

THE MIRROR

New Paltz Middle School Student Newspaper
Edition IV June 2008

SCHOOL NEWS

Project Puffins

By Camila Ferguson

On Monday April 28, Pete Salmansohn came to the New Paltz Middle School. At two assemblies, he discussed a project he was involved in. Project Puffin was a project to bring the puffins, endangered birds whose name is a cross between potatoes and muffins, back to Maine.

Puffins used to inhabit the island of Eastern Egg Rock as well as many other islands. Eventually, they migrated to safer islands. The reasons are simple, yet horrible. The truth was that gulls had migrated to these islands, and they happened to eat puffins! The gulls took over because there was more food for them. To bring the puffins back, the team needed to get rid of the gulls. They tried using guns to scare them off. Finally, it worked.

Using wooden replicas of the puffins, they lured the puffins back. The only thing was, the puffins tried to mate with wooden ones! When there were many puffins, the team reached into the burrows to get the eggs, and put them in numbered nest boxes. The puffins were raised in those nest boxes. When they were old enough, the team banded the chicks so that they were identified as raised at Eastern Egg Rock.

Some students also attended a workshop with the author and everyone was impressed with his work.



FOR MORE INFORMATION...READ THE BOOK!!!

PROJECT PUFFIN: HOW WE BROUGHT PUFFINS BACK TO EGG ROCK

Other books by Pete:

Giving Back to the Earth

Saving Birds



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Holocaust Survivor Comes To NPMS

By Fiona Stone

On May 13, Mrs. Charlotte Elmowitz came to the sixth grade to tell her unique Holocaust story. Mrs. Elmowitz is Dylan Rauch's grandmother, and one of the lucky survivors of the Holocaust. When Charlotte was only 11 years old, her life was turned upside-down. The Nazis invaded Baryslaw, Poland (now part of the Ukraine), and her life took a turn for the worse. Her mother and sister were deported to concentration camps, and never seen or heard from again.

Charlotte hid and secretly stayed with her father in a ghetto, along with many other men and one girl, a bit younger than her. After about three or four months, an old woman came and told Charlotte and the other little girl to run and hide as fast as they could. The ghettos were surrounded by a chain-link fence, with holes in the ground that others had escaped

through. During the run, the little girl was shot, but Charlotte survived. Charlotte hid deep in the woods for days, eating nothing but berries and roots found in the forest.

Eventually, she was found in a tree hollow and was told (not by a Nazi), "Come with me." Charlotte obeyed, and got quite lucky. The woman who found Charlotte lived near the woods, so before sunrise she would walk into the forest and would only be able to come back when someone came to get her. During the winter, the woman's husband built a hide-out

behind the chicken coop with a small hole in the roof where Charlotte would hide. Eventually, the Nazis found her because of the reflection made from a small mirror. When one of the Nazis was about to shoot her, Charlotte did what her father had always told her to do: look them in the eyes.

That one move saved her life. The Nazi decided to load Charlotte on to a truck and take her to the police station, where 15 boys lay beaten or dead in a cell. When Charlotte's father got to the police station, he begged for Charlotte, and got her back. Eventually, her father was taken to a concentration camp, where he died.

Over time, Charlotte became an orphan. She was taken to an orphanage, where a young boy said, "When my uncle comes to get me, I'll sneak you on the train." He fulfilled his promise. When Charlotte was in a ballet class, the little boy ran in and yelled, "The train's leaving in 10 minutes!" Charlotte ran, still in her ballet outfit, to the train. She hid in the animal car under hay. Every time an animal stepped on her, her scream was inaudible to

all inspectors. Eventually, she got to Krakow, Poland. A relative's friend found her and took her to America. Charlotte's lived there since then.

Charlotte shared her story with the entire sixth grade. Students were studying the Holocaust in reading class. All people, adults and students alike, were moved by her story. Some people were even crying. "Her story was really sad," said Kylie Donohue, a sixth grader who was at the assembly class.



Our Favorite Author Returns

By Haley Kwak

On June 3rd, Nora Raleigh Baskin visited New Paltz Middle School to share her love of reading, writing, and to tell her story to sixth graders who have read one of her amazing books.

She started off with a unique question. She asked the group of readers before her, “Who here hates to write?” The show of hands started off light, but grew with Nora’s encouragement. The uniqueness took many viewers in.

Nora has been coming to NPMS for five years, this being her sixth, and has always proclaimed the message of how important writing can be and how one single sentence can change someone’s life. A kind comment from a teacher brought her self-esteem to a new level and encouraged her to be a writer.

As she was talking about writing, she told the story of her life; a story of moving, and divorce, a story of unspoken people and of slight hope. During this sharing, she showed her journal that she wrote in for two

years and has kept since middle school. She had taken it from a bully at school in desperate need of something to write on.

Nora Raleigh Baskin, the talented author, has come through from her past and written extremely loved books, such as: *What Every Girl (Except Me) Knows*, *Almost Home*, *Basketball (or Something Like It)*, *In Company of Crazyies*, , and *The Truth About My Bat Mitzvah*. The first two books take place in New Paltz.

Not only was this a workshop, but it was a luncheon to all who came. During this time she signed books and papers of all sorts. Students of the sixth grade enjoyed her visit and some were even inspired to write. The sixth graders thank her for visiting them



Ms Baskin signs Camilla Ferguson’s book.

NO BULLYING ZONE

By Matthew Landolfa

During the first two weeks of the month of May, the students in New Paltz Middle School’s eighth grade took part in an activity to address the growing issue of bullying. Bullying is a big issue in school and life, and it usually doesn’t have to be physical; verbal bullying is just as bad.

One of the topics that sparked this activity was an incident in Lexington, Kentucky, where an eighth grade student sprinkled crumbs of peanut butter cookies in another student’s lunch. The student that had been tricked was deadly allergic to peanuts and the bully in this situation was fully aware of this. Thankfully the student did not eat his lunch that day and once the bully was found out, he was arrested and charged with a felony. This kind of lethal bullying happens all the time, which is why New Paltz Middle School is trying to put a stop to it.

In the eighth grade classes, the students participated in several activities. They gave their point of views, pointing out what should have been done and what can be done to prevent these kinds of problems. In the students Social Studies class, they were given the actions of three bystanders and gave their opinion on what they did right and wrong. Also, there were two assemblies in which the students were assigned to groups and each group brainstormed on ways that bullying can be prevented in New Paltz, listing the actions needed to be taken by students, parents, and administrator to complete their ideas. Hopefully, all these activities educated the students about a topic that everyone should be aware of and careful about.

Egg Baby Project

By Jackie Hart

On May 7th and May 8 2008, eighth graders received an egg that they would have to take care of for a full six days. The point of this project was for the students to get the concept of the responsibility for taking care of a "baby."

There was a choice of having a crying baby for either a full school day or they could take it home for a night. "It wouldn't stop crying!!!!!!!!!!!" said a very irritable student the day after they took the baby home for the night. The goal for the egg was for students to take care of the egg making sure not to crack it. Unfortunately the egg was



stamped with a special stamp, so if the student destroyed the egg (like most did), the egg could not be replaced. With the egg baby, there was a special form that needed to be filled out hourly. Basically the 8th grade partners had to write down the activities that the

egg did. Most students agreed that babies are a lot of work.

Memorial Day Ceremony

By Kayla Brill

On Monday, May 19, at 11:30, the whole sixth



grade was bused to the New Paltz Rural Cemetery to honor the people who died while serving in the military. These soldiers helped the community out by putting their lives in danger to save our lives.

Once the students arrived at the cemetery, they had to be absolutely quiet and serious as they stood by the veterans' monument. The sixth grade band played, and then the chorus played. The army, police, fire rescue and many companies that save lives were there.

Then Mr. Seymour led the band, which played from memory, *The Star Spangled Banner*.

Next, Mr. Finch led the chorus singing all four verses of *America the Beautiful*. Alexis Ricci, Hannah Clearwater, Sydney Bagley, and Ed Sganga told stories about family members fighting in a war.

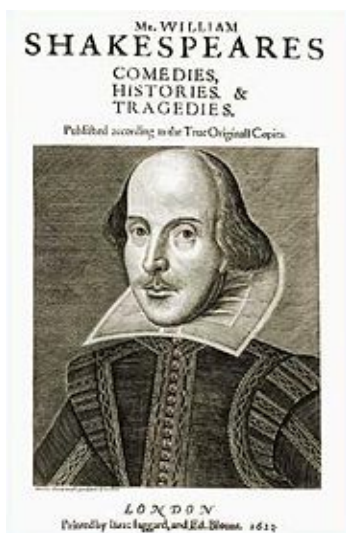
Then the superintendent addressed the crowd. Next, Girl Scouts of Troop 312, Marissa Bravo,



Kayla Brill, Brianna Klinger, and Shelby Vitarious, laid a wreath. After that, two people from the army shot three rounds on an M-1 Carbine gun.

Students made their way back to the buses and returned to school by 12:30. Some sixth graders probably thought that it was just a silly little field trip and you do not learn, but we all realized how important it is to recognize people who have helped our community, and kept us safe. It is good to inform people about the true meaning of Memorial Day.





Shakespeare!

By Matthew Landolfa

On May 20, the eighth grade spent the end of their school day in the auditorium, listening to and taking part in an assembly to kick off their new English unit. This was an assembly for the new Shakespeare unit in English 8, and was organized by the Way

Finders, a local group that performs Renaissance events.

Throughout this event, they taught the students about some of Shakespeare's methods and the types of plays he would compose, including tragedies and comedies. The members of Way Finders actually called up several students and made up funny plays, including the whole grade, through the use of sound effects. This activity was merely to give the grade a feel for Shakespeare's plays in a funny and exciting manner.

Overall, this was a unique and interactive experience for the students that educated them on the lessons that were to follow in English class.

This event was funded by the New Paltz Middle School PTA.

Building Bridges

By Ashley Mazzei and Caroline Aurigemma

This year, some of the sixth grade math teachers created a new project. This project sparked many students' interest. Students made a bridge with five index cards, 27 inches of tape, and two student desks. The bridge had to be strong enough to hold two math text books.

This fun math experiment tricked many people. The real tricky part was that the bridge had to hold the books, and the teacher timed how long the books stayed on the bridge!

There were a lot of great times, but the top three times were: 2:58, 2:58, and 58:18. The two boys that got the highest score were Sean Cramsie and Jerome Milton! Ms. Graves said that the boys did extremely well on this project. She was happy that the students liked this project as many said.

Boston 2008

by Evan Pallor

At 5:30 on the morning of Wednesday, May 8, the 7th graders gathered in the auditorium. The annual trip to Boston was about to begin! Students got on the buses, and they were on their way! After a 3 hour and 45 minute trip, they arrived in Boston.

The first place that they went was the New England Aquarium, on the Boston Harbor. There, the students and teachers observed many aquatic animals and plants. After the aquarium, students met with tour guides and went on the Freedom Trail. The Freedom Trail is a route that includes many Revolutionary landmarks such as Paul Revere's house, Bunker Hill, the Old North Church, and the oldest pub in America. The hardest part for many of the seventh graders of the Freedom Trail was climbing up the Bunker Hill monument, which has 294 steps.

After the Freedom Trail, students had dinner at the Hard Rock Café. They had a choice of several types of burgers, salad, or a pulled pork sandwich. For desert there were chocolate chip cookies. After that everybody went back to the hotel. The students were staying at the Sheraton Hotel in Newton. Lights out was at 10:00. The next morning, students got a wake-up call at 7:00. Breakfast was at 7:45 so the students had 45 minutes to prepare for the day. After breakfast, which was a buffet with eggs, bacon, and all manner of good things, was the much anticipated whale watch.

The students left on a state-of-the-art catamaran for one of the best whale watches in the history of the trip. There were fin and humpback whales, and the humpbacks came right up to the boat! On the boat, a commentator told us to look for seagulls near the surface of the water, because the whales scare fish to the surface of the water, where both they and the seagulls eat their fill.

After a box lunch on the whale boat, the students went to the Museum of Science, where there were many interesting exhibits. At the Museum, the students saw an I-MAX film about a climber who climbed an extremely steep mountain, a mountain that his father had died trying to climb. He climbed it with 2 expert mountaineers, a man who had already climbed the mountain several times, and his wife.

After the Science Museum, everybody went to Quincy Market for dinner. After dinner, everybody played "Dr. Wiesenthal Says"... and had ice cream sundaes! After that, students had room-to-room visit-

New Paltz Middle School's Talent Show

By Haley Kwak and Kylie Donohue

On Friday, May 2, students from grades 6-8 participated in the Middle School Talent Show. It was held at 7:00 p.m. at New Paltz Middle School (participants were expected to be there at 6:30 p.m.). The whole auditorium was filled with family and friends of the performers, all cheering on the many brave kids who were in the talent show.

This magnificent event was organized by the popular Mr. Seymour, the band director who performed so well at the beginning of the N.P.M.S 2008 Talent show in the Rock n Soul Revue. Other members of the jazz group include:

Vocals-Naomi Bouchard-Gordan, Alanna Lawton, Claire Szajkowski, Ebony Tesfay; Alto Saxophone- Melissa Phelan, Julia Beveridge, Sarah Dukler; Tenor Saxophone- Desiree Otis, Blake Edwards, Samantha Levin; Baritone Saxophone- Mackinzie Neimi, Valerie Walis; Trumpet- Christopher Mazzei, Anthony Charchia, Leah Sturgis; Trombone- Paul Lamarche, Noah Pomerselig, Emily Bleacher; Conga Drums- Aaron Getman-Pickering; Auxiliary Percussion- Melanie Schmidt, Kasey Speth; Guitar- Kevin Scagnelli; Piano- Andrei Shatlov; Director, Lead Guitar- Mr. Charles Seymour; Bass Guitar- Mr. Eli Melamud (science teacher); Drums- Mr. Ron Constable (social studies teacher); The Rock n' Soul Revue rocked the house. !!

The following acts were next:

National Anthem- Sarah Dukler,
Rock n' Soul- Can't Turn You Loose, Take Me to the River, Lonely Teardrops, Heat Wave, "Sir Duke" by Stevie Wonder- Haley Kwak, Ashley Mazzei, Heidi Morgan, Tamara Tasker
"Gotta Go my Own Way" From High School Musical- Brittany Swimborne
"Low" by Flo-Rida- Dakota Reinike and Courtney Smith
"Bleeding Love" By Leona Lewis- Aadil Mallick, Ebony Tesfay
"Let's Get it Started" by Black Eyed Peas- Maddy Harrington, Kyle Hoffman
"Hannah Montana Rap" – Lisa Frasier, Victoria Freeborn, Delaney Taliaferro
"Everyday" From High School Musical –Christina Tortorici
"Fresh Prince" and "Superstar"-Kristen Beck, Darcy Dodson, Alicia Gomez, Adrian Hekking, Kyle Hoff-

man,

Aadil Mallick, Kelsey O'Brien, Ebony Tesfay, Ms. Gruver
Singing With Guitar, "She Says"- Jonah Allibone
"Rock You Like A Hurricane" and "Stacy's Mom"- Adrian Hekking, Austin Hekking, Alanna Lawton, Maris Logan
"Because Of You" By Kelly Clarkson- Sarah Elizabeth Clark
On Drums and Guitar Playing "Schools Out" David Ackert, Peter Saladino
"Love Song" By Leona Lewis- Delaney Taliaferro
"Blitzkrieg Bop" By the Ramones- Oxy Moron- Matt Coddington, Chris Smith, Josh Towers
"Vienna" By Billy Joel- Maya Goldman, Claire Szajkowski

Performing, Lady "Marmalade"- Jessica Andradez, Darcy Dodson, Maddy Harrington, Alanna Lawton

These performers were all very brave and wonderful to see. Everyone applauded for the acts and told them they were awesome. The songs were so good and well written.

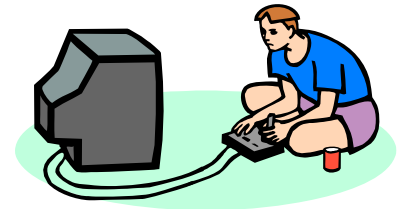
A very important part of the production are those people who work behind the scenes. The following people did an outstanding job:

Sound Technicians- Anna Sturgis
Backstage James Bruschi
PA Assistant- Annie Apuzzo
Lights-Lauren Kossover
Microphones-Kim Ianora
Curtain-Aileen Henderson
Stage crew (Equipment)- Daryl Clark, Anthony Tufano

Producers- Charles Seymour and Lisa Randleman
Special thanks to the following people who helped make the event happen: Dr. Richard Wiesenthal, Principal, Ms. Debra Clinton, Assistant Principal ; Charles Seymour, Band Director; Ms. Kathryn Pines, Guidance; Ms. Tina Meek, parent; David Finch, Sixth Grade Chorus Director; and John Anderson, seventh and Eighth Grade Chorus Director.

"To be in the talent show was an amazing experience! I was frightened yet excited," exclaimed the beloved Ashley Mazzei. "It was fun," Quinn Harlow says with happiness. "To watch the talent show was a great experience. Everyone tried their best and really worked hard on the talent show," Caroline Aurigemma says with pride.





Book **The Heir of Mistmantle** By Reminy Bacon



The Heir of Mistmantle by M.I. McAllister is a fantasy about squirrels, otters, moles, and hedgehogs. It has no humans and is set on the island of Mistmantle, surrounded by enchanted mists. No animal that truly belonged on that island could leave by water or return by

water because of the mists. It is during the reign of King Crispin and Queen Cedar the squirrels, so it's in medieval times.

The main character, Urchin the young squirrel, and his best friend Needle, the hedgehog, are trying to find and rescue Princess Catkin, who has strangely disappeared. Catkin was only a few weeks old, and her parents were distraught. The queen especially was upset. She kept having horrible nightmares that an evil sorcerer wanted to take Catkin and destroy her. Arran, the kindly otter, advised her to stand up to him in her dreams, and it worked! The huge search continued. It was getting desperate. Then it was found that Linty had once been a mother who had two babies. Both of them were taken to the tower to be culled (killed because of disfigurement). Linty went mad with grief. She must have thought that Catkin was going to be killed.

Finally, Linty broke cover and headed for the shore. Urchin, Needle and Sepia the squirrel rowed out. They managed to get into the boat. Sepia, who had a beautiful singing voice, lulled Linty to sleep. Linty was very tired from trying to "protect" Catkin from the searchers and had barely slept. Needle slowly turned the boat around while Urchin held Catkin. At last, they made it to shore. Linty retaliated and was taken to a special hospital. The Queen was very happy, as it was. Urchin, Needle, and Sepia were given the highest of honors- being admitted into the Circle.

I think this book would be great for students who like animals and fantasy. I give it a rating of 5 out of 5.

Video game **Ōkami** By Anna Gilmore

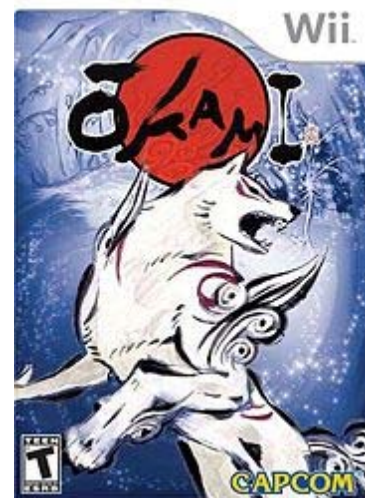
The company Clover's last swan song, Ōkami has been bought by Nintendo© and ported from the Playstation 2 to the Nintendo Wii. This epic original was fantastic on The PS2 and has almost the same results on the Wii.

Ōkami is a game based in ancient Japan about the Shinto deity Ōkami Amateratsu being awoken to help a world in chaos. You play as Ōkami herself and fight an array of bad guys with divine instruments and one of the most original weapons, the celestial brush.

The game play is difficult to get used to but after awhile, it will come naturally. The graphics haven't changed much, but there was nothing worth changing. The game is beautiful! The only real difficulties are that some of the weapons are hard to use and it takes awhile to load.

Even though it's a remake of an award winning classic of 2006 and could never replace it; this version is fun to play and is quite enjoyable.

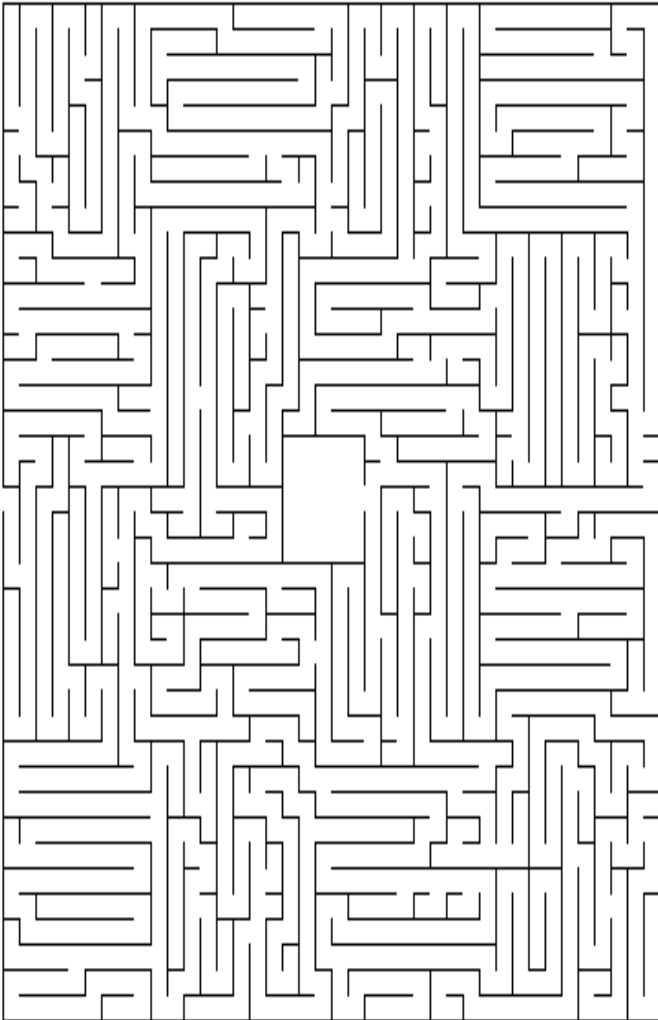
I give it 8.9 out of 10.00.





TIME FOR FUN

SUMMER MAZE



School's Out

Ashley Mazzei

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

BATHINGSUITS FRIENDS NOSCHOOL
PARTIES POOLS SLEEPOVERS
SUMMER SUNGLASSES TANKTOPS
VACATIONS

Break the Code

By Ashley Mazzei

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
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<u>S</u>				<u>E R</u>		<u>A</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>O</u>					
17	15	10	10	19	13	20	11	21	11	25	5	26	24

FUN FACTS

By Sydney Bagley

- 1) Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying.
- 2) The sentence "rats live on no evil star" is spelled the same backwards.
- 3) No words in the English dictionary rhyme with the word month.
- 4) There are 86,400 seconds in a day.
- 5) Cockroaches can live for 9 days without their head.
- 6) Coca cola was originally green.
- 7) Ants never sleep.
- 8) A goldfish has a memory span of about 3 seconds.
- 9) Fingernails grow nearly 4 times faster than toenails.
- 10) Most lipstick is partially made of fish scales.

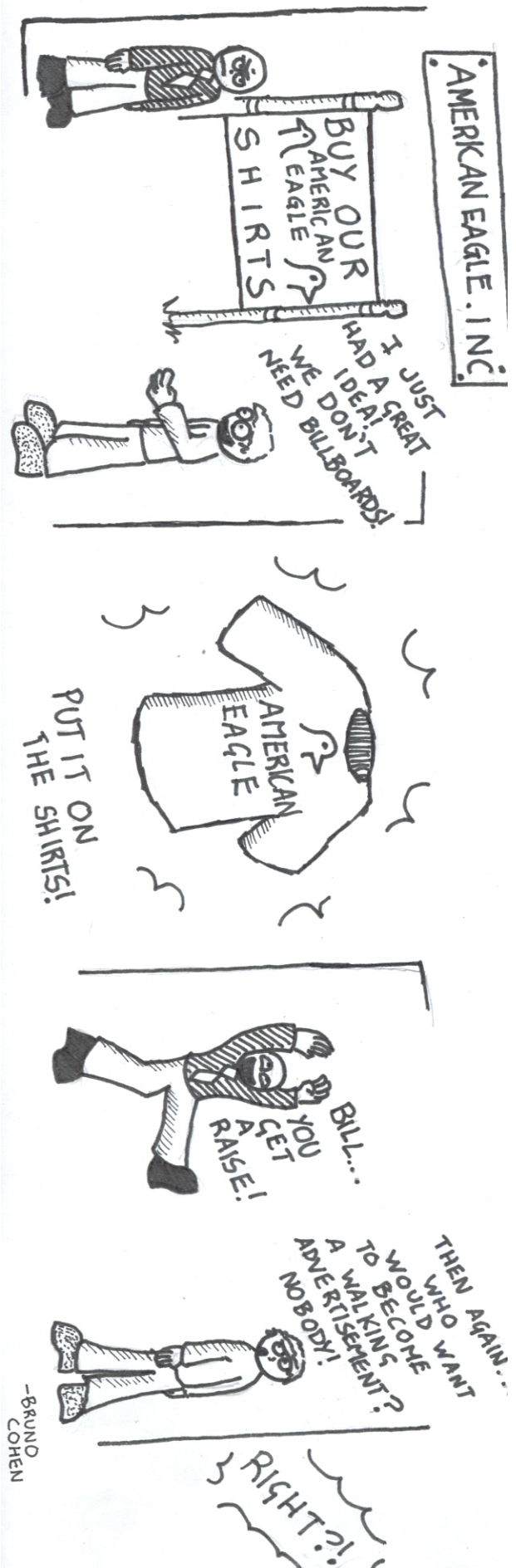
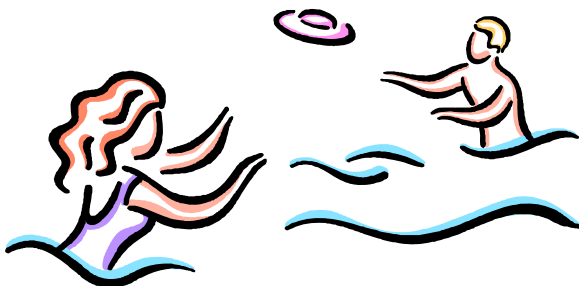
If you want more of these fun facts you can go to:
www.funnyfunfacts.com or the NPMS planner.

Summer Fun!!

By Caroline Aurigemma & Ashley Mazzei

Here are some things you can do over the summer!
 Have a sleep over with some of your friends.
 Go to the movies with your friends and/or family.
 Go shopping with your mom, dad or friends.
 Go to the pool with your friends or family.
 Go to the park.
 Go to a concert.
 Make a musical band with your friends and rock out.
 Have a beach party with sand and a pool and include soft drinks and small snacks.
 Make a special scrapbook of all your special activities
 Write in a diary recording your day
 And most of all don't be bored have.....FUN!

Try some or all of these activities in your summer vacation!



Boston(con't)

ing time and then to bed. The next morning, the students packed before breakfast, which was just as good as the previous days. Then the students took their luggage to the buses, and headed for the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. At the Museum, students saw an introductory video about JFK's life up to his running in the 1960 election. Then everybody went into the main part of the museum to see what he did for the rest of his life. JFK was a great president who strongly supported the space program, and was president when Niel Armstrong took the first steps on the moon. After the JFK Museum, students piled onto the buses for the long ride home. They arrived back in New Paltz at 5:00, and the Boston Trip 2008, ended.

Everyone agreed it was the best trip ever.



CONGRATULATIONS

to all of the **eighth** graders

who are graduating this year!

We hoped you liked Middle School,

but we also know

that you will enjoy your time in High School!

Good luck.

The Mirror **Staff**

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Caroline Aurigemma, Remony Bacon, Kayla Brill, Sydney Bagley, Honour Butler, Bruno Cohen, Kylie Donohue, Camila Ferguson, Anna Gilmore, Jackie Hart, Haley Kwak, Matt Landolfa, Ashley Mazzei, Evan Pallor, Craig Poskanzer, Courtney Smith, Fiona Stone

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Susan Pereira

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You can also read *The Mirror* online at

<http://sw.newpaltz.k12.ny.us/156320101214206573>

Meetings for *The Mirror* are held once a week in room 3.

Think about joining us in September!!

