis

Geo Bee: meets every Thursday in Mrs. Naclario's room. Advisors: Ms. Naclario and Ms. Bruntl.

Reflections: meets once a month on Wednesday in room 38. New members are always welcome and they serve refreshments. They need people to read, write, edit, do layouts and art work. Advisor: Ms. Rosen

Student Council meets on Mondays in room 22.

Advisor: Ms. Grey

Science Olympiad meets on Wednesday in the tech room. There are different events varying from biology to engineering. In March there will be Regionals. If we win that, we go to States. If we win that, we'll go to Nationals. This year New Paltz is going all the way! Advisor: Mr. Pizzarello

The Mirror meets on Thursdays in room 3. All students are welcome to join at any time.

Math puzzles solutions Sudoku

5	9	4	6	7	8	9	1	2
6	7	2	1	8	5	3	4	8
1	8	8	3	4	2	8	6	7
8	5	9	7	6	1	4	2	3
4	2	6	8	5	3	7	9	1
7	1	3	9	2	4	8	8	6
9	6	1	5	3	7	2	8	4
2	8	7	4	1	9	6	3	5
3	4	5	2	8	6	1	7	9

Math equations

5	×	7	-	3	32
+		-		×	
6	+	4	-	9	1
+		×		-	
8	/	2	+	1	5
19		6		26	

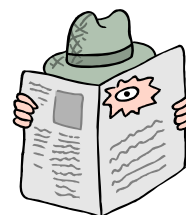
The Mirror Staff

Vincent Aurigemma, Reminy Bacon,
Chris Bravo, Essence Coxum, Alexa Kane,
Eric Lasko,

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Robert Mercogolino, Sara Lutz, Brendan Morrison,
Michael Paino, Sierra Pardus, Evan Purcell, Nicole
Schofield,
Augie Scoppa
and Darren Tsai

Advisor Susan Pereira

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



*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.

