

THE COURIER

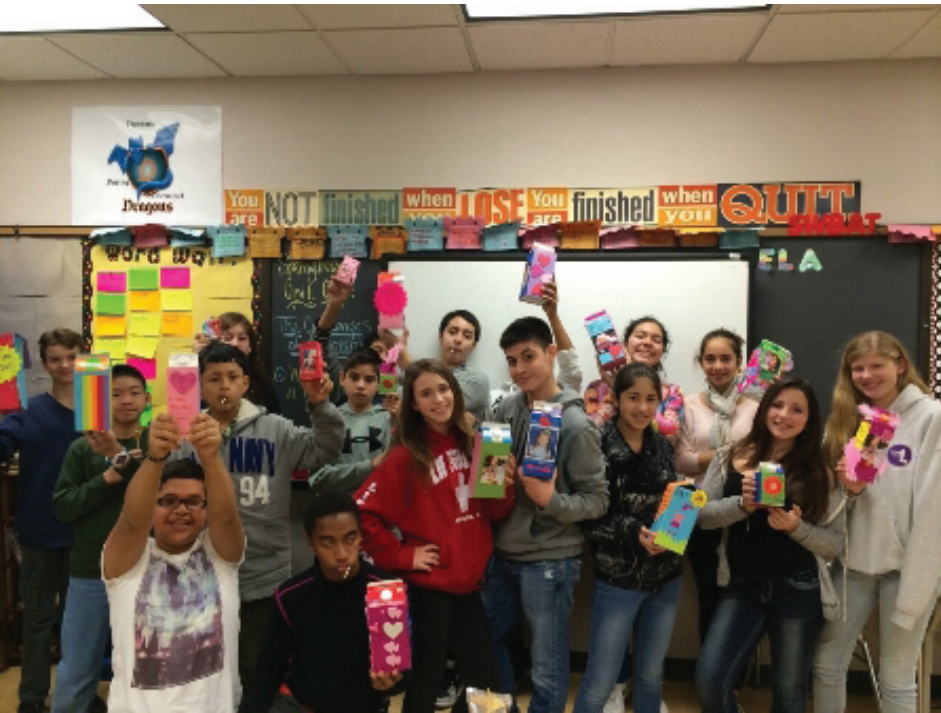
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The longest running middle school newspaper in the United States!

Team 8D Pays it Forward White Plains Appoints New Superintendent



Pilar Ceron

On November 26th, team 8D decided to participate in an activity that would help out a 5-year old girl from California suffering from cancer. Desirae Cechin has Stage IV High Risk Neuroblastoma (which is a cancer that affects the nervous system), and was diagnosed with the disease in April of this year. Since then, she has had to endure countless surgeries and treatments, including chemotherapy, antibodies, radiation and much, much more. But, although she has had to deal with a myriad of pain, she has had a positive attitude and smile on her face throughout it all. Her strength has never faltered, and her joyous attitude

has caused her to amass attention from her doctors, nurses, family- and Highlands Middle School.

After hearing about her story, team 8D took part in an activity to give Desirae a wonderful gift for the holidays. On November 26th, the team decorated milk and juice cartons which were being used to collect spare change. During the week of December 15th, the cartons were collected, and all the money went into a gift card that the team sent to her for the holidays, along with some cards handmade by the students. In total, Team 8D raised 2,000 dollars! There is no better way to celebrate the holidays than by paying it forward and providing a little bit of joy in someone else's life.



If you would like to help Desirae, or for more information, please access this website: www.youcaring.com/medical-fundraiser/beleiving-for-desi/177969



Richard Daronco

After a two year search, the White Plains School Board has appointed Dr. Paul Fried the next superintendent of schools starting July 1. Dr. Fried, 64, is a resident of Ossining and is currently the superintendent of the Montville School District in New Jersey until his contract ends in June. He plans to spend time with the White Plains teachers and staff members, administrators, parents, students and the Board of Education to consider goals that will help the district improve.

"There are two essential ideas that I strongly value. The first is that student engagement is crucial. Students need to be involved in their own learning, and excited to be in school. The second is the idea that we can all become better at what we do. This means that continuous improvement for everyone is vital to our success as a school district," Dr. Fried said.

The first thing that Dr. Fried wanted students to know about him is that he will do his very best to make sure the students of White Plains get "the best education possible so they can eventually attend the college of their choice, or be ready to be hired for an excellent job if that is something they really want to do. I want them to be engaged in their classrooms so they can get the most out of their learning experiences every day. The second thing I want them to know is that I will work with the staff members in the schools to keep them safe in school. I also want students to learn important skills like communicating well and listening, since these are the skills they will need to be successful," Dr. Fried said.

Dr. Fried was born in the Bronx (almost next to Yankee Stadium) and enjoys sailing. His dream job would be to play second base for the New

York Yankees. "Do you think I have a chance?" Fried asked. He enjoys sports, music and art, and loves the Hudson River. Dr. Fried has also thought it would be really interesting to be a tug boat captain in New York Harbor. "Beyond these two jobs I must say that I am very excited to become the next Superintendent of Schools in White Plains. I have spent my life working with children, and with adults who care deeply about providing the best education possible for the students under their care. I believe there are very few jobs more important than helping children learn and grow, and I am proud to be a long-time educator," Fried said.

He has four children: Jason, 34, Matthew, 31, Victoria, 20, and Aron. Aron is almost 18, and he is a senior at Ossining High School. "Aron plays varsity baseball, and used to play varsity soccer. I have been to many White Plains v. Ossining baseball and soccer games over the last few years," Fried said.

So what is the funniest thing that ever happened to Dr. Fried? Several years ago when he was principal at an Ossining elementary school, he volunteered to be the first person in the dunk tank chair at a PTA fundraiser. Dr. Fried remembers that it was a chilly Saturday morning in May and he was confident the young students in 1st and 2nd grades would not be able to throw accurately. The first four students missed as expected and so did the fifth student. Dr. Fried started to playfully tease the students and that is when the student ran right over to the tank and pushed the target with her arm. He fell into the cold water and he was surprised and frozen. Everyone thought it was funny and so did Dr. Fried. White Plains Schools welcome Dr. Fried!

Terrorists Deny Free Speech in France



Shannon Rogers

After a 3 day attack on France, people rallied together to say no to terrorism. It all started on Wednesday, January 7th around noon when gunmen stormed the offices of Charlie Hebdo, a French newspaper. This attack took 12 lives, which began rallies in different locations throughout France. The phrase commonly used in protests was "Je suis Charlie," or "I am Charlie." The phrase was meant to express sorrow for the occurrence and to support freedom of the press. Throughout Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, police and soldiers searched for the terrorists, in fear that the terrorists would strike again. On Thursday, grenades and gunfire hit a mosque in Le Mans, France. No one was killed or injured that night. However, before dawn, another terrorist who was an associate of the original gunmen

killed a police officer and injured a street sweeper. On Friday January 9th, they were finally taken down, but not without a fight. The first two terrorists were cornered in a printing house, but they had taken hostages. This closed stores and put schools in lockdown. The other terrorist took hostages at a grocery store, killing and wounding many. Then around 5pm, the first two terrorists who were cornered in the printing house were killed and the hostages who were there were freed. Then, the terrorist at the Kosher grocery was killed and the surviving hostages in the grocery were freed. Shortly after these events, rallies came together supporting the French and many government officials came together to take a stand against terrorism. As the longest-running middle school newspaper in America, The Courier supports the freedom of the press and sends our deepest condolences.

Chemical Weapons Treaty Violated in Syria

Finn O'Callaghan

On Thursday, December 11th 2014, the U.S. Secretary of State, John Kerry, accused the Syrian President, Bashar Assad, of violating the chemical weapons treaty he agreed to earlier last year. He has been accused of breaking the treaty by firing barrel bombs filled with chlorine gas on Syrian villages.

Chlorine gas isn't the stuff you put in pools. That's a compound of chlorine, bleach, and other items used to form a powdery substance. Chlorine gas is an element, which can be found on the periodic table. It is highly poisonous and was used for chemical weapons in past wars, such as World War I. Bashar has been accused of breaking the treaty he'd agreed to involving chemical weapons by launching these chlorine bombs.

As of 2011, there has been a civil war going on in Syria. It's still happening as we speak. Many people objected to Bashar's government. His response was "violent crackdowns," one of these being the chlorine bombings. Since 2011, the Syrian civil war has been a major conflict in the regions around Syria itself. Almost all of Syria is taking part in the war, the biggest members of the war being the Syrian government and the Islamic

State of Iraq. The other member is the opposition, which are the rebels against the government's rule. The main fighters in the opposition are the Free Syrian Army formed in 2011 when the war began, and the Islamic Front formed in 2013.

Aside from the war itself, using the chlorine bombs is illegal and has been illegal since Bashar agreed to the treaty. Using chlorine would be violating the treaty, which can affect Bashar and his government for the worse. Since chlorine is so poisonous, it's perfect for chemical warfare. One way people at war would use it is by digging deep holes in the ground. Once complete, the chlorine would be spilled. It would create a thick fog on the ground, making the holes out of sight. If someone fell in it, the poisonous properties would kill whoever the victim was. It's a terrible thing, really, which is one of the reasons the treaty was made in the first place. Bashar is in deep trouble now. Having to persuade the U.S. that he didn't break the treaty, trying to stay in office with almost everyone in Syria hating him, and trying to win a war that's been going on for four years now is proving difficult.

Special thanks to Mr. Sullivan of team 7B for teaching me about the topic of chlorine!

American Citizens Protest Grand Jury Decision

Lucas Konarski

Police brutality has been a growing issue here in America. Many believe the police department is corrupt and racist, as there were many cases of what could be unnecessary police brutality or a racial move towards black people. For example, in the case of Eric Garner, a few policemen approached him in the street and attempted to arrest him for selling illegal cigarettes. He protested against them, but the police in response used a chokehold to stop him. They brought him to the ground as he said the words "I can't breathe." When the policemen finally stopped choking him, he was put in an ambulance. He died on the way to the hospital. After what happened, many people started to protest this cruel act of injustice, but the protests had already started when a grand jury decided not to

convict the policeman guilty of killing an unarmed African-American teen, Michael Brown. In a Suburb near where he lived in Ferguson, Missouri, officer Darren Wilson pointed a gun at the eighteen-year-old. Protestors of the decision claim that Mr. Brown did as the officer told him and put his hands in the air, and the policeman shot him for no reason. Others counter that by saying Mr. Brown attempted to take the officer's gun, so as a response to the attack, Mr. Brown was killed. While both ways still tragically lead to a man's death, the difference is whether the policeman or Mr. Brown is the guilty party. Besides these two cases, there were many more, and protests are still going on today for the injustice of the police and the grand jury for choosing not to convict either of these two policemen for the murder of those people.

House Strikes Down Obama's Immigration Reform

Richard Daronco

What should the United States do with the 11 million immigrants who are illegally in the country? How about the thousands of unaccompanied children who are crossing the Southwest border? The answer to these questions have divided the country. Some say that illegal immigrants should not be rewarded with citizenship and access to social services, while others say illegal immigrants benefit the economy by expanding the low cost labor force and performing jobs that Americans won't take.

On November 20, 2014, President Obama went to a high school in Nevada with a rather large population of non-English speaking students where he announced a series of executive actions to grant up to five million illegal immigrants protection from deportation. The executive action would create a new program of deferrals for undocumented parents of American citizens or legal permanent residents who have been in the country for at least five years. Deferrals would make it possible for them to legally work for three years at a time. Some of

the unaccompanied children who have crossed over into the United States and have made their way into Westchester County would also benefit from the president's executive action. Susan Henner, a White Plains immigration attorney who works with the Safe Passage Project says there will be more students possibly attending schools as a result of President Obama's executive actions. "With the recent surge of children coming over the border we are seeing enrollment up at the public schools," Henner said. The White Plains School district can also expect to see an increase in enrollment.

However, House Republicans have recently voted to defund President Obama's executive action granting deportation relief to undocumented immigrants. The House also narrowly passed a bill to undo deportation relief for undocumented childhood arrivals under the president's 2012 executive order. The debate will continue in Congress, but one thing everyone agrees on is that our immigration system does not work properly and it does not serve the interests of Americans or the American economy.

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We need you! Join the Courier!
See Ms. Miller in Room 141**

Terrorism in Nigeria



A Nigerian woman surveys the bombed out wreckage of her village. (Photo Credit: The Washington Post)

Danny DeGenaro

You've probably heard of terrorist organizations like ISIS and Al Qaeda because they have killed Americans. However, there are groups even more dreadful. Though often in the news, Boko Haram is not the first group to come to mind when terrorism is mentioned. Based in and around the country of Nigeria in central Africa, Boko Haram has attacked many government buildings as well as churches and even the United Nations Headquarters in Abuja. They are strict Muslims and have attacked these buildings, often by suicide bombing, in an attempt to condemn Christianity and democracy in Nigeria in the most extreme way possible. During the past five or so years, Boko Haram has killed over 5,000 civilians. Nearly half of them were killed in 2014 alone. Between 1966 and 1999, except for 1979 to 1983 in which civilians ruled the country, Nigeria was governed by horrid military dictatorships. Violence based on religion spurred a civil war in Nigeria from 1967 to 1970. Finally, in 2002, Mohammed Yusuf founded Boko Haram, originally a peaceful

organization, but in 2009 it became militant and bombings occurred. About 650,000 people have fled the conflict zone, between the countries of Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, and Niger. 200,000 have fled in the past year. Starting with the beginning of its militancy in 2009, Boko Haram has kidnapped over 500 women and girls, with 276 being abducted from a school in one day. Many attacks occurred to avenge Mohammed Yusuf who was killed in prison in 2009. There is question as to whether the killing was legal or not. After attacking, members of Boko Haram often fled to the neighboring country of Cameroon. While the Nigerian army chased after them, they could not follow them into Cameroon. Cameroon's army does not wish to fight them. They attacked multiple times just after the inauguration of Nigerian president Goodluck Jonathan and often strike against police and government buildings. Their name actually means "western influence is sin." Boko Haram is a very serious matter and they will most likely continue their attacks.

Editorial

I'm sure my fellow students here at Highlands remember doing math in elementary school. It was simple. The teacher would say "Nine plus six is fifteen," and then we just knew that math fact. How is Common Core changing that? I did some research and looked at an online article with an embedded video of a teacher solving nine plus six the common core way. It takes roughly one minute. One minute to answer nine plus six is the expectation of Common Core. The logic is as follows: Ten is an easy number for kids because the number system we use is base ten. So, we break six up into five and one so that we can add the one to the nine to change nine plus six to ten plus five, which is much easier for kids to do. Imagine doing every math problem you ever have to do like that. Imagine four-digit multiplication using the Common Core system.

The Common Core is a set of standards and benchmarks which are requirements for all kids in every state where these standards are implemented essentially making sure that every kid in the U.S. knows all the same things. They are also used to measure how well kids are doing compared with other places in America and in other countries. The question is, who developed the Common Core? Why does the comparison and measurement need to happen? The standards were originally put in place under the assumption that public schools were failing, and that test scores were lower compared with previous scores. There are currently two studies proving just the opposite. The first was conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics and the second by the Horace Mann League and the National Superintendents Roundtable.

So, who makes these tests and why would they try to convince us that they are necessary? The answer is money. A

company called Achieve, Inc. wrote these standards and in doing so, received some rather large sums of money from the likes of Microsoft, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, DuPont, and Chevron (from AJC.com) The tests for New York State are made by Pearson, Inc. According to multiple educators who viewed the tests, the tests were designed to make the students fail. In essence, corporations got these standards and tests implemented into public education and made a profit.

What seems most unfair is the fact that when teachers get evaluated, their students' test scores count in their evaluation. If a kid panics about the test, gets stressed, and doesn't do well, it affects the teacher. If a kid doesn't eat breakfast and falls asleep and is unable to finish the test, it affects the teacher. If a kid isn't well off at home and doesn't get much help from his/her family academically, and they don't do well on the test, it affects the teacher.

Test scores even affect how much federal and state funding a school district receives. That can end in a cycle. Let's say that City A has lots of privileged students, while City B has more low-income students who may not do as well academically. City A will have high test scores and get more funding, and keep getting richer after every test, while City B will get poorer as they receive less and less funding to help get them out of their financial problems because of their low test scores.

Common Core has been adopted by 45 states and the District of Columbia. Some problems with this system include that younger students are expected to master material meant for older students. One school was teaching Ancient History (Mesopotamia, Egypt, etc.) to first graders. A math question on a Common Core homework sheet was, "Jack used the number line below to solve 427-316. Find his error. Then write a letter to Jack telling him what he did right, and what he should do to fix his mistake." Why can't math be simple? There's just no point to overcomplicating it. But complaints were not taken very seriously. U. S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said that the complaints on Common Core come from "...suburban moms who — all of a sudden — their child isn't as brilliant as they thought they were, and their school isn't quite as good as they thought they were." This response seems to make light of the real concerns of American parents.

We, the people: students, parents, and teachers alike, are the ones most affected by these new standards. The corporations who created the Common Core and the tests based upon it are making profits, but students, parents, and teachers are being negatively affected. If the state wants us to take tests to see whether or not we're learning, fine. But if our test results can cause teachers to be fired, or dictate how they run their classrooms, it's not okay. If the results make rich school districts richer and poor school districts poorer, it's not okay. This is what the Common Core is doing to our nation's school system, and it's just not okay.



THE COURIER

White Plains Middle School

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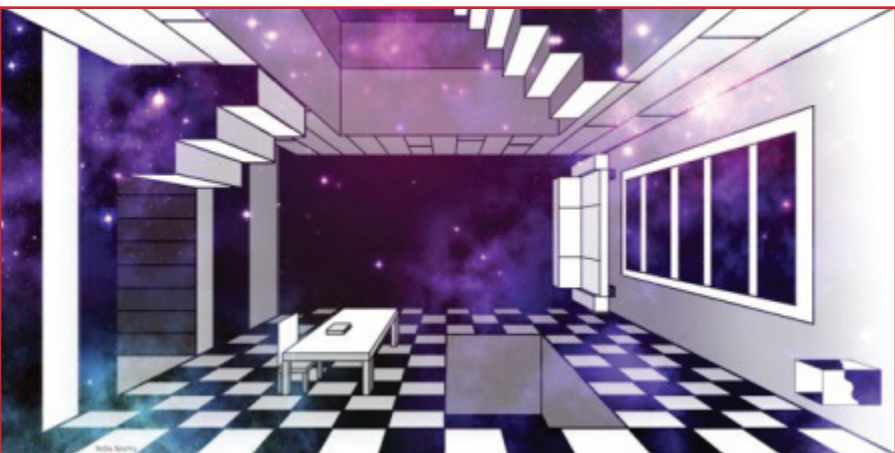
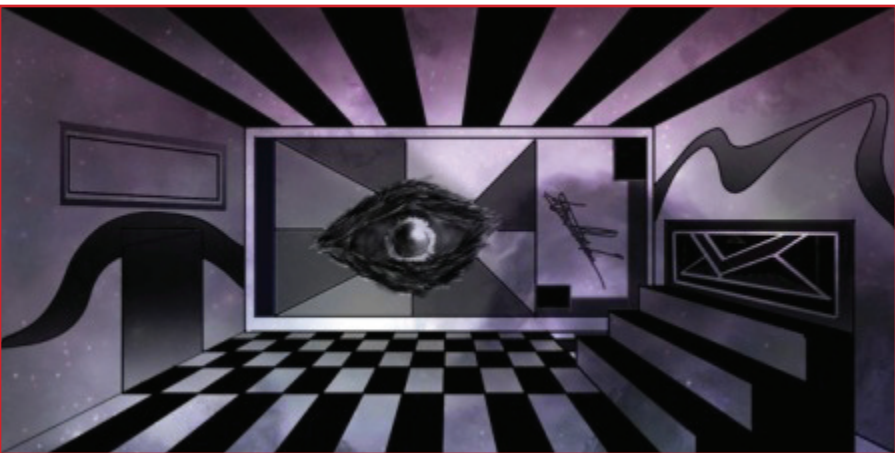
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Metropolitan Opera House
West 66 Street
Lincoln Center



Congratulations to Miguel Onofre & Wilian Siguencia Sumba for winning the overall opera poster vote! Mrs. Davila's 7th grade general music students created opera posters after studying, listening to, and watching opera for several weeks. The students learned the most about Georges Bizet's opera Carmen – the story of a man obsessed with a Spanish gypsy. The poster needed to include images that symbolized the opera plot and a catchy slogan. Great job Miguel & Wilian!



Students in Mr. Wintersteen's eighth grade Digital Art class created these one point perspective 3D rooms using Sketchbook Pro. In the left column from top to bottom: Abner Onofre, Sofia Sperry. In the right column from top to bottom: Cristino Cuenca, Armaan Gill, Sarah Rose.



On December 19, 2014 the Select Choir & Jazz Band toured the city of White Plains. They helped spread Holiday cheer by playing and singing at three locations: Education House, NY Presbyterian Hospital, and the Galleria Mall. Highlights included a solo performed on piano and sung by Leah Levine, 9th grader Ben Covello accompanied the Select Choir, and the jazz band & Select Choir performed a "sing a long" together. Both Assistant Superintendents came to hear the performance at Ed House and approximately 50 parents came to the Galleria mall to hear the performance as well.

Caitlin Daronco

Tickets will soon go on sale for this year's musical production of Shrek Jr. which will be performed at the Highlands middle school auditorium at 7:30 pm on March 12th and 13th. The musical will be directed by music teacher Jennifer Irlen, who has been involved with the school plays for the past seven years. "My love of theater came when I met my husband and we opened and ran a theater company for several years in Connecticut," Ms. Irlen said.

Several other teachers at Highlands will be assisting in the production. Ms. Hart is an 8th grade ELA teacher who is serving as the assistant director and the

stage manager. Ms. Johnson, a 7th grade science teacher, is the choreographer. Mr. Hauser is an 8th grade Technology teacher who will be in charge of the set design and construction, and Mr. Veeder, the band teacher, will be running the sound. Ms. Irlen mentioned that teachers used to play some roles many years ago, but the decision was made to have a student-only cast to provide more opportunity for students.

"We looked at several options and wanted to do something that would attract a wide range audience, so we thought Shrek might be fun for all ages," said Ms. Irlen. "We always have a fabulous cast."



SHREK JR. CAST LIST

Congrats to Everyone who Auditioned for the show!

Storyteller 1- Marina Lebowich

Storyteller 2 – Catherine Serra

Storyteller 3 – Paulina Snyder

Mama Ogre- Caitlin Daronco

Papa Ogre – Christopher Iannace

Little Ogre – Johan Duvernay

Shrek- Alex Sanchez

Captain of the Guards - Jared Villa

Pinocchio – Louis Fazio

Big Bad Wolf – Finn O'Callaghan

Three Little Pigs

Karleighana Jones, Ella Einstein, Maeve Staab

Peter Pan- Adam Lemoine

Dragon –Chasida Taylor

Duckling – Violet Cadet

Mama Bear- Margaret Caserta

Baby Bear – Isabella Lugo

Donkey – AJ Scapoli

Lord Farquaad – Ben Kohl

Gingy – Alison Kenney

Young Fiona – Isabella Lugo

Teen Fiona – Kira Lichtblau

Princess Fiona – Jane Albert

Puss in Boots –Melanie Barest

Knight 1 –Aaron Weiner

Knight 2- Adam Lemoine

Knight 3- Aidan Benjamin

Knight 4 – Chris Iannace

Bishop – Rory Campbell

Wicked Witch – Lauren Elmer

Ensemble - Sophia Pierrette, Chellsie Colas, Aine Hunt, Sophia Ginter, Hannah Fuchs, Tessa Schaap, Priyanka Unni, Dana Boshart, Dylan Daly, Edwuina Absolu, Nicole Delacruz, Rory Campbell, Johan Duvernay, Jared Villa, Violet Cadet, Melanie Barest, Caitlin Daronco, Finn O'Callaghan, Margaret Caserta, Kira Lichtblau, Chasida Taylor, Marina Lebowich, Catherine Serra, Paulina Snyder

Bouncing Sky High

Nikolas O'Hanlon

On Thursday, December 18th, teams 8C and 8D went to Bounce. They both had a great time. Bounce is the first trampoline park in New York. Bounce is very fun, popular, and awesome, as well as tiring. Bounce has a trampoline to foam cube pit, a trampoline single hoop basketball court, a trampoline volleyball court, a giant trampoline area, and lots of connected trampolines. The trampoline to foam cube pit is a long trampoline where you can either flip into the pit or just jump in. The single hooped basketball is a trampoline where you bounce and try to dunk the foam ball.

On the trampoline volleyball court, you can play dodge ball or volleyball. Bounce is good for school, business and fundraising events, birthday parties, college nights, and bat/bar mitzvahs.

I thought Bounce was fun because it had a variety of trampolines. At Bounce I did everything there was to do to. My favorite activity was the foam pit. I also thought that Bounce was very tiring because after a while my legs started hurting. Bounce is very popular because it's one of a kind. The Highlands 8th graders go every year because it's fun and energetic. Bounce is very awesome and I recommend that people go there to be like a kangaroo for a day!



Reviews

Big Hero 6: Powered up People



Nikolas O'Hanlon

The name of this movie is "Big Hero 6." It's made by Disney, the same studio that brought you "Wreck-It Ralph" and "Frozen". The genres of the movie are Sci-Fi and Fantasy. Big Hero 6 is about a normal group of college students, a robot and a young technical genius named Hiro. Hiro, later in the story, upgrades the group by creating robo-suits to battle Mr. Kabuki, the bad guy who kills Hiro's brother.

The storyline is that Hiro wants to be a professional robot fighting champion so he visits his older brother's school (the San Fransoyko Institute of Technology) where he sees his brother's lab and his friends. There, after Hiro sees his brother's medical robot, Baymax, Hiro decides to attend the San Fransoyko Institute

of Technology. Hiro is admitted after demonstrating his "microbot project" which allows telepathic control of tiny robots. However, in a suspicious fire, the microbots are stolen. Then, Hiro upgrades Big Hero 6, a name for that group of college students, and they are off to recover the microbots and save the city.

I thought the movie was epic and I recommend the movie to anybody who likes Sci-Fi. I felt that it was funny and very well made. It was funny when Baymax (a robot who did not have any knowledge other than medical knowledge) did a fist bump and said "buddaludaluda." It was well made because the graphics were excellent and it kept my attention the whole time. The ending was sad but funny at the same time. Go see it and find out why.

iPhone 6: Bend or Bust?

Nikolas O'Hanlon

What is the phone that has a fingerprint locking mechanism and for 128MB you need to pay \$849? The iPhone 6 that's the phone. The iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 plus both have really good performance, graphics and space. You can get it in a variety of colors like gold, space gray, and silver. The iPhone 6 is better than any other phone in many significant ways like being bigger, thinner, more powerful, having

better camera resolution, display and Wi-Fi. The iPhone 6 is extremely efficient with 64 bit architecture, an A8 chip, and an M8 motion coprocessor. It has a security fingerprint lock. It's helpful to have the iPhone thin and large because then it will be easier to see details and it fits in your pocket better.

Reviewers have different opinions of the iPhone 6. Techradar comments about the size of the iPhone 6 saying, "There will be some that will miss

Disney Infinity 2.0: Unlimited Possibilities



Nikolas O'Hanlon

Box.

Disney Infinity is a role playing video game with Disney and Marvel characters. You can control any character you place down on the Disney Infinity 2.0 base. This is the second edition of the Disney Infinity games.

There are many similarities between Disney Infinity 2.0 and 1.0. They both have two modes which are Toy Box and the different Play Sets that are available for purchase at any video game store. The difference between the Toy Box and the Play Set is that in the Toy Box you can do virtually anything with the characters in the game and in the Play Sets you have to follow a storyline. In both 2.0 and 1.0, Play Sets have quests, a storyline and only certain characters can be in a certain Play Set. In both 2.0 and 1.0, the Toy Box is a place where you can build massive, awesome, and epic creations freely to your heart's content. In the 2.0 and 1.0 Play Sets you can unlock many toys that then can be used in the Toy

Disney Infinity 2.0 has many enhancements that Disney Infinity 1.0 doesn't have. In 2.0 there are character upgrades which allow you to upgrade whatever character you are playing as. There are also many Play Sets like Avengers, Guardians of the Galaxy, and Spider Man. In 2.0, if you get enough crossover coins (coins that allow for a character of a different Play Set to be in the Play Set you are playing) for a certain character, then you can play as that character in the Play Set. Finally, in 2.0, the characters from 1.0 can still be used.

Disney Infinity 2.0 is an awesome game for many reasons. First, it has many of my favorite characters such as Groot, Rocket Raccoon, and Green Goblin. Second, it has very good models and there are figurines that go into the game. There are also tough bosses, awesome weapons and incredible power disks. Disney Infinity 2.0 is very detailed. I hope you enjoy playing it as much as I did.

Cyber Terrorism on Sony Pictures

Lucas Konarski

On November 24th this year, Sony Pictures was cyber-attacked by someone who is still unknown. This group called themselves GOP, or Guardians of Peace. This group leaked confidential information and threatened to leak more unless Sony canceled the release of "The Interview", a comedy about two journalists planning on killing north Korean dictator Kim Jong-Un. At first, Sony Pictures shut down the movie. But when GOP kept leaking information, Sony Pictures decided to let the movie be shown in theaters. On

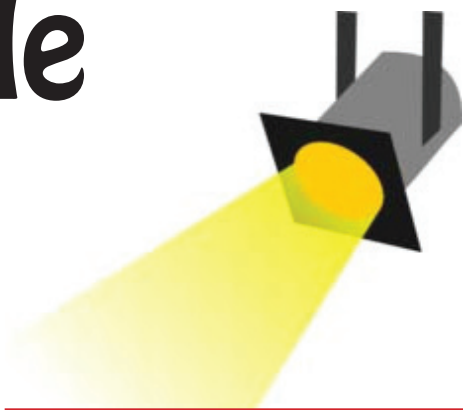
Christmas day Sony made it available for rental online. Most people believe that North Korea themselves are responsible for this cyber-attack, but still Kim Jong-Un states he has nothing to do with this act of terrorism, even though he is one of the only people in the world with a lot of reason to want to stop "The Interview". The movie is now banned in North Korea and anyone caught watching it will receive the death sentence. Koreans are not used to the American comedy style, so most North Koreans and even some South Koreans took this movie as an insult to their country.

that screen size, maintaining that they don't want a bigger display on their phone - but... I believe that a good portion of you thinking you need a smaller phone will quickly come to appreciate the power a bigger handset brings without hurting quality." A quote from Engadget, another reviewer, comments about the support of the hardware and firmware of the iPhone 6 saying, "Apple holds its own against the

strongest competition, and it still has the advantage of having 64-bit support on both hardware and firmware for at least a short period of time."

In this article I stated the elements of the iPhone 6 and reviews of the iPhone 6. I think the iPhone 6 is one of the coolest phones because of all of its capabilities. I recommend the iPhone 6 to anyone who is in high school and older.

Teacher Spotlight: Ms. Reale



Global Warming: The Facts and Figures

Bethsie Brice

Global warming is when Earth's average surface temperature increases. This is because of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, that come from burning fossil fuels or from deforestation. These gases trap heat that would otherwise escape from earth. Global warming is a serious cause; it has been increasing all through the world. Greenhouse gases allow heat to stay close to the surface, making it less livable. Consequences of global warming include drought, severe hurricanes, massive fires and melting of the polar ice caps. In addition, some endangered species could be killed off by global warming due to the melting ice. Each year of the 21st century ranks amongst the 14 hottest years since 1880. Since 1870, global sea levels have risen by about 8 inches. The rising sea levels due to global warming could threaten the lives of people living along the coastal areas. There are still ways that global warming can be prevented. One way is to avoid driving everywhere. You can try to take a walk or ride a bike. Another way is replacing a regular light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb. Compact fluorescent light bulbs use 60% less energy than a regular bulb. You can also try using less hot water, recycling, and planting trees. Trees are a major opponent of global warming because they use the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to create oxygen. So the more trees we plant, the less carbon dioxide in the air. There is more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere today than at any point in the last 800,000 years. We can help bring about a stop to global warming, by taking simple steps to reduce our carbon imprint.

Genesis M. Roseau

I had a chat with Ms. Reale about Highlands. This is what happened...

Genesis M. Roseau: How do you like Highlands?

Ms. Reale: I really like the students and teachers.

What word would do you think best describes Highlands?

'Exciting.' There's always something going on to look forward to.

What year did you start teaching here at Highlands Middle School?"

I started teaching here at Highlands in 2011 for a year and went to Eastview. Then, I came back to Highlands.

What is your favorite thing to do here at Highlands?

Teach and talk to my students. That's when I have the most fun.

Why did you start the book club at Highlands?

I wanted some time to read young adult books with students, and share some of my favorite books. My favorite books are Wonder by RJ Palacio, Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick and The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen.

Do you think that the book club can help kids want to read more?

Yes. I want my students to know that books are fun, and I think the book club is a great place to see it.

Do you have a goal and/or dream to pursue here at Highlands?

My goal is to help my students realize that they can achieve big things.

Great goal! Do you have a quote that you would like to share with everybody?

'When given the choice between being right and being kind, choose kind.' - From the book Wonder. A good way for kids to behave in the world is just being kind to each other.



Ask Tigress

Tiresome Tortoise

Hey Tigress, um, I am a little embarrassed to say that I am always late to school. It is for one reason and one reason only. I always wake up late. I am such a deep sleeper that my alarm clock doesn't work! Can you give me some advice? Actually, tell me later. Got to go catch some z's.

Dear Tiresome Tortoise, I know what you mean. Getting up in the mornings can be really hard. I highly suggest getting more sleep and making an emergency morning schedule just in case you wake up late again. So, if you need more advice please come back to me.

Buff and Tough

Hi Tigress! I am having a few issues with the kids at my lunch table. Especially this one girl named *****. I try to be nice and we are all friends but she plays around a little bit, no, a lot rough. I have told her how I feel multiple times but she just never stops! Please help me!



Dear Buff and Tough, I am going to be honest, you've got it bad! I know you are going to say no way, but the first thing you should always do is tell an adult if it happens more than once. If that doesn't work, go to the school counselor. And they might come back at you, but just ignore it. Stand up for your rights! Don't worry, you've got this!

Toys are for Tots

I love toys, it's all I ever talk about! Barbies, LPS, plushies, too many to name! It is just that, I come to school and then I realize that I am way too old to be playing with toys. I just don't want the imagination express to leave the station. Please, for the love of Cartoon Network, HELP ME!

Dear Toys are for Tots, Wow, I am shocked that you are feeling this way! If anything it is great that you are being you! But I can get how you feel. Eventually you will stop liking that stuff, so you don't have to rush. Some kids grow a little faster, others a little slower. And who knows, maybe for the holidays you will get a new Barbie cruise-ship! So cheer up!

Snowy World
Nikolas O'Hanlon

Snowy world
Nature's white gown unfurled
Kids playing in the snow
Parents beckoning for them to go
A curtain of snow falling
Nature calling
This world
A
Snowy world



Dreams of Daring

UGH! What's up Tigress? I can't believe my friends are making me write to you. Well, whatever. Anyway, I can't get over this boy named *****. I guess you can call it a school girl crush. And I want to tell him. But how?! Every time I think of it I just imagine the whole school laughing at me. If there is anything you can do, I would like it if you told me.

Dear Dreams of Daring, I always dreamed of having this "girl-chat" moment! Your friends are insanely smart! Anyway, let's get back to the topic. Since your eyes aren't little cameras, I can't see what you do, so it depends on if you are friends with him or not. If not, get to know him a little bit beforehand, so you know how to act when the time comes. But only tell him when you are truly confident in yourself, which to be honest I don't think you are yet. You need to be fearless before you dare. Just be cool about it. Trust me, you will know what to say when you are standing right in front of him telling him how you feel.

Demon Diva

HELP ME! My best friend and I have been friends since we were in kindergarten. But, lately she has been a huge jerk. Once I accidentally stepped on her jacket in the hall, and she started cursing me out! I don't want to get adults into it because that can start huge drama, but I need help and I don't know how to fix it myself. Please save me from this "she-demon!"

Dear Demon Diva, This is a toughy. Let me think. Hmmm. Got it! Ok, so the first step is to take a deep breath. Tell her how you feel, carefully. Sit her down when you have time to talk and tell her how you feel in the kindest, most understanding way possible. And if that doesn't work, don't go near her. If she asks you what is going on, tell her why and if that still doesn't work, just tell an adult.

The Islanders: An Unexpected Season



Finn O'Callaghan

Whether you're an Islander fan or not, you can't deny that the Islanders are having a spectacular season this year. With an average place of 6th-3rd for the league in the 2014-2015 season, the New York Islanders are facing their best season in years. If they keep this up, they'll be heading to the Stanley Cup. This is no stretch, because at the rate the Islanders are going they'll make it to the finals with ease. They are one of the best teams in the league, but the Islanders have had their share of bad games too, mainly with the Canadians. If the Canadians prove to be the Islanders' weak point, the chances of the Islanders getting to the Stanley Cup are limited. But, the Islanders have some of the most wins in the NHL. This makes their standing in the league very high. If you want to know the standings, go to NHL.com.

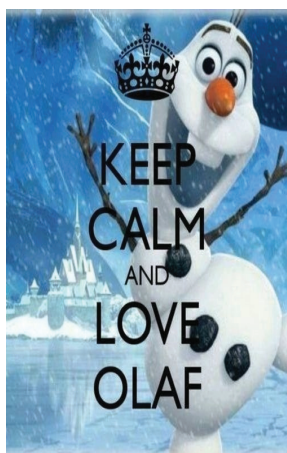
In past seasons, you'll have noticed that the Islanders have not been playing too well. Since recent trades, the Islanders have been doing outstandingly well, especially compared to other seasons. The Islanders have only won four Stanley Cups, all in four consecutive years: 1980, 1981, 1982, and 1983. At this time,

our parents would have been around our age! It would've been five wins, but in 1984 the Islanders lost to the Oilers in the Stanley Cup finals. Every year up to now, the Islanders haven't been able to win the Stanley Cup. They have always lost in the playoffs, or they didn't even qualify. So far, all that's changing. The Islanders are only trailing a few points behind the teams ahead of them, and some even have the same number.

Many Islanders fans have been hoping, wishing, and predicting that the Islanders' luck will turn around this season. They must've been hoping very hard, because the Islanders have been doing a phenomenal job so far. Anyone who says the Islanders won't win the Stanley Cup this year better knock on wood, because they've got another thing coming. Most people say that the Rangers are going to win because that's their team, but don't trust them for a minute. Right now, the Rangers' standings range from around 12th to 10th. The Anaheim Ducks may be in first, but the Islanders are pulling ahead with wins. A couple more points and the Islanders are in first. Islanders fans, hope for the best. Rangers fans, brace yourselves. It's going to be a long season.

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BLIZZARD
BOOTS
CHILLY
DECEMBER
FEBRUARY
GLOVES
HAT
ICE
ICESKATING



JACKET
JANUARY
SCARF
SKIING
SNOW
SNOWDAY
SNOWMAN
WINTER

White Plains Students Organize Protest March



Caitlin Daronco

About 200 White Plains High School students were given permission to walk out of classes to protest the Ferguson grand jury's decision not to prosecute the police officer who fatally shot Michael Brown in Missouri. Many of the students carried signs in support of Michael Brown as they marched from the school to Renaissance Square and then to the Westchester County courthouse.

The march was organized by Nina Tucker and Hannah Malcomson who are both seniors at the high school. They spread the word by texts and social media as they watched the thousands of people nationwide protest the decision not to indict Darren Wilson, the Ferguson police officer who killed an unarmed teen on August 9th, 2014.

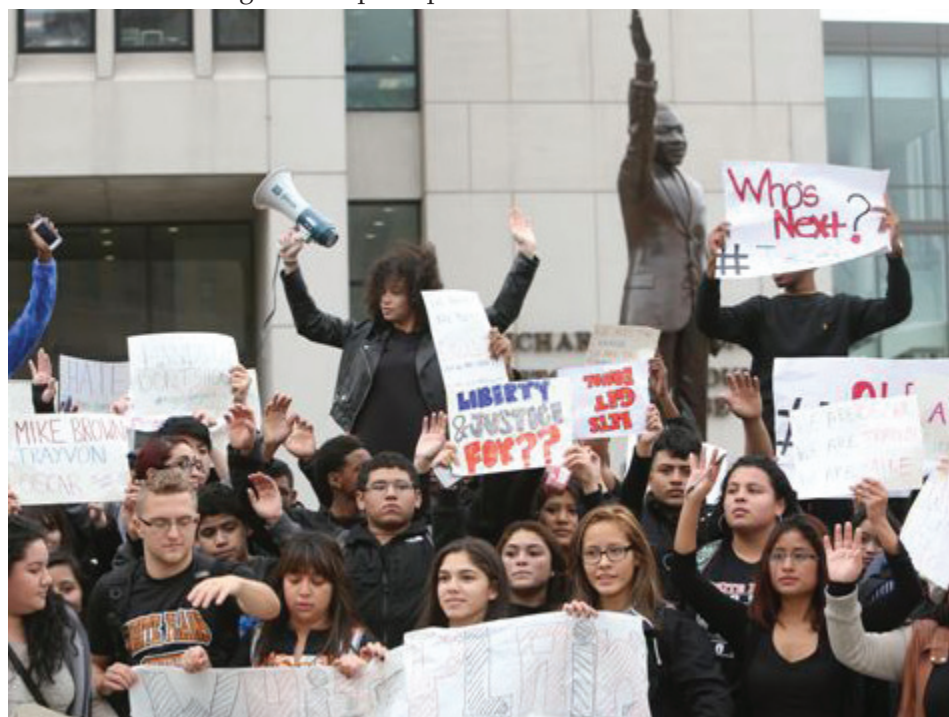
White Plains High School principal

Ellen Doherty approved the request by the students and Superintendent Tim Connors called police to make arrangements for a police squad car to accompany the students as they marched.

"The students thought it was important that they express their feelings. They had a plan to do this, and it's our experience that when they want to express their civil rights they do it in an orderly fashion," Tim Connors said. Ms. Doherty also followed the students in a car as they marched.

"The students were well behaved and there were no incidents," said White Plains police Lt. Eric Fisher.

The students may have missed a few classes that day, but they were able to exercise their civil rights in an organized and well-behaved manner.



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See Ms. Miller in Room 141**