

THE COURIER



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DECEMBER 2011

The longest running middle school newspaper in the United States!

Seventh Grader Christopher Lawrence Achieves Greatness

**Christopher Lawrence:
7th Grade Teen Biz National
Leader**

By Jacob Harellick

Did you know one of our 7th graders was *Teenbiz3000* New York State & U.S. National lead scorer last month? Christopher Lawrence, in Ms. Cristiano's 7th period Achieve Reading Class, scored more points on *Teenbiz3000* than any other student in the state and the nation.

Students in our school district use *Teenbiz3000.com* for nonfiction reading and writing, which helps them improve their skills while track-

ing their scores.

Ms. Cristiano said "Students continually improve their abilities by reading appropriate leveled non-fiction articles." The topics range from current events, science, social studies and even entertainment. "The kids are motivated and enjoy many of the articles. It's incredible how well so many of the kids are doing. We're so proud of Chris and his achievement. "Chris advises other students to work hard and not to give up. "You can do it if you read carefully. I love getting bonus points and couldn't believe I came out number one!"



Highlands S.O. Gets a Change in Leadership

By Jasmine Baez

If you haven't heard yet, our former president Di-erdre Raggo is not attending Highlands Middle School anymore. Our new president is Lizzie Lee, and our new vice president is Sarah Samaranayake. Congratulations to both ladies!

During our second meeting, we made a list of activities that we'd like to do throughout the year. We made a big list! All of the members thought of really good ideas. There were so many ideas to choose from, but we narrowed them down to two for the month of December.

The Mitten Tree is a wonderful way to help the people in the community this winter. You might be asking, what is a Mitten Tree? Well, it is a campaign to keep the people of the community warm this winter. If you can spare mittens or gloves it would be a big help! As you know, winter in New York can be FRIGID! We want everyone to stay warm this winter. You can bring your donations to your social studies classroom, where there will be a box for you to put them in.

We also thought of another great idea, we will be sending holiday cards to US Soldiers. Since they are far away from their families and are in places like Afghanistan, we are going to thank them for all that they do to protect our country and wish them happy holidays! It is not be easy being away from your family during the holidays. I know firsthand, because my uncle will be spending a year in Afghanistan. So he will not be here for the holidays this year. We can put a smile on the soldier's faces by sending them some holiday cheer!

For more on the Student Organization, see Courier reporter Moritz Otto's article on page 8

Eastview Community Pays Heartfelt Tribute on Veterans' Day

By Sophie Hamlin and Denali Sagner

*"First to fight for the right/
and to build the Nation's
might/ and the army goes
rolling along/Proud of all
we have don/fighting till the
battles won/ and the army
goes rolling along..."*

These were the words that the Eastview Middle School Chorus, grades 6, 7, and 8, sang at the annual Veteran's Day assembly. The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts paraded down the aisle bearing our country's flag. The national anthem was played and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. When all were seated the 6th, 7th and 8th grade chorus, led by Mr. Mathew Hommez, sang songs

about our nations bravest.

Parents, teachers, and even former soldiers of the U.S Armed Force took the time out of their daily lives to celebrate Veterans Day. "It was awesome! It is so nice that we honor our veterans in such a special way," replied Maia Bankier, also Grade 6, when we asked her what it was like to sit in the audience and watch the performances. Sixth grader Jelisaveta Janicijevic, exclaimed, "It was fun to perform in the assembly. I liked the songs we sang, and it felt like we were doing something good for the world"

Other students and teachers contributed too. The whole school was asked to send in pictures of loved ones who were veterans of the

armed forces. Then, Mr. Hommez and Ms. Kennedy worked together to make a beautiful video. As it was shown to the student body, staff, parents and our guests of honor, the veterans, more than one person got a little teary eyed. It was very emotional watching the men and women, young and old, big and small, who defended our country at our times of need.

Mr. Sanchez, a social studies teacher at Eastview, made a speech about his experience in the army. He told us student to stop and think for a moment. He asked us a question that stumped us all. Would you risk your life to protect the men and women that protected you?



*Photos from Veterans' Day Tribute
Courtesy of Mr. Jerry Wallace*



Winter Happenings Abound in Westchester

By Jenna Reilly and Sarah Salino

Cats, one of the world's best loved musicals, is being performed now at the White Plains Performing Arts Center at the City Center in White Plains. It will be playing from December 9th-30th. The cost is \$30 for students and \$40 for adults.



The next event is the **Westchester Toy Train Show**. It will be held at the Westchester County Center. This fantastic, amazing show is the largest toy train show in the northeast. This show runs from December 11 to January 29. It starts at 9:00am and ends at 3:00pm. This is an amazing show, where they sell antique toy trains.

The **Reptile Show**, also at the County Center, got great reviews! This show starts at 10:00am and ends 4:00pm. This dazzling show is on January, 8. Admissions for children from ages 7 to 12 is \$5 and admissions for adults is \$10.

As you can see, there are many fun events going on in Westchester this winter. Be sure to check out these amazing events. They sound amazing!

Reporter Offers Another Perspective on Great Books

By Ashley Smith

Some of you may have heard of this program, but most people had no clue what *Great Book* was. *Great books* is a type of reading program. Before you start reading a story, your teacher may ask you a pre-reading question that connects with the story or a certain character. After that the whole class reads the story and, while listening, you can mark places with a post-it, indicating you have a question or there is a word you may not know. Then, after reading the

text, you jot down some questions you have. Then you read the story for the second time and after that reading, check if any of your questions were answered. The best part is the "shared inquiry".

Shared inquiry is basically a discussion between you and your classmates. There is one overall question that you give your answer or opinion to, using evidence from the text. The best part is you are not wrong, nor right.

I asked one of the sixth grade Great Books teacher (Ms.Klausman) two questions:

hard for most students because you would have to go from elementary school, to Eastview, to Highlands and then to the high school.

For me personally I would not like to do that. Many kids might transfer to other school districts and some might pay to go to private school. Most students start to bond with teachers over years but how will you do that if you are only at a school for one year? Even though the adults will be making the decision I think that the kids should.

What does she like best about *Great Books* and what are the skills *Great Books* will give to students? She said, "I like the shared inquiry model because it gives kids practice with using text evidence to support their ideas. I also like the variety of text we read. *Great Books* will give students an opportunity to think about characters motivation and the theme of a book."

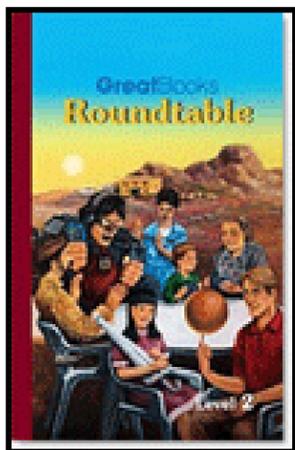
I hope after reading this article you will know more about Great Books.

This year at both Highlands and Eastview, several new ELA programs were introduced. One of those programs was *Great Books*, a course that many students are enrolled in. *Great Books* classes are based on a method called "Shared Inquiry" in which students participate in class discussions about short stories that they have read. During these discussions students aren't expected to raise their hands, and their teacher isn't supposed to select students to answer a question or give praise to a student who provides a good answer. The conversation about the story is supposed to just "happen". However, many students do not enjoy *Great Books*.

Some students say that in their *Great Books* classes, they do the same things that they do in ELA. This can make lessons repetitive and boring, causing more and more students not to pay attention in class. Others believe that *Great Books* discussions can be very unproductive and unorganized because so many people are trying to talk at once and be heard over their classmates. Another complaint about *Great Books* classes is that they don't provide enough learning experiences.

One seventh grade student says, "I don't learn anything in *Great Books*. I go to school to learn, not to hear a bunch a people talk about stories that will never help us. In all of our other core subjects, we learn stuff that will eventually help us, especially if we make a career out of it."Great Books can be a struggle for some students. Speaking up and presenting your idea can be hard when everyone else is trying to do the same. Also, some students may be shy and not want to talk in front of a class where they don't know many people.

On the other hand, many students say that they enjoy *Great Books* because they enjoy reading the different stories. They also like having conversations about the stories because they find it interesting and like to voice their own opinion. I guess it depends on the person.



Editorial Sixth Grade Academy

As most people have heard, in the year 2013 a 6th grade academy might be put in White Plains Public Schools. A 6th grade academy could possibly be structured so that all the 6th graders go to Eastview and all the 7th and 8th graders go to Highlands. There is no final decision yet because there are many different opinions about this idea.

My opinion is that putting a 6th grade academy in would not benefit White Plains if it was structured this way. The transition would be

Got News?

The Courier staff is looing for article ideas for the Valentine's Day issue. If you know of something great that is happening in your classroom or building, please send us an email to

WPMSCourier@gmail.com



THE COURIER

White Plains Middle School

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Sixth Graders Rocked Ebersole

**Editor's Note: The following article was mistakenly left out of the November issue. Our apologies to the authors.*

By Agon Shehu and Vincent Storm

The 6th grade dance was a special night for 6th graders. It welcomed them to a new year at a new school. There were kids from Highlands, Eastview and OLS. - This dance took place at the Ebersole Ice Rink at Delfino Park on Friday, September 16th. Many 6th graders came. There was a volleyball net with beach balls, a bounce house a bubble machine and a DJ. All the 6th graders had glow sticks to put around their necks. There were many great dancers on the dance floor that night.

At the volleyball court there were people who were sweating and having a good time. They were also smashing the ball over the net and they were knocking down the net. Then all the people were kicking the volleyball. We felt bad for the kids that were small because they could not reach the ball because the tall kids hit the ball over the net.

There were many great dancers, and this was the night for those talented dancers to show off their fantastic dance moves. There was one big circle of dancers and one was in the middle showing off their dance moves in front of a lot of people. There were a lot of rap songs like *Teach me How to Dougie* and our favorite song by Lil Wayne called *6 Foot 7 8 Foot One*. There were also some people dancing in the bubbles like there was no tomorrow and those bubbles were sometimes on.

It was a night to remember for these 6th graders. They had a lot of fun dancing, playing volleyball, and running through the bouncy castle all 6th graders will remember this in the future. They had a wonderful time. What a great start to a great year.

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Photos

Photo submissions can be dropped into the Courier Groupshare Inbox

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Marlena Simmons-White Plains High School

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.

New Teacher Spotlight

Highlands ELA
Ms. Reale



By Abby Lombino and Lauren LaPlaca

Ms. Reale is the new 8th grade ELA teacher here at Highlands. We interviewed Ms. Reale and she gave us many things that help explain why she is one of our favorite teachers. "I've always liked to read and write. High school is when I really started to like the subject; I loved books and my teachers were really nice." Apparently she prefers reading over writing. She could read all day if she so desired. Her favorite book is *The Help* by Kathryn Stocket (now a major motion picture). Ms. Reale is a very fun teacher and has planned some very creative writing assignments because 8th grade students are already tied down on essays and DBQ's. It gives us students the chance to express ourselves and let loose.

"I like Highlands a lot; the kids and teachers are friendly and wonderful. I also really like the atmosphere." Her favorite part about our Highlands community is that everyone works together—kids, teacher, and parents. She claims that there is so much cooperation and it's really great. Her teachers from high school inspired her because they were really fun and smart. She is able to teach grades 7-12 but the school put her in the 8th grade and she is enjoying it very much.

Ms. Reale taught at Rockland County before she taught at Highlands. The craziest thing that ever happened to Ms. Reale while she was teaching was when a bee flew into her room "At Rockland,

Eastview Health
Ms. Flynn

By Siobhan Rooney

Ms. Flynn is the new Health Teacher at Eastview. She was a Health teacher in Hyde Park for two years and she also teaches part time at the High School. Ms. Flynn doesn't prefer one school over the other because she likes teaching different age groups. Ms. Flynn teaches Health because she has a love for keeping herself and others healthy, she also likes knowing that her students will be influenced by her, and Ms. Flynn LOVES Health.

Ms. Flynn's High School teacher, Mrs. Seeger, and her college professor, Prof. Colianni, inspired her to become a Health Teacher. She was born and raised in New York. In her spare time she likes to be with friends, family, and her dog, she likes cooking, exercising, and eating dark chocolate. We welcome Ms. Flynn to our Eastview family!



during the spring, I opened the windows and a bee flew in. It was weaving through the desks and everyone was going crazy, the books were all over the floor and there was a boy in my class who was allergic to bees!" Yet, being the great teacher she is, she was able to calm everyone down. We're not surprised.

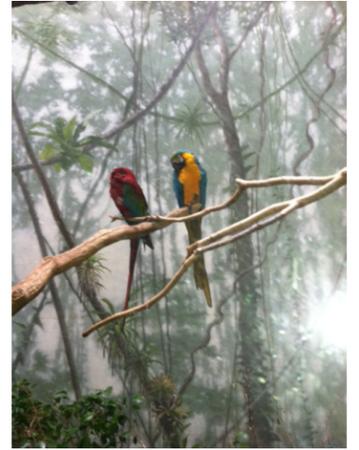
If Ms. Reale wasn't a teacher she said she would be an editor for a publishing company. We asked Ms. Reale what she would want to do if she was principle for one day and she answered, "If I was the principal for the whole day I would put a coffee machine in the teacher's room because I love coffee but have no time to have some during the day."

So yes, this new ELA teacher is a great addition to our campus!

Sixth Grade Visual Reasoning Students Visit Central Park Zoo

By Lindsay Smith and Sam Weiner

The Visual Reasoning Enrichment (VRE) students went to the Central Park Zoo on October 26. They went there to learn about biodiversity. In class they had been talking about endangered animals and why there are endangered. Each student got assigned an endangered animal to research. At the zoo they were looking at what makes the habitat good for the animal and what blocks the animal from getting out. They also looked at how the zoo keepers get into the exhibit and where they take the animals for feeding. Every student is creating a zoo habitat fit for the animal they were given. On the trip they researched how to do this. They looked for what the ground was like (for example; water, soil or grass). They also had to figure out what heating the animal needs and reasons why the animal would need to be indoors. The 6th grade VRE trip was lots of fun!



Photos courtesy of Ms. Ballesteros



Macy's Thanksgiving Parade Delights

By Jasmine Baez

Where can you find balloon floats, dancers, marching bands, actors, and people wearing amazing costumes? You can find all of that and more at the *Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade!*

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade celebrated its 85th anniversary this year! There were so many terrific balloon floats, such as, Sponge-Bob, Spider-man and Kermit the Frog.

The performances included the Rockettes, Broadway singers and actors and cheerleading groups too! Disney Channel's Zendaya danced

and sang to her song, "Dig down Deeper". There were marching bands that came from all across the country. Celebrities also made appearances on several floats. Some of the celebrities were Cee Lo Green and Avril Lavigne.

As usual, Santa's and Mrs. Claus finish up the parade! They put smiles on the faces of all the children. Their arrival marks the start of the holiday season.

There will be a new parade route for 2012, but for 2011 the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade began at 77th Street & Central Park West and ended at Macy's Herald Square. It's a spectacular event!



2011 American Music Awards Rocked

By Danielle Herman

This year's American Music Awards were a hit, with many amazing performances from popular artists including Nicki Minaj, Chris Brown, Kelly Clarkson, Enrique Iglesias, Jennifer Lopez, Pitbull, Marc Anthony, Katy Perry, Maroon 5, Gym Class Heroes, Drake, and Imfao. The electrifying opening performance was by Nicki Minaj. Assisted by David Guetta and some robotic dancers on stilts, she sang "Turn Me On" and "Super Bass." The Band Perry sang "If I Die Young" followed by Chris Brown's dynamic and vivid performance of "All Back" and "Say It With Me" featuring digitally projected tunnels and rain drops. Old-fashioned paparazzi raided the stage with their cameras when Kelly Clarkson sang "Mr. Know It All" while newspaper headlines flashed behind her. Enrique Iglesias

and Ludacris teamed up with the Crenshaw High School Choir for their spectacular performance of "I Like How It Feels" and "Tonight (I'm Lovin' You)."

Jennifer Lopez took the stage twice. The first time she started off by singing "Papi" with a car on stage, which appeared to driving through multiple cities. Then she sang "On The Floor" with Pitbull. Later on in the show, she took part in a glowing and psychedelic performance of "T.H.E." with Will.i.am and a little digital help from Mick Jagger. Marc Anthony was joined by Pitbull and lots of flashing lights and fake rain for his performance of "Give Me Everything" and "Rain Over Me." Cloudy projections and three dimensional stars cascaded across the stage while Katy Perry sang "The One That Got Away." Afterwards, she received a special award for being the first wom-

an to have five number one hits on the same album. Bright red, yellow, and white lights darted and flashed being Drake while he sang "Headlines", but that was nothing compared to the stunning effects of the next performance, which was Maroon 5 and Christina Aguilera singing "Moves Like Jagger." Dizzying colors bounced from wall to wall, with gigantic neon Ms scattered across the stage. One M levitated off the stage to reveal Christina Aguilera in front of a sparkling backdrop. Next, Maroon 5's Adam Levine stayed on the stage to perform "Stereo Hearts" with Gym Class Heroes. Some performers stoop on top of a huge 1980s style stereo in the background. For the finale, Imfao performed their hit song "Party Rock Anthem" with tons of incandescent disco lights, hazy fog, and illuminating purple lightning.

A health tip from the nurse:

Get Moving!

Being active at an early age can lead to a lifelong habit of physical activity and promote a healthy weight throughout adolescence and adulthood. Children who participate in exercise can develop a variety of physical, mental and social skills in fun, playful ways like team sports, bike riding or just playing tag.



Children and teenagers should be physically active for 60 minutes every day, or most days. Parents can help teach these skills and reinforce the importance of the physical activity part of the equation by being good role models. According to a study by the American Dietetic Association Foundation, children chose parents not celebrities or sports figures as their number one role model, regardless of the child's age. Parents can model healthy habits by finding ways to be active in their daily routines and making activity a household priority.



nom...nom...nom...nom...nom



200 Central Avenue,
White Plains, NY 10606-
(914) 686-9000

By Lauren Scully

Feeling hungry? Stop by City Limits Diner, where the people are nice and the environment is cheery. When I visited City Limits recently, my family and I were greeted warmly and we were seated quickly.

City Limits Diner, owned by the Livanos restaurant group, has been serving people starting in the 1990's. Since then, City Limits has been a great place to go. When I visited City Limits, in addition to their regular menu, they had a prix fixe menu. That means, for one price, you could get an appetizer, entrée, drink and dessert. Any item on the menu is also available for takeout.

I ordered the turkey nachos appetizer. It was served very quickly. It had chips with drizzled cheese and meat and vegetables on the side. It was a little fancier than the Highlands cafeteria (for obvious reasons). My mother ordered the chicken Caesar salad. "The salad was good, but there was a little too much dressing" said my mother. My father had the fish and chips and my brother had the chicken tenders. Both were reviewed as delicious.

Although many people have enjoyed City Limits, there is a new renovation coming in spring 2012. Throughout the restaurant, you can see pictures of the new City Limits. I can't wait!

Overall, City Limits is a great place for the whole family. Remember, next time you are hungry, stop by City Limits. I assure you you will have an unlimited good time.

Q

112 North Main Street,
Port Chester, NY 10573-
(914) 933-7427



By Sydney Barest

Q is a great restaurant located in Port Chester on 117 North Main Street. Q is short for BBQ which this restaurant specializes in. They have ribs, and salads, and southern fried chicken. YUM! They also have grilled sandwiches, soup and salad, and more.

It is a great place for the whole family because they have a kids menu and you pick a main dish and a side and it comes with their, to die for cornbread. (Adults and kids get cornbread) It also comes with a Hershey kiss and a kid's dessert.

The restaurant offers a variety of sides to choose from and their Mac and Cheese is delicious. The service and maintenance is very good. If you are a vegetarian, they have a large variety of vegetarian food too! There is something for everyone! The best part about this restaurant is that KIDS EAT FREE ON WEDNESDAY (one kid per parent). Q ROCKS!



VINTAGE RESTAURANT

171 Main Street,
White Plains, NY 10601
(914) 328-5803



By Patrick Wynne

Do you like going to Brunch? If you do, then Vintage Restaurant is the perfect place for you. It is located on 171 Main Street in White Plains. Every Sunday they have brunch, and it is amazing. The food is good and the cost is cheap. It is \$15 for adults and children under 10 years old are free. They have

Courier staff members review their favorite places to chow down!

Haiku Asian Bistro



149 Mamaroneck Ave-
White Plains, NY 10601
(914) 644-8887

By Aaron Weidner

The Haiku Asian Bistro is a modern take on classic Asian dishes from China, Thailand, Japan, Malaysia & other countries in East & South Asia. They serve a variety of classic &

exotic dishes, and boast a stunning Asian-accented decor.

Their appetizers range from chicken, to various vegetables, to delicious sushi. They also serve various steaming soups and salads. They serve most sodas, juices, and water. Their main course consists of many different kinds of seafood. Some of their mouthwatering meals are Haiku's "Smoked Salmon" and "Striped Bass". It's a good idea to get a side of sushi with your food. Haiku serves over thirty different kinds of sushi. They serve not only common sushi like the "California Roll", but they also serve sushi you might have never heard off like the "Sweet Potato Tempura Roll".

Not only do they serve great dinners but also desserts. They serve exotic types of ice

cream such as "Trio Asian Ice Cream", "Mango Ice Cream", and "Coconut Ice Cream". One of their best deserts is Haiku's Crumbed and deep-fried "Banana Crepes".

At night the atmosphere is very nice. The lights are dimmed and the area is surrounded in exotic music as a T.V. creates patterns moving to the music. The sushi rolls range from 8 to 10 dollars. The Appetizers rise to 14 dollars at their peak as each entree ranges from 15 to 25 bucks. Overall Haiku delivers an amazing experience with great service.



Lugers that it is VERY expensive.

Some favorite appetizers on the menu are sliced tomatoes and onions with Luger's famous sauce, as well as the sizzling bacon, extra thick by the slice. Of course prime beef is the most popular entrée. For dessert you should not resist the "Holy Cow" hot fudge sundae.

Peter Lugers has great food and excellent service. The atmosphere is very loud, but the place is not stuffy because there are 4 different rooms to sit in and eat, and 1 separate room with just a bar. Peter Lugers is rated 4 stars, but if I were to choose what it would be rated, I would give it a 5. Peter Lugers does not except credit cards, however, they do except special "Peter Lugers credit cards" and cash. They do not deliver, but their website has an online store. There is valet and street parking only.



Did you know...

85 %

of all WPMS students polled say they LOVE the school cafeteria food!!!

Peter Luger Steakhouse



178 Broadway,
Brooklyn, NY 11211
(718) 387-7400

By Lena Salino and Julia LeMark

Looking for a restaurant to celebrate a special occasion? Peter Lugers would be a great choice! It has been voted NYC's Top Steakhouse for the 28th year in a row by Zagat Survey. Although it is not located in White Plains, it is definitely worth the drive to Williamsburg, Brooklyn. This year they are celebrating their 125th year in business. This is a historic and trendy restaurant to dine at. The menu does not include prices, but one should know before visiting Peter



The Son of Neptune

By Rick Riordan

Reviewed by
Danielle Herman

The Son of Neptune is the second installment of Rick Riordan's *The Heroes of Olympus* series. This series takes place after Rick Riordan's *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series, but features some of the same settings and characters. In *The Son of Neptune* demigod hero Percy Jackson wakes up after months of sleep and can't remember anything, even his own identity. He follows the instructions of a mysterious talking wolf named Lupa and travels to the west coast to find Camp Jupiter. Camp Jupiter is a safe haven and training camp for the demigod children of the Ancient Roman gods. Once Percy reaches Camp Jupiter, he is taken in by the Fifth Cohort. At Camp Jupiter, there are several Cohorts to which campers can belong to, and the Fifth Cohort is by far the worst.

Soon after his arrival Percy and his two new friends, Frank Zhang and Hazel Levesque, are sent on a quest to free Thanatos, or Death, and retrieve the Fifth Cohort's golden eagle. Each Cohort has a golden eagle, but the Fifth Cohort's eagle was lost in Alaska on a failed quest in the 1980s. Thanatos has been captured by evil giants working the earth goddess Gaea, who wishes to destroy all of the Olympian gods and demigods. With Thanatos held captive in Alaska, dead souls aren't staying dead.

Besides having to deal with their quest, Frank, Hazel, and Frank have their own problems to deal with. Frank has been told for years of a special family gift that he has, but he still can't figure out what it is. Hazel has a dark and dangerous secret about her past: She should be dead. Percy is starting to remember pieces of his old life, but will he ever know the full truth? Can Frank use his strengths to help his friends if he doesn't even know what they are? Will Hazel return to the Underworld when she frees Thanatos?



The Iron King

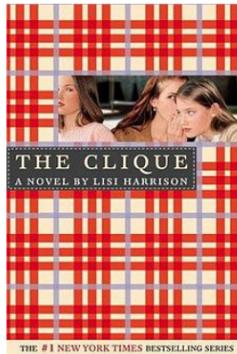
By Julie Kagawa

Reviewed by Abby Lombino

I read an amazing book recently called *The Iron King* By Julie Kagawa. This is the 1st book of the *Iron Fey* series. There are a lot of books in the Iron Fey series: *The Iron King*, *Winter's Passage*, *The Iron Daughter*, *The Iron Queen*, *Summer's Crossing*, and *The Iron Knight*. This book is a fantasy adventure book.

Meghan Chase is normal teenage girl, well...except for the fact that her father disappeared right before her eyes when she was 6. When she turns 16 her half brother Ethan is kidnapped. Her best friend, Robbie Goodfellow, tells her that her brother has been kidnapped and a changeling has taken his place and is pretending to be Ethan. Meghan finds out that her best friend Robbie is actually Robin Goodfellow a.k.a Puck. Those of you who have read *A Midsummer's Night Dream* by William Shakespeare may know him from there. He is King Oberon's jester and is responsible for the whole plot of people falling in and out of love in *A Midsummer's Night Dream*. She also finds out that her brother was taken by faeries (Yes, I spelled it right). Determine to get him back she makes Puck take her to the NeverNever (where faeries live). She goes to the summer court and finds out King Oberon is actually her biological father. She also meets Prince Ash of the winter court. She also encounters Grimalkin a very funny cat. Together the 4 of them set on an impossible quest to find her brother. She learns that The Iron Fey have stolen her brother. Together with Meghan's determination, Grimalkin's knowledge, Puck's sarcasm, and Ash's vow to protect Meghan...they will get Ethan Back. Throughout this journey Ash and Meghan might fall in love, but not if Puck has something to say about it.

If you like love triangles, adventure, comedy (trust me between Grimalkin and Puck there is more than enough comedy) and evil guys made out of iron then this is the book for you. I strongly suggest you read this book



The Clique

By Lisi Harrison

Reviewed By Megan Fay

There are many books in the Clique series including the summer collection which gives all the girls a main story or background. I am going to talk about the 1st one *The Clique*.

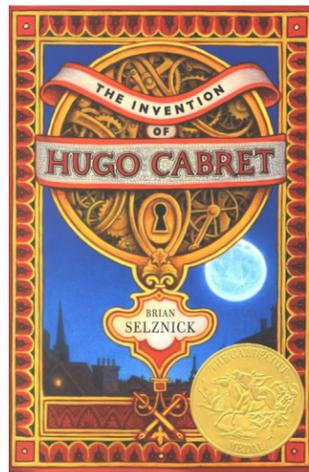
The Clique introduces you to the girls and all of the drama. Massie the head of the group has a group or clique of friends they are Alicia, Dylan, Kristen and now Claire, but Claire has to go through many tests before she can be a part of the clique.

At first Claire was not accepted by Massie and her friends. Massie was being very mean to Claire. But Claire stood up to Massie and her clique by calling her a bad word, which I am not going to repeat.

If you are not the biggest reader like me there is a movie for this book. They may be coming out with more movies but for right now this is all I know of. If you want to read this book it is right here in the Highlands library. If you do not have time in your day to go to the library over the weekend or at the end of the day you can go to the public library not the Trove but the regular library. If you are a slow reader also like me, you can go to Barnes and Nobles to buy the book. Hope after you read my review you will get the book. ENJOY!!!

Other Books in the Clique Series:

Best Friends for Never
Revenge of the Wannabes
Invasion of the Boy Snatchers
The Pretty Committee Strikes Back
Dial L for Loser
It's Not Easy Being Mean
Sealed with a Diss
Bratfest at Tiffany's
P.S. I Loathe You
Boys R Us
The Clique: Charmed and Dangerous
These Boots Were Made for Stalking
My Little Phony
A Tale of Two Pretties



The Invention of Hugo Cabret

By Brian Selznick

Reviewed by Sophia Rainone

The Invention of Hugo Cabret is full of magic. This book is fun for children, adults, the film and art lover, and really for anyone willing to give it a go. The story opens with a short introduction by one Professor H. Alcofrisbas, who writes: "The story I am about to share with you takes place in 1931, in Paris. Here you will meet a boy named Hugo Cabret, who once, long ago, discovered a mysterious drawing that changed his life forever."

Hugo is a 12-year-old boy, who at an early age, experienced a life changing moment when his Dad tragically died in a mysterious fire and his Uncle, his only relative,

disappeared. His Uncle took in Hugo at the time of his father's death. His uncle was a hopeless drunk in charge of tending the train station's clocks; Hugo takes it upon himself to maintain the clocks in hopes that his uncle won't be missed, so that he can keep his home and enjoy the freedom of not being sent to an orphanage. He felt that once this was to happen, his dreams to be like his Dad would never come true. Hugo lived a life full of secrets. He felt that he needed to keep a secretive life to avoid becoming a prisoner to an orphanage. Along the way Hugo met a store keeper and his wife who held all the secrets he could ever dream of and their god child who knows less about the secret than Hugo. The children work together to find clues about the past and the present to solve the mystery of the mechanical man.

Learn about Hugo Cabret's secret life, the relationships he made, the passion he had, along with all the challenges he'd overcome to fulfill his lifelong dream that would make his Dad so proud. He used the friends he made along the way to help find out the secrets of the mechanical man that was started by his father. At the end you will find out if Hugo did fulfill his long life dreams.

I would rate this book 5 stars.

HUGO: The Movie



By Elana Hausknecht

The movie *Hugo*, directed by Martin Scorsese, is clearly a big hit—nearly two weeks after its release on November 23, the City Center Theater in White Plains was jam-packed. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, by Brian Selznick, is the book on which the movie is based. The book is comprised of mainly pictures, which made me skeptical about seeing the movie because I was afraid that the movie's images would not match up with the book's. Afterwards, though, I thought that the story was not ruined when put to the big screen.

The movie is about an orphaned boy named Hugo. Hugo's father died in a fire and his uncle had been taking care of him, but then he too mysteriously disappeared. Now Hugo lives alone in the walls of a Paris train station, avoiding the mean station inspector.

Along with going to the movies, another thing Hugo and his father had done together was to work on repairing an abandoned automaton. An automaton is a moving device made of gears and cogs, usually made to look like a human. When Hugo's father died, the automaton was still unfinished. Now that his uncle and father are both gone, Hugo works fervently on the automaton, trying to put in the right gears that will make it come to life. Hugo knows that the automaton, when fully rebuilt, will write out a message. Hugo believes that it will be a message from his father.

In order to fix the automaton, since he has no money, Hugo has had to steal gears from a toy store in the station. Hugo meets the toymaker's goddaughter, Isabelle. She wants to help Hugo and together, they work to fix the automaton. When they finally uncover the mystery of what the automaton writes, they have another mystery to solve—is Isabelle's godfather just a toy maker, or something more? If so, how did he come to sell toys in a sad little shop? The story comes together beautifully in *Hugo*.

Features

Movie Reviews

Happy Feet 2

By Dean D'Addario

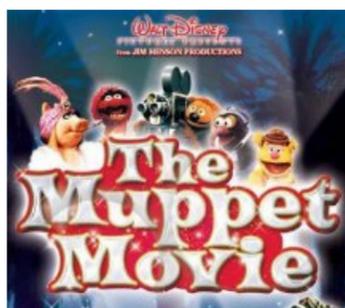
Happy Feet 2 was an exciting movie for the whole family. It was the sequel to the original Happy Feet. A giant iceberg comes and traps the emperor penguins on the inside, except for Mumble, his son, Erik, and his two friends.

They go and try to find food, while all of the other penguins try to find some way out. They find nothing. No food and no way out. On their way back to the colony, they meet a walrus and his sons. The dad gets stuck and almost dies, but mumble saves him. Erik and his friends then run away, and mumble goes crazy looking for them. He eventually finds them in another penguin colony, near a penguin named Swen. Swen continues to fly around his home, impressing people, especially Erik. Erik then continues to believe that he can fly like Swen, but Mumble discourages him.

The reason the iceberg falls in on the colony is because of global warming. The creators focus more on global warming throughout the movie, as you can see patches of green here and there. Then, their old friend Ramon comes to the rescue and brings his whole colony of Adelaides. They find fish somewhere, and set up a line that passes fish down. A large group of seagulls come and takes all the fish and they don't find more. The penguins are starting to lose hope. Mumble then thinks of a brilliant idea that works for quite a while. He teaches everybody up top,

(Mumble, Erik and his friends, Ramon, his amigos, and the Adelaides.) to dance. It brings the snow down and creates a smaller berg. Swen is also there, and keeps encouraging. A couple of penguins then also try to fly up and get out, and Swen gets worried. He then admits to everyone that he is not a penguin, just a bird that looks like one called a puffin. They then get help from a little big friend, the walrus. They come and start to help. Will the penguins get free in time to get food, or will they die in the icy grave?

During the movie, you will also meet two little organisms called Bill and Will the Krill. They leave their group and want to start a new life. They want to evolve and want to go higher into the food chain. If you want to find out what happens to Mumble, Erik, his friends, all of the emperor penguins, and Bill and Will the krill, see *Happy Feet 2*.



The Muppets Movie

By Kristen Cignarella

Mrs. Piggy! Kermit! Animal! These are all characters from the new movie *The Muppets Movie* that premiered on November 23rd. The movie is about this puppet named Walter and his brother Gary, played by Jason Siegel, who do everything together. Also they go on a trip to Las Vegas with Gary's girlfriend Mary played by Amy Adams to take Walter to the Muppet's Theatre because Walter is a big fan of the Muppets.

Dunt...dunt...dunt...

This has not been the only time there has not been mac and cheese. Actually we haven't had it all year! Do you know what it's like to not have mac and cheese served in your cafeteria? Its torture! Will you stand for this macaroni madness? I will not!

For a better look on this tragedy, Allie (my friend) and I interviewed our wonderful cafeteria ladies, and the head chef told us that the only reason they couldn't serve mac and cheese was that they ran out of whole wheat noodles!!!

Video Game Review

The Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword Review

By Camilo Villavicencio

The Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword is the thirteenth installment of the *Zelda* series. This Video game is an amazing game with stunning graphics and epic sword wielding.

You play the role of a 15 year old boy named Link and he lives on an island in the sky named Skyloft. The people on this island ride on big birds for transportation. One day you go flying with your friend Zelda, but then a huge tornado sucks in Zelda and her bird and you are the only one who got away. Now you have to go to this place called the surface and rescue Zelda.

However, when they find out that the Muppet Theatre is no longer running and that a mean rich man is trying to destroy the theatre. They go on a wild, crazy, fun adventure to find Kermit and get the Muppet gang back together to do one more show to help raise money for the theatre. There were also some catchy songs in the movie called *Life's a Happy Song* or *Am I a Man or a Muppet* and *Forget You* performed by this chicken group. And guest stars like Jack Black, Selena Gomez, and Whoopi Goldberg premiered in the movie too.

People in Entertainment Magazine gave it a B+ and called it a family movie. This movie is for kids and especially adults who remember the Muppets from their childhood! So go out and see the Muppets! It's one awesome, wacky movie.

But that doesn't matter! We'll take whatever noodles you give us, as long as they're drenched in cheesy goodness. We LOVE mac and cheese! Bring back mac and cheese!

Well, that concludes this week's installment of Amy's corner. Next week im going to talk about what foods we should serve at the cafeteria! Like sushi or onion rings. Tell me what you think we should serve at our cafeteria at amys-corner1@gmail.com

Since this game was made for the Wii and Wii motion plus accessory, you will be able to control every single one of Links moves, for example, if you swing the Wii remote to the left, Link will swing his sword in the exact direction. The gaming Field is full of lush green trees, Enemies and puzzling dungeons. Because this game contains the Wii motion plus, the enemies learn how to defeat you, so the game isn't that easy. This game even won an award in the Spike Game Awards. Over all this is the best game of the year.



Musical Melodies

by Tayevaughn Williams

Allure! (Look in French) It's the carefully selected **Eighth Grade Select Choir**. This group is made up of wonderful students like Amanda Lobato and Damon Amadio who are great at singing. All the choirs in the school are getting that Christmas spirit. They are preparing songs that'll get everyone in the mood for the holidays. I don't know what songs they will sing but last year they sang at city wide and they sang songs like, *Mi vida*, *Mi Cancion* which means my life, my song in Spanish, *Farewell My Dear*, and *Joshua- Jericho*. 'Mi vida' shows that music is a special spark in life. The philosopher, Plato said "Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything". 'Farewell My Dear' shows that someone is leaving from someone's life and the person who wrote it must probably be sad. 'Joshua' is a man named 'Joshua' who was on a battlefield in Jericho. You can listen to these songs on www.jwpepper.com. Keep on singing Select!



The Season of Giving: The Hot Gifts of 2011

By Jacob Harellick

The holidays are right around the corner and the city is already dressed for success. People's gift lists are their main concern at the moment. Perfection is the key for many holiday lovers. But the main talk of the year is what tablet to get. The Ipad, Kindle Fire, Nook Tablet and the Motorola XOOM are the tablets to choose from. I prefer the Ipad, which started the tablet revolution. Everyone basically copied Apple, so take that into consideration if you want to buy a tablet for winter break. If you're not into tablets, here are some gift ideas that came from staff of the Courier

- XBOX 360
- Unicorn and/ or a pony
- Itouch
- A week vacation (Mr. Hall said that)
- Modern Warfare 3
- A muzzle for students (Mr. Scullion said that)
- Snow Cone Machine
- Snow
- Beats by Dr. Dre
- iTunes Gift Card
- 24 hours to complete the "Nyan Cat 24 hour version"
- Super Smash Bros. Brawl for Wii
- Food
- NFL Madden 12
- Students to pick up their music and instruments (Mr. Veeder)
- Just Dance 3 (Mrs. Simmons' daughter wants it)
- Delia*s Gift Card (Apparently girls like that)
- Phone Upgrade
- Justin Bieber (*Cough Mr. cough* Marks)
- Cold Hard Cash
- 2 IMacs for Highlands Digital News
- Just a bunch of Apple Products
- More Apple Products
- Did I mention Apple Products???

Amy's Corner

By Courier Food Connoisseur, Amy Rosenblatt

Well, this is another installment of Amy's corner. I am going to talk about the mystery of the missing macaroni and cheese. Recently, on the school cafeteria menu it has said that the cafeteria will be serving macaroni and cheese. Were they lying or did they just forget to make it?

Poetry and Creative Writing

Once Upon A Time

By Siobhan Rooney

Emma Swan's life has been anything but a fairytale. A 28-year-old woman who works in a tough field and she's been taking care of herself since she was abandoned as a baby. But when Henry (the son she gave up 10 years ago) finds her and everything changes. Henry is desperate for his mom's help and thinks that Emma is actually the long, lost daughter of the real Snow White and Prince Charming. Even stranger, Henry believes that Storybrooke, the sleepy town in Maine he calls home, is really part of a curse cast by the Evil Queen, freezing fairytale characters in the modern world with no memory of their former selves. Of course Emma doesn't believe a word he says, but when she gets to Storybrooke, she can't help sensing that everything's not quite what it seems. As Henry shows Emma around with the help of his fairytale book, the town, and its inhabitants like Henry's therapist Archie Hopper and mysterious Mr. Gold, seem just strange enough to set off her already suspicious nature. She becomes even more concerned for Henry when she meets his adopted mother, Regina, who he suspects is none other than the Evil Queen herself. Storybrooke is a place where magic has been forgotten and happily ever after seems just out of reach. But the Evil Queen's plan it might just turn everything you've ever believed about these characters upside-down. Meanwhile, the epic battle for the future of all worlds, modern and fairytale alike, is about to begin. For good to win, Emma will have to accept her destiny and fight hard.

Chanukah

By Aliza Waxman

Outside, the wind is cold. A boy steps up to the window that looks like a shining wall of clear ice. He brings his light, his warm fire, with him. It is the eighth night—the last night. He lights the menorah from left to right. He sees the warm wax candles start to drip on the shiny tinfoil put under the menorah. Plop, plop, plop.....then he remembers- it's present time! He rushes to the family room, with his cousins behind him. There sits a present-wrapped in polka-dotted blue. A little blue bow sits straight on top. "To: Benny From: Grandma and Grandpa" was written on a small card dangling off the edge tied by a delicate ribbon. Benny carefully sliced open the wrapping paper and lifted up the top of the box inside. Benny stood up, stunned. He could not believe what was inside!



Where Are You?

By Emma Mc Ateer
and Melanie Klein

Looking for you
Searching for you
Where have you gone?
Why did you go?
Where have you been?
Oh, the trouble you have caused!
Was it something I've done?
Finally...
you have come home.

SNOWY DREAMS

By Ben Covello

Crisp noises beneath my feet

Like a bite,

From an apple.

Being kissed by the snow

Body frozen high to low,

Hearing a faint ho ho ho.

Hearing sleigh bells in the distance

Waking me from my slumber,

All I hear are the crisp noises beneath my feet

Like a bite,
From an apple.

Christmas Poem

By Gabby Nobile

*Trees shining through house,
Parents buying presents,
Rosy-cheeked kids eating candy canes,
Snowballs flying through the air,
Santa in every window,
A smile going from every child,
As they rip open gifts under the tree.
Christmas is in the air.*

Christmas

Smells of warm fresh baked cookies,
Pine from the trees,
And chestnuts roasting on an open fire
Wavered through the air
Sounds of laughter jumped through the house
While the crackling of fire,
Warmed the children with its glowing center
The green tree was drowned
With decorations
Tipping and turning
While its crown,
Its star,
Beamed like the sun itself
And everybody knew, ...
It's Christmas.

By Matavea Francis



Butterfly Fly



Oh butterfly fly
You deserve to be free
I know that you're afraid of what can happen to you,
but don't let that stop you from being free
So go now fly away
Go be free

By Melanie Klein

CLUB AND SPORTS PAGE

Student Organization

By Moritz Otto

All of you voted for the S.O. Cabinet, but you might've not known what the S.O. is. S.O. is short for Student Organization. The S.O. is a group of students who meet to discuss school concerns and plan events for the school. The S.O. plans and runs dances, community service projects, and school projects. There are class representatives, students that get elected by their Social Studies class, that bring issues to the S.O. meetings. They are also responsible for reading the S.O. meeting minutes in their Social Studies classes. The S.O. cabinet, which consists of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, is voted in after a school-wide election. The President is the head of the S.O. The Vice President helps the President and represents the S.O. when the President isn't available. The Secretary takes notes of the meetings and the treasurer handles the receipts and funds.

The S.O. has done many things in the past. In addition to coordinating the school dances last year, the S.O. sponsored school wide events such as the Halloween Contest, *Mix-It-Up Day* at Lunch, Spirit Week, Super Bowl Friday, and *No Name-Calling Week*. The S.O. also collected toys for a 'Toys for Tots' program, which benefited children whose families could not afford toys for the holidays. Students and teachers came in with new toys, which were delivered to the Salvation Army in White Plains.

The S.O. has already done many things this year. The S.O. organized the first 6th, 7th and 8th grade dance. Also the S.O. has decided to increase its use of digital media by joining with the Highlands Digital News Team to bring you videos, reports, and announcements.

The S.O. does many things to make Highlands a better place. The S.O. changes the school by presenting ideas, issues and concerns for discussion among the representatives. It's a very important part of making your day at

Video Club

By Ruben Cortes

The Video Club is directed by an art teacher at Eastview named Ms. Kennedy. They meet every other Tuesday in the art room or the Mac Lab. The students from the Video Club take time to take photos, record voices, and take video's to create a

Highlands Digital News

By Rachel Rose

At Highlands we have a Digital News Club. The Highlands Digital News has been in production for two and a half years. You can catch each episode of the news on the Highlands web page <http://www.whiteplainspublicschools.org/site/default.aspx?pageid=4994>) or the school cable channel. There are normally three episodes per year. Anyone can join! Right now some spots are open for the spring, but you have to hurry because space is limited! According to Mrs. Evelyn Alicea-Santiago, the club advisor, the club has several academic objectives. In addition to writing scripts, members meet ELA, TESOL and LOTE standards in Spanish. Students also meet education technology standards and practice camera, video production and editing skills. The process for this is long and hard, but it makes a great show. Some of the kids said the club builds confidence, teaches them not to be nervous in front of the camera and is "difficult, but worth it."

For this fall the staff is Vincent Storm, Rachel Rose, David Terry, Lucyla Aliaga-Sense, Lili Trinidad, Sarah Samaranayake and Jemma Freed. For winter 2012 we have Paul Ventrella, Jemma Freed, Lucyla Aliaga-Sense, Jennifer Ortega, Jaylin Slaughter and Iesha Jackson. Then for spring we will see Jada Crump, Lucyla Aliaga-Sense, David Terry, Jaylin Slaughter and Iesha Jackson. The Highlands digital news welcomes students from both Eastview and Highlands campuses. The club's co-advisor is Mr. David Galarza, an experienced videographer and editor. Be sure to tune-in to the school cable channel or to the school website to check out the Highlands Digital News!



short little movie at the end of each meeting. Ms. Kennedy says that she's trying to bring us to the apple store and also to try to talk to VIPs so that we can learn how to make videos with Macs and learn what VIPs do to make a perfect scene or movie. While we're trying to make that all happen, Ms. Kennedy keeps showing us new electronics or gadgets

Community Service Club

By Jasmine Baez

The Community Service Club is off to a great start! We spent our first meeting listing all of the different ways that we can help the community.

Our first project of the year is to collect used backpacks. Are you wondering how you can help? It's simple; many of you get a new backpack every year. Therefore, you probably have a few extra backpacks lying around at home. You probably just throw your old backpacks in your closet. Well, grab those backpacks and bring them into school! We are doing this project because the homeless don't have anywhere to keep their belongings. Many of them have to carry their possessions in a plastic bag! So we are going to collect backpacks and donate them to the homeless. This is going to be a very exciting project, and I know that the people that receive these backpacks will be very happy.

If you want to help the homeless, you can bring in a backpack and drop it off in the box outside of the auditorium. Please, help the homeless. They need these backpacks!

Every Backpack Counts
By Emma Bertram

I am in the White Plains Middle School Community Service Club. We are having a backpack drive. We are collecting gently used backpacks in the Highlands and Eastview auditoriums. After we have collected as many backpacks as we can from both middle schools we are sending them to Midnight Run for homeless people. We are collecting backpacks so homeless people don't have to carry all their clothes in plastic bags. We will be collecting from now until Christmas. Please help.

like cameras and recorders so that we can edit our movies or to add scenes. When students are in the Mac Lab for the Video Club they try to spend their time wisely by helping each other solve problems. We all try to make at least a new scene, a movie, and try to use a new electronic or gadget. It is so much fun and very interesting.

Modified hockey

By Gehrig Hauser

Hi, I'm Gehrig Hauser and I'm one of the players of the modified hockey team in 2011. I am a 7th grader so this is my first experience on a school sports team. The modified hockey team has been having practices on Monday and Wednesday but we just started real practices for the season on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and we have

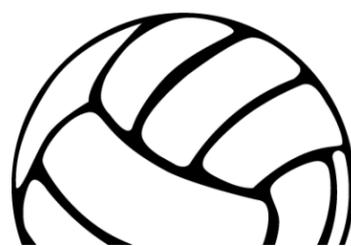


dry lands on Friday. So far we have worked on a couple things in the practices such as 5 lines shooting or 2(offense) on 1's (defense). Our coaches have also been looking at who can play offense or defense. That's all I know for now. Don't forget to come watch us!

Girls' Volleyball

By Lauren LaPlaca

Do you like diving, spiking and basically just having fun? Then you should get out and see a volleyball game! It's a great sport to watch. They have great teamwork and really nice girls on their team. They also have some great skills that they don't just learn over night. They practice constantly- day after day, week after week. Luckily they have a great coach, Ms. Shaffer. Some of the girls on the team have told me that they



do some difficult drills that make them better players. It sure shows in their volleyball games!

So, if you're a 7th or 6th grader, why not try out again or for the first time next time? Congratulations to all of the 7th and 8th grade girls who have been apart of the team this year! You've added to the success of the Highlands and Eastview campus.

The Highlands Homework Center

By Caitlin Sergi & Megan Fay

The homework center at Highlands is a great opportunity for kids to get their homework done. There are all different kinds of teachers that specialize in different things to help you with your homework.

The homework center runs from 2:45-4:15. At 3:30, you break for snack and bathroom. They also have all different kinds of stuff that you can check out to use during the period of time you are at the homework center. You may use a computer but only for 30 minutes, then you have to log off and let someone else have a chance to go on.

You cannot leave until 4:15 unless you have a note from a parent and they come down to the media center to get you. Students must be in front of the media center at 2:45 in time for the sign in. Students must come prepared with their planner and all the materials for their homework, pencil, pen, calculators, handouts, textbooks, etc. If you forget homework, you will not be able to go up to your locker. Students **MUST HAVE ENOUGH HOMEWORK FOR THE FULL TIME THEY ARE AT THE HOMEWORK CENTER!!!** The homework center is not a place to hang out or socialize, after one warning student will be asked not to come to the next session they are planning on coming to. Repeat offenses in the HWC will result in referral to the Assistant Principal on their grade level for possible suspension from HWC. It is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays for that amount of time. Also it is FREE help for your homework. So come to homework center and enjoy!

In the Next Issue...

Courier editor Chris Kozlow makes the connection between math and baseball with an article on something called "Sabermetrics"

Don't miss it!