

# THE COURIER

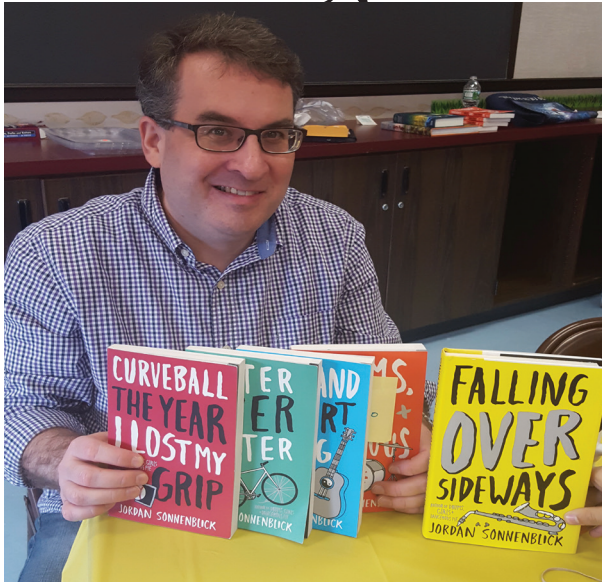
VOLUME 94, NUMBER 1

WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK 10605

DECEMBER 2016

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

## Jordan Sonnenblick Visits Highlands



By Mynette Guerrero

book and get it ready for publishing.

On November 2nd, Jordan Sonnenblick came to Highlands Middle School to talk about what he went through in his life and his books. He has written many books such as *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*, *Notes from the Midnight Driver*, *After Ever After*, *Curveball The Year I Lost My Grip*, and *Falling Over Sideways*. (Check them out at the school and public library!) I got the chance to ask him many questions that day, after his speech. Here is our conversation.

### **What is your writing process like?**

First an idea pops into my head. The idea comes from a real life problem from a kid I know that inspired me. Then I start doing research. The research I was doing for *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* was to find out about cancer because I didn't know ANYTHING about cancer and the therapy they did. After that I did an outline, and then wrote my rough draft. Revising/editing was the hardest part.

### **How did publishing your first book change your writing process?**

While writing *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* I wrote step by step in a very organized way. While writing this book, I was afraid I wouldn't finish but I eventually did. When writing the 2nd book I got a bit cocky. I skipped around and wrote out of order.

### **What did you edit out of *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*?**

When I first started writing this book the beginning and end was not on stage. There was not a happy ending. It all ended with Samantha dying. Once I started finishing the book I realized that I had to have some sort of happiness, so I added the graduation part at the beginning and at the end.

### **How long did it take you to write *Drums Girls, and Dangerous Pie*?**

I wrote the book for two hours a day. It took me a year to finish the entire

### **Did you come across any specific challenges?**

One of the biggest challenges I faced was trying to get all the medical things that are in the book correct. I used to call my friend that was a doctor, and ask things about cancer and its side effects.

### **If you could tell your younger writing self to become a better writer or anything, what would you say?**

I wouldn't tell myself anything. All of this happened for a reason. I wouldn't change anything before meeting the person who inspired me to write *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*.

### **Do you hide any secrets in your books that only few will find?**

Well one thing people don't know is that the names in the book came from friends, family, and a store's name.

### **What was the hardest scene to write in '*After Ever After*'?**

The hardest part to write was Tad dying.

### **Are you working on a book now?**

I just finished a book called, *Secret Sheriff of 6th Grade*. This book will be released this summer.

### **What was your favorite chapter to write in '*After Ever After*'?**

My favorite chapter to write was all about Jefferory and Lindsey, and about Tad walking down the stairs of school.

### **Did you learn anything from writing *After Ever After*?**

I learned a lot about cancer, especially the side effects.

### **Why did you title the book *After Ever After*?**

I titled it this because people think you "live happily ever after" after having cancer. But you have a lot of "stuff" to deal with afterwards.

## Trump's Victory: America Reacts

By Elleah Henry & Emily Jones

On November 8, 2016 Donald J. Trump was officially elected the president of the United States, despite secretary Hillary Clinton winning the popular vote. You might be wondering how Trump was able to persuade the American people that he's going to #makeamericagreatagain. Since the end of the election, Americans have been reacting strongly to the results in many different ways. For Trump supporters, many are very happy about their huge win and about Donald Trump's plans for our economy, healthcare, gun control and other issues. However, many Clinton supporters feel differently.

After our recent election results, Donald Trump's opinion has been made clear, whereas Hilary has not vocalized her feelings for her supporters quite as much. Showing good sportsmanship, Hilary Clinton has congratulated Trump. She is still hurt and emotional along with many of her supporters. "This is not the outcome we wanted or worked so hard for. This is painful, and it will be for a very long time. But please, never stop believing." Hilary stated this on election night after the results were revealed.

Does social media agree with the election results?

Well, on Twitter celebrities have mixed reactions. Many were displeased about the election. Lindsay Lohan tweeted, "Retweet if you want a recount." Rashida Jones also tweeted, "I want to quit life." But, Willie Robertson tweeted, "I love Trump. How can you not love Trump?" social media hashtags included #notmypresident, #dumptrump, #hilaryinprison, etc.

Recently, Mike Pence came to a Hamilton play in New York City. Before the play he thought everyone was going to be happy and supportive about his and Mr. Trump's win. What he wasn't prepared for was the negative, hurtful comments he got toward his vice presidency and his running mate's presidency. At the end of the play, when the cast members of Hamilton finally realized where the negativity came from, the cast writers decided to create a special line at the end of the play for vice president Aaron Burr, played by a young African American male named Brandon Dixon. He stated, "We, sir, we are the diverse America who are alarmed and anxious that your administration will not protect us, our planet, our parents or defend us and uphold our inalienable rights, sir. But we truly hope this show has inspired you to uphold our American values and work on behalf of all of us. All of us." Donald Trump immediately reacted furiously on Twitter saying, "Our wonderful future V.P. Mike Pence was harassed last night at the theater by the cast of Hamilton, cameras blaz-

ing. This should not happen!" He further tweeted: "The Theater must always be a safe and special place. The cast of Hamilton was very rude last night to a very good man, Mike Pence. Apologize!" Mr. Dixon responded in a later post: "@realDonaldTrump conversation is not harassment sir. And I appreciate @mike\_pence for stopping to listen". Donald trump then fired back saying, "Very rude and insulting of Hamilton cast member to treat our great future V.P. Mike Pence to a theater lecture. Couldn't even memorize lines!" Do you think it was harassment?

Americans are making their voices heard by forming protests all over the country about their feelings on the soon to be 45<sup>th</sup> president. Though some protests started out peacefully, police said "criminal and dangerous behavior" broke out. Because of this, many protesters have been arrested across the nation. In Minneapolis, police famously blocked a roadway to prevent protesters from continuing their march. In Los Angeles, graffiti were reported in the streets. However, most shockingly, Americans have started protesting all over the country in places like Portland, Los Angeles, Washington D.C and New York. Some common chants and shouts in the protests included, "Love trumps hate", "Not my president", "Dump trump and \*\*\*\* Donald Trump". But that was just the beginning. The more people protested, the more America divided. Because of this historical election, America is broken. Now we are forced to see the consequences of our actions, just because some Americans were either too lazy to go out and vote or anti-feminists couldn't deal with the fact that a successful and passionate woman of her time, could be the next president of the United States.

As you might have noticed whether you're walking on the street or you've seen it on the news, this election has brought inspiration of fashion wear. People of each political party have created slogans based on their political beliefs. Some Republican slogans were: raised right, build the wall; enforce the law, trump that B\*\*\*\* etc. Some Democratic slogans were you be Hiillin, anything bill can do hill can do better, and when they go low, we go high. However, the interesting new trend is wearing safety pins. This has become a way for people across America to show that they support the people who are being targeted by Donald Trump and they are willing to stand up for the targeted. Is this the end of America? Is this really happening? Have we really put our diversity and democracy into the hands of a man who engages in Twitter wars, openly speaks of sexually harassing women, and mocks those with disabilities?



# Clown Sightings Incite Fear

by Anna O'Hanlon

The clown sightings have been going on for a while. There have been reports of clown sightings since the late 80's. No one is sure though, there might have been even more unreported cases of clown sightings. Maybe they were reported but people didn't make a big deal of it and just dealt with the clowns and that was that.

Nowadays though it's hard because once something gets out; the whole world will know. There is social media and the internet. It then becomes a game of telephone... if someone hears the wrong thing they will spread the wrong news; and then people might continue to hear what is wrong and what people are spreading is way off from what's actually going on. Not only might people hear the wrong thing... people can and will add their own information and opinions.

One of the questions that is being asked is why?

Why are they doing this...?

Why do they find joy in scaring younger kids, even teens and adults...?

Before that is answered you should realize that there are two types of clowns...

Phantom Clowns: Who are often reported or "seen" by children. They are usually seen trying to lure or abduct kids; usually around wooded areas, or areas that don't have that many people around.

Stalker Clowns: Prankish & menacing figures who may turn up in parking lots or parks. They usually turn out to be someone dressed up as a clown. They usually are doing it either as a stunt or for publicity.

So, the reason that there have been so many clowns in certain places is because of the appeal of being a stalker clown is simple: being creepy, dressing as a scary clown in public, but not usually anything else - usually not anything illegal at least. "They're essentially all copycats," according to Benjamin Radford, author of "Bad Clowns".

It is unclear what may have started the recent clown sightings. Both types of clowns have been reported in recent news. Some incidents in recent years have made national news, and even in some cases international news. In local news though, there have been scattered reports of clowns doing more than scaring. Instead, clowns were spotted chasing and/or assaulting people.

There was a lot of drama in White Plains. People made fake social media accounts saying they were clowns, and were saying their "plan" about going around to scare people. After a few weeks all of the drama simmered down. On Halloween day in White Plains, there might have been a few clowns but it didn't get out of hand.

# Stereotypes

By Marina Rosenthal and Sydney Lonker

Stereotypes seem to follow everyone around from cradle to grave. Everywhere we go, we are faced with hasty assumptions. These are commonly based on someone's pre-existing thoughts on a certain category we might fall into. If you were to Google it, the definition of stereotype is an oversimplified image or idea of a person or thing. In other words, a stereotype is an idea or statement that categorizes a group in a certain way. For example, if someone were to say that all Americans are obese and dim, that person would be stereotyping. In middle school, these assumptions progressively worsen. It appears that we

jump to stereotype others just to find labels that aren't really there. For instance, seeing someone with glasses and assuming that they are a "nerd" or seeing a friend wearing all black one day and jokingly calling them "emo" is possibly one of the most ridiculous things ever. These examples may seem a bit far-fetched to you, but just think of all the times you've witnessed stereotyping, or have even stereotyped against someone else. The idea that one characteristic applies to an entire group or population leads to bullying, discrimination and myriads of misunderstandings.

# Is P.E. necessary for athletes?

By Anna O'Hanlon

I personally think that athletes should take Physical Education (PE) in school. I think that they should because in PE the coaches teach different skills. In PE there are different units, and you focus on different things almost every day. In physical education we do team building activities to learn how to work together and gain trust.

In sports, you learn only that sport along with the drills and exercises that have to do with that sport. For example, if you are on the swim team, you work on different strokes and do drills. On the track team, you work on distance and speed. In this example, you might work on distance and speed for swimming too, but they are two completely different ways of practicing that for each sport. The team does team building activities too but it's to learn more about the game and how to play with each other. For these reasons and many others, I think that even if you do a sport, you should take physical

education in school. I interviewed a few people to see what their opinions were.

One person said that students should take gym. She said that in Physical Education you learn more than you do in a sport.

Marina Rosenthal said, "Gym teachers teach team building skills, and encourage teamwork with each other." Olivia Austin said "no" because coaches have their students do drills and other activities. Having students do their sport drills and also having them do gym is pushing them too far past their limit. Sydney Lonker said, "As long as the athletes are having four or more days of practice, they should be exempt. If they aren't, then they should be taking PE."

Elleah Henry stated "it is unfair because they are already having physical activity and in gym the activities we do don't benefit us."

# U.S. Sees Spike in Hate Crimes

By Emily Gardner

As you know, our president elect is Donald J. Trump. There have been many hate crimes post-election. One hate crime involved a Muslim student threatened with a lighter unless she removed her hijab. Here is what happened. In Ann Harbor Michigan, investigators reported that a man described as 20-30 years of age, intoxicated, advanced on a Muslim student and terrorized her by threatening to set her on fire, unless she removed her hijab. The Council on American-Islamic Relations said, "the alleged attack is among a spate of anti-Muslim incidents reported since Trump won the election". Furthermore, a hate crime was committed in a high school in Minnesota, as a student stated he was terrified to see a racist graffiti scrawled inside a bathroom. CNN.com reported that "someone hand wrote "#gobacktoafrika"

and "make America great again" on a toilet dispenser." "That's the first time I honestly felt like crying at school," Moses Karngbaye told CNN. Alongside these comments, the restroom door was covered in graffiti saying, "whites only," "White America" and "Trump". In addition to these hate crimes, the day after Trump's Victory, CNN.com states " someone painted racist messages referencing the election on a wall in Durham, North California. The message said, "Black lives don't matter and neither do your votes." Also, 'Deportation' letters were handed out at a high school in Redding California. One of the students who attended the school posted a video on twitter with the 'deportation' on the papers. CNN.com declared, "The students appeared to be a variety of ethnicities." These events are shocking and disturbing in a country known for its diversity.

# Police Shootings on the Rise



By Anna O'Hanlon

There have been many shootings of police all over the United States. In most cases, police men and women are getting killed because the individuals have something against police. They also might have a mental issue and they kill police for whatever reason that is going through their mind.

One of the many shootings that has happened is the shooting in Palm Springs, on October 9th. "John Felix, 26, was arrested following the shootout, which started at 12:20 p.m. Saturday when three Palm Springs police officers responded to a domestic dispute." John Felix suddenly opened fire on the officers. Court records show that Felix is a gang member who had been put in jail for four years for a failed murder in 2009. Three police officers were shot and two of them passed away. Their names were Jose Gilbert Vega and Lesley Zerebny. Another shooting that occurred was in Dallas on the eighth of July. The gunman in this case was Micha Xavier Johnson, a military vet who had served in Afghanistan. The ambush started with gunshots that killed five officers and injured several others, and sent screaming crowds scrambling for cover. It ended when a Dallas police bomb squad robot killed Johnson, the gunman after negotiations failed." Police later searched his home and found bomb making materials and guns. They also found out that this attack had been planned for a while, and had been very well thought out.

There have also been lots of shootings of innocent people. There have been about 850 innocent people killed by police officers. One example of someone who has been killed is Donnell Thompson. There was a car that was stolen in LA. Someone saw a man who they thought matched the description of the carjacking suspect. That person called 911 and when the police arrived the man was lying motionless on the ground. He was not listening to the police's orders. The SWAT team came and repeated the orders but he stayed lying motionless on the ground. When he was hit with foam bullets he got up onto his feet and ran toward an armored vehicle. A member from the SWAT team then opened fire, hitting Thompson twice in the upper torso. Another shooting that happened was in Arizona. The victim in this case was Daniel Shaver. He was playfully firing a pellet gun up in the air out of a motel window. Unfortunately, and coincidentally, a police officer saw him. Shaver did not respond to police orders and was shot by the police.

People around the country have responded to the shootings with protests, some peaceful, and others not so much. Hashtags and slogans such as "black lives matter" and "blue lives matter" have become popular as well. Both police and the communities they are supposed to protect and serve are in fear for their safety on a daily basis.



# Letter to the Editor

Hello Mr. Spatafore,

There has been something that I really wanted to address with you because it's been bothering me. The new recess arrangements are very inconvenient. To begin, I'm not in favor of the fact that all the students not engaging in physical activities are forced to move off of the pavement and on to the soccer field at lunch time. My friends and I enjoy the pavement because it's fairly close to where we line-up to enter the building to rush to our lockers and then to class, but now, everyone else like the students in my group (who simply want to talk) are put into the soccer field. The thing is, it takes quite a while to exit the soccer field after the whistle has been blown because the gate is small. In addition to this, the field is farther away and so the walk to the line takes longer. While the walk is not an issue at all, this additional time along with the exiting of the soccer field results in putting us even farther back to the line that leads back inside school by the time we get there. Also, what's ironic is that even though the intention of this adjustment is to make things safer, someone kicked a soccer ball and hit my leg today. Those of us that were forced to move are in a fenced-in area, so the chances of getting hurt remains relatively the same

due to the lack of space.

I'd like to propose a solution (I've talked with a few friends and they agree). How about the soccer players go to the field, the basketball players to the courts, and the people who just want to talk to go on the pavement that's no longer being used? I understand that the main reason for the change in the first place was the fact that people are getting injured because of the paved ground, however if no one running around is on that area, the risk of injury should be very low. In fact, it would seem logical that kids running around will undergo fewer injuries on grass than on pavement, that's why we should use the field for students who'd like to play sports as well.

It's very tedious to move to the field and back, and I'd like to change back to the old way, but with designated areas for sports players so there won't be soccer players on the pavement getting hurt.

I completely understand if you won't change the current arrangement, but I would very much appreciate if you were able to change our new routine (My lunch time is 7th period). Thank you for your time.

--Name withheld at author's request

# Make America Waffles

The border wall is one of the few policy proposals that Donald Trump has talked about in detail. Instead of mocking or dismissing it out of hand, let's take a serious proposal by a serious presidential candidate seriously. It's customary for a presidential candidate to talk about the proposals and policies they want to enforce as president. Putting aside the obvious racism and xenophobia for a moment, let's focus on the reality of the construction of the wall.

At the beginning of the campaign, in response to a question of price, Trump said, "They say my wall will cost at least ten billion. That's really four billion if you know what you're doing." Some would say that's an insane magic trick, but I don't believe his tiny sensitive fingers could actually wrap around a magic wand. Over the span of four months, Donald changed his cost estimate from four billion to twelve billion. His margin of error is much larger than the population of China. I bet you're either thinking, "Twelve billion seems like enough" or, "Twelve billion is not nearly enough." Well to find out exactly how much this wall would actually cost during construction you need to know your variables. The first variable to consider is what it's actually made of. Thankfully a seven-year-old thought to ask Donald Trump that at one of his campaign rallies. "Hardened concrete, rebar, and steel," was Trump's answer. You can't exactly do much with just the materials, you still have a variable, which is height range. Trump has given a range of anywhere from 35 to 90 feet tall for the projected wall height. Taking Trump's lowest height range, NPR asked a construction worker about how much it would cost for concrete panels. The answer was ten billion. It would cost an additional five to six billion for the columns to support the wall and for labor costs. That doesn't include another billion for the foundation and the footings. That's about sixteen billion dollars just for those parts of the wall. We're not even halfway done with figuring the total cost and it's already exceeded Trump's estimate. With all the heavy material you need big trucks that can actually transport the metal, and a clear path to where you intend to build the wall; which in itself is going to be tricky. According

only \$96 billion dollars off, no biggie right? The wall's like a huge tiger. You think it's a great idea to have one now, but wait till you have to buy all the food. You're not prepared for the cost! And if I still haven't convinced you yet that it's a stupid, and impractical idea, maybe this will. Who doesn't love Mexico? Oh that's right, Trump and his supporters. They hate Mexico so much that Trump has stated, "Mexico's paying for the wall and they'll be happy." Trump has figured out peoples' darkest secret, they love to pay for things they don't want. That's why everyone loves paying for your internet, cable and landline. Because landlines are so practical right now.

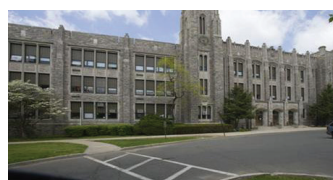
When Mexico's leader heard about the insinuation that they'd be paying, they told the people of Mexico they weren't. "The wall just got ten feet taller!" was Trump's response to the leaders. What he doesn't know is things don't just get taller when you're angry. If that was true Eminem would be over a million feet by now. Trump goes on to say that Mexico will pay because they owe us \$58 billion dollars in trade deficits, which is true but that's not how any part of the government works at all.

Let's move onto another important variable in the wall, which is where are we planning to build it. Everyone's instincts say that we need to put it over the border. But as we learned from the 2006 border fence that doesn't exactly work. Since part of the border is the Rio Grande River, which is protected by law, they pushed it back a little bit. So now there's a large portion of land that isn't Mexican or American. It's basically like the breakfast burrito from Taco Bell. It isn't really American but it sure as heck isn't Mexican. Part of Trump's reasoning for the wall is to stop the illegal transport of drugs. But people will still be able to smuggle them through airports, tunnels, and the old fashioned baseball throw. Trump was asked if he thought people would be able to get over the wall. "No one is getting over that thing. Even if they do they're in trouble because there isn't a way down. Well... maybe a rope." Exactly! Human kind's invention can defeat your 'brilliant' plan. The Wall's really only there to make the racist Americans feel safe and warm. If Americans wanted to feel warm and safe in their own home, Trump could buy every man, woman, and child their own waffle maker. Because who doesn't love waffles? If he did do that, he probably would still have money left over and then he could buy everyone their own pancake maker if they wish to have one. And let's be honest, who doesn't want one?

# Mr. Spatafore's Reply

Thank you for your email. First, I have to congratulate you on an exceptionally well-conceived and written letter. Your suggestion is clearly stated along with some compelling reasons for implementing the change. Since receiving your email, I discussed your ideas with the Assistant Principals and we have made some changes. Please understand that the original plan was not arbitrary but was based on the number and arrangement of adults

supervising recess. With the concerns that you described in mind and with a few minor adjustments we were able to implement your suggestion so that students who would like to "just talk" can remain on the pavement. In the future, please keep in mind that I am always happy to meet with students to discuss any concerns in person (although this was a great email to read). Thank you for voicing your opinion and helping to improve our school community!



## THE COURIER

White Plains Middle School

### EDITORIAL BOARD AND STAFF

#### Editors-in-Chief

Olivia Austin, Anna Kristina O'Hanlon

Managing Editor  
OPEN

Associate Editor  
OPEN

Webmaster  
Ms. Goudreau

Copyeditor  
OPEN

Layout Editor  
Aine Nicholson

Sports Editor  
OPEN

Photography Editor  
OPEN

Office Manager  
OPEN

Circulation Editor  
OPEN

#### Staff and Contributors

Sofia Bonelli, Keiran Bricker, Emily Gardner, Louis Goldberg, Mynette Guerrero, Elleah Henry, Emily Jones, Sydney Lonker, Marina Rosenthal

Advisor  
Rachel Miller

#### Editorial Policy

Editorials reflect the opinion of the editorial board and, unless otherwise noted, are written by members of the staff. The editorial board solicits responsible commentaries and letters-to-the-editor, but reserves the right to edit for style, grammar, or space limitations. Letters and commentaries containing obscenity or libelous comments will not be published. All letters must be signed or they will not be published, however your name can be withheld upon request.





# Highlands

The week of October 23rd, the building was decorated with red ribbons and the front bulletin board had a message about Red Ribbon Week. Highlands celebrated Red Ribbon Week by wearing camouflage or red clothing to show their support in "Joining the Fight Against Drugs". Over 500 students participated and had the opportunity to enter their names in a raffle to win a prize. Students were enthusiastic about participating and several asked questions about what else they could do to show their support. Red bracelets which were purchased by the WPYB were offered at the front desk for anyone who wished to continue to show their support.



On September 20, Highlands celebrated "Dads Take Your Children to School Day". The fathers and their children enjoyed some quality time together over a delicious breakfast!



On November 10, teams 8A & 8B took a trip to Ellis Island. Students visited the Immigration Museum and saw the Statue of Liberty.

On October 11, the 7th grade took a trip to Bear Mountain. Students and staff had a blast!



On October 5, Highlands' students participated in the annual Walk/Bike to school day. Here they are joined by White Plains Mayor Roach.

On the evening of November 10, White Plains students and staff participated in the District's annual Technology Expo evening. Parents and students had the opportunity to learn about the technology utilized throughout the district, as well as attend presentations on Internet Safety and digital resources. Here, student members of the Programming Club pose with the District's robot, T-Bot.

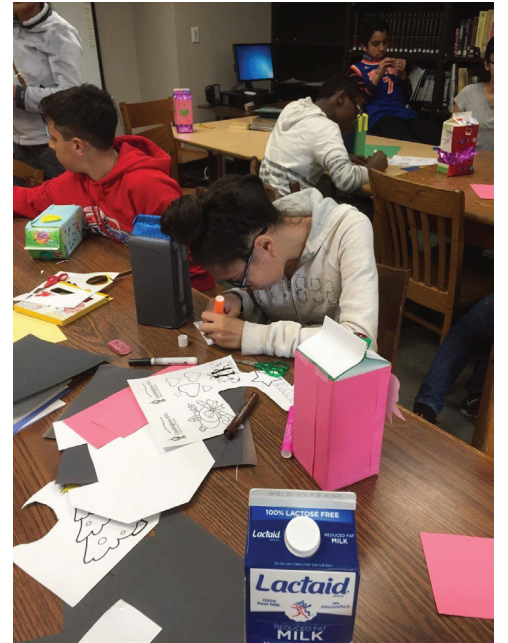


# Happenings

During Spirit Week in October, Highlands students participated in a "Let's Stick Together" team-building challenge. The students created a mosaic picture of a tiger consisting of 4,000 tiny post-its. Each student had the opportunity to place post-its. Go check out the finished product in the Media Center!



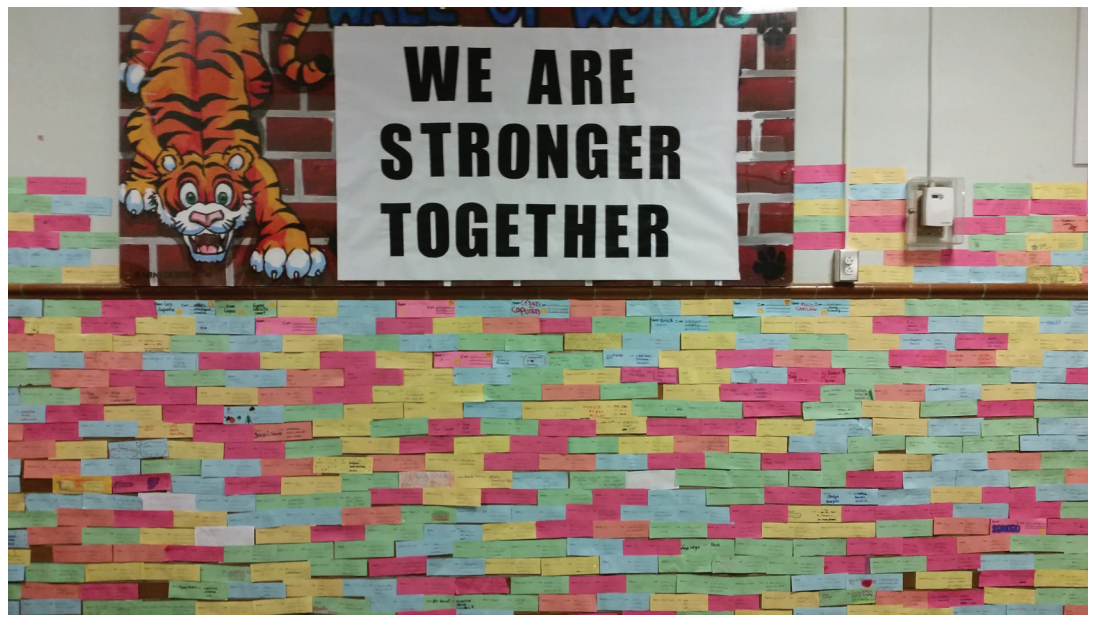
The S.O. of Highlands in conjunction with the Global Ambassadors sponsored a "Helping Hands" Project. It is part of the YOUTH UPLIFT CHALLENGE where the Bezos Foundation through Students Rebuild, will donate \$1.90 for each hand the students trace and draw (up to \$500,000.) The S.O. began with a lunch period kick off where over one thousand hands were made. Then many staff members participated and challenged their students to help end poverty in our world by doing this simple deed. We created over 2,600 to date, and have raised \$7,500 and counting!!!



Every year team 8D holds their Milk-Carton Fundraiser to raise money for foundations (or people) that do "good" work. Last year we raised over \$2000 for the Ronald McDonald House of NYC, and this year we chose to fundraise for Candlelighters NYC, a remarkable foundation that helps families whose children are battling cancer. As a team we aim to teach students the importance of making a difference in their world, spreading compassion, and in the end, to "be the change they want to see in the world!"



On November 23, Highlands students participated in an activity designed to promote tolerance, respect, and unity. Students were given a "brick" and asked to write 3 things about themselves. Students then participated in building the unity wall during all lunch periods.





# Teacher Spotlight: Ms. Garcia & Mr. Babicz



**Ms. Garcia and Mr. Babicz are two of our fantastic Highlands science teachers!**



*Tell us about your education. Where did you go to college and/or high school?*

I went to White Plains high school, I got my Bachelor's Degree at Sacred Heart University and my Master's Degree at Mercy College.

*What job did you have before you became a teacher?*

I was a pharmacy technician and a dental assistant. I held down 2 jobs while in graduate school.

*Why did you become a teacher?*

I wanted a job where I could help people. I also love working with children.

*What is the best part about your job?*

The best part of my job is the kids and being able to grow a love and appreciation for science.

*Would you describe yourself as a "tough" teacher or an "understanding" teacher?*

I would describe myself as a fair teacher.

*What is something funny you say to your students?*

"Questions, Comments, Concerns?"

*Who is your hero and why?*

My hero is my dad. He has always taught me that to achieve your dreams, you have to work hard no matter how hard the obstacles may be.

*Can you describe yourself in 3-5 words?*

Humorous, determined, disciplined, family oriented, and honest.

*What advice do you have for your students?*

*What message would you like your students to remember?*

Never give up on your dreams. Always believe you are capable of what you set your mind to.

*How do you make learning fun for your students?*

I try to bring in real life situations into the classroom so that they can relate to what we are learning.

*Tell us about your education. Where did you go to college and/or high school?*

I went to the Swedish Institute for Massage Therapy, Pace University, and Sullivan County Community College.

*What job did you have before you became a teacher?*

I worked in restaurants.

*Why did you become a teacher?*

I became a teacher because I hated school and I wanted to make a change, so I wanted to be a fun, motivating teacher for students.

*What is the best part about your job?*

The best part of my job is seeing the kids expand their love of science. Also the relationships.

*Would you describe yourself as a "tough" teacher or an "understanding" teacher?*

I would describe myself as a fair teacher with clear expectations.

*What is something funny you say to your*

*students?*

"Run Babicz Run" / "Run Forest Run".

*Who is your hero and why?*

My hero is my dad because he was always so kind to everyone he met regardless of their position in life.

*Can you describe yourself in 3-5 words?*

Calm, loving, passionate, diligent, and hard working.

*What advice do you have for your students?*

*What message would you like your students to remember?*

Embrace your inner nerd.

*How do you make learning fun for your students?*

I like to incorporate drawing, breaking up class time for a game, doing cheesy jokes of the day and lots of group work.

## Movie Review: Storks

By Sofia Bonelli

Storks deliver babies or at least people used to say they did. In the movie Storks, the storks have been delivering for a retail company named cornerstore.com. When Junior (Andy Samberg), the company's top stork is being promoted to boss, he must deal with one problem. When Orphan Tulip (Katie Crown) the only human on Stork Mountain creates a baby it is up to Junior and Orphan Tulip to help this baby get home before the boss (Kelsey Grammer) finds out. In order to do this, they must find a way using friendship, hard work and of course, a bit of baby cuteness.

Storks was released on September 23. It is a hilarious film all about, you guessed it: storks. Staring in this film are

Andy Samberg, Katie Crown, Kelsey Grammer, Jennifer Aniston, Ty Burrell and Anton Starkman, just to name a few. The amazing directors of the film were Nicolas Stoller and Doug Sweetland. This fantasy adventure has already hit the box office record of 82.4 million. The intended audience for storks is 7+. In the movie storks Jason Derulo released his newest single "Kiss the Sky". Over all I believe Storks to be a great family movie with lots of action, comedy and of course babies. My favorite character was Orphan Tulip, because of how funny she is and how she is determined to find her family. My favorite part was when Junior and Orphan Tulip thought that they accidentally created a baby. Enjoy the movie!!!

## Pokémon: Gotta Catch 'em All!

By Keiran Bricker

With the recent release of 'Pokémon Go' and the recent release of 'Pokémon Sun and Moon', the choices of Pokémon games are in; and as an avid Pokémon player I've chosen my top three Pokémon games.

At number three we have 'Pokémon White 2', coming in at an overall 80% with metacritic.com, as one review says from Kamal\_Voltatic, "I've always been a massive fan of the Pokémon series, so I guess it might be a little biased. But I absolutely love this game. New features like Pokèstar Studios might be a little unnecessary, but the game itself is a triumph. I'm still addicted after months of getting it."

With that, the reviewer gave it a

nine out of ten. At number two we have 'Pokémon Diamond' at an 85% with metacritic.com, it's sure to hit the diamond (Pun Intended). I absolutely LOVE this game, which is the first game I ever got. I love this game because of its new features such as the underground where you can mine for fossils and rare items, build a secret base, and many more.

And at number one we have 'Pokémon Soul Silver', with an overall 87% on metacritic.com. As Gamervision says, "Despite a few frustrations, this is easily one of the most addictive role-playing games on the DS, and catching, battling, raising, and breeding Pokémon could keep you occupied for months. There has never been a better time to catch them all." Thanks for

**Write a review for The Courier! See Ms. Miller in room 141 if you are interested!**

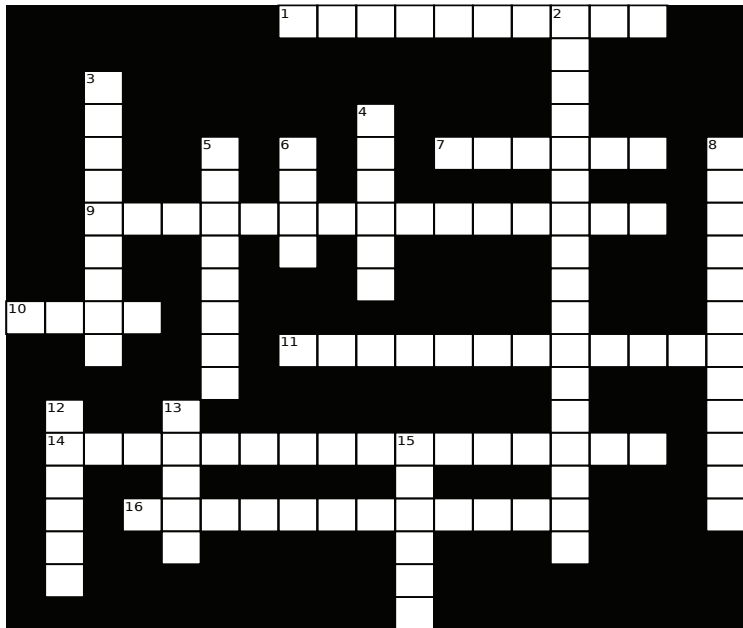


# Spirit Week 2016





Fall  
Emily Gardner



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Across<br/>traditional Thanksgiving pie (2 Words)</p> <p>7 gobble gobble</p> <p>9 the time or date at which the sun crosses the celestial equator (2 Words)</p> <p>10 a thing everyone loves</p> <p>11 a fun activity to do in the fall (2 Words)</p> <p>14 #imwithher / #notmypresident (2 Words)</p> <p>16 when you get candy (3 Words)</p> | <p>2 Down<br/>starbucks fall drink (3 Words)</p> <p>3 a thing some animals do in the fall</p> <p>4 can be put in pie or cider a food usually on the Thanksgiving table made of bread</p> <p>5 a type of weather pattern that happens in the fall a holiday in between months oct. and dec.</p> <p>8 a living thing that goes through many 'wardrobe changes'</p> <p>12 a thing squirrels eat</p> <p>15 Pre-winter / fancy word for fall</p> |
|--|---|

## Joke Corner

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>I. Why did the pelican get kicked out of the restaurant? Because he had a very big bill.</p> <p>II. Yo mama's legs are so short she hovers when she breaks wind.</p> <p>II. The good news is; President Obama was born in America. The bad news is, so was Donald Trump. —Jay Leno</p> <p>V. I would love to stay and chat but I really moustache.</p> <p>V. Anything that doesn't matter, has no mass.</p> <p>VI. Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.</p> <p>VII. If a cop pulls over a U-Haul, is he trying to bust a move?</p> <p>VIII. Change is hard, have you</p> | <p>ever tried to bend a coin?</p> <p>IX. No one has really good science jokes anymore because all the good ones' argon.</p> <p>X. I'm like a really down to earth guy because you know... gravity.</p> |
|--|--|

# World Champion Mets!



By Louis Goldberg

The most important games in baseball every year are known as the Major League Baseball World Series. The two best teams in the sport, one representing the National League, and the other representing the American League, face off in late October to early November, to determine who will be the champion of baseball. This is always an epic showdown for the title, but some years, like this one, it is a little more interesting. This year, the best team in baseball by far was the Chicago Cubs, with an outstanding record of 103 wins, and only 58 losses. The Cubs, who have not always been thought of as a great team, had their breakout season last year. At that time, the Cubs got pretty far into the post-season, but fell to the New York Mets in the National League Championship Series. But this year, they made history. For the first time in 108 years, the Cubs not only made their way to the World Series, but won it, with one of the best World Series comebacks of all time. How did they get there? Let me explain.

Not only did the Cubs have the best record in the MLB, but they also made their way through what would be one of the most memorable baseball post season runs of all time. The Cubs won their division by a long shot, landing themselves a spot in the National League Divisional Series, which is the first round of the playoffs in professional baseball. They would play the San Francisco Giants, the winner of the National League Wild Card Game. The Giants tried their hardest, but fell to the Cubs in the best of 5 series, 3 games to 1. Next, they would play the Dodgers in the National League Championship Series, also known to many fans as the Pennant. If you win this best-of-seven playoffs series, then

your team is going to the World Series, the most important games in all of baseball, for the Championship. The Cubs had to fight a little harder for the National League title, but beat LA in the series, 4 games to 2. Cubs pitcher John Lester, and Cubs infielder Javier Baez, won the co-MVP award, which is awarded to the most valuable player of the series. The Cubs celebrated, but not for long, as they prepared for what would be the most important games of their lives: The World Series!

The Cubs Finally made it to the World Series! But the Cubs would have to win 4 more games, before they could be crowned champions. The best of seven series would be played against the Cleveland Indians, a team that surprised every fan this year, making a great run to the World Series. The Cleveland Indians originally seemed like no threat to the Cubs, but before the Cubs knew it, they were losing the series, 3 games to 1. The Indians had won games 1, 3, and 4; with the Cubs winning just game 2. The Indians just needed to win that one last game, and they would be the champions of baseball. But the Cubs would show us all how they deal with tough situations. The Cubs fought back, and came back to win the next two games. This gave them the opportunity for a rare World Series game. Game 7. This game is the final shot for either team to win it all. This would be one of the most exciting baseball games ever played. Cubs' star players Anthony Rizzo, Kris Bryant, and Ben Zobrist would lead the Cubs to an outstanding victory. The Cubs waited 108 years for this moment, and they got it. Ben Zobrist was named MVP, and the Cubs players found themselves celebrating with champagne, having the best feeling in the world. The feeling of being champions. World Champions.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip  
Washington, D.C.  
May 11<sup>th</sup> - May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Payment schedule:**

- \$105 on or before December 1<sup>st</sup>
- \$105 on or before February 1<sup>st</sup>
- \$105 on or before March 21<sup>st</sup>
- OR 1 payment of \$315.00**

# See Mrs. Holder or Mrs. Spiconardi for more details!