

## WPMS Flings Out Family Fun

By Scott Louis

On February 24, 2010 our Middle School PTA hosted the February Family Fun Fling. This fun-filled event was held in the Highlands North gym and in the auditorium.

At the beginning, everyone entered into the north gym and was welcomed by all types of fun games. Students and parents could try a relay race against their friends, play tug of war, and

hoola-hoop.

Also, kids and parents were able to sign up for the game show event for the evening. A little later the PTA President, Donna Louis, gathered everybody to play a game of heads and tails. After that we all went down to the Highlands auditorium to kick off the main event, "Are You Smarter than a Middle Schooler" game show. For the game show, 5 kids went

against 4 parents in answering a series of questions. They did this for 5 rounds, switching the kids and parents answering the questions every round. In the end, the students' team won against the parents with a score of 54 to 32.

It was an evening of fun and joy for all. For those who didn't go to this event, I suggest you do next year so you don't miss out. This event will not be forgotten for a very long time.



*Tug-of-War*

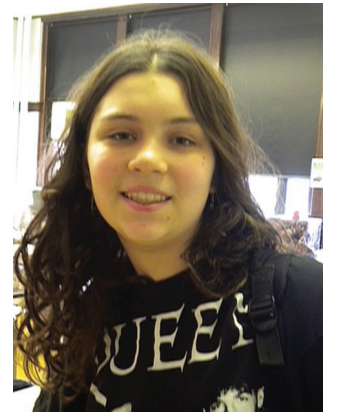
## Eastview's Got Talent!

by Allison Jasne

Friday, March 26 was Eastview's Talent Show - with everything from magic to music! There were a wide variety of performances - I can't even list them all, so I'll list a few.

There were a couple of old-timers. Nicole Carosella, performing for her third talent show, did an awesome performance of Lady Gaga's "Speechless." John Paul (A.K.A JP) and his band performed for another straight year with yet another original song by JP. Sarah Lambert also returned with an amazing performance of "Popular" from the Broadway show *Wicked*.

There were also a couple of new faces. Roman Lynch-Samant & Matt Inganni performed an original song by Rowan. Alexis Gardner read a unique poem entitled "Alone." Nice job to everyone who performed, and we hope to see them again next year!



*Nicole Carosella*

## Sixth Graders Celebrate the 70's in Style

By: Melina Africano and Daniella McCarthy

Peace, love, and dancing—that is what the 6<sup>th</sup> grade dance was all about. On Friday, March 19 the 6<sup>th</sup> graders had their 70's themed dance. The gym was decorated by the S.O and Mrs Haberman. The music, the dancing and the snacks, made it feel like we were on a cloud of fun. Everyone had a good time, including us. The DJ rocked it out with songs from "Baby", by Justin Bieber to "Don't Stop Believing", by Journey. 6<sup>th</sup> graders from Eastview and Highlands united and danced together as one big family. Mrs. Knight even appeared! We all had fun laughing with friends in the North Gym of Highlands Middle School. At Highlands, the kids who were going to the dance had to wait in the cafeteria. Then we all walked into the coolest place. All the teachers helped with the tickets and the snacks. It was nice and the snacks and drinks were tasty. The dance was a great experience that I am happy to be a part of. I hope that you guys all had tons of fun.

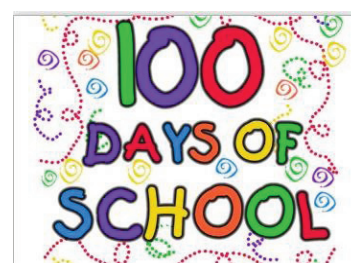
I think that it was really smart to put both schools together, unifying both campuses. For our second dance in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, it was pretty cool. Lots of people showed up, and everyone was really happy. It was really nice how we could see our friends from Eastview easily and just hang out and dance. This was a great big party. The dance was a great experience that we are happy to be a part of. I sincerely think there could be no better dance. I hope that you guys all had tons of fun.



*Sixth graders dance the afternoon away at the S.O. sponsored "70's" dance*



## Students Celebrate 100 Days of Learning



by Allison Jasne

100 of 185 days of school are over and done with! Eastview celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school by having one hundred hearts displayed in the first floor corridor. 100 students wrote what they were thankful for, and added zesty colors and designs. It was all organized by the Eastview S.O., so a huge "kudos" to Mrs. Dunning and Mrs. Potillo!

## Highlands Students Kick it in "A Chorus Line"

By Tori Cignarella

On Thursday, March 4th, and Friday, March 5th, the White Plains Performing Arts Theatre held the show "A Chorus Line". Two students at Highlands Middle School were a part of this performance, Jackie Alfnas and Will Socolof. Jackie was a dancer, and Will played Mark Anthony. The show was very well put together and the singers and dancers were excellent.

Each of the actors was into their part. They made it seem as if the audition were real and that they

were their character. The girl who had played Cassie was surely phenomenal.

Will Socolof quotes, "It was a really exciting experience where I learned a lot about the arts and got to put on a fantastic show thanks to the amazing cast, directors, choreographers, and crew."

Overall, the show was truly spectacular and showed a high level of professional attitude and made it very enjoyable to view. The songs and dances were upbeat and great to listen to and to watch. For young performers, the show was performed extremely well and I give them high hopes for being on the stage in the future.



*In addition to his role in "A Chorus Line", Will Socolof is also cast as the Genie in WPMS'S "Aladdin".*

## NYSSMA Musicians Perform in Albany

by Allison Jasne

Eastview's 6<sup>th</sup> grade band and Advanced Chorus were off - to Albany, that is! On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the group traveled to the capital to perform for *Music In Our Schools* Month, a NYSSMA event. They performed and received a plaque for their performance. "Kudos" for everyone's great performance, and we expect the same at their next (NYSSMA) performance at Irvington High School in Irvington, where the chorus will be judged and given a plaque for their rating!



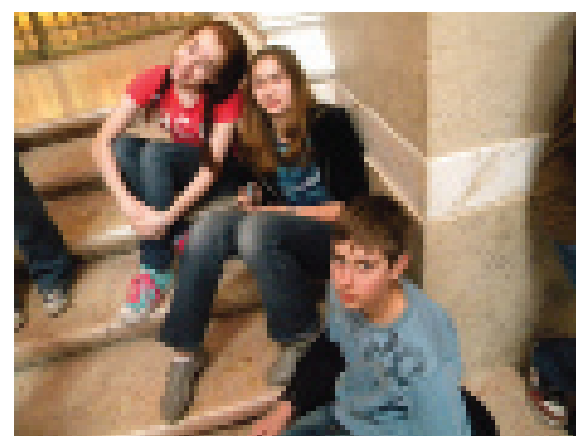
# 8<sup>th</sup> Graders Head To Philly

By Scott Louis and Tori Cignarella

On Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, the Highlands 8<sup>th</sup> grade class traveled to Philadelphia for a day of fun. It was a two and a half hour drive, but it was definitely worth it. First off, we went to the Liberty Bell and then we hopped back onto the bus and traveled down to the Franklin Institute. There we saw the Bodies exhibit, where we got to see real bones and muscles, from bodies of real people that were donated to the exhibit.

After the Bodies exhibit, students were allowed to roam freely throughout the museum. This museum consisted of very fun and educational activities like the giant heart exhibit, where you got to learn about the functions of the heart and its importance. Also, there was the sports area, where people were able to test their strength and do fun activities, such as seeing how fast they could throw, how high they could jump, and if they could handle twirling like an ice skater.

In general, the trip was a fun experience and everyone learned a lot more and had fun at the same time. The trip was so very enjoyable and a great success that it should be continued for years to come.



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White Plains Middle School

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WPMSCourier@gmail.com

## S.O. Update

By Lauren LaPlaca

As you know, our S.O. members have been working very hard to come up with brand new ideas that may become part of both schools, Highlands and Eastview.

Highland's Melina Africano is a sixth grade class representative. I asked her, "What is the S.O. planning to do around the schools?" She said the S.O. is working on improving dances. Of course, we all know that the middle school dances are really fun and awesome!

Another thing that is being discussed is the recycling. The S.O. is working on ways they can make the two schools greener by doing very simple things, like putting more recycling bins around the school. I give a thumbs up to all of the members of the S.O. Keep up the good work!!!





# TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

## Mrs. Conrad

by Jenie Jasne

Mrs. Conrad teaches health at both Eastview and Highlands. She is fun-loving and can make even the most embarrassing topics discussable. Mrs. Conrad loves to teach and was inspired by her elementary teachers at Mamaroneck Avenue School, her 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers at Highlands, her 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers at Eastview and her teachers at WPHS. She has been teaching since 1997. She loves to travel and the popular candy, Laffy Taffy, though she adds that it is bad for your teeth. Mrs. Conrad has a son and husband that she spends her free time with. She's not the only teacher in her family; her mom and sister-in-law teach in Rye. We told her that many people like



Mrs. Conrad teaches real life issues

her as a teacher, but are not comfortable about the subject she teaches. She responded, she says "I feel that some of the topics that are taught in health can be uncomfortable for kids (adults, too). That may be the reason. But, the topics are important and are real life issues."

## Mr. Burch

by Mike Myllek

Mr. Burch is this issue's teacher spotlight. Mr. Burch was born in Kansas and naturally, likes the Kansas Jay Hawks. Mr. Burch teaches at Highlands as a 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher and has been for about 28 years! Talk about dedication!



Mr. Burch has been teaching at WPMS for 28 years!

I asked Mr. Burch what he likes about the school and he told me that he really loves the energy of the students and staff and loves how organized everything is, from how the field trips are organized to the staff and children. Besides raising triplets, which as many know were born this year, Mr.

Burch enjoys watching sports, fishing and golfing in his spare time aside from grading his students' work. Mr. Burch is a great teacher and hopefully will teach at Highlands for many more years to come.

## La Bella Italia

by Hailey Battipaglia

Ciao! Io mi chiamo Hailey e io studio l'italiano. La mia maestra e' signorina Gilot. Nella classe di signorina Gilot noi studiamo la lingua italiana e la storie del bel paese d'Italia. Perche italiano e' divertente? Una ragione e' che, in period. La seconda ragione e' che la maestra e' molto buffa e molto divertente. Lei racconta sempre una barzelletta e tutti ridono. Lei e' a una buonissima maestra. Io sono sicura che vi piacerebbe.



Signorina Gilot



## The Beauty of Italy

Hello! My name is Hailey and I study Italian. My teacher is Miss Gilot. In Ms. Gilot's class, we study the Italian language and history of the beautiful country of Italy. Why is Italian fun? One reason is the period. The second reason is that the teacher is very funny and very entertaining. She always tells a joke and everyone laughs. She is a very good teacher. I am sure you would like her.

# POET'S CORNER

## SOLITUDE

By Amanda Cantú

I seek the solitude, that freezes even flames,  
connecting with your soul, warm me with your love,  
and so the words of prayer tremble, even if the faint-hearted were to disappear,  
following the recurring paths of fate, I gaze upon the never-ending world's destiny,  
oh the ones being sung continuously, will be protected and sleep.



## Tree Poem

By Hadar Arens

You are a monster  
An enormous creature  
I see you everyday  
But not this way

Fallen  
Broken  
Lying there with your  
Bare brown branches  
Never able to get up

I saw you at night  
When the car  
Shined its light on you

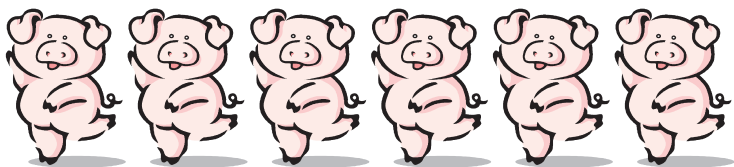
I was  
Shocked  
Amazed  
Speechless

You are a monster  
An enormous creature  
I see you everyday

## PINKY PIGS

By Alejandra Alberto

Pinky pigs putting mud on their skin.  
Pinky punky pigs playing with puppies.  
Pinky pigs eating pancakes for breakfast.  
Poor pinky punky pig; he does not have clothes to fit.  
Poor pinky punky pigs; has problems with purple punky pigs.



## SMART SEA STAR

By Kelly Temaj

When small fish smile  
And the smart sea star goes to sleep;  
Shiny shells are like a group of beautiful good girls.  
Smart sea star swims so slowly.

## ANIMALS IN NEW YORK

by Mateo Vaquero

Swampy spiders showing sadness  
Party parrots persuading purple pencils  
Lazy lobster looking for a lawn  
Bitter bee being mean  
Strange snakes singing sweet songs.

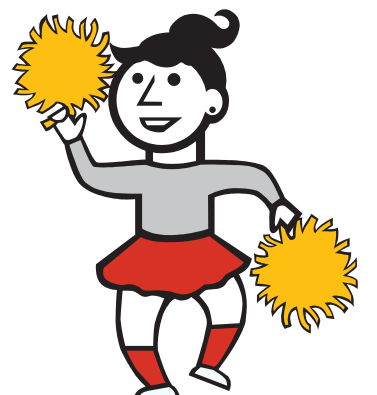
## Who Are Friends?

By Jared Roseman

Friends  
Are meant to be  
Lost  
Sooner or later  
In life.  
You never know  
If a friend  
Is really  
A friend  
At all.  
The purpose of  
Gaining  
In life  
Is to  
Lose.  
Friends are  
Made to  
Be lost  
Forever  
And be  
Abducted by another  
Person  
And get  
Lost  
Again  
Over and over  
Leaving others  
Feeling alone.  
Icy gazes  
Around the room  
With the tingling  
Sensation  
Of being  
Used  
Alone  
And  
Friendless.

## Cheer

Spring is almost here  
Spring is very near  
Spring is all around us  
Spring surrounds us  
When we have fun in the sun  
So  
Go outside  
Play  
And  
Cheer!





# Alele





# Madia





**Editorial**

**Making Healthy Choices at the Snack Bar**

I have noticed that some people buy way too much junk food as their lunch meal instead of something healthy. It soon becomes a habit. This can lead to health problems such as, obesity, diabetes etc. The snack bar and vending machines are there for snacks, not for lunches.

I think that the school should get rid of the vending machines and snack bar so that it would not be an option, for the students to eat junk for lunch. For instance, a student has \$2.00 and is very hungry. He can either spend it on a bag of chips and an artificial juice, or a nutritious meal. If he chooses the chips and juice it would not be a satisfying meal, and they might get hungry again during a class. As a

result, he may have trouble focusing or understanding in class. However, if he does buy the nutritious meal, he might understand and learn more because the body needs the nutrients that were in that meal he had for lunch. This student is spending money on something that is not healthy for him, when he can use that money to buy a meal that is better for his body.

By eating a healthier meal at lunch, a student can learn and focus better compared to eating a sugary and salty snack. One time, I bought 2 sugar cookies from the snack bar. Then in periods 7 and 8, I couldn't concentrate well, like other days when I didn't have those 2 cookies, and I had a satisfying meal.

Getting rid of the snack bar and vending machines in the cafeteria, it will make a great impact in students' learning ability.

**Ask Tigress**

Dear Tigress,

I am so nervous about going to the high school next year. I signed up for 4 honors classes and now I'm afraid the work will be too hard for me. What can I do? I don't want to disappoint my parents.

-HS Honor Horrors

Dear HS,

WHY ARE YOU ALREADY FRETTING OVER HIGH SCHOOL??? For one thing, you haven't even had your orientation, you don't know your teacher, and you are probably causing yourself stress you don't need! Relax, and if next year you're overwhelmed, try talking to your parents. It's better to drop out of honors then to fail them.

-Tigress

Dear Tigress,

I am in classes with all my friends, and we get in trouble all the time for talking. I don't really want to get in trouble anymore but my friends got mad when I tried to switch my seat. They won't stop talking. What should I do?

-Not a Chatterbox

Dear Not A Chatterbox,

You have a few options:

1. Ask them politely
2. Talk to your teacher privately and ask him or her to switch it
3. (This may take time) Let their grades teach them not to talk

-Tigress

Dear Tigress,

I'm a 6th grader and my friends invite me to go to the movies every single weekend. The problem is

that they are allowed to go to the City Center without an adult, but I'm not. I don't want to tell them my parents won't let me because it's embarrassing, but I want to spend time with my friends. What should I do?

-No Movies for Me

Dear No Movies,

You should talk to your parents and find out why you can't go out on your own. Point out your reasons: you'll be with a group of friends; the exact timing (of the movie, drop-off, and pick-up) you'll have your cell phone, etc. Also ask what their reasons are, and try to compromise. Prove you are responsible and mature, and pretty soon you'll be sitting in the Director's Hall!

-Tigress



**Features**

*Movie Reviews*

*Book Reviews*

*Musicians Rock the Grammy's*

By Nicole Carosella

*"What is the difference between a raven and a writing desk?"*

**Alice In Wonderland Hits Theaters - With A Twist**

By Jenie Jasne

"What is the difference between a raven and a writing desk?" -Mad Hatter, *Alice in Wonderland*. Alice is in wonderland - again, 13 years. She's there later to be the White Queen's champion and slay the Jembiwaki with the vocal sword. With the Hatter (who is mad) and her other friends help, can she steal the vocal sword from the Red Queen and return it to the White Queen? In wonderland anything can happen.



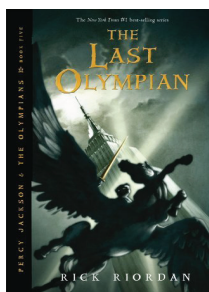
*Johnny Depp stars as "The Mad Hatter" in Alice in Wonderland*

*Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief*

By Lina El-Saieh

*Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief* was based on the popular book series by Rick Riordan. The director, Chris Columbus, did a horrible job interpreting the book into this movie. For example in the book, Percy Jackson (played by Logan Lerman) was twelve, Annabeth Chase (played by Alexandra Daddario) had blond curly hair and Grover Underwood (played by Brandon T. Jackson) was a drip.

Although the movie gave the book no justice, it was still epic! The special effects were amazing. When Percy went see Hades (played by Steve Coogan) Cerberus wasn't there but Hades' hellhounds were. Hades also looked like Mick Jagger that made him look tough but not scary. Poseidon (played by Kevin McKidd) didn't look anything like how Riordan described him, in the book the sea god had swimming trunks and a Hawaiian shirt instead he wore full Greek battle armor. Also, in the movie Mr. D and Calarise weren't there, yet they were major characters in the book. Overall, the movie was okay.

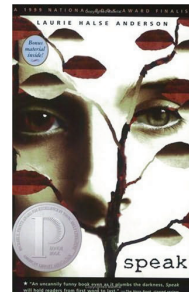


*The Last Olympian by Rick Riordan*

by Jared Rogovin

The Last Olympian is book five, the final book in the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series. This is a thrilling finale for everyone who read the full series.

War is raging. Olympians are fighting. Nymphs are dying, and half bloods are scarce. Percy is nearly sixteen years old. Olympus will be saved or razed. Kronos' army is waaaaay too close to Olympus. Rachel's images are getting stranger. The last Olympian is introduced. Percy discovers the secret to immortality, but I can't tell you what it is. The final battle is between Kronos and Percy, and Riptide can't help him this time! Can the Gods of Olympus and the Half-bloods defeat Typhon and the Titans?



*Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson*

by Cynthia Miranda

It all started that fateful night when she called the cops from the party. Since then, Melinda Sordino hasn't said a word. She walks around only speaking what she really wants to say in her mind. But that's not even safe anymore because every day she thinks about what happened at that high school party. The pain all inside her hurts and sooner or later Melinda will have to speak.

Laurie Halse Anderson does a great job by really showing how Melinda feels about everything she does. I recommend this book to people that enjoy a story about realistic tragedy and how tough being a teen can be.

A myriad of stars came out to enjoy the Grammy's, music's highest honor. Fans got to see lots of celebrities strut the red carpet such as nominees like Beyonce to presenters like Miley Cyrus. The winners of the night included Taylor Swift for Best Album, Beyonce for Song of the Year, and Kings of Leon for Best Record. The Grammy panel awarded The Zac Brown Band Best New Artist. Don't think Lady Gaga went empty handed - she won two awards before the show.

The performances of the night started off with Lady Gaga performing "Poker Face" and then a medley of her song "Speechless" and Sir Elton John's "Your Song" with the Man himself. The other amazing performances came from Beyonce, who had soldiers walking with her, and Pink who did some acrobatics and got a little bit wet.

All the stars looked beautiful at the Grammy's. Taylor Swift won the honor of Best Dressed Female on E's Fashion Police and #4 on Adam's Lambert's Best Dressed list. However, it was Pink who topped Adam's list. My pick for Best Female was Lady Gaga because she was glam, but crazy at the same time. Best Male goes to Adam Lambert because he sparkled-literally.





# Puzzle Page



## Spring Word Search



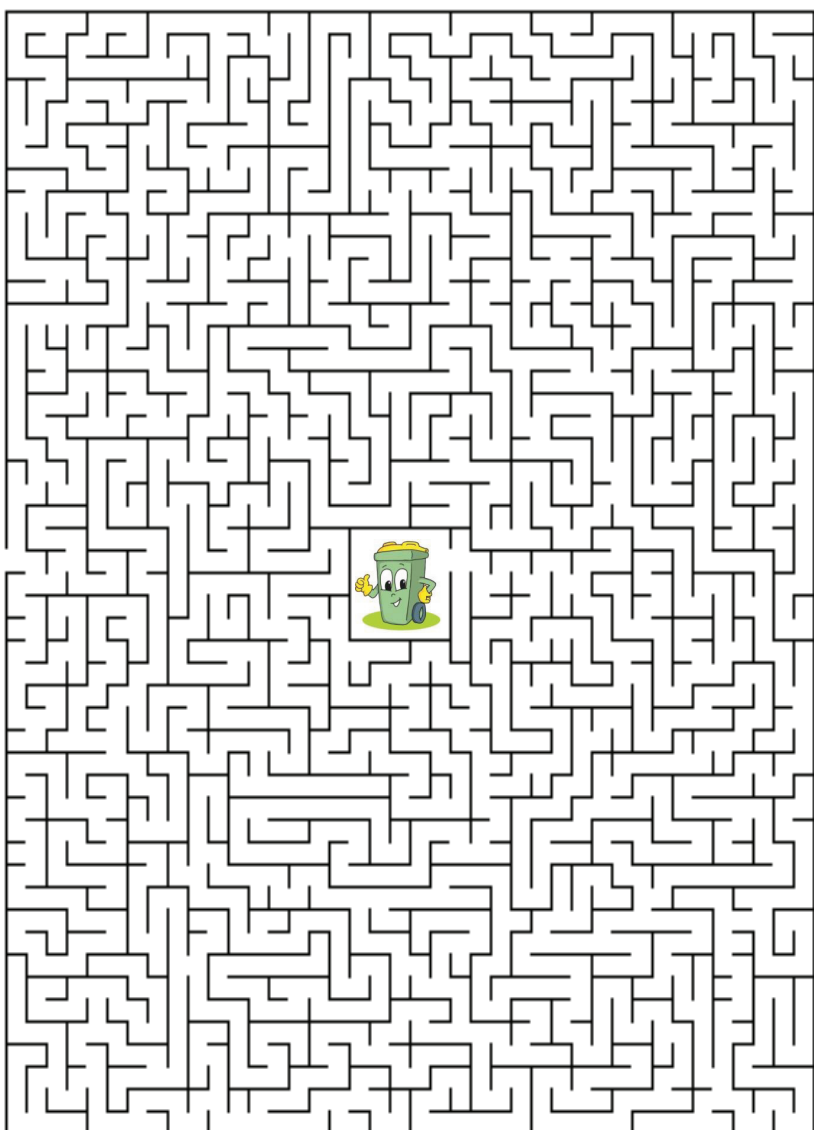
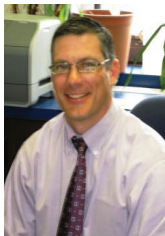
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APRIL  
 BEES  
 BIRDS  
 BUNNY  
 EASTER

EGGS  
 EXCITEMENT  
 FLOWERS  
 FOOLS  
 GREEN

PASSOVER  
 RAINDROPS  
 SPRING  
 SUNSHINE  
 WARMTH

## Help Mr. Brown Get the Paper Into the Recycling Bin



## Attention WPMS Photographers!



Do you want to see your photograph in print?

Are you dying to show the world your photography?



Then enter your best work into the  
**WPMS 2010**  
 photography contest!

Photographs can be entered into one of five categories:

Nature or Landscape



Portrait

Mystery Pic

Most Artistic



Architecture

To enter your submission, to the Courier, just upload it and send it



wpscourier@gmail.com  
 by May 28th

Winner's pictures will be featured in the June issue of The Courier

## April's Math Square Puzzle

	x		+		13
+		/		x	
	-		+		7
x		x		+	
	+		-		4
15		6			51

Try to fill in the missing numbers.

Use the numbers 1 through 9 to complete the equations.

Each number is only used once. Each row is a math equation. Each column is a math equation. Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

Join The Courier staff in Celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of

# EARTH DAY!

April 22, 2010



Reduce, reuse and recycle,  
 and Plant a tree (or two).

Your children and your grandchildren  
 will surely thank you!



