

THE MIRROR

New Paltz Middle School Student Newspaper Edition II Winter 2008

SCHOOL NEWS

Surviving Together By Elena Ingenio & Kristen Chiriani

ers had to balance across a bridge made out of well...cable! There were two other cables lining the bridge to hold on to. The cable bridge was hovering across a rushing water source! There are many cable bridges in Frost Valley, but most of the groups only went across 2 or 3 cable bridges.

Then there was the dining hall. The food was great. At

The sixth grade went to Frost Valley, a three-day trip in the Catskills. We learned how to respect nature, not be wasteful, and cooperate while meeting challenges during project adventure activities.

Dr.Wiesenthal attended along with parents and other teachers. (Thank you, teachers and parents!) Most of the students had a GREAT time at Frost Valley. Other students were upset that they left, so overall the students had a great time!

There were a lot of activities in Frost Valley. One of them was the Cable Bridge. This activity was

very popular . The sixth grad- Photo by Simon Deschamps

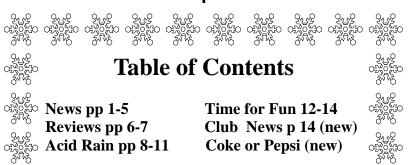


the dining hall the sixth grade had to try their very best to not waste ANY food. If a table wasted food, the kids at the table weighed the waste and then at the end of the trip students calculated the amount of waste each table had. On our last dinner at Frost Valley, Dr. Wiesenthal told a scary story about a man named Lester Cane. It was spooky!

There were a lot of other activities in Frost Valley that the sixth grade really enjoyed. There is also a summer camp for those interested in another

adventure at Frost Valley. The sixth graders would love to go back!







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Books, Games, and Toys

By Simon Deschamps

On December 2, the students of New Paltz Middle School went to the auditorium where they observed and bought lots of books and toys. There was a



variety of literature, including the popular graphic novel *Bone* by Jeff Smith, and the newest books including *Twilight* by Stephenie Meyer. The PTA promoted this event to introduce students to more literature.

Photo by Simon Deschamps

A large selection of school supplies, video games, and toys could be found on the shelves of the book fair. Some people feel this could have distracted the students from the books. "I have seen a lot of people going out of the book fair with toys and posters and all of that silly stuff, but I really want you to be interested and buying books too," Ms. Pereira told her second period class.

Celebrating Africa By Sarah Stamberg

Maybe you've never heard of Africa Day, but it is something everyone should really know about! Africa Day is December 18th. It is the day, exactly like our July 4,th when Africa celebrates its independence. I think it is a day to remember because Africa suffered under slavery, and still faces challenges left by the previous rulers.

South Africa was declared independent in 1910, but still had been ruled by the colonial powers. In 1948 the apartheid law was passed and black South Africans were caused much pain and loss. Land, family members, and the hardest workers were taken and used as slaves. The slavery was very cruel. But in the 1980s, the suffering and fighting was ending. South Africa got its independence not that long ago. Many African countries are taking on huge responsibilities. They are working hard on catching up to the rest of us.

To remember Africa Day, the 6th grade made tshirts, and had a festival by making food from African countries. Africa Day is a good day for anyone who supports Africa. Maybe you can celebrate Africa's independence too!

Geography Bee By Kristen Chiriani and Elena Ingenio

On January 14th in Ms. Nalcerio's room, 12 students attended the Geography Bee. These students were Anthony Bonilla, Craig Poskanser, Everett Haddard, Liam Brenner, Paul Knoth, Chris Marks, Tim Otis, Josh Joseph, Brendan Copeland, Holden Sage Carroll, Tavi Lamadrid, and Tyler Milton. There was one judge per person to keep score for that person.

The questions that each person had to answer were quite difficult for some of the contestants. There were four categories of multiple choice and three categories of fill in the blanks. Each question had to be answered in 15 seconds or it would be marked wrong, so Ms. Nalcerio told the contestants to try and guess.

Throughout the bee, the contestants were very nervous. As the bee continued, many students were tied with each other. Anthony Bonilla, Craig Poskanser, and Everett Haddard were tied with 6 points out of 7. The next day those three boys had a tie breaker. Anthony Bonilla won! He took the state test that qualifies him to be in the state competition. We will know if he made it in March. If Anthony makes the qualification, he has a chance to win a \$25,000 college scholarship. Great job in the Geography Bee everyone and good luck, Anthony!



Dr. Wiesenthal and Ms. Naclerio congratulate Anthony Bonilla for winning the first Middle School Geography Bee.

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New Guidance Counselor By Lauren Mullady and Elizabeth Cottrell



The Mirror interviewed Ms. Magarity, the new guidance counselor, at the Middle School. Here are a few questions and her answers.

Q: What made you want to be a guidance counselor? I love working with kids and solving problems.

Q: Do you like working at the Middle School? I love working here. All the students and staff are fun.

Q: Have you ever been a guidance counselor before? No. This is my first time. I am learning a lot.

Q: Do you like working with the students and staff at the Middle School?

Very much. The kids are fun. The teachers have been very helpful since this is my first job.

Q: Do you have any role models?

Ms. Metzger, she has been a great teacher. My parents have inspired me to keep motivated.

Q: Have you always wanted to be a guidance counselor?

No, I actually went to school for fashion, but later wanted to work with kids.

Q: Do you like sports? What is your favorite? Yes, I love sports. My favorite is definitely basketball. *Q:* Are you going to be involved in any after school clubs or activities? I would like to, but do not know which ones are open.

Q: Which college did you go to? Marist for my undergrad, and Long Island University for my masters.

Q: Did you grow up in this area? Yes, I grew up across the river in Wappingers Falls.

The Mirror staff is happy to have Ms. Magarity in the middle school.

New Year's Lights 2009

By Kristen Chiriani and Elena Ingenio

We hope everyone had a shiny new year! Speaking of shiny, did you see the ball drop? The people that helped make this happen are a company called Hudson Scenic Studio in Yonkers, NY. This year's

ball was a 12-foot sphere and it weighed 11,875 pounds!

This sphere had 16 million different colors and patterns. The sphere sparkles thanks to the 72 water crystals that were imprinted on it. Isn't that amazing?

This tradition has been going on for 100 years. The only thing



that was changed in the last two years was that the bulbs were turned into energy efficient bulbs. This year's sphere was 10%-20% more efficient than last year's sphere. This year's sphere is also the first to stay up in Times Square for the rest of 2009. In 1907 the third New Year's ball was the first to go to Times Square. In 1908 the fashion of smaller light bulbs started, so the builders can snugly fit as more bulbs as possible.

On December 31st, the continent turned and watched the dazzling crystals and twinkling lights go down the middle of Times Square. Then at midnight (or January 1st) the ball "exploded" into a big ball engulfed in sparks and confetti. Everyone cheered, for the New Year.

Step-Up Breakfast©

By Eric Lawson

On November 6th, at 7 AM, the Step-Up Breakfast was held. First, of course was the breakfast. Then there was a guest speaker, Mrs. Rice, the superintendent. After everyone had eaten, Dr. Wiesenthal came up and gave out the awards. As the breakfast came to an end, Ms. Magarity, the guidance counselor, made a couple of closing comments.

The following is a list of students who were



recognized for their outstanding actions: Allison Albrecht, Cody Altro, Reminy Bacon, Andrew Barry, Holden Sage Carroll, Sara Elizabeth Clark, Brendan Copeland, Morgan DeSimone, Deron Dixon, Richard Harrison, Elena Ingenio, Josh Joseph, Assief Khan, Paul Knoth, Haley Kwak, Christina LaChance, David LaMark, Sarah Liggera, Claire McAllister, John Motta, Noah Pomerselig, Joseph Powell, Madison Schirripa, Ryan Simpson, Georjon Tanzi, William Thomsen, and Jade Vaccaro.

The Mirror would like to congratulate all of the students who were recognized for their actions. O

The Middle School Goes Live By Sarah Stamberg

NPMSTV is the TV station that now provides morning announcements to all the middle school students. It is very convenient because in homeroom students watch as well as listen to the announcements. Ms. Lamb is always down in the recording room behind the camera. She is in charge of the background pictures and helps kids if they forget their lines. The kids that are in NPMSTV work very hard to bring the information on the announcements.

The station is dedicated to announcing special events, birthdays, and even the school lunch. It is also a great way to get a newly formed club or activity out there to the students.

If you would like to join, all you have to do is talk to Ms. Lamb. She will put you on the schedule. If all you want to do is try it out behind the screen, she will have you and someone else come down during a lunch or any free time. It is your choice! New members are always welcome.

Middle School Blood Drive By Evan Pallor

On November 4, 2008, Election Day, the New Paltz Middle School held its first 2008-09 school year blood drive. The blood drive was sponsored and run by the New York Blood Center, and was dedicated to Mr. Palmeri.

The blood drive was worked by eighth graders



who reported to Mrs. Gruver. The eighth graders were inspired, either by the good cause, or by the community service hours offered. The jobs available were scrubs: welcome table, registration table, snack table, scoreboard (to tell people when it was their turn), and shift leader.

Students obtained one hour's credit per shift, except for the scrubs, people who stood outside and held signs advertising the blood drive. They spent 2 hours outside and thus got 2 hours credit. The scrubs had to stop after it got dark as accidents have happened in the past. The blood drive ended at 9:00 pm, at which time 159 total pints of blood had been collected. After the blood drive, Mrs. DuBois, the school nurse, said "The November 2008 blood drive came through as usual." The November blood drive was a success.

The Last Football Game

By Elena Ingenio



On November 6th, 2008 the New Paltz Huguenots played Monticello. It was a rainy but warm day. The team wasn't doing very well at first; it was 12-8.

However, Darryl Clark scored a touchdown, which made the score 14-12! The crowd yelled and cheered on all of the players, but the game wasn't over yet.

A touchdown from Monticello made it 18-14. New Paltz fans went wild. Then it was Monticello's ball. The Huguenots had a fumble recovery!

It was getting dark... very dark. Without a minute left, everyone was biting their nails! In a very close game Monticello won 18-14.. It was a great season. New Paltz only lost twice. Great job Huguenots!



By Elena Ingenio Darryl Clark is an eighth grader on the New Paltz Huguenots.

Q: What position do you play? Darryl: I play running back.

Q: What do you like the most about football? Darryl: I like scoring touchdowns. In defense I like to get all my anger out on tackling another player.

Q: **How does it feel to score a touchdown? Darryl:** Well it feels good, but after a while you get used to being in the end zone.

Q: Was the end of the season sad because there are no more football games/practices left?

Darryl: Yes it was, but now I can look back at all the good times I had!

Q: How many touchdowns have you scored?

Darryl: Thanks to my teammates, this season I have made 13 touchdowns!

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Student Council members collected food and made 41 food baskets for families during the holiday season.



New student at the Middle School?



Photo by Simon Deschamps



Go Green! By Kayleigh Marshall

If you want to go green, then *Act Green* is the place for you! If you go to <u>www.scholastic.com/</u> <u>actgreen</u>, you can register to get awesome green points! When you take the opening survey, you'll get a bunch of green points to start yourself off.

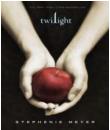


This site has 100 ways to go green; some you may not even have thought of! Each one gets you a certain amount of green points. For example, if you start a family compost heap, you will

get 290 green points. Once you add the task to your "green plan," do it to receive your green points.

If you get 2000 green points, not only have you gone green, you get the Greensaver, a screensaver to keep in touch with other members. Not only can you get the Greensaver, you can get stickers and tags for items in your home and door hangars for the rooms in your home. You can get a mini "Greenator," too. The Greenator is a device that tells you how many green points the site has and how much carbon dioxide, water, trash, and energy has been saved by it.

There is a blog to post your green ideas and books to try, so visit this site today!



Book Review: Twilight

By Marissa Bravo

Author Stephenie Meyer

Do you like books with romance, dan-

ger, and action? Then this book is right for you. Twilight is a deeply tempting and extremely suspenseful love story with a twist. Here is a little something to see if you like the style of Twilight. "About three things I was absolutely positive. First, Edward was a vampire. Second, there was a part of him-- and I didn't know how dominant that part might be---- that thirsted for my blood. And third, I was unconditionally and irrevocably in love with him." So if you think twilight is the book for you, what are you doing standing around when you could be reading Twilight?

The Three have Come... and the legacy continues...

By Kayleigh Marshall

Eagerly awaiting the next Warriors book by Erin Hunter? You're addicted, but here are the summaries...

Book 2: Dark River

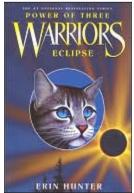
Hollypaw, Jaypaw, and Lionpaw are thriving as young ThunderClan apprentices- Lionpaw receives help in his battle training by his grandfather and halfuncle, Hollypaw expands her knowledge of the Warrior code- and discovers a secret that could avert a battle-, and Jaypaw learns of the prophecy that foretells his and his littermate's futures- and discovers the secret of the Tribe of Rushing Water's fellow Tribes that scattered long ago. All three are torn apart as they struggle with different problems- but when cats disappear, they team up to find them- but a battle will happen if they are not found. Time is running out...

Book 3: Outcast

The Tribe of Rushing Water has been invaded! Talon of Swooping Eagle has come to Stormfur and Brook for help. It turns out that they were banished for suggesting Warrior ways. This was the perfect opportunity for the three in the prophecy to find out about other cats' ways of life. But when they arrive, the Tribe is suffering, but is still proud. No matter how hard the Clan cats try, the Tribe refuses to let go of their way of life. Soon, the Tribe cats and the Clan cats improvise, and they attack the invaders. But when Lionpaw returns covered in blood but not a scratch is on him, Jaypaw discovers it's time to tell his litter mates of the prophecy that foretells their future.

Book 4: Eclipse

Hollypaw, Jaypaw, and Lionpaw have returned from the mountains, now knowing of the prophecy foretold to Firestar in another book. But no cat asks about the trip. Frustrated, Jaypaw goes looking for the stick he found in <u>Dark River</u>. Hollypaw and Lionpaw follow him- and find a mysterious cat on the shore. This cat,



Sol, predicts terrible danger to come, but is turned away. War breaks out as allegiances shift until allied cats are from Clans not expected. Apparently, Sol was right when he predicted danger because during the battle, the moon mysteriously "ate" the sun in a total solar eclipse. The Clans panic and rush to their territoriesbut the trouble isn't over yet...

Book 5: Long Shadows

Hollypaw and Lionpaw have received their warrior names- and just in time, too. ShadowClan has turned their back on StarClan and pledged to follow the predictions of Sol. Tawnypelt comes to ThunderClan with her kits because she doesn't want to not believe in StarClan. Together, Hollyleaf, Lionblaze, Jaypaw, Flamepaw, Dawnpaw, and Tigerpaw create a fake sign that convinces Blackstar to return to Clan ways. But sickness and fire break out, and when one cat reveals a breathtaking secret, no one is safe as Squirrelflight's heart is torn between her Clan and her "kits," Hollyleaf, Jayfeather and Lionblaze.

Book 6: Sunrise

Ashfur is dead, murdered by Squirrelflight to keep him from revealing her secret to the Clan, and the three don't know who their mother and father is. This book will be released on April 21 and it is known that there will be a fourth series after this one, entitled *Omen of the Stars*. Also known is that the name of the Fourth Apprentice will be revealed in this book, along with the true parents of the three. Hollyleaf's power will be shown. Hollyleaf is shown on the cover. This book will reveal the 'Fourth Apprentice' on the last line. The end of the series of the "Power Of Three".

Kamichama Karin By Karin Blake

Kamichama Karin is your average book...If you're Japanese, that is! Kamichama Karin is written by Koge Donbo, a Japanese book publisher. The thing is, she writes Anime books. All books in Japan are written backwards. For example, if a person were to flip an American book halfway to the left, it would be the style of Japanese books.

There are seven volumes in the first series, and one volume in the second series. The second series is called Kamichama Karin Chu.

The story is basically about a girl named Karin Hanazono-san who meets a boy named Kazune Kujyou, or as Karin calls him, Kazune-kun. Kazune's father has made six rings, which Karin thinks her parents left behind for her, but when Kazune meets her and sees the ring, he tells Karin she can transform into a Goddess. Everything is a mess at first, but when Karin finally transforms, she believes Kazune! Karin starts to live with Kazune, and his little cousin, Himeka-chan. If you want to know more, read the book!

So, if you like adventure, romance, humor, and action, you should read these books.

In order to know how to properly prounounce the Japanese words, read the following:

*Kamichama – (Kam-eech-a-muh)

*Hanazono – san (Han-uh-zo-no-san)

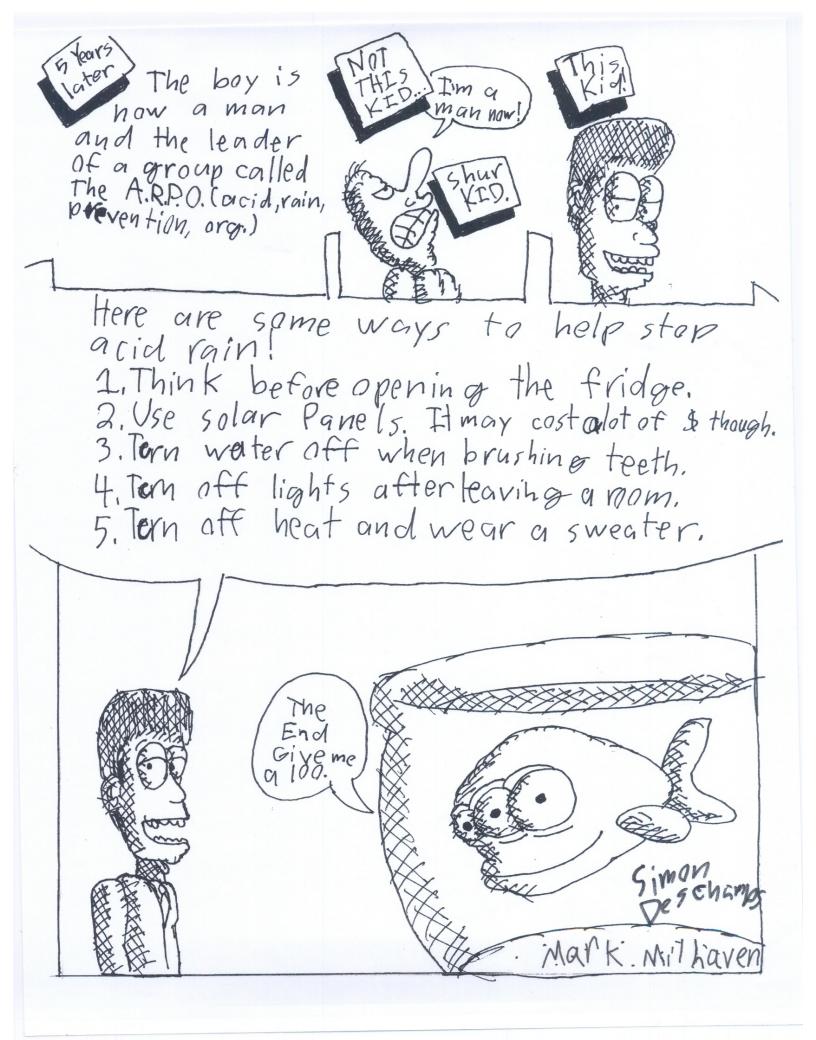
- *Koge Donbo (Ko-guh-Don-bo)
- *Kazune-kun (Ka-zoon-kuhn)
- *Kujyo (Koo-joo)
- *Himeka-chan (Hee-mek-uh-chan)













The Facts and Records Teachers will NEVER Teach You!!!!! By Kayleigh Marshall

These are really weird! Be grateful you know them, because no one will teach you these!

- Scientists believe that diamond rains occur on Neptune and Uranus. The heart of these planets may be a layer of diamonds hundreds of miles thick.
- A Jiffy is an actual unit of time. 1 Jiffy = 1/100 of a second.
- A Rubik's Cube can make 43,252,003,274,489,856,000 different combinations!
- Over 10,000 birds a year die from smashing into windows.
- The longest recorded flight of a chicken is thirteen seconds!
- Did you know that there is a world record for seeing how many times you can attempt a world record?!
- Did you know that the word "Typewriter" is the longest word in the English language that can be spelled with the top row of the keyboard?
- The longest movie made lasts 85 hours and is fittingly titled "The Cure for Insomnia".
- HIPPOPOTOMONSTROSESQUIPPEDALIO-PHOBIA is the fear of long words.

SUDOR

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Sudoku-by-L2G-20050714.svg Horoscopes for 2009 By Kayleigh Marshall It's a new year! Here is the outlook for your sign.

Aries: 3/21-4/19-Clear communication is vital this year -and it's pretty easy, too, if you take your time with it!
Taurus: 4/20-5/20- You're not proceeding with your usual caution this year and might find yourself farther out on a limb than usual.
Gemini: 5/21-6/21- Your energy is great and you should

find that the people you meet this year are a little more interesting than usual.

Cancer: 6/22-7/22- The various aspects of your personality are all arguing over some seemingly small issue. Leo: 7/23-8/22-Your mind is racing this year, but that doesn't mean that you can't still take care of business. Virgo: 8/23-9/22-This year may be a good time for you to take the lead, but accept the first good idea to come along.

Libra: 9/23-10/23-Maybe you're creating new ideas this year, maybe you're figuring out finances -- but you're having a lot of fun while you do it!

Scorpio: 10/24-11/22-You're feeling pretty irritated until you realize what's going on -- and that it's really easy to fix.

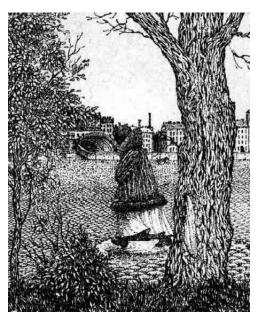
Sagittarius: 11/23-12/21-This year is a good time to live in the moment and put off planning.

Capricorn: 12/22-1/19-This year is a good time to listen carefully to others, but interrupt if it's the only way to be heard.

Aquarius: 1/20-2/18-Your fresh ideas are spawning lots of good buzz around the office or wherever else people are paying attention.

Pisces: 2/19-3/20-You may have a harder time speaking with people who are too literal-minded this year,

but fortunately there aren't many of them.



Do you see a face or a woman walking in a park?

Dutch Apple Walnut Bread RECIPE INGREDIENTS

1 cup smooth unsweetened applesauce

1/2 cup sugar, plus 1 tablespoon for sprinkling

1/2 cup packed light brown sugar

2 large eggs

1/4 cup canola or vegetable oil

1/4 cup plain yogurt

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

2 cups flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

1/2 teaspoon baking soda

3/4 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

1/8 teaspoon nutmeg

1 cup peeled, cored, and finely diced apple

1/2 cup chopped walnuts

1 Combine the applesauce, sugar, brown sugar, eggs, oil, yogurt, and vanilla extract in a large bowl. Whisk well to blend.

2 In another large bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Make a well in the dry ingredients with a wooden spoon and pour in the applesauce mixture. Stir just enough to combine; do not over mix. Fold in the apples and walnuts.

3.Scrape the batter into the prepared pan and smooth the top with a spoon. Evenly sprinkle one tablespoon of sugar over the top. Bake on the center oven rack until a toothpick inserted into the center of the bread comes out clean, about 50 to 55 minutes.

4. Remove the pan from the oven and put it on a cooling rack for about 15 minutes, then remove the loaf from the pan and place it on the rack to finish cooling. Makes 10 servings.



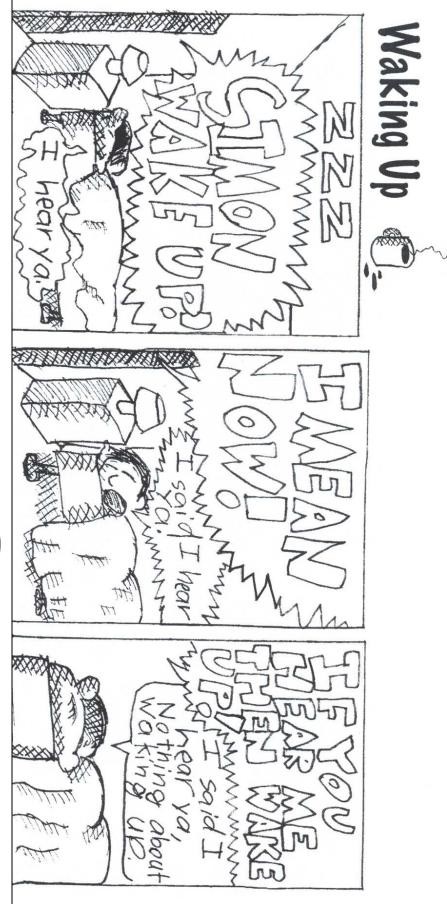
Do you see a handprint or a lion?

Jokes and Riddles

Why did the hen cross the road? To prove she wasn't chicken!

Can you read the following? Yy ur yy u b l c u r yy 4 me.

Too wise you are, too wise you be, I see you are too wise for me.



ATTENTION:Coke or Pepsi

By Sianna VanDyke

Let us know what you think by filling in the following survey. Please put a check NEXT to your choice. Return the survey to Ms. Pereira's mailbox in the main office or to room 3. This survey came from the book, *Coke or Pepsi. The Mirror* will publish the results in the next edition.

1. Which is the best superhero vehicle?

- _____Wonder woman's invisible plane
- ____Batman's Batmobile

2. Which is more fun?

- ____5 kittens
- ____1 puppy
- ____No pets

3. What do you do at a concert?

- ____clap
- ____scream
- _____whistle
- ____jump up and down
- ____dance

4. Would you donate your body to science?

- ____absolutely
- ____not sure
- ____no

5. What type of music do you listen to?

- ____pop
- ____rock
- ____country
- ____classical music
- ____hip hop / rap

6. Would you rather

- ____read Shakespeare?
 - or

____watch professional bowling?

7. Would you rather

_____be stuck in traffic jam?

or

____listen to your grandmothers music?

8. Would you rather

____be able to read people's minds? or

_____control peoples minds?

Club News

Art Club

Art Club meets on Tuesdays in room 36. We are in the process of creating a set of paintings for the library windows, with a theme of love, peace and understanding. Our next project is to assist making sets for the production of our school play, Annie. After that, we will continue to do individualized art projects each week. Students with an interest in art are welcome to attend.

Reflections

Who: 6th, 7th, 8th graders interested in helping to put the magazine together and students willing to submit their artwork and creative writing

Where: room 38

When: Wednesdays, about once a month, listen to the announcements or ask Ms. Rosen for details

Why: to showcase the amazing creative ability and talent of our middle school's students.

Students who just wish to submit work and not be on the staff can give it to me or leave it in my mailbox. A reminder to teachers to submit their students' creative work would also be helpful.

Annie Junior

Set the Date! *Annie Jr*, will be our Middle School production on March 13 and 14. We are meeting everyday rehearsing, acting, singing and dancing to get ready for our show. Art club is helping us paint our sets and we are getting lots of help collecting props and costumes!

Student Council

Join the New Paltz Middle School student council. We meet every other Monday from 2:30 to 3:30 in room 24. We make important decisions about the school. Our advisor is Ms. Grey. If you are interested, come and learn what we're all about.

<u>The Mirror</u> Staff

Ananthan Ajit, Lauren Apuzzo, Karin Blake, Marissa Bravo, Holden Carroll, Josh Cohen, Julia Cohen, Sean Copeland, Elizabeth Cottrell, Kristen Chiriani, Simon Deschamps, Kylie Donohue, Matt Eriole, Elena Ingenio, Eric Lawson, Kayleigh Marshall, Lauren Muladdy, Even Pallor, Sarah Stamberg, Sasha Williams



Susan Pereira

A special thanks to Fran Lamb for all of her 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.

Meetings for *The Mirror* are held on Wednesdays in room 3.