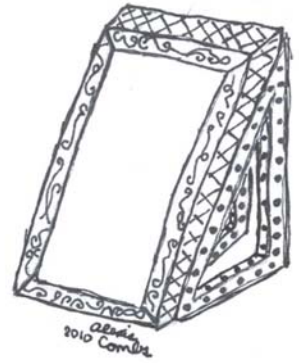


THE MIRROR

New Paltz Middle School Student Newspaper
Edition II Winter 2011



SCHOOL NEWS

Vassar College Veteran's Day Event

By Samantha Musso

On November 10th sixth, seventh and eighth graders went to Vassar College for a Veteran's Day Event. It was organized by Mr. Constable, a 7th grade social studies teacher.

Students spent the day learning about Veteran's Day, and people's experiences at war. The kids heard from a veteran's point a view of war, people who have had parents at war, and from people who had been living when wars had come. Most of the people who spoke had written a book or books about their experiences. One of the books is Miracles on Water. There are many others too.

Students learned and saw how hard it is for people to remember the horrible experiences of war.

They also learned how to calm themselves when under pressure.

One of the women who spoke had been in London when World War II had begun. She told the kids all about what it had been like to live in war torn London. She also told all the kids about what it had been like to escape London.



Another presenter told about his experiences at war. When he was 18, he was drafted to World War II. He hadn't even graduated, but he had to go. During World War II if you were a man, you would get put in the drafting pool when you hit the age of 18. This veteran was one of those people. He presented his horrible war experiences. So many guns had been shot by his ear that he was almost deaf in one ear. He was 88 years old.

The kids who went had a very good time and learned the true meaning of Veteran's Day. And remember, honor your veterans! They are just as important as you!!!

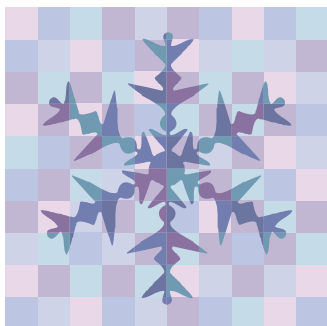


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Booming Sounds Rock the Auditorium

By Megan Geher and Josie LaPolt

Bamtanba came from Senegal to the middle school on November 10th because sixth graders studied a unit on Africa. In order to celebrate African culture and diversity, a traditional African, singing, dancing and drumming group came to show them how to make drums, play drums and what the meaning of their songs were.

Students were able to experience the culture instead of just reading about it, which makes it more realistic. They enjoyed it a lot; there was a big, hairy, orange thing, the “monster,” which had a red mask on with white stripes.

It was amazing and the sixth grade loved it. Melanie Grau said, “The drumming made my heart beat to the drums.” And Alexa Stropoli said “The dancing was really impressive!” The 6th graders really experienced true culture and danced their way out of the room!



Art Club

By Janelle Schneider

If you are interested in art, you should come to the Middle School’s art club, which meets every Monday after school from 2:30-3:30 in the art room. Ms. Sturgis supervises the club, giving students cool things to do every week. Students can do so many awesome things in the club.

The first thing students made this year was clay objects. Students could make anything they wanted. Some of the things students made were: earrings, animals, flowers, cakes, cupcakes and ice-cream, but those were just some of the creations.

Students also had the opportunity to make tie dye. They were able to pick what they tie dyed, the patterns, and the colors. Most students made t-shirts while others made shorts, socks and pillowcases. Students had so much fun. It was so cool to see what everybody made.

The art club also made snowflakes; but not your regular day snowflakes; these were much bigger and had six different petals that were folded pieces of paper with patterns on them. Snowflakes were displayed outside the main office.

The art club is so much fun, so if you like making art, you should come!



Photo by Livy Johnson
Snowflakes made by art club students.

Ms. Mouyios

By Serena Brandt

Ms. Mouyios is the new librarian at the New Paltz Middle School.

The Mirror staff asked her the following questions.

Q. Where did you work before our school?

A. I worked at a high school located in Putnam County. It had grades 9-12.

Q. Is there anything that you would like to change in our library?A. I wish to continue to bring in more smiles, provide information, add more activities like the “Puzzle Journey,” and to make learning fun.



Photo by Serena Brandt

Q. Do you have a favorite book?

A. My favorite books are *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen and *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger.”

Q. What’s your favorite thing about being a librarian?

A. I am always learning, and I enjoy teaching.

Q. What do you have to say about the rumors that the library is now carrying e-books?

A. The library does not yet have e-books, but we are thinking about acquiring them.”

Q. If you could have any other job, what would it be?

A. I was a graphic designer before I graduated with a library media specialist degree.

Q. What are your hobbies/sports?

A. My favorite hobbies and sports are reading, drawing, basketball, volleyball, and traveling.

Morning Movers

By Hannah Benenati

In Morning Movers, kids have an opportunity to participate in physical activity before the school day begins and to interact with other kids and teachers.

The activities are jump rope, basketball, four square, and walking the track. Morning Movers was started in 2004 because Coach O’Sullivan and Mrs. Metzger wanted the kids to get active.

Every morning about 150 students attend. Augie Scoppa says, “Morning Movers is awesome because we don’t have to go to homeroom and we can be active.” It is a great way to start the day.

Interview with Ms. Van Etten

Alexa Stropoli, and Sophie Constable

Ms. Van Etten is a new sixth grade science teacher at New Paltz Middle School.

The Mirror asked her the following questions:

Q. Did you teach anywhere before New Paltz Middle School?

A. No.

Q. Why did you choose to teach science?



A. I really enjoy science.

Photo by Alexa Stropoli

Q. What is your favorite thing to teach?

A. Labs and experiments because they’re hands on.

Q. Who is your favorite scientist?

A. My students because I enjoy seeing them make new discoveries every day.

Q. When did you start teaching?

A. September 2011

Q. Did you like science when you were in Middle School?

A. Yes. I enjoyed 7th grade science and my teacher was Ms. O’Brien.

Q. Where did you go to college?

A. I went to the State University at Geneseo.

Q. What are some of your hobbies?

A. My hobbies are reading, water colors, and knitting.

Living In Poland

by Marta Pankowska

I was born in Poland but I came here when I was only two years old. Poland lies in Europe. The capital of Poland is Warsaw. In Poland there are beautiful mountains, lakes, plains, river, sea, and forests where we can find animals and plants. There are pretty castles you can visit. In Poland you can find nice big and small cities and villages. The biggest cities are Warszawa, Krakow, Opole, Katowice, and Gdansk.

I lived in Orzesze. In Orzesze I had lots of fun playing in the yard with my grandpa. My grandparents have a garden filled with trees, plants, flowers, vegetables and fruits. We used to pick them and eat them. My grandparents also had chickens that they took care of.



Map of Europe

Turkeys Trot through New Paltz

By Jacob Sirof

The Turkey Trot is a fundraiser for the Family of New Paltz. It is a 5K race that tons of people come to watch and participate in. A 5K is three miles. Some families decide to volunteer to get up really early in the morning to help give out t-shirts and administer bib numbers to the people that arrive as either competitive racers, or casual runners.

Our own Mr. Milici and Mrs. VanEtten were in the race. Mr. Milici came across the finish line in the top 26 with a mind-blowing time of only 19 minutes!

Lots of kids from the middle school were there too including one of “The Mirror” writers, Jordan Nagel.

My family went to volunteer. We had to get up at six o’clock in the morning and drive into town. We were going to hand out the t-shirts and that is why we had to get there early to organize the shifts for the rush of people that would be coming.

As people started to filter in, the spirit of Thanksgiving was in the air.

School Of Rock

By Alexa Stropoli and Serena Brandt

On Wednesday, December 21, at 2:45, The New Paltz Middle School’s *School of Rock* had its first performance. Teachers and friends of the band attended the performance directed by Mr. Milici, the new music teacher and Mr. Seymour.

The singers included the following students: Olivia Cea, Olivia Casa, Jennifer Cook, Adriana Crimi, Elizabeth Eriole, Maddie Finnegan, Noelani Fixler, Rachel Goland, Adam Joyner, Mikal Kalus, Alexa Kane, Eric Lasko, Lillian Lawrence-Paine, Nadine Mansour, Jessica Merten, Carla Nazaire, Tiana Ramic, Sophia Romano-Clinton, Sarah Rubin, Crystal Thomsen, and Caroline Joseph.

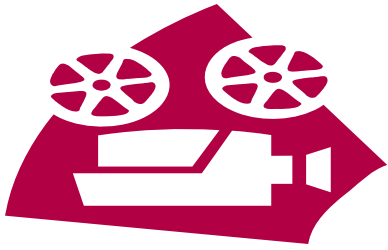
The band members included: Dylan Abramson on guitar, and Whitman Carroll on bass guitar; Chris Bravo played tenor sax, DijViJay Ghule played the trombone, Elijah Mckee played the alto sax, Will Kay and Mitchell Rigano were on drums/percussion, Logan McPherson played the trombone, Meaghan McElroy played the trumpet, Kelly Vinett played the trumpet, Wesley Watts played the baritone sax, and Darren Tsai played the piano. Elijah Mckee and Chris Bravo had solos. Some of the songs they played were: “Listen to the Music” by the Doobie Brothers, “Just One Look” by Doris Troy, “I Heard It through the Grape Vine,” by Marvin Gaye, and “The Rose” by Bette Midler.

Stephen Scribani and Nicole Olarsch were the sound crew.

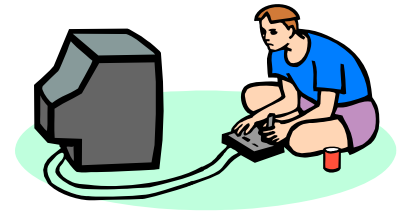
The audience swayed to the music and all were impressed with the wonderful concert. “I really liked the music that the students sang and played,” commented Serena Brandt.

Everyone who attended is looking forward to the next performance.

Photos by Alexa Stropoli on last page.



REVIEWS



The Muppets The Muppets

Movie review done
By Hannah Benenati

The characters are Kermit, Miss Piggy, Statler, Waldorf, Clifford, Fozzie Bear, Scooter, Gonzo, Beaker, Zoot, and Rowlf. The people in the movie are Gary (Jason Segel), Mary (Amy Adams), and Tex Richman (Chris Cooper). Special guest stars are Selena Gomez, David Grohl, Neil Patrick Harris, Judd Hirsh, John Krasinski, and Rico Rodriguez.

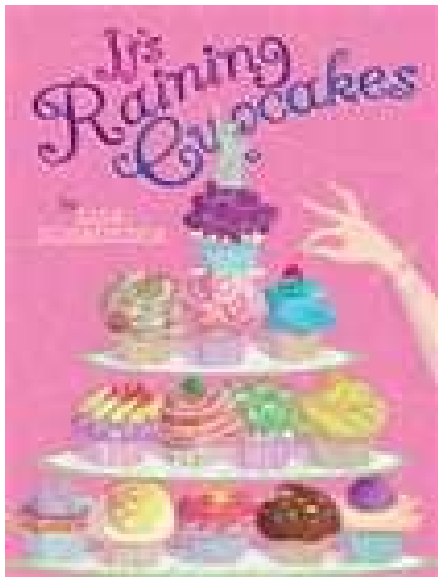
The story begins with Miss Piggy in France and the Muppets traveled by map. That means they traveled through the water. The Moppets were the Muppets worst enemy.

I rate this movie a 5 out of 5 because it was a really funny and good movie for young and old. During the movie there was not one seat open.

It's Raining Cupcakes Book Review

By: Samantha Musso

Its Raining Cupcakes by Lisa Schroeder is about a 12 year old girl named Isabel. In this book Isabel's mom develops a passion for cupcakes. She loves cupcakes so much that she moves her family from their big house to a tiny apartment above her new cupcake shop that she is opening. Instead of reading at the library, Isabel is forced to help get



the cupcake shop ready for its opening. Cupcakes are raining into Isabel's world.

I would recommend this book to kids who like cupcakes and baking. I loved this book, and you would too. I would rate this book four stars.

JUMBLE FOR KIDS
- that scrambled word game! ®
By MIKE ARGIRION and JEFF KNUREK

The letters of these crazy words are all mixed up. To play the game, put them back into the right order so that they make real words you can find in your dictionary. Write the letters of each real word under each crazy word, but only one letter to a square.

| | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|---|
| URF | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| NAKT | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| TOTO | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| YORS | □ | □ | □ | □ |

www.jumble.com

3-2-1
BLAST OFF!

WHAT THE CLOWN
TURNED INTO WHEN
HE WORE A
SPACE OUTFIT.

Color me

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You are now ready to solve today's Jumble For Kids. Study the picture for a hint. Then play around with the letters in the circles. You'll find you can put them in order so that they make your funny answer.

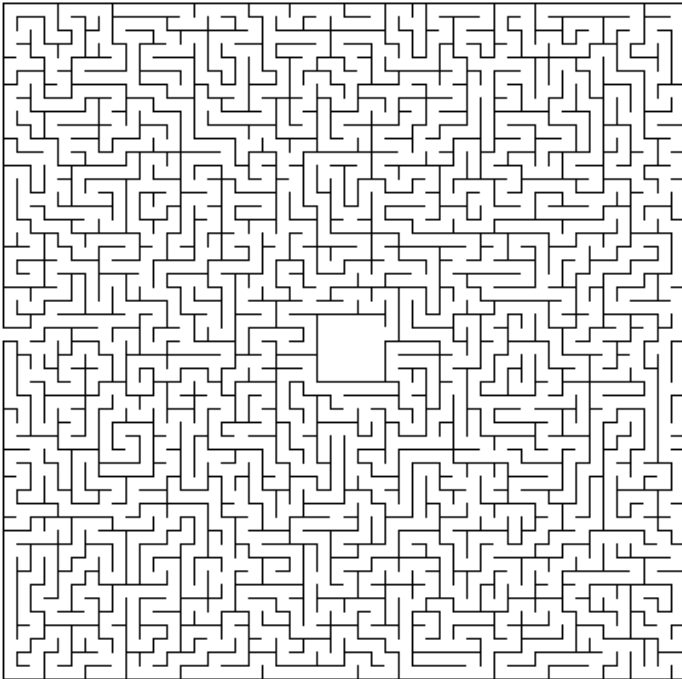
Answer: AN " □ □ □ □ □ - □ □ □ □ "

<http://www.tmsfeatures.com/games-puzzles/jumble/jumble-for-kids/>

Answers on page 8

TIME FOR FUN

The Maze



<http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/code/BuildMaze.asp>

Numbrix

Complete 1 to 81 so the numbers follow a horizontal or vertical path-no diagonals.

| | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 63 | | 75 | | 71 | | 43 |
| | 79 | | 81 | | 49 | |
| 65 | | | | | | 39 |
| | 55 | | | | 51 | |
| 3 | | | | | | 35 |
| | 29 | | 27 | | 25 | |
| 1 | | 11 | | 15 | | 19 |

<http://parade.com/numbrix>

Winter Word Search

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

CHOCOLATE COOKIES FAMILY
 FORTS FUN HOLIDAYS
 HOT JOY SLEDDING
 SNOW SNOWFLAKE SNOWMEN
 WINTER

Hot Chocolate Cupcakes

Total Time: 50 min

Prep: 20 min

Cook: 30 min

Yield: About 12 servings, depending on the size of your coffee cup

Ingredients

Cake:

- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 2/3 cups all -purpose flour
- 1/2 cup plus 1 tablespoon cocoa powder, preferably Dutch-processed
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1/3 cup plus 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1/2 tablespoon pure vanilla extract
- 3/4 cups very hot water



Topping:

- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 tablespoon sugar or 1 can real whipped cream

Equipment: 6 fairly heavy China coffee cups

Directions

Make the Cake: Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Sift together the sugar, flour, cocoa, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Transfer to a standing mixer fitted with a whisk attachment (or use a hand mixer) and blend briefly.

Whisk together the eggs, milk, oil, and vanilla in a medium bowl. Add to the dry ingredients and mix at low speed for 5 minutes. Gradually add the hot water, mixing at low speed until just combined. The batter will be quite thin.

Pour the batter into coffee cups and arrange them 1-inch apart on a sheet pan or a rectangular cake pan. Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean (a few crumbs are okay), and the center feels firm to the touch, about 25 to 30 minutes. Let the cakes cool on the pan. (Don't remove the cakes from the cups!)

Meanwhile, make the Topping: In a chilled bowl, combine the cream and sugar and whip, using a hand-mixer, until soft peaks form.

When ready to serve, spoon the topping over the cakes to cover, so they look like cups of cocoa topped with whipped cream. Serve with a spoon.

<http://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/gale-gand/hot-cocoa-cupcakes-recipe/index.html>

CLUB NEWS

Student Council is meeting every other Wednesday in room 45. Some of our events are Red Ribbon Week and the Thanksgiving Food Drive. We are always looking for students who have ideas on how to improve the Middle School community. Students have met several times so far but new members are always welcome.

Middle School Drama Club is doing Disney's *Mulan jr* this year. The performances are the second weekend in March. Stay posted!

PS. any students wanting to help make posters and commercials for the meeting, please see Ms. Holmes in Room 25

Reflections: NPMS's literary and art magazine is open to all 6th, 7th, 8th graders interested in helping to put the magazine together. Students can submit their artwork and creative writing to the magazine. They meet in room 38 on Wednesdays, about once a month. Listen to the announcements or ask Ms. Rosen for details

Students who just wish to submit work and not be on the staff can give it to Ms. Rosen or leave it in her mailbox.

Art Club meets on Mondays in room 36. It is presently open to interested students. Projects will be designed weekly, and are mostly crafts. See Mrs. Sturgis for more information.

Wonderful Wednesday Social Group meets in the art room after school. (It is NOT a club; it is a "group".) We welcome some new 6th grade members this year.

Looking forward to seeing you their. Advisors are Ms. Ibrahim, Ms. Scarpati and Ms. O'Brien.

New Paltz School of Rock is a brand new group meeting after school a few times a week. This group, which is co-directed by Mr. Milici and Mr. Sey-

mour, is a pop music group that held auditions. The top 20 singers were selected in the school to form a rock choir which will be backed up by a small, 10 piece all-star band consisting of some of our school's best instrumentalists. Everyone will soon have a chance to hear this group! We look forward to giving you our best!

The Mirror (this newspaper):

Meetings are held on Wednesdays in room 3. The advisor is Ms. Pereira. All students are welcome. See you there!

Announcement

Mason Secky-Koebel won first place in this year's annual Geography Bee. Second place winner was Lia Natzle and third place was Gabe Chrisiana. Congratulations to all the winners. Geo Club meets every Thursday with Ms. Naclerio. Join the fun.

Events

Mid-Terms January 24-27

Tuesday am- Social Studies
Wednesday am -6th grade Reading or
Foreign Language
pm-Math
Thursday am-ELA
Friday am- Science



Mulan Jr. Performance Schedule:

March 9 7:00 pm
March 10 7:00 pm
March 11 2:00 pm

Answers to Word Jumble

Jumbles: FUR TANK TOOT ROSY

What the clown turned into when he wore a space outfit.



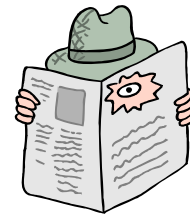
The Mirror Staff

Ginger Baur, Hannah Benenati, Serena Brandt, Sophie Constable, Lillian DePuy, Rebecca Dugatkin, Megan Geher, Josie LaPolt, Samantha Musso, Hailey Newell, Marta Pankowska, Janelle Schneider, Augie Scoppa, Caleb Sheedy, Jacob Sirof, Alexa Stropoli, and Nicholas Zaccheo



Advisor Susan Pereira

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



***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 once a week in room 3. Think about joining us.

Copies of The Mirror are available online at:

<http://www.newpaltz.k12.ny.us/middleschool>

Click on Clubs-The Mirror

