

# THE COURIER

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*The longest running middle school newspaper in the United States!*

## Eastview Gives for a Bountiful Thanksgiving

By Nick Dagher

Every year Eastview conducts a Thanksgiving Food Drive. The goal of this event is to collect food for people in need so they are able to have a Thanksgiving meal. Every grade is asked to donate a different food item. This year Eastview entered a contest for the Thanksgiving Food Drive with other schools. The school that donated the most food would have Justin Bieber perform live at their school. We will continue helping the needy in the future and hope to continue the great help we got from our students when its time to help!



*Students at Eastview collected food and gave it to the White Plains Youth Bureau to be distributed to homeless families in the community.*

## Students Video Conference with India

By Daniela Poppe

On November 12th the Global Ambassadors at Eastview had a chance to video conference with India. It was a great experience for everyone. Nearly all the Global Ambassadors met in the LGI room 2nd period on November 12th. An Indian School thought that our Global Ambassador Team was so great that they decided to form a similar group in their school too. Soon Eastview had another school partner at the other side of the globe.

Before the videoconference started we practiced and prepared our questions and answers for them, for we wanted to hold a discussion with them about climate change. However, when we were ready to connect with them, the connection broke... and it did so often. Mrs. Kennedy, the founder of the Global Ambassador team, taught us that this is not a time to be disappointed and to give up, but to work hard until you reach your goal. After a period of preparation, and waiting, we finally managed to connect. We were all excited! English was their second language so they spent a lot of time as well to prepare the discussion. We all could see how nervous they were and how much effort they put into it. "It was thrilling to see them so excited and so hard working", said one of the Global Ambassadors.

The rest of the video conference continued to be great. We discussed how climate change affects other countries and what the affected countries think of industrial countries like ours. The entire video conference was videotaped by a professional video camera team, and for the rest of the day they continued filming our work for future movie material. The Global Ambassador Team is really achieving a lot this year, and everyone looks forward to the future projects that are planned this year!

## Going Green is the Way to Go!

By Lauren LaPlaca and Ziarre Howe

Climate change is a problem being felt around the world is because of how people are treating the planet. Littering has caused global warming, and if this doesn't stop, the Earth will become a giant landfill. Mr. Brown, the 8th grade assistant principal at Highlands, has several solutions to these problems.

Mr. Brown is on the Green Committee. He has thought of ideas that we encourage students to follow. The Highlands campus has put recycling bins and dry paper bins in the cafeteria and many other parts of the school. At lunch, before you

put a plastic bottle or a can in the trash bin, why don't you think about dropping it in a recycling bin? Also, when people are cleaning out their lockers, most of the stuff in it is paper. Many of those people throw their papers in the garbage. It's just another thing clogging and filling the landfills. If you recycle paper products, they can be made into other products. Over the past few years, the students at Highlands have definitely recycled more.

The Green Committee is going to ask the S.O. for a composting unit. If we put different types of compostable foods we can make the Highlands campus very scenic while helping the planet.

Highlands has also been encouraging kids to ride their bikes to school. Highlands has purchased bike racks and the S.O. has been lending the students bike locks. This saves energy and can provide exercise. Some of you may remember the Veggie Van that visited the school. Cooking oil used in the cafeteria is turned into energy to run cars, which is known as Biodiesel fuel.

We also encourage the teachers and staff to turn off the lights and computer monitors when they are leaving the room because these things take a lot of energy.

Remember, everything you do now can change what happens in the future.



*Werner Graefe takes a moment to recycle paper in one of the many bins located throughout Highlands.*

## Yum! Yum! at the Highlands Harvest Feast

By Daniella McCarthy and Melina Africano

What did you do with your family on Thanksgiving? Our 6th grade Highlands family celebrated Thanksgiving with a spectacular FEAST!!!!!! Every single year here at Highlands, all grade 6 teachers and students participate in the Harvest Feast. Teams Z, X, and Y all had their Thanksgiving festivities on different days.

All different cultures are celebrated during the Harvest Feast. For example, there were Irish, Italian, German, Dominican, Mexican, Colombian, French, Peruvian, Cuban, Jewish, Puerto Rican, Chinese, Japanese, American, Jamaican, Brazilian, and Chilean foods represented. Families were so generous to bring in food

from their cultures in order to share their traditions.

Even students from other grades like Caroline Mora brought in utensils for the Harvest Feast.

The Pilgrims and Native Americans celebrated Thanksgiving around September 21st through November 11th in 1621. The Pilgrims arrived in America as settlers from England in search of religious and economic freedom. They came here in the Mayflower



*Students donated a wide variety of food from all over the globe.*

and they landed in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620. They had many foods similar to the food we eat today at the Thanksgiving table. The list of food included: duck, deer, turkey, beans, squash, corn, and many more. The first Thanksgiving took three whole days. It was nice because two very different groups of people united at one dinner table to celebrate together.

As you can see, the Harvest Feast is a big deal at Highlands, and it is one of the most memorable celebrations of the year. Most 6th graders love the Harvest Feast, especially getting together as teams. Everybody eats and sometimes we bring in so much food that we have to ask all the staff and custodians to come and eat.

Highlands students absolutely love this Harvest Feast and they are looking forward, for next year's celebration!



*Above: Sixth grade teachers serve up delicious cuisine to students.*

*Below: Students enjoy sharing their ethnically diverse lunch with their friends and teachers.*





**Editorial:**

**WE WANT X BACK!**

*Quick poll: How many of you would like X-Period back? My guess is: most of you.*

Why did we lose X? We lost X because the money used to cover the cost of the 2:16 buses and 2:50 buses would help cover the cost for Highlands to get the LOTE (Languages Other Than English) program. "The LOTE program is a direct complement to the district's mission to "educate and inspire all students, while nurturing their dreams, so they learn continually, think critically, pursue their aspirations and contribute to a diverse and dynamic world." States Dr. Margaret Dwyer, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

After the decision was made, there were no plans put in place for the teachers or students at Eastview who relied on X. Orchestra and band lesson make-ups were moved to specific days during lunch. Advanced chorus (at Eastview) has been moved to lunch. Sometimes the music teachers have to give up their lunch break to do make-ups and practices.

Test and quiz retakes and make-ups have been moved to lunchtime. At Highlands, students have to rely on Homework Center or lunch to make up work or to get extra help.

6<sup>th</sup> grader Jennifer Jasne says, "Lunchtime isn't good enough. Teachers have meetings or teach during lunch. But who wants to give up their lunch period, anyway?"

**Spotlight on our Fabulous Teachers**

**Mrs. Ballesteros**

By Teddy Chomiak

Mrs. Ballesteros is an art teacher on the Highlands campus who does a lot of cool and interesting art projects with her classes. If you get Mrs. B, you will probably be making clay animals, collages, monochromatic landscapes, and cartoons. She's been teaching art for 25 years, and she says her favorite thing about teaching is the students. Her favorite kind of material to work with is print making.

Mrs. B always plays popular music in her classes to set a fun mood for students. If you want to become an artist, she says to draw a lot and learn as much as you can about current and past art.



Mrs. Ballesteros has been teaching art for 25 years.

When asked which museum is her favorite, Mrs. Ballesteros highly recommends visiting the Museum of Modern Art, also known as the MOMA, so you know what's going on in the art world. Mrs. Ballesteros is a great teacher and teaching kids is what she really loves about her job. Consider yourself lucky if you get her.

**Mr. Hughes**

By Arielle Hazi and Allison Jasne

Mr. Hughes or as the students call him, "Mr. Huggies", is a Science teacher at Eastview. He's worked in White Plains for 14 years, 13 of them at Eastview.

Mr. Hughes has always enjoyed science, and since he was 15 he has worked with kids during the summers as a camp counselor or a swim instructor. I like helping kids learn new things through activities which vary from being really cool to really gross, but always interesting.

His favorite part about being a teacher is the interaction he has with his students throughout the day. "Some of them are really funny... looking...especially some of the 7th graders (just kidding). But seriously, the kids are what makes this job fun." He says the worst part about teaching science is all the clean-up he needs to do to keep his room organized. (\*thinks to himself\*...hmmm...maybe I'll hire one of those weird looking 7th graders to clean up my room during lunch...)

Something most students don't know about him is that he likes to play computer games, especially World of Warcraft, and has been thinking about getting an X-box 360 for his kid for Christmas so he has an excuse to get one and play himself!



Mr. Hughes is the most awesome teacher on the Eastview campus!

**Barack Obama's First Year as Commander in Chief**

By Jared Roseman

I know what you're thinking, "Wow, a year already?" and yes, it's true. It has been almost one whole year since the inauguration of President Barack Obama. In this time, many things have happened. Some of the most important things include Obama winning the Nobel Peace Prize, his world tours, and

getting involved in the U.N.

Obama has traveled the globe to talk about current events. On his first tour, he went to Europe. He went to the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Turkey, The Czech Republic, and Istanbul. In these countries he talked about the economy, the war in Afghanistan, and climate change. It lasted eight days.

On his second tour, he went to Asia for nine days. He went to Japan, China, South Korea and Singapore to talk about pollution, human rights, the economy, and economic

competiveness.

Additionally, Obama went to Saudi Arabia and Egypt in an attempt to build relations between the US and these countries.

President Obama might become one of the most productive presidents since Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Some of his accomplishments are that he expanded children's health insurance, ordered for plans and timetables for the troops in Iraq, and is the first president to be the chairman of security for the U.N.



**THE COURIER**

White Plains Middle School

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WPMSCourier@gmail.com

**Puzzle Solutions**

From Our Fall Issue

**Math Challenge Solution**

3	-	4	+	9	8
-		+		+	
7	X	8	/	2	28
+		-		X	
6	-	5	X	1	1
2		7		11	

**Fall Crossword Answers**

**Across**

- 3. Hanukkah
- 5. Angel
- 6. Presents
- 8. Snowman
- 9. Kwanzaa

**Down**

- 1. Candle
- 2. Chilly
- 4. Christmas
- 7. Snow



# WPMS CLUB PAGE

## WPMS Students Are Dedicated to Service

By Nicole Lovitch

Do you like planting flowers? How about baking? Do you miss your friends from the other campus? If you said yes to anything above, plus more, then join the Community Service Club!

Any student from Highlands and Eastview are eligible to join. If you join, you get to look forward to the following: collecting items for the soldiers in Iraq, creating letters and holiday cards, giving baked goods to the support staff, planting flowers around the community, plus more.

Ms. Pulcini, the teacher in charge of the club, works with Mrs. Sullivan and the family consumer science class by contributing to local

animal shelters. Students also participate in theme related activities. For example, during October the club makes Halloween cards for children in the hospital.

Ms. Pulcini strongly believes in giving back to our community. "It's a wonderful feeling to know you helped brighten some one's day."

If you are interested in getting the satisfaction of helping others, there was an interest meeting for the students interested in joining the Community Service Club. The students pitched ideas the first meeting in which the club might participate. The club meets in Highlands in room 7 from 2:40 - 4:10. They meet twice a month from October through May. Students that participate will receive community service credits. Now it's time to give back to your community! It's easy and lots of fun!



The WPMS Community Service Club

## The Multicultural Club Gets a Taste of Diversity

By Jade Clarke

Time to grab your spatulas, put on your oven mitts and fire up the stove! The Multicultural Club is here at Eastview!

The Club meets on Thursdays at 2:45pm in room 314. The advisor is Eastviews' own Sra. Wahl! In the club students are learning to make foods from different Spanish speaking nations. They have made things like Arepas, a rice flour treat cooked and flattened on the grill, Quesadillas and Pizzelles, a thin cookie.

One of the clubs' goals is to teach kids all about foods from other countries and how that food tastes. Sra. Wahl wants the students to form an appreciation of other cultures by using their sense of smell, taste, and feel. Food is a great way to start conversations and create

understanding between diverse cultures because let's be honest we all like to eat! Soon, the club will be turning off the stove but not the heat as we move the heat to our feet! The club will be putting on their dancing shoes. So get ready, it is time to twist, shimmy and swing by learning an international dance. Any girl in the club who wants to learn and perform at the International Dinner in February is welcome to do so. The dance will be taught by an expert and it will be fun and energetic. If you come on out to the International Dinner you will see the Multicultural Club at its' dancing best!



WPMS Celebrates Diversity!!!

## Student Organization

### Eastview S.O. Update

Rachel Morris

The Student Organization, or S.O, at Eastview is really making a difference inside and outside the school. The S.O had made posters so people would know to Mix It Up at lunch. This helped because people would make new friends instead of just sitting at the tables they usually sat at. We also had a Thanksgiving food drive for needy families. We collected a lot of food!

The S.O is also helping children in foster homes and other places where they won't usually get presents. The S.O has asked teachers if they wanted to sponsor a child. If they said yes, they would receive that child's wish list and they would get to buy one new gift for that child. This was an offer for teachers only. The S.O also came up with the spirit week ideas, too.

As you can see, the S.O has been very busy here at Eastview.

## Mix it Up at Lunch Day!

### A New Tradition Begins With "Mix It Up at Lunch" Day

By Jared Rogovin

Eastview just started a new tradition: Mix It Up at Lunch day! On November 10, during 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> period lunch, Eastview students sat in places that they (probably) hadn't sat before. "It was

HUGE," said Ms. Dunning, a teaching assistant and leader of the Student Organization at Eastview, later that day at an S.O. meeting. "It was okay," said Apree Choice, an Eastview student. Some people slacked off, and were upset that their usual seats had been taken. But the point of the day was to make new friends.

Another student from Eastview, Valentina Medina, says, "It was awesome,

because we got to make new friends, and you got to know things about the new people around you". Some people sat at the same tables, but in different seats. Another student, R.J. Hollis, says, "It was really good because I got to meet new people and make new friends, and it's always a good day to make new friends." The day at lunch was great for most people. A lot of new friends were made. Hopefully, this will happen next year!

### Highlands Student Organization Update

The S.O. of Highlands has been hard at work. At our first full S.O. Meeting, Mrs. Haberman, faculty advisor, taught the Organization about Parliamentary Procedure, and how our meetings are run in order to be efficient so that every voice is heard.

The S.O. is comprised of committees which meet and report back to the members at large. The Green Committee, chaired by School Secretary, Jessica Levine, provided 35 Recycle bins so that every classroom in Highlands is recycling dry paper and many are collecting glass and plastics. Also the students passed a motion to purchase two composters in order to recycle food scraps from our cafeteria, and turn the waste into rich compost. We will purchase one barrel composter and one worm composter which will be monitored by Mr. Kowal's Environmental Science class. Our School Cleanliness Committee, chaired by Vice President, Tyeese Melton provided classrooms with "clean stations" comprised of tissue boxes and hand sanitizers. In addition they made signs, in English and Spanish, for all bathrooms reminding students to "WASH your hands" and "flush the toilets." Furthermore, odor absorbers and air fresheners were placed in bathrooms and locker rooms. The committee is currently researching the possibility of purchasing permanent hand sanitizer dispensers for the building.

Our Social Issues Committee, chaired by Treasurer, Jacob Brady, is currently running a Food Drive. Phase I of the Drive ends on December 10<sup>th</sup>, benefitting the Salvation Army. Phase II of the Drive ends on December 21, with those proceeds going to the Westchester Coalition for the HUNGRY and HOMELESS. School President, Austin Dallas, chairs the School Improvement committee which is looking into purchasing new improved equipment for our building. One of their ideas is purchasing a new plow to help with snow removal. We will continue to look into ways to improve our school.

Our next meeting is January 12<sup>th</sup>.

### Sixth graders Dance the Afternoon Away

By Laura Thola and Danielle McCarthy

November 6<sup>th</sup> marked the day of the first 6<sup>th</sup> grade dance. All the 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Highlands and Eastview gathered at the Highlands Campus to have a blast of fun! We were all so surprised how many people came- about 300 students attended.

Sixth graders were able to purchase soda, candy, chips, while enjoying the music. The fabulous DJ's name is Double Image. They understand what kids like to hear (hip-

hop, reggae, and pop) and how to get the group to participate and move.

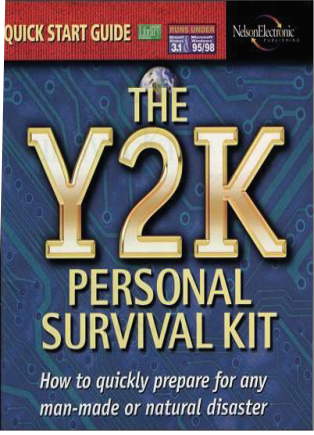
Daniella McCarthy, age 11, said, "It was great!! The music was my favorite part." Rebecca Rodriguez, age 11, said, "I think it was fun that the Eastview students came to celebrate with us." She

also said, "I liked having Twizzlers and coca cola at the dance. It was a lot of fun! Everyone was looking forward to the dance all week."

Sixth graders were not disappointed with their first dance. We can't wait for the next one!







# 2000

The beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century was a biggy. The World Series was very special because both the Yankees and the Mets were competing in the World Series. The Yankees ended up winning! The 2000 election was another big event. Al Gore won the popular vote, but George Bush ended up taking the gold. The "Y2K" buzz had many believing that the world was going to end that year and that all the computers were going to crash. Neither proved to be true.



**WIKIPEDIA**  
*The Free Encyclopedia*



On September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 terrorists destroyed the Twin Towers and part of the Pentagon by hijacking planes. Another plane landed in a Pennsylvanian field probably heading for the Capital or White House. After this, President Bush declared war on Iraq for potential nuclear weapon development. In sports, Barry Bonds sets single season Home Run record. On January 15<sup>th</sup>, Wikipedia, the popular online encyclopedia, was launched on the internet.

# 2001

# DECADE IN

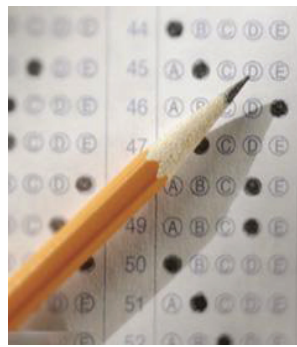


**SALT LAKE 2002**



# 2002

In 2002 President Bush signed the No Child Left Behind Act which eventually led to New York State standardized tests for grades 3-8. The United States hosted the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah.



# 2003

The Florida Marlins defeated the New York Yankees in game six of the World Series, 4-2. Larry Doby, the first African American in the Major League baseball's American league, died on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2003 of complications of cancer. On August 14<sup>th</sup>, a widespread power outage affects the northeastern United States and South-Central Canada. The World Health Organization issued an alert on SARS, a respiratory disease.



The Boston Red Sox 86 year World Series drought ended this year as they defeated the Cardinals 4-0 in the fourth game of the World Series.

# 2004

President Bush was re-elected with 50.7% of the electoral votes in 2004. A devastating tsunami on December 26, was the worst natural disaster to ever strike Thailand, causing loss of life as well as major damage to property, the environment and the economy.



Szylvia Gogh





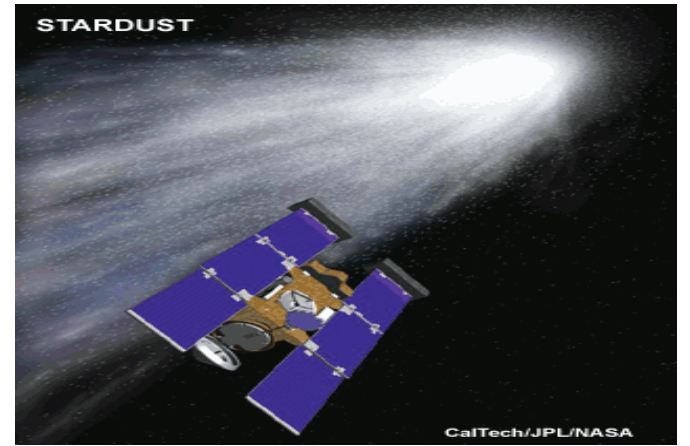
# 2005

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005 Hurricane Katrina devastated Louisiana and New Orleans. The city was changed forever in one day and would take years to rebuild. The famous video site, *YouTube*, is launched in February 2005. On May 10<sup>th</sup>, a hand grenade was thrown at President George Bush. In sports, the New England Patriots defeat the Eagles in Super bowl 39.



# 2006

Once again, another theory circulated that the world was going to end on 6/6/06. Obviously we are still here, so that theory was wrong! In sports, the Pittsburg Steelers win Super Bowl 40. The first world baseball classic was held. After seven year cruising the solar system, NASA's *Stardust* spacecraft returns to give the world a look at dust from outer space. Pluto was declared a dwarf planet.



# AN REVIEW



# 2007

**Barry Bonds** got his 756<sup>th</sup> home run hit on Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> 2007. Parker Stadium is officially completed at the Highlands and dedicated on the Turkey Bowl Eve. Three earthquakes strike Indonesia. More than a dozen people die on the island of Sumatra when three quakes, one with a magnitude of 8.4, hit. The I-35W Mississippi River Bridge on I-35W over the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, Minnesota collapses at 6:05 pm CST during the later part of rush hour, killing 13 people on August 1<sup>st</sup>.



# 2008

**Barack Obama** is elected as President in 2008, with 52.9% of the countries' electoral votes. In Beijing, China, summer Olympics are held. Bill Gates comes out with Microsoft '07, for his company Microsoft. The New York Giants beat the New England Patriots on February 3, 2008, by 17-14. Terror spreads across the country because of the news of H1N1 Swine Flu virus. On June 27<sup>th</sup>, after three decades as the Chairman of Microsoft Corporation, Bill Gates steps down from daily duties to concentrate on philanthropy.



# Microsoft®



# 2009

2009 has been a big year! On June 25<sup>th</sup> the king of pop Michael Jackson passed away. In addition Billy Mays and Farrah Fawcett also were laid to rest. The New York Mets and the New York Yankees both opened new stadiums, and Yankees won their first World Series title since 2000, defeating the Philadelphia Phillies. President Bush stepped down and our new president, as Barack Obama took office. There were also changes at Highlands and Eastview. Microsoft 2007 was incorporated into our computers, both campuses got a new schedule with 9 periods (and sadly, no X). Later in the year, water was discovered near the poles of the moon. Senator Teddy Kennedy of Massachusetts died of old age. Lastly, The World Health Organization declared the H1N1 virus a global pandemic.





## Homework Help for Students That Need It

By Jacqueline Rayo

Homework center is afterschool most Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. It starts at 2:45pm and ends at 4:15pm. If you have a lot of homework, come to Homework Center and, if you're not fooling around, you should be able to finish it all. There are some rules that everyone is required to follow, since it is not a place to hang out or socialize. I suggest that if you have been to special duty or lunch detention you don't come. If you do, you will not be permitted to homework center for that day (and don't think you'll sneak in because they have a list). Everyone is required to be respectful of others. There are

lots of teachers there to help you with your work.

At 3:30 there's a break. They offer you cookies, or if you have something from home you can eat that also. This is the time set aside for you to use the bathroom and have a drink of water, and you should take advantage of this privilege because they don't give you another chance to go out.

Before you come to Homework Center make sure you have everything you need, like a pencil (of course) as well as your homework assignments. You don't have to worry about textbooks, calculators or other supplies because they have them in the Homework Center for you to borrow. No one is allowed to go up to their locker once they enter homework center, and once you enter homework center you can no longer go out until break.

year."

A 7<sup>th</sup> grader from Highlands, Kristen Dever, said, "My New Year's resolution is to get on high honor roll and finally get an A!"

Another 7<sup>th</sup> grader named Kelsey Shea said that her New Year's resolutions are, "to be on High Honor roll in all four quarters and to get an A+ in math (hopefully)! Also, I would like to not have cake. (I doubt that will continue all year!"

Brian LaPlaca, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader from Highlands, said that his New Year's resolution is, "to achieve good grades throughout the year and get into the National Junior Honor Society."

Another eighth grader is Rachel Mascia. Rachel said that her New Year's resolutions are to, "get all A's or B's, have fun and graduate with a lot of passion!"

I'd like to leave you with this quote as you think about your new year's resolution and the new decade ahead. The possibilities are endless!

*"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."* - Edith Lovejoy Pierce

## WPMS Students Make Their Resolutions for the New Year

By Nicole Lovitch

Everyone is always saying "I'm giving up junk food", and "I am going to try to not pick on my brother", as their New Year's resolutions. *That's what they say.* Do they really commit themselves towards those resolutions for the New Year? I wanted to find out what people are really plotting to do to change their lives in the new year of 2010!

A 6<sup>th</sup> grader, Josephine Mercado, from Eastview said "I'd like to be on the high honor roll any time this year. I would also like to improve my anime drawings which are basically Japanese cartoon drawings. I learned how to draw these from a friend about two years ago. I enjoy drawing so that's why that is one of my New Year's resolutions."

Another 6<sup>th</sup> grader from Eastview, Erica Pope, said, "My New Year's resolutions are to read more each day. Also, I would like to eat less sugar."

A 6<sup>th</sup> grader from Highlands, Jack Steinberg, said, "My New Year's resolutions are to not drink any Redbull this

## Team 7F Uses Cutting Edge Technology

By Ceara Gilmartin

7f students learned how to narrate and make interesting and historical movies using Adobe Premier Elements, along with specialcellphones provided by the Nokia-Pearson group. The topics ranged from Anne Hutchinson to Henry Hudson. All of the 7F teachers and assistants helped students with this project, and all of the 7F students participated. Among the popular topics were *The Salem Witch Trials, Roanoke: The Lost Colony* and *Did John Smith Really Save Pocahontas?* Some of these teachers (Mrs. Staar and Miss Di Camillo) gave

up teaching time so students could work on this project. The conclusion of the project was on October 29, 2009, with a special "popcorn screening" of the movies on November 18.

We talked to Mr. Iasiello, the 7F coordinator of this project, and he was impressed that students were engaged in learning and learned, not only how to use new programs on the computer, but more importantly how to work cooperatively and successfully to meet a deadline. With so many difficult phases of this project, the students learned that compromises were very vital to completing their movies. Says Mr. I, "The Nokia Pearson project allows students to use technology in order to express themselves. It sparks creativity and engages them in the learning process."

## Homework Center Meeting Dates

January 5,7,12,14,19,20,21

February 2, 3,4,9,10,11,23,24,25

March 2, 4,9,10,11,16,17,18,23,25

April 6, 8,20,22,27,28,29

May 4, 5, 6,11,12,13.

These are the remaining homework center dates. Any changes to the schedule are announced during the morning and afternoon announcements.



Seventh grade English teacher, Mr. Reis works with a group of students in the Highlands Homework Center.

Homework Center has teachers from most subjects available for help every day!

## Ask Tigress

Practical advice for middle schoolers!



Q- Dear Tigress,

HELP! I have my midterms coming up, and I have no idea how to study!

How can I ace them?

-Wanting an A at Eastview

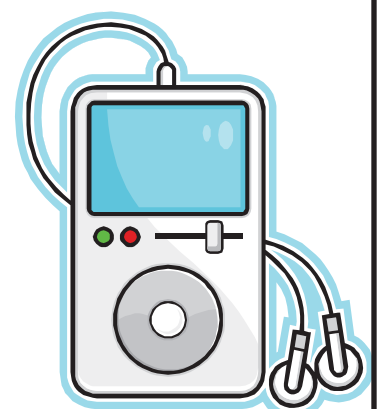
A- Dear Wanting,

I have a few tricks that may help you out:

1. DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE! Cramming will only make it harder. Start studying ASAP;
2. If you have no homework from a class, review the notes from the day and be prepared with any questions you may have about them for the next day;
3. Have a study buddy - someone who can quiz, like a friend or parent;
4. If you're unsure, ask for some extra help or practice from a teacher;
5. Try making up your own questions and answers with information you know you need to know;
6. Study just before you go to sleep. Studies show that studying just before you hit "slumberland" makes your brain remember the information better;
7. Get a good night's sleep, eat a HEALTHY breakfast, and come prepared with two pencils and two pens;
8. Relax.

## TOP MUSICAL ARTISTS OF 2009

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



- |                   |                |                 |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| AKON              | GREEN DAY      | MICHAEL JACKSON |
| ALICIA KEYS       | JAYZ           | MILEY CYRUS     |
| AVRIL LAVIGNE     | JENNIFER LOPEZ | NELLY           |
| BEYONCE           | LADY GAGA      | PINK            |
| BLACK EYED PEAS   | LED ZEPPLIN    | PITBULL         |
| BRITNEY SPEARS    | LIL WAYNE      | RHIANNA         |
| DADDY YANKEE      | LINKIN PARK    | SHAKIRA         |
| EMINEM            | LUIS MIGUEL    | SLIPKNOT        |
| ENRIQUE INGLESIAS | MADONNA        | TAYLOR SWIFT    |



# SPORTS

## ATHLETES OF THE MONTH



**Anthony DeMaria**

By Drew Smiley

Anthony DeMaria is a 7<sup>th</sup> grade football player and our athlete of the month. Anthony played on the school modified football team and loves football. He also plays other sports inside and outside of school including baseball, hockey, golf and lacrosse.

When I asked 7<sup>th</sup> grader Jarrett Sannerud about Anthony he said, "Anthony is a great athlete and takes each game seriously, he really deserves this honor." So when you see Anthony in the hall or on the field, remember to congratulate him - as long as he isn't in the middle of a play!



**Kaitlin Doherty**

By Austin Bogart

For obvious reasons, Kaitlin Doherty has been voted the female athlete of the month. Kaitlin is on the VARSITY swim team, and she's only an eighth grader at Highlands Middle School!

Kaitlin is very good at what she does—swimming and soccer. This year, she broke the 500 free style record at White Plains High School. This girl is excellent at what she does we hope to see her swim in the Olympics one of these days. Great job Kaitlin!

### WPMS's Kaitlin Doherty Beats High School Record

By Tori Cignarella

Kaitlin Doherty, an avid swimmer, has broken a high school record. This was achieved on October 15<sup>th</sup>. It was not an event that she swam in regularly and she was really happy that she could break the record at the time. Kaitlin said, "Everyone congratulated me and was really supportive of me."

Kaitlin is only in the eighth grade, and achieving and breaking the record means a lot to her. The record she set was the 500 freestyle. Her time was 5:27:38 (or 1:58:93—I got one from her coach and one from her mother). Her coach, Ms. Gilmartin, said, "Kaitlin is a hardworking and dedicated swimmer. She is very versatile in that she is a sprinter (50 and 100 free) and a distance swimmer. Kaitlin had a wonderful performance

at sectionals, just missing the qualifying time for states. She is a pleasure to have on the White Plains swimming and diving team."

Kaitlin has obviously worked hard and had contributed a lot to the high school varsity team, and has been swimming for many years. Those many years of hard work are what helped her achieve this record.



Kaitlin Doherty prepares for her 500 free style race--a race that resulted in a win and a broken record!



Eighth grader, Taylor Massa, once again stars in "The Nutcracker Ballet" at the Westchester County Center on December 18, 19 and 20. Showtimes are: Friday 10:00am, Saturday: 12:30pm & 4:30PM, Sunday: 2:00pm.

### Skiing and Snowboarding Trips Have Arrived!

By Scott Louis

It is another good year to come and join the WPMS school skiing and snowboarding trips. These trips are for anyone looking for a day of great fun and they are open to students in any grade.

The trips take place on three separate days at Belleayre Mountain in Highmont, New York. The three ski trip dates for this school year are Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010, and Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

To go on the trips, you must buy one of six package types, but no matter which package you choose to buy, they all provide at least bus transportation and a lift ticket. If you would like an

information and sign up packet for the skiing and snowboarding trips, or you need any more information about the trips, please go to Mr. Hotchkiss in Room 214 if you go to Highlands, or Mr. Baker in Room 220 if you go to Eastview.

Once you fill out these sign up packets, you must return them to either Mr. Baker or Mr. Hotchkiss (depending on the school you go to). The trips fill up quickly, so bring those sign ups fast if you want a definite spot on the trip! You will have the time of your life!



### THE WPMS COURIER PRESENTS

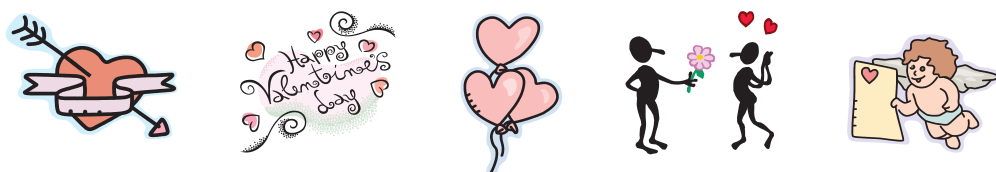
# Shout Outs!



Have your special message, poem or song dedication published in our Valentine's Day issue.

### PRICES

Song dedication.....	50¢
Poem .....	1.00
Message (up to 50 characters).....	1.00
Add clip-art to any ad.....	50¢



Your message will appear in the February issue of The Courier

Ads and money will be collected during lunch throughout the month of January!!!

### Yankees Slide into Their 27<sup>th</sup> World Series Championship

By Jack Ryan

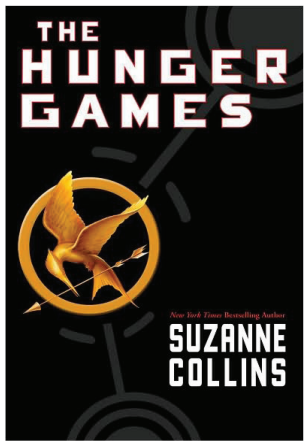
On November fourth 2009, the New York Yankees soared to victory as they defeated the Phillies 7-4 for their 27<sup>th</sup> World Series title. Hideki Matsui was awarded MVP, as he had six runs batted in on the night. Everyone on both the Yankees and the Phillies had a great night. The pitcher for the Phillies, Pedro Martinez, has not had great experiences

against the Yankees in the past, as he calls the Yankees his "daddy". Unlike the Yankee pitcher, Andy Pettite, however, *has* had good experiences in the playoffs; he has the most postseason wins as a pitcher. The four new stars for the Yankees include Mark Teixeira, Nick Swisher, C.C Sabathia, and A.J Burnett, who were great for the Yankees throughout the whole season. You wouldn't want to be Shane Victorino, who grounded into the final out, securing the Yankees' World Series title. As the banner boys in the new Yankee Stadium said, "New house, same legacy."



# BOOK REVIEWS

*The Hunger Games*  
by Suzanne Collins



By Allison Jasne

“Winning means fame and fortune. Losing means certain death.”

Every year, the Capitol makes the 12 districts choose one boy and one girl between the ages of twelve and eighteen to compete in the Hunger Games, a cruel reminder that the districts are at the mercy of the Capitol. It’s a killing game televised for everyone to see. By the end, 11 tributes are dead. There can only be one winner.

Until now. Now that Katniss Everdeen has taken the place of her sister, Primrose Everdeen. Now that she and Peeta have to compete. One of them must die for the other to win.

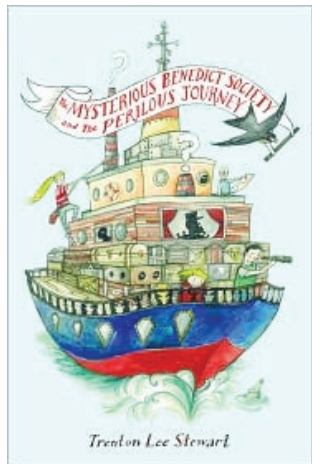
But, here’s the catch: before the Hunger Games begin, there are a series of training rounds and interviews. And Peeta reveals a dark secret, a twist no one saw coming. Now their fates are intertwined – permanently.

Can Katniss survive the brutality of the Games? Killing friends, enemies, complete strangers, and Peeta? Or will she fall by another’s hands?

Follow her story in *The Hunger Games* – and the sequel *Catching Fire*.

*The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey*

by Trenton Lee Stewart



by Max Hoffman

*The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey* by Trenton Lee Stewart is an adventure book that is all about friendships and enemies. This book is a sequel to *The Mysterious Benedict Society* by the same author. It’s about four kids named Reynie, Sticky (George),

Constance and Kate, helped by Kate’s dad Milligan (a secret agent) go on a quest, to save a loved one named Mr. Benedict. He and his trusted assistant Number 2 were kidnapped by the notorious Mr. Curtain. Mr. Curtain is also Mr. Benedict’s evil twin. Before he was kidnapped, Mr. Benedict tried to set up a scavenger hunt for the kids. He left clues for them to follow which takes them from castles in Portugal through Spain on a train to a Dutch museum in Holland and ultimately to a deserted island.

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a book full of twists turns and logic puzzles.

## Movie Review

### New Moon

By Lalina El-Saieh

Chris Weitz puts a new point of view on the beloved *Twilight Saga* by directing the much anticipated sequel *New Moon*.

The part of the mysterious Edward Cullen was played by Robert Pattison. Pattison fits the description of Edward in the books almost perfectly; his acting – not so much. Robert looked distracted throughout the twenty minutes he was on screen especially before he was killed by the Volturi (the most powerful group of vampires, almost like royalty).

Bella Swan, played by Kristen Stewart, went through a depression during this movie. However, when Jacob Black

(played by Taylor Lautner) comes in the picture as her best friend she is not so depressed any more. Kristen was really good during this movie because she really looked the part. Taylor was okay – not the best, but he really looks like he could be Jacob Black in real life.

Since the book *New Moon’s* story line was mostly in Bella’s head, Chris Weitz had to really stretch the action out so he made Bella punch Paul in the jaw. In the book, she just yells at him. I would recommend this to anyone that read the *Twilight Saga* or just LOVES Jacob Black (sorry, not a lot of Edward Cullen). Remember, this movie is rated PG 13 because of some violence.



# Entertainment News

By Nicole Carosella

In ground-breaking entertainment news, Adam Lambert, the runner-up of Season 8 of “American Idol”, released his debut album “For Your Entertainment” on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. Just one week before, Adam’s pal and winner of Season 8 of “American Idol,” Kris Allen, debuted his first album “Kris Allen” on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Also, in Season 8 of “American Idol” news, Allison Iraheta’s solo debut came out on the December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. This year’s “American Idols” are going to be a smash.

The American Music Awards were broadcasted on November 22. Taylor Swift took home five awards including the highest on “Entertainer of the Year,” beating out Michael Jackson. Michael won 4 awards and they were accepted by Michael’s brother, Jermaine. Shakira, Daughtry, Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood, Whitney Houston, Green Day and Mary J. Blige all performed that night. The major performances of the night came from Adam Lambert and Jennifer Lopez. During Jennifer Lopez’s performance, she climbed up a human staircase and while getting off, she fell. However, she got up so quickly that nobody noticed that it was a slip-up. Then, at the very end, Adam Lambert came with his first live TV performance since “Idol”. Adam gave an amazing performance, but that performance was masked by all the crazy, risqué antics performed on stage. This led to a controversial battle over Lambert’s performance.

Two-hards get ready to scream. “New Moon” finally came to theaters on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Millions of fans in L.A. waited since 5 o’clock two nights before the red carpet premiere. How crazy is that? Also, at the City Center movie theater in White Plains, Channel 12 News came to the theater to catch all the madness. Everybody is going “over the moon” for this movie.

## Poetry Corner

### WINTERTIME

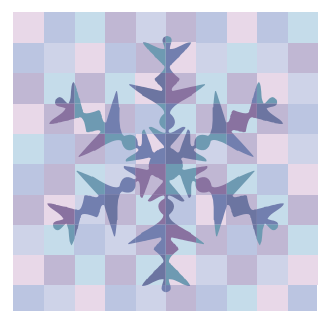
By Janine Fernandez

Silver, white snowflakes drop  
Blankets of glistening snow  
cover the rooftops  
The mighty winter winds blow  
And soon descends the snow  
The snow, silky and thick on the  
ground  
Holiday spirit is all around  
The snowflakes tumble down  
whitely  
Glittering in the starlight  
brightly  
Frosted branches shimmer  
Decorative lights glimmer  
Flames in the fireplace shine  
Walking along the path, the  
view so divine  
Silver bells chime,  
It is the joyous wintertime!

### A Time of Change

by Brian Couch

People say that winter is the  
time of coldness and death;  
But boy, they are wrong.  
The sound of jingle bells  
Go ding dong!  
As times of happiness and  
joy  
Enter our lives.  
Family and friends join  
together  
In peace, harmony, and love  
enters our hearts.  
Gifts and presents shower us  
during the holiday times.  
Gratitude springs from us.  
So people say that winter is  
the time of death and sorrow;  
But on December 24<sup>th</sup>, you’ll  
change your mind  
tomorrow.



### Winter

by Sherrin Variath

Look up there a  
snowflake  
coming down on your eyes  
Guess what!  
It’s the start of winter  
Snow, snow  
Ready to be played in  
As the little children go  
To make their  
Snowmen made out of snow.  
It’s too cold so were ready to  
have a steaming  
hot cup of hot chocolate  
YUMMMM  
Then, there’s Christmas  
Where the Christmas tree is  
and presents  
along the way  
We enjoyed this fun winter  
with many things  
Oh snow, how  
you bring great joy here.

## Holiday 411

by Annick Tabb

By the time this article is read, many families will have decorated Christmas trees, lit their menorahs and made potato latkes, put on dashikis, prepared Saint Lucia buns and constructed piñatas for the different holidays around the world. Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa are the three main holidays we celebrate here in December in the United States. Christmas is the holiday where we commemorate the birth of Jesus. Hanukkah is an eight-day celebration that celebrates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. Kwanzaa is the seven-day

celebration that honors African culture and heritage with participants lighting a kinara throughout.

There are many holidays that people celebrate in other places many people that aren’t as well known. There is Saint Lucia Day, Las Posadas and Bodhi Day (Buddha’s Enlightenment).

Bodhi Day is traditionally the eighth day of the twelfth lunar month. It is the day that commemorates when the historical Buddha reached enlightenment. Some say that Buddha made a vow to nirvana and Earth that he would find the root of suffering. The Buddha describes the

enlightenment in three stages. During the three nights, the Buddha found the Four Noble Truths, the Cycle of Rebirth and the Law of Karma.

Saint Lucia Day is the holiday where the oldest girl in the house brings coffee and Saint Lucia buns to her parents while wearing a candle-wreath and singing a Saint Lucia song.

Las Posadas is the nine-day celebration with Spanish origins commemorating the problems Mary and Joseph had finding a place to stay for Jesus to be born. I was very interested in these holidays and you might be too after you have finished this article.