The Mirror

New Paltz Middle School Newspaper Issue Number 3 February 1, 2022

Willow's Book Column

by literary correspondent Willow Swan

Book recommendations from students!!!

I have *finally* received enough book recommendations from students to do an article! Thank you so much to those who contributed!!!

If you have not filled out the form already, please do so with this link!

From: anonymous Book: *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkein Summary: The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien is a story about a hobbit named Bilbo Baggins who goes on an adventure with a party of dwarves and a wizard named Gandalf. Why I like this book: I like this book because it completely changed what fantasy meant. Before this book was published, fantasy was just fairy tales that told the lesson of two little children. This book completely changed that. This book is the roots of D&D and other live action

role playing games. Age rating: 11+

From: WolfPrincess **Book**: *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins

Summary: Katniss Everdeen lives in the oppressive country of Panem, where every year two children from each district (1-12) are forced to compete in the Hunger Games, which are a televised fight to the death. When Katniss's twelve year old sister gets called to the Hunger Games, Katniss volunteers to take her place. She is whisked away to the mysterious Capitol to prepare, and then finds herself in the Hunger Games. As Katniss fights to stay alive, she manages to make friends, enemies, and possibly a lover.

Why I like this book: I like this book because it is fast paced and exciting, but it also has a lot of emotion. It is a beautiful yet heart wrenching metaphor for war, and how terrible it is. The Hunger Games does this with distinct characters that you grow to love. And when you finish this story, there are two more in the series that are just as wonderful. Age rating: 10-14



From: Evil Sheff 123	From: Ellie O'Rourke
Book : <i>Matilda</i> by Roald Dahl	Book: Keepers of the Lost Cities by Shannon
Summary: A smart little girl finds out she	Messenger
can move things with her eyes.	Summary: Sophie Foster is a normal 12
Why I like this book: I like this book	year old. Actually, that's not true. Sophie
because it has a lot of plot twists.	is in her senior year of high school. Then,
Age Rating: 10-14	on a field trip her life changes forever.
	Why I like this book: It was a twists and
	turns book.
	Age rating: 9-13

Willow's Book Column Honoring Authors from 2021

by Willow Swan

A few wonderful authors passed away in 2021. I would like to honor them here by sharing a little bit about them. Use the links at the end of the article to find out more.

Eric Carle

Eric Carle was born on June 25, 1929 in Syracuse, New York. His family was originally from Germany and they moved back there when Carle was 6. Carle had enjoyed drawing for much of his childhood. When he was older, he went to college at an art school in Stuttgart, Germany. Carle had long dreamed of returning to the US, and he moved to New York City in 1952, where he worked for many years as the art director of an advertising agency. One of his advertisements caught the eye of author Bill Martin, Jr. Martin asked Carle to illustrate a story he had written, Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see? (1967). Carle discovered he wanted to keep creating picture books for children. He wrote and illustrated 1, 2, 3, to the Zoo, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, and The Mixed-Up Chameleon. In 2002 he founded the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art. In 2003 Carle was awarded the Wilder Medal (now the Children's Literature Legacy Award). Carle died on May 23, 2021, in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Beverly Cleary

Beverly Bunn was born McMinnville, Oregon, on April 12, 1916. She moved to Portland, Oregon with her family when she was 6. Beverly struggled with reading, but learned when she was 8 and developed a love for it. She went to college at the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Washington. She became a librarian in 1939. In 1940 she had two children with Clarence T. Cleary. She decided to become an author in 1945. Her first book, Henry Huggins, was published in 1950. Some of her other works include The Mouse and the Motorcycle (1965), Runaway Ralph (1970), and the Ramona series. Cleary won the Newbery Medal in 1984 for her book Dear Mr. Henshaw. She also won a Newbery Honor for Ramona and Her Father and Ramona Quimby, Age 8. In 2010, a movie Ramona and Beezus was made, a film that draws from all of the books in the Ramona series. Cleary also wrote two autobiographies (A Girl From Yamhill and My Own Two Feet). She died on March 25, 2021, in Carmel, California.

Gary Paulson Gary Paulson was born on May 17, 1939, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was constantly moving around the country because his father was in the military. He went to Minnesota's Bemidji State College, but then left in 1950 to join the Army. He was discharged in 1962 and had many unique jobs before deciding to become a writer. His books <i>Dogsong</i> (1985), <i>Hatchet</i> (1987) and <i>The Winter Room</i> (1989) all won Newbery Honor awards. Some of his other popular books are <i>Tracker</i> (1984), <i>The Voyage of the Frog</i> (1989), <i>The Haymeadow</i> (1992), <i>A Soldier's Heart</i> (1998), <i>The Time Hackers</i> (2005), <i>Masters of Disaster</i> (2010), and <i>Fishbone's Song</i> (2016). He also wrote various nonfiction books and biographies. He died on October 13, 2021, in Tularosa, New Mexico.	Norton Juster Norton Juster was born on June 2, 1929, in Brooklyn, New York. He went to college at the University of Pennsylvania, where he studied architecture. In 1954 he joined the Navy, where he started writing seriously. He was asked to write a children's book about how people experience cities, but he kept getting distracted with the idea of a fantasy chapter book. This became <i>The Phantom Tollbooth</i> , Juster's most famous book, and it was published in 1961. He also wrote other books for children and adults, as well as pursuing a career in architecture. His firm created the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art (see Eric Carle). Juster died on March 8, 2021, in Northampton, Massachusetts.
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Sources and further reading:

Eric Carle-Britannica School

Beverly Cleary-Britannica School

Gary Paulsen-Britannica School

Norton Juster-Britannica School

As always, please take five minutes to fill out <u>this form</u> to have your book recommendation featured in <u>*The Mirror!*</u>

Global Issues

Biodiversity Losses

by Mehnaz Afrin

Over half of the world's biodiversity has disappeared since 1970 which is largely due to human interactions with the environment. Biodiversity is the variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem. Biologists, ecologists, wildlife, and conservation managers from all around the world are conducting research on why these changes are happening at an unprecedented rate. This impacts the ways to conserve these vital natural resources.

Biodiversity loss is caused by these five primary drivers: habitat loss, invasive species, overexploitation (over hunting and fishing pressure), pollution, and climate change associated with global warming. This can lower ecosystem productivity, like the amount of food energy that is converted into biomass. This also lowers the quality of the ecosystem's services which often include maintaining the soil, purifying water, and supplying food, etc.). This can have significant direct human health impacts. if the ecosystem services are no longer adequate to meet social needs the human health impacts can spread much quicker. Also if the world's biodiversity keeps decreasing the ecosystem productivity will also decrease. To prevent the loss of biodiversity you can:

- Help reduce climate change
- Try restoring some animals' habitats
- Create captive breeding and seed banks.

Sources:

https://www.nature.com/articles/ncomms10122 https://earthdata.nasa.gov/learn/articles/feature-articles/biodiversity-articles

Global Issues Refugees by Mehnaz Afrin

The number of people in need of refuge is already extremely high and children, women and men are forced to flee from their homes. Issues such as war, hunger and extreme poverty are all factors making it impossible to stay in their country. Many people have to refuge from drowning at the hands of smugglers, and others are being placed in sprawling camps with little access to service. Some people are even being robbed by the mafia. The need for refugees in Germany and Argentina, are rising at faster rates than ever before. Syria and Yemen also have many refugees in need of help.

There have never been this many people in need of refuge at any point in human history. Twenty-six countries have convened in Geneva to define a refugee as a person who has a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, or membership of a particular social group. One reason people become refugees is because of persecution. This can take in many forms like religious, national, social, racial, or political. Some ways you can help refugees are by:

- Donating food, clothing, money, etc.
- Creating fundraising
- Helping raise awareness

Sources:

https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/reasons-why-people-become-refugees/ https://www.rescue.org/article/how-help-refugees-united-states-10-ways-stand-welcome

Bonsai Trees

Lauren Jameson

In recent times, interests in aesthetics and having an 'aesthetic life' has grown tremendously. Increasing amounts of people have also become interested in growing plants for their own mental well being. A study done in March 2019 by researchers at the AgriLife Extension Service of Texas found that gardening and growing plants increases overall mental fulfillment and significantly decreases depression and anxiety.

One of the most common 'aesthetic' plants is the bonsai tree. Bonsai trees are native to Japan and China where they are thought to have first occurred in the 12th century.

Bonsai trees can be as small as 1-3 inches, and as large as 60-80 inches. Bonsai thrive in areas of full sunlight and areas with reasonably dry soil. Bonsai trees can be repotted every 2 years, depending on age- older trees can be repotted after more than 2 years if necessary. Listed below are 3 different bonsai trees that are unique and popular.

Apple Bonsai Trees:

These Bonsai trees grow small apples, just like an apple tree. The apples that this bonsai grows are edible, the only difference being the small size.





Bald Cypress Bonsai Trees:

Similar to cypress trees in general, Bald Cypress Bonsai can live a long time. There are reports of this species of Bonsai living to be over 1000 years of age. Unlike the twisted look of general bonsai trees, this bonsai grows upright.

Bromeliad Bonsai Trees:

The complex root system of this Bonsai makes it easily adapt to any environment. In addition, many Bonsai can

only be grown inside, however this Bonsai can also be grown outside due to its root system.



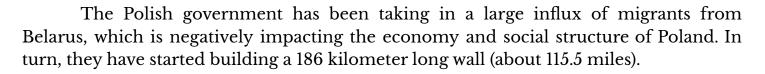
Sources:

Bonsai Empire, "Juniper Bonsai", Bonsai Empire Jennifer Nickson, "How Big Do Bonsai Trees Grow?", Grow Your Bonsai AgriLife Today, "Gardening Can Influence and Benefit Your Mental Health", AgriLife Today Charles Hall, Melinda Knuf, "An Update Of Literature Supporting the Well-Being Benefits Of Plants: A Review of The Emotional and Mental Health Benefits Of Plants", Texas University Cori Sears, "How to Grow and Care For Juniper Bonsai". The Spruce Jennifer Nickson, "Do Bonsai Trees Produce Fruit?", Grow Your Bonsai Renzo De Castillo, "Bald Cypress Bonsai Tree Care Guide", Bonsai Tree Gardener Asashi Nakamura, "Types of Bonsai Trees", Bonsai Tree Gardener Benzo De Castillo, "Bromeliad Bonsai Tree Care Guide", Bonsai Tree Gardener Basic Bonsai Tree Care, "How to Care For Bromeliad Bonsai", Basic Bonsai Tree Care

Poland's Border Wall

Lauren Jameson

As of January 5, 2022, the Polish government has formally announced that they will be building a wall on the side of the country bordering Belarus.



A tweet from the Twitter account of the Polish Ministry of the Interior and Administration, states a quote from Poland's border guard, Wioleta Gorzkowska stating, "The continuing destabilization on the Polish-Belarusian border confirms that the construction of a permanent dam is an absolutely necessary and urgent investment".

Gorzkowska plans for the wall to be in four different sections- not for transport areas, however to speed up construction rates. However, the final goal date or the reveal date has not been stated.

Although unforeseen, the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration of Belarus, Błażej Poboży, appears to agree with the decision since illegal activities have been occurring at the border and those illegal activities have caused authorities to take action.

Currently, illegal entrants are stuck on the border between Poland and Belarus. Some illegal entries are being registered into Poland.



<u>Photo source</u>: www.nationalgeographic.com

Ceratopsians

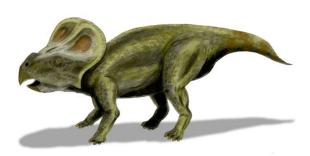
by Emmett DeGrassi

What were Ceratopsians?

Ceratopsians were a group of herbivorous dinosaurs of all sizes and shapes that were commonly equipped with beaks and occasionally horns. Some well-known ceratopsians include the Triceratops, Protoceratops, Pentaceratops, Centrosaurus, Torosaurus, Sinoceratops but there are many, many more dinosaurs that fall into this category. Most ceratopsians lived from the early to late Cretaceous period (145-66 MYA). Many ceratopsians commonly ate palms and cycads.

Protoceratops

Protoceratops, ceratopsians that lived in Mongolia in the early Cretacious period (83.5-70.6 MYA), were small ceratopsians that had four legs, a beak, a small frill around their neck, and no horn. These dinosaurs stood at 2 feet tall and reached a length of around 6 feet and weighed up to 400 pounds. The name "Protoceratops" means "first horn face," in Greek.



Protoceratops ate various cretaceous plants in Mongolia. Protoceratops were first discovered by the paleontologist Roy Chapman Andrews; in fact, the Protoceratops' full name is actually "Protoceratops Andrewsi," in honor of Andrews's discovery. Common predators to the Protoceratops are Velociraptors.



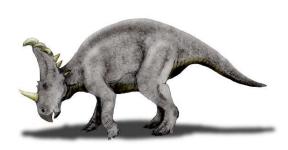
Pentaceratops

Pentaceratops were large ceratopsians that had four legs, a beak, a large and very tall frill around their necks, five horns, and multiple hornlets (smaller horns). Pentaceratops stood at 10 feet tall and reached a length of around 28 feet and weighed from 8000-11000 pounds. The Pentaceratops lived in North America during the Cretaceous period (83.5-66 MYA). "Pentaceratops" means five horned face; the five horns are located all over the animal's face: one horn is

located near the Pentaceratops's beak, two large horns are located near the Pentaceratops's eyes, two small horns located on the top of the Pentaceratops's frill, and the rest of the various hornlets are located on the Pentaceratops's frill. Pentaceratops ate Cycads, Palms, and other prehistoric plants. Common predators to the Pentaceratops are members of the tyrannosauridae family called Bistahieversor.

Sinoceratops

Sinoceratops, ceratopsians that lived in China during the late Cretaceous period (83.6-72.1 MYA), were large ceratopsians that had four legs, a beak, one large horn located near the beak, and multiple horns/hornlets on their frill. These animals stood at around 6 feet, reached a length of about 20 feet, and weighed around 4500 pounds. Sinoceratops were known to eat fruits, seeds, and other Cretaceous plants. The name



Sinoceratops means Chinese horned face. Sinoceratops had various predators that lived near the Sinoceratops in China.

Ceratopsians

Overall, though ceratopsians came in all shapes and sizes, had all sorts of looks, and ate various plants, they were all herbivores. Although I did not go into detail about some of the more well-known (and often beloved) ceratopsians like Triceratops, Styracosaurus, Pachyrhinosaurus, there were many other dinosaurs from this group that lived mainly throughout the Cretaceous period (although some lived around the late Jurassic period). Ceratopsians are very interesting dinosaurs; just don't get poked!

Shea's Science Section

Issue Number Two by Shea Baker

> I'm so sorry, but Santa's not getting away with this one. This is the reindeer or Caribou. They probably will not be pulling a sled, but I can tell you some awesome facts. These majestic creatures eat moss, not carrots. They live in the snowy and dry Tundra. There are few trees where they live, so instead of eating bigger things they eat the moss which is named reindeer moss. Who knows, maybe on one nice Christmas Eve you'll look out your window and see a reindeer flying into the sky.

sources

Changes wanted in the NPMS

by Sonia Levy

In the last issue, I asked the middle school and those who read the paper what they wanted to change or add in school. There are some very smart ideas that the middle school students contributed. I am still taking suggestions from those who fill out <u>this google form</u>. Here are some things the students want to add in their school.

Speed cubing club in the middle school submitted by Lennox Johnston, 6th

For people who don't know this, Speed Cubing really means solving Rubik's Cube really fast. It's a sport! They hold Speed Cubing championships for the best speedcubers in the world. In speed cubing club, you can test your mind trying to solve many different rubik's cubes. Let's make the speed cubing club a reality!

6th graders should get to do stage crew!!! submitted by I'm a Pseudonym, 6th

I think that 6th graders should get to do stage crew!!! I hate acting and singing and dancing and I wanted to do stage crew but I couldn't because I'm in 6th grade!!!!!!!

Changes About Band

submitted by Eunice E. Euphonium, a Euphonium owned by a student

I want to change a couple things about band:

1: I wish there were more concerts because I love playing with other instruments 2: I wish you could learn multiple instruments because my player wants to learn to play my friend Tabitha Tuba as well

3: I wish kids in Lenape could come see the middle school band in action

School lunches should become waste free submitted by anonymous

NPCSD should begin to make an attempt at creating waste-free school lunches. Everyday, so much food is wasted and so many trash cans are filled. We should begin to find a solution, whether it's having a compost, a buffet-style menu, reusable trays, or even just reusable cutlery. I am sure that if we put our minds to it, we can find a way.

Open modified sports, school of rock, stage/sound crew for drama club, advanced classes, and more up to 6th graders! submitted by LOL

6th graders don't get to do a lot of the things 7th and 8th graders can do, like modified sports, school of rock, accelerated classes and stage crew for the musical. Many 6th graders are mature and can handle these things just as well and sometimes even better as much as 7th and 8th graders. It's unfair that 6th graders have to miss out on athletic sports, creative opportunities and more intellectual options because of their age. Age is just a number!!!!

Make more modified sports!!!!!!!

submitted by Unique Sports LOVER

I know that the addition of the new boys volleyball team and the lacrosse teams are exciting, but I just want more. Here are some sports I think they could add to modifieds:

-Gymnastics

-Archery

-Swim team for middle school

-Badminton

-Fencing

-Weightlifting

These are just suggestions you don't have to do them From unique sports lover 🟅 🎽 🎽 🕊 🎔 🖤

We Should Start An Anime Club! _(;-;)_/

submitted by Delilah Burke, 6th

Some people think that Anime is just funny people with big eyes, but it isn't. Anime is AWESOME!!!!! In the Anime club, we will read and discuss manga comics, draw anime, maybe even invent an anime character. Teachers reading this, PLEASE ADVISE THE ANIME CLUB!!!!!

Make More Clubs submitted by anonymous

Make more clubs.

Space exploration article #2

by Sawyer R. Ivchenko

James Webb Telescope

Often described as the next hubble, the James Webb telescope is a revolutionary infrared telescope designed at looking as far as we can in the observable universe. The telescope will look farther than any telescope in history actually looking back in time to the age when the universe formed. It will look back at the very first stars and galaxies. The Webb telescope has amazing resolution and sensitivity. This can be used to more closely examine other objects in



the universe, like exoplanets (learn more about exoplanets in James O'Sullivan's last article). Some fun facts about the JWT are that it is the largest telescope NASA has ever made, it requires extreme cold temperatures to operate (seriously, it gets below 350°F), and its mirror is literally gold and 21 feet across. This will be one of the biggest achievements in telescope history, and will hopefully also create some beautiful pictures (I may put a few in one of the next articles, but the telescope is still going to the outer orbit of the earth and then needs to set up so it may take a few months).

Space tourism (but only for the rich)



Recently, you may have heard about Jeff Besos and Richard Branson (pictured), who made it to what NASA accepts as the edge of space. Several people who were randomly selected have also gone up into space. This is marking the start of space tourism, and civilians may soon travel to the moon and even different planets. Some billionaires are planning on soon setting up

entire companies just based off of taking people to space for sightseeing. Of course, you will only get this privilege if you are ultra rich. The price for Richard Branson's space plane is about \$450,000 per person, and Jeff Besos has not released his ticket selling price but it is expected to be in the millions.

The first official civilian (meaning non-government astronaut) was Charles D. Walker when he flew on the shuttle missions in 1984. But today we are now launching people into space on civilian owned rockets or X-planes with fully civilian crew. You might have also been intrigued by that lottery I talked about earlier. Sadly it already happened, but it was a mission called INSPIRATION4. INSPIRATION4 (or for the sake

of time I will just say I4) was a fundraiser for Saint Jude hospital by Spacex. Anyone who donated a large sum of money to Saint Judes was entered in the lottery. From there, four people were randomly selected. They went in mid-September and ventured into space over 364 miles. For comparison the ISS is 254 miles up. Anyway in the end I think that this will become a monumental chapter in space tourism.

Sources: <u>INSPIRATION4</u> <u>JWST (James Webb Space Telescope)</u> <u>Space.com</u>

Holiday Craft

by Sonia Levy

When he was in prison, people delivered letters to St. Valentine to show support because he illegally married couples after the Pope banned all marriages. This is why Valentine's day is connected to love. The citizens appreciated that he married them, but the Pope didn't like it. He was patronized (made a saint), and we celebrate his birthday on February 14th. Write your own letters to your friends on Valentine's Day with this fun craft!

Did you know that over 1 billion valentines are sent every year?

Valentine's Day origami

You will need:

- Colorful paper
- Scissors
- Glue

Directions:

- First, fold your paper so that the edges meet like in the picture. When you are done, cut the side off like you're making a fortune teller.
- When you are done, unfold the paper. It should look like a square. After that, the corners toward the middle so it makes a smaller square.





• When you are done, fold three corners out to the side like shown in the picture. Glue the bottom corner down.



• After that, fold the tips of the two side corners down so that they are a white trapezoid shape. Glue those down too. Now it should look like there is a little heart in the middle of the paper.



Now you're done!

In this part, you choose! Tape candy onto them, give them to your teachers, do whatever you want! You made it.



Changes in Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics

by Noah Solano

The world has gone through many changes in recent years, so it is no surprise that the 2022 Winter Olympics are also going to have some changes. Some of these changes have been put into place because of coronavirus, and others have different causes.

One change that has been made was not made by China, but by America. President Biden has decided that America is going to have a "diplomatic boycott" of the Olympics. That means that American athletes will still be allowed to go, but diplomats will stay home. Biden has decided to do this because of human right abuses in China. This isn't the first time America has boycotted the Olympics. The most recent boycott was in 1980. The U.S. boycotted the Summer Olympics, hosted by the Soviet Union (now Russia). America boycotted because of the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan. But that year athletes were not allowed to compete. I talked to a few students about this topic. Della Sheridan doesn't feel like America is doing enough. She wants Biden to go to China and do something to really change the way people are being treated in China. Meanwhile, a student who wishes to stay anonymous told me that they think that what we are doing now is sufficient.

Another important change to this year's Winter Olympics is the coronavirus procedures that have been put in place. Tickets to the Olympics aren't being sold this year. Instead, a select list of people are being invited to the Olympics, and only people already living in China are allowed to watch the Olympics in person. And spectators need to be fully vaccinated or quarantine for 21 days after entering Beijing. One very harsh rule is that in person watchers aren't allowed to cheer, just clap, to minimize the chance of germs being spread.

In fact, all people going to the Olympics need to be fully vaccinated or quarantine for 21 days after entering Beijing. This includes athletes, spectators, coaches, staff, and reporters. Staff members are not going to be allowed to visit their family, because the Olympics are being held in a "bubble" that people will not be allowed to leave until the Olympics are finished. In addition, everyone must submit two negative COVID tests before the Olympics, as well as taking tests daily and completing health checks through an app. America's NBC News has decided that this is too much, and they won't be sending reporters to The Games.

Sources: <u>NPR</u> <u>ABC World News</u> <u>The New York Times</u>

James' Space Section #3 Exoplanets: toi 1231 b

by James O'Sullivan

I said something in the second article and that was the specific traits of the planet like its distance from Earth, etc. But it is hard to abide by that because we don't know some of the traits that were listed. So, as a result I cannot do that, but I will try to get as much information in the article that I can.

This week's planet is toi 1231 b. It is a Neptune- like star. This planet orbits an m type star, which is also called a red dwarf star. The mass of the planet is equivalent to 15.4 Earths. It takes 24.2 days to complete one full orbit. This planet is 1288 au from its star. Au stands for astronomical distance. Also this planet's discovery date was in 2021.

I hope that you like this series and this article. Thanks for reading and have a wonderful day.

Sources: www.nasa.gov

James' Club Review #2: A/V club

by James O'Sullivan

My second club review is about the A/V club or, in other words, the announcement club that you watch in your homeroom. I will be joining the club and taking notes to find out what the club is about and if you yourself should join the club.

The A/V club is very fun. Immediately they asked what I wanted to do, had me fill out a form, and then we started to get to work. We were brainstorming a bunch of things that we could put into the announcements that would make it better.

The club is also brainstorming their logo. If you are someone with good art skills, the club might want you in it. Also, if you have a media background that would be awesome for the club. And lastly, you might make friends and see a bunch of people you already know.

Manga Comic Strip Series

by Zoe Curtis





The Waggish Ones

by Jena Chamas

