

THE COURIER



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The longest running middle school newspaper in the United States!

Highlands Welcomes New Principal

By Hadar Arens

A brand new year comes with brand new changes Highlands! This year we welcomed our new principal, Mr. Jonathan Brown. Mr. Brown has previously worked at Blue Mountain Middle School in Cortlandt Manor. He has really enjoyed his time here at Highlands so far. He believes the students are awesome, the teachers are respectful, food is great, secretaries are helpful and the custodians do a splendid job in keeping our school clean. Furthermore,

his favorite part of the job is solving problems for people as best as he can. When I asked him about his opinion on the eighth grade trip to D.C, he said that it's a wonderful once in a lifetime experience. All in all, Mr. Brown believes that we are off to a great start and truly appreciates the students' effort. Plus, he is trying his best to learn about a thousand names!

Be sure to introduce yourself to him if you see him, and help welcome Mr. Brown to our Highlands community!



Mr. Brown has been faced with the challenging task of memorizing over 1,000 names

Student Organizations Off to a Great Start

Highlands

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, Sec-

retary, 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 school more enjoyable.

Eastview

By Chris Kozlow

It was another electrifying battle of wits in this year's S.O. elections at Eastview.

On October 21, 2011, 13 candidates for four positions in the S.O. sat in the conference room at Eastview, breaking a sweat whenever someone walked into the room. Mrs. Capalbo, Mr. Clougherty, and Mrs. Pastore stood with them. These students

came far... really far. They have worked up the courage to stand in front of the whole entire school—teachers and students—with 500 kids watching and waiting, (some even terrible enough to hope they mess up). But these students did not mess up, they were confident throughout the campaign process. They had the guts to do the extra work and deal with the result whether they were victorious or not. The students were ter-

rified. Their stomachs were in knots. Mrs. Capalbo opened her mouth to announce the results:

Lexi Smith won the position of secretary, Sasha Marshall won treasurer, Nyla Robinson won Vice-President, and Carly Schwartz won President. The Courier would like to give a "shout out" to all who participated in this year's election. Not just those who won, but those who had the courage to run for office.

Seventh Graders Enjoy a Beautiful Day at Bear Mountain State Park



By Danielle Herman

On October 11th, 17th, and 18th the seventh graders at Highlands went to the Bear Mountain State Park Wildlife Reserve. We saw lots of animals in captivity that were rescued by the park, and we visited the many museums scattered throughout the park. We took part in activities at some of the exhibits that used science, ELA, and social studies skills. We were even able to earn extra credit for completing packets from our teachers. Sadly, we weren't

allowed to bring cameras and take pictures because of the new school rules, which extend to fieldtrips.

At the end of the trip, we ate lunch by Hessian Lake; Team H gave out "Student of the Month" awards. The awards were given to two students who showed excellent effort and academic skills in their classes. When we got back, we stayed outside until the end of the day. Overall, the trip was very interesting and we had a good time.

The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze

By Danielle Herman

For 21 nights this fall the historic landscape of Van Cortlandt Manor comes alive with the radiant lights and luminescent scenes of thousands of carved pumpkins. This is the Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze. The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze is organized by the Historic Hudson Valley. Many talented pumpkin carvers work long and hard to create the spectacular displays that are shown. However, these displays aren't as simple as most people would think. Instead of only pumpkins and candles, there are

complex systems of wires and light bulbs to make the pumpkins shine. It takes lots of hard work and endurance to create these extraordinarily spooky scenes.

The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze is a fantastic experience for people of all ages, and it's close to home. I would definitely recommend the Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze as a fun and enjoyable Halloween experience.



Cardinals Win 106th World Series

By Jeff Pollak

The World Series is the baseball championship that is played in late October to early November. It is played between the two best teams from the American league and the National league. Over the past years the winners were the San Francisco Giants, (2010) the New York Yankees, (2009) the Philadelphia Phillies (2008) and the Boston Red Sox (2007.) This year, representing the American league, is the Texas Rangers and, representing the National league, is the St. Louis Cardinals. The favorite for this battle was the

Texas Rangers but, you never know who will win. Some key players for the Texas Rangers are their closer Neftali Feliz, one of their starting pitchers C.J Wilson and their catcher Mike Napoli. Some key players for the St. Louis Cardinals are their first baseman Albert Pujols, one of their starting pitchers Chris Carpenter and their right fielder Lance Berkman.

The Saint Louis Cardinals won the 106th World Series in seven games. David Freese was awarded World Series MVP. It was a great series.

6th Graders Dance the Afternoon Away



How are we dealing with it?

Every day at school, I hear or see at least one person being picked on. Personally, I think that is very unfair. Not just to the person that's being teased, but to everyone else watching. School is not place to be exposed to such behavior—it can easily influence other people. Unfortunately, this is still the problem, and I don't think Highlands is dealing with it well.

Despite the fact that the administrators are beginning to prompt the "ROAR" concept, it still doesn't do the job; the students still bully and physically fight with one another. I know it's cliché, but violence is never the answer. Yet, some people turn to fighting instead of working their differences out verbally. Therefore, we as students MUST step up by being role models to other students, especially the eighth graders. We must set an example for everyone, so no one forgets what our ROAR mission is all about. Everyone is equal and no one should feel that they can't be apart of our school's community. Let's stop the bullying!

Middle School Redesign in the Works

By Elana Hausknecht

"There is a yellow light on the dashboard," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Christopher Clouet, at a recent public forum about reforming White Plains Middle School. There has been an idea to redesign our middle schools since the middle of last year. According to Dr. Clouet, the way our middle schools function must change, because too many students in our schools are not college ready, are not achieving at a proficient level, and do not feel prepared for advanced courses. Dr. Clouet said that although leaving things in the middle schools as they are is an option, it is not a good move, since there is a problem.

The Superintendent has organized a committee made up of parents, teachers, and administrators that is working on making a recommendation to the Board of Education about how to reorganize the middle schools. The committee has held two public forums where they have presented ideas for reforming WPMS. Because there is a limited number of positions on the committee, forums can inform the general public as to what ideas are being proposed as well as get suggestions from

all who are interested in the topic. Ideas presented include advisories, block scheduling, seventh and eighth grade "looping", themed schools, and a sixth grade academy.

An advisory program provides adult guidance through a peer group that meets regularly under a staff member serving as advisor. In the advisories, there would be both serious and fun discussions. A main purpose of the advisories would be to make sure that every student has at least one adult who they know and trust. This year at White Plains High School, 9th graders are in advisories.

If block scheduling is adopted, periods could be about ninety minutes long, but there will be fewer of them in a day. This could provide a better learning environment, since students would unpack and pack less. In two forty-five minute blocks, students must unpack and repack twice as much as in one ninety minute period. At the second public forum, it was noted that there would be more depth to lessons with block scheduling.

Seventh and eighth grade "looping" is the idea that when seventh grade students go into eighth grade, they would have the same

teachers for all of their subjects. There would be less time spent on getting to know teachers. The classes could pick up learning where they left off in June.

Another idea presented was themed schools. If this idea is put into action, each of the two middle school campuses will have a theme. For example, Highlands campus could be the school for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Eastview campus could be the school with an international focus, meaning that languages like Arabic or Mandarin Chinese would also be offered, and a lot of video conferencing with schools around the world would take place.

The last and most well known idea presented at both public forums is the sixth grade academy. In this model, one campus will be for the entire sixth grade class, while the other will be for both the seventh and eighth grade classes. In the sixth grade school, there would be a focus on learning organizational skills, as well as studying skills. These skills are intended to be useful to the student not just in middle school, but for all of their education and the rest of their lives.

Many ideas have been presented to the public about how to reform WPMS. Ultimately, the Board of Education will decide whether or not to accept whatever changes the reform committee proposes. In the end, it seems that there *will* be change brought to our middle schools.

Welcome Back

By Jacob Harellick

Welcome back to school! Our spines are already battered due to heavy backpacks. There are some changes including new teachers and a new principal, Mr. Brown. The school smells fresh; the building doesn't look a day past 20- even though it was built in 1928. I also hear screaming, happy children talking about their summer. This school year is sure to be an exciting one while getting mixed up between the Mr. Browns.

Our faithful custodians have been busy cleaning, sanitizing, sanding, and scrubbing. This is a job meant for a warrior. But no, our custodians worked their summers ripping apart our classrooms, cleaning them, and then putting everything back. Soon the halls will be filled with kids again.

The loneliness has ended for many students attending Highlands. As soon as you see the shining faces of your friends, you feel like a blossoming tiger ready to hug and squeeze the life out of them. The chattering and conversations soon begin.

This is the start of a new school year. For me, it's my most important. For others, it's a new day or just a walk in the park. There's work to be done, people to see and students for teachers to teach and discipline. This school year is going to be great!

Ask Tigress



Dear Tigress, I am overloaded with stuff to do. I want to try everything but I barely have time to rest. What should I do?

-Tired Tiger

Dear Tired Tiger, Pick your Priorities! Make a list of everything you do. Rearrange it with the stuff you really want to do at the top and take out the stuff you are "eh" about. If you can't get rid of anything, try doing it less. If you do something afterschool everyday see if you can only do it two or three times a week. If you made a commitment tell them you can't, because people will ultimately expect quality, not quantity. If you do your best work, but less often, you will still be great.

Dear Tigress, There's a kids who's always annoying me, and ignoring him doesn't work. He's not insulting me, just the students near me, but it's distracting. I keep telling him to stop, but he won't! It only works for 5 mins.


-Aggravated

Dear Aggravated, Everyone needs to ignore him, so he'll stop. If it happens during class or school, tell the teachers. If he bothers you when you're with your friends, tell them what's going on, and have them ignore him or move away as a group. Remember- No one has the right to make your life horrible; you're in charge, and never, ever give up, lose hope, or let it get worse. It might not go away, and if you leave it alone or let it affect you, he'll just get a bigger head. So be a good person, because it's a major embarrassment to be an arrogant jerk.

Dear Tigress, I have been overloading myself with clubs and activities in order to avoid joining a sport team (my mom thinks I should join a sport, but I don't want to. What should I do?

-No "I" in Team

Dear No "I", Explain to your mom that not everyone is cut out to play sports. She is probably worried about you getting exercise, or working together on a team. If that's the case, be sure to show her how you plan to get exercise elsewhere. Also, explain to her how being on a club IS like being part of a team. You all work together for a common goal. Once she realizes that you are actively involved in the school, she will understand. Meanwhile, don't overload yourself. Your grades are what matter most!



White Plains Middle School

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GOT NEWS?
If there is something awesome going on in your school that you think *The Courier* should cover, email us the name of the event, date, time and a person we can contact for information.
WPMSCourier@gmail.com

White Plains Celebrates Columbus Day

By Kristen Cignarella

There was a lot of excitement going on at the Columbus Day Festival, which was held at White Plains High School, during the first weekend in October. Even though the weather was rather cold, many people still came to the festival to have some fun.

There were many rides to enjoy like the Ferris wheel, Super Slide and Spinning Tornado to name just a few. Kids were buying tickets so that they could go on the rides over and over.

Game booths were also set up so that people could play games like shooting baskets and target practice in order to win a prize. One of my friends was able to win a purple bouncy ball at the basketball shoot booth.

Chairs were set up around a bandstand where a band played Italian Music. People could sit and listen to the beautiful melodies, or get up and dance to "That's Amore" which is a very popular Italian/American song. Stands were set up where vendors sold such things as toys, Italian music, shirts of Italian soccer teams, and Italia sweatshirts, which were being bought by many people because it was so cold!

My friends and I had yummy doughy powered sugar zeppoles and steaming hot chocolate. There was a lot of delicious food to buy, with Italian dishes like chicken and broccoli rabe (Italian broccoli) and sausage and peppers.

It was fun seeing my friends there and having a little bit of Italy in White Plains.

Highlanders Are

RESPECTFUL

ORGANIZED

ACCEPTING

RESPONSIBLE



ROAR Tiger designed by Mr. Wintersteen

Students Team Up with Ritz Carlton Staff to Benefit "Pajama Program"

By Matthew Barberio

The Ritz Carlton staff worked together with a group of students from Highlands to raise money for the Pajama Program. The Pajama Program is a program benefits kids in foster care that don't have pajamas, story books, and usually sleep in their regular clothes—some don't even know what pajamas are. The students and staff did several things to earn money for this good cause.

Before going to the

Former Highlander Crowned Miss Columbus

By Emily Brooks

Daniela Mangano, a senior at White Plains High School, was just named Ms. Columbus of Westchester County. She talked to Emily Brooks about how all of this happened and her feelings about it. She told us, "To become Ms. Columbus, I had to fill out an application form and write an essay. I also had to be 50% Italian, have good grades, and have done a lot of community service," Daniela told Emily, "When I was voted Ms. Columbus, I felt honored, grateful, and I was proud of myself." As Ms. Columbus, Daniela was a big part of the Columbus Day festival in White Plains. At the festival, Daniela made a speech, walked around the festival waving and talking to the guests, and on the first night she was crowned. Her crown was silver and it had rhinestones on it. She also had a sash that was green, white, and red just like the Italian flag. It also said "Ms. Columbus" in yellow.

Another perk to be-

Students and Staff at the Highlands Campus Get Ready to R.O.A.R.

By Julia LeMark and Ashley Smith

ROAR is part of our positive behavior program. It is a way to tell kids how to behave towards others. Roar stands for; Respectful, Organized, Accepting and Responsible. Being respectful is to be kind to others and treating people the way you want to be treated. Being organized is to having everything you need for your class, making sure your back pack is ready at night and having all your homework. Being accepting is to let people hang with you and, if you are in a group, letting everyone put in their best effort. Finally, being responsible is also to have all your homework for each class, being on time to each class and not leaving things in your locker.

When you do one of



ing Ms. Columbus was that she was at the Columbus Day Festival in New York City. Daniela rode on a big float and waved to the crowd. "All of my friends were very supportive of me," Daniela said. "They came to the festival and cheered me on." Daniela said that the best part of being named Ms. Columbus was the feeling of honor and being able to represent her nationality. Wearing the crown and sash was also very fun for Daniela. "Becoming Ms. Columbus has made me more grateful and confident in what I do and want to achieve more in school," Daniela said. This is Daniela, the 2011 Ms. Columbus of Westchester County.

those things either in class, the hallways or in the stairwells you will get a reward for it—a ROAR ticket. When you get a ROAR ticket you can use it for many different things, such as getting in the front of the lunch or snack line, playtime in the Tiger Cafe, saying the Pledge of Allegiance in the morning and many more cool prizes (that are listed on the back of the ticket).

Highlands held a kick-off assembly for the start of ROAR. Inside the Tiger Cafe there will be many fun interesting things that you can play. There will be air hockey, ping-pong, basket ball and video games. You will have a ball when you are in there. We hope since you read this article you will be motivated to do what you need to do in order to get a ROAR ticket. When you're in the hallways, stairwells or classrooms, don't forget to ROAR!!

Friday Night Skate a Huge Hit Among Middle Schoolers

By Harry Seymour

On Friday nights during the fall and winter, Ebersole ice rink has a fun night of skating from 8 to 10PM. This includes a DJ and loud music that many kids have come to know as Friday Night Skate, or "FNS". Lots of kids from Highlands and Eastview love to have fun and skate with friends at Ebersole. To get in, you pay \$8, but if you have a recreation card from the White Plains Recreation Department, you save \$3 and it's only \$5. Additionally, skates are \$4. At the new and improved Ebersole rink, there is a new feature—a new café. The new café at Ebersole is called *The Slap Happy Café*. The new café has homemade brownies and

cookies you'll love that are only \$1. Also, a new feature at Ebersole ice rink is there new zamboni! This zamboni goes faster and cleans more. Now, you don't have to wait as long during the intermission break at 9:00PM. The only way to have this much fun, is to come to Friday Night Skate.



Fascinating Zamboni has a Long and Storied History

By Schuyler Thurman

In 1940 before Zambonis (those big machines that clean ice rinks) it was a little more complicated to clean the ice. It was done by pulling a scraper behind a tractor, shaving the surface. Three or four workers would scoop away the shavings, spray water over the surface, make it even with a rag and allow the water to freeze—a process that took more than an hour.

A man named Frank J. Zamboni questioned this method and started to experiment with new ways to clean the ice. In 1942, Frank bought a tractor and tried a first attempt—a machine built into a sled, towed behind a tractor. It didn't smooth the surface or pick up the ice flakes.

Many attempts after failed like the first. But after some more failing attempts he succeeded. In 1949, Frank succeeded in making the first successful Zamboni.

This is how it works: A 77 inch long sharp blade



(which is sent to be sharpened) scrapes a thin layer of ice off the rink. A screw-shaped blade called an auger collects ice shavings and another auger throws them into the snow tank. Water is poured from a wash water tank to the Zamboni's "conditioner" a large tube that pours water onto the ice. Clean warm water is put onto the surface of the ice rink by a towel that is behind the conditioner. After a couple of minutes the ice hardens and it's good to skate on. To find out more go to: www.zamboni.com/kidszone/howit-works.html



the display for the bake sale. Then it was time for the bake sale. As people walked by the Ritz we told them what we doing and asked them if they would like to make donations for the bake sale. Many people bought our baked goods, but a number of people just donated the money. We had a great time. What made it even better was that it was all for a good cause!

The Ritz Carlton community service team is planning to do more work in the

community. In addition, they plan to visit Highlands in order to provide some interesting and informative workshops on things like cooking, safety and etiquette among other things. Our students love working with the Ritz staff. Overall it has been a very successful partnership.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Q & A



MR. IASIELLO
SOCIAL STUDIES
HIGHLANDS

By Jacob Harellick

Q. How many years have you been teaching?

A. This is my ninth year at Highlands and overall this is my 14th year.

Q. Who is your favorite president?

A. Ronald Reagan and Abraham Lincoln. I think that they were both transformational leaders. During their presidencies, they did things that were not always popular, but were ultimately in the best interest of the country. Their leadership positively impacted our nation and they were successful leaders.

Q. What inspired you to become a teacher?

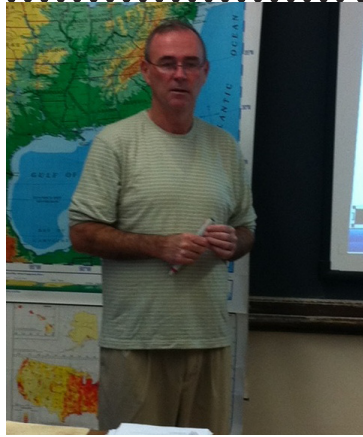
A. My parents were both teachers. My father was a history teacher and a coach and my mother was a PE teacher. I coach sports from football to wrestling to track and field. My dad was very inspirational. He treated people with respect. He wasn't a yeller or screamer. He also made history interesting and taught social studies for 42 years

Q. Who was your favorite teacher?

A. One of my favorite teachers was Mr. Macisco who taught at Fordham. He taught Sociology. I liked his teaching style, his topics were interesting and he was interested in his students. He told many good stories and was a genuine person.

Q. Do you have any words for kids looking a S.S. teacher?

A. My advice is to do things you love and work at it, after that it will be possible.



MR. MC GEE
SOCIAL STUDIES
EASTVIEW

By Jared Rogovin

Q. What gave you the desire to be a teacher?

A. When I was a teenager I always worked in recreation. I really enjoyed it and looked forward to going to work. It was fun and active. I realized that teaching was something I should consider.

Q. Where was your first job year as a teacher? How did it go?

A. My first job was here in White Plains. In 1979, I was just graduating college and got a call in May for a leave replacement until June at the Highlands School. It was a 9th grade class. At the time Highlands and Eastview were 7-9 schools.

Q. What made you specifically choose social studies?

A. I always found History to be interesting - even the books I read today are true stories.

Q. What special quote inspires you?

A. "If it is meant to be, it is up to me". I learned it from an old coach I had many years ago. It applies to life in general. You need to be self motivated.

Q. What do you like about teaching?

A. I like the MS age kids. Every day is something different.

Q. Is there a special message you would like to give to everyone who will read this?

A. Sure, you only get one chance at school and how you end up in the future is based on what you do now.

Annual Fred Gressler Walkathon Benefits PTA

By Nicole Abato and Denali Sagner

Every year on Halloween, White Plains Middle School holds a walkathon to honor Fred Gressler, a physical education teacher who passed away after 27 years of teaching. He was an active runner and passionate coach. To honor him and also celebrate Halloween we wear costumes and parade around our tracks. The kids and even the adults dress up in cool, creative costumes.

This year, Angry Birds, Taco Bell workers, and even horse riders paraded down the track. Some students came dressed in groups but others had unique style of their own. Some of the Eastview sixth grade teachers came as months of the year. "January" wore sparkles and a happy New Year hat while March had green hair and a green hat. Mr. Cloherty

showed up as the tooth fairy, wand and all.

We collected donations from family and friends for the White Plains Middle School PTA. Last year, both schools together collected a combined total of \$12,890.66.

This year the money kept coming with over four thousand dollars at Eastview. We asked Sasha Marshall, a 6th grader at Eastview, why she thought raising money was important, "If we don't raise money there will be no trips for us," she answered. She was right, all of that money will go towards field trips, dances and parties for us to enjoy.

We interviewed Samantha Carranza who said "I think that it was fun and a good way to see other kids costumes," Halloween is a great holiday and our walkathon is a great way to celebrate!

Eastview Students and Staff Spook the Halls on Halloween

By Uri Sarig and Dean D'Addario

Halloween day at Eastview was a lot of fun! A lot of teachers and students wore costumes—from clowns, to magicians, to chickens, to devils. Some of the teachers also dressed up as the 12 months of the year! Even Mr. Cloherty got dress up for the occasion. He was the tooth fairy!

The annual "Coach Gressler Halloween Walk-

athon" was, again, a big success. We walked around the Eastview track, for a half an hour, and raised about \$4,000!!

After the Walkathon, we were told which grade won the ice cream social. Mr. Cloherty announced that this year, for the first time ever, two grades had an exact tie, and both won!! Though the sixth grade is the largest, 7th and 8th grades will share the ice cream social!

Inquiring Reporter

Which Movie Theater Snack Do You Like Best?

By Aliza Waxman

We polled 30 kids from Highlands what movie theater snack they like best—buttery popcorn, slushies, gummy worms, or Reese's peanut butter cups?! Most peoples like Reese's peanut butter cups the best - 14 people voted that. Ten peeps wanted buttery popcorn. Four people wanted slushies and 2 people wanted gummy worms.

I personally cannot choose. If I did, it would be either Reese's peanut butter cups or buttery popcorn with extra, extra, extra butter! So I guess I would be part of the majority. I wonder what the teachers would choose if asked the same question. I also wonder what the kids would say if asked which of these 4 snacks they would choose - grapes, carrots, granola, or strawberries?!? I bet there would be a zero for all of them.



HIGHLANDS WELCOMES NEW TEACHING ASSISTANTS



Ms. Jordan



Ms. McCormack



Ms. Rodriguez

Ms. Hart

By Elana Mariani and Jacob Harellick



Q. How many years have you been teaching?

A. This is my 3rd year as a teacher. Last year I was at a high school and I taught theatre for 9th graders.

Q. What is your favorite book?

A. My favorite books are "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" and "Pride and Prejudice" My favorite Genre is realistic fiction.

Q. What inspired you to become a teacher?

A. My mother is a teacher as well as my aunt, uncle and my fiancé. I used to go in mom's classroom and observe he biology class. She inspired kids who had nothing to hope for. She gave hope.

Q. Who was your favorite teacher?

A. My favorite teacher was Ms. Beard. I liked her because

she was so passionate about books that it made people laugh. She was so lively about reading that it got us excited about reading too.

Q. Reading or writing?

A. I like writing.

Q. What is your favorite type of music?

A. I like all kinds of music. I like singing to rap songs.

Q. What's your favorite type of food?

A. Cannolis

Q. Do you have any words for kids looking to be a ELA teacher?

A. Read, read, read and don't stop. Explore different genres that you're unsure about. Pick up a different book and try that. Practice by helping people who need help with their ELA work. Practice makes perfect.



Halloween Happenings



New Faces Grace the Halls of WPMS

Mr. Hall

By Daniella Oria and Elana Mariani



Mr. Hall has been teaching Earth Science for two years. This is Mr. Hall's first year living in Westchester County and he is enjoying Highlands very much. He told us that one time, in his old school, a bird flew into the classroom and all the students screamed. This year during a class, a piece of ceiling tile fell out of nowhere in the middle of a lesson! No matter where he goes, he always has a funny story to tell.

Mr. Hall explained why he chose earth science in a deep flashback story. "My love of earth science began in college when a tornado hit the University of Maryland and killed two students. That inspired me to study science and weather." After this experience he became a meteorologist for a local Maryland T.V station. While being a meteorologist he went to many schools as a special guest and he realized he loved working with the students. He decided to start teaching earth science because he thought it was a perfect combo. He has two cats that are named after weather terms, Sunny and Cyclone. His favorite food is sushi, favorite holiday is Thanksgiving, and favorite candy is Reese's peanut Butter Cups. The most interesting natural disaster for him is crippling ice storms. He's been to Alaska, Israel, Ireland, Mexico and Canada. Mr. Hall once drove 4 hours just to see a hurricane, and he went in a helicopter to a glacier. He has even flown a plane before! Mr. Hall has a lot to share with his Highlands students. Welcome!



Ms. Reale
ELA

Who am I?

I teach a core subject.

You can sometimes find at Highlands.

My last name begins with an F.

Ms. Nissinoff

By Megan Fay and Caitlin Sergi

Ms. Nissinoff is a new teacher at Highlands Middle School. Ms. Nissinoff enjoys Highlands so far and says, "The kids enjoy learning and everyone has been very friendly." She teaches Family and Consumer Science, in room 311. She attended New York University, Columbia University, and did an internship at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. She doesn't have a favorite book but her favorite author is Kurt Vonnegut. Her favorite hobbies are antiques, playing with her children, and exercising. As a child her favorite teacher was Doctor Erenkranz, who taught Advanced Placement English. Her favorite color is hot pink. She is having a great time teaching, and is enjoying her experience at Highlands Middle School.

Miss Weiss

By Jenie Jasne

Miss Weiss is the new earth science and 8th grade science teacher at Eastview Middle School. The former Manhattan High School teacher was once an environmental consultant, and prefers Geology over Astronomy. Miss Weiss says, "I love teaching; it gives me the wonderful opportunity to share my passion for science while working with such great kids who have amazing ideas." Miss Weiss also loves lots of quotes, but an important one is, "I'm proud of you for the times you came in second, or third, or fourth, but what you did was the best you have ever done." - Mr. Rogers. She hopes you are all inspired by this quote to try your best and to be proud of everyone, including yourself no matter what.

Ms. Vazques

By Lena Salino and Sydney Barest

Ms. Vazques is a 6th grade Spanish teacher who enjoys teaching. She taught for four years at Manhasset middle school and High school. She loves the students' multicultural backgrounds, but hates calibrating the whiteboard! She speaks three languages which are Galician, Spanish, and English. Her favorite subject, (aside from Spanish) is science. What influenced Ms. Vazques to be a Spanish teacher was the culture and traditions of the Spaniards. It was also the language she spoke at home. She grew up in Queens, New York and has two brothers and one sister and she is the youngest. She is American and born Spaniard. She has to wake up at 5:30 in the morning! Her favorite hobby is beach volleyball and loves pizza! She loves earthy colors. Ms. Vazquez is an amazing Spanish teacher!

Ms. Klausman

By Emma Bertra



Ms. Klausman is a new teacher that has come to Highlands from Post Road School. Ms. Klausman has been a teacher for eleven years

Ms. Klausman grew up in White Plains. She was inspired to be a teacher because of her first grade teacher, Ms. Denslow, who she says was her favorite teacher. Ms. Klausman wanted to be a reading and writing teacher because she loves to read and write, and she wants to help kids see all the beautiful things about books. She likes teaching reading and writing equally, and she likes combining the two subjects together to make teaching and learning more fun. Ms. Klausman likes teaching at the middle school better than elementary school because, she loves how she only gets to teach one subject instead of like in middle school when you teach all subjects. Ms. Klausman says it is hard working with kids but it also rewarding.

Ms. Klausman likes to ski, cook, work out, and eat at any new restaurants in town that she has heard of. She is not married and does not have kids. Welcome to Highlands Ms. Klausman!

Ms. Mustelier

By Dean D'Addario and Uri Sarig

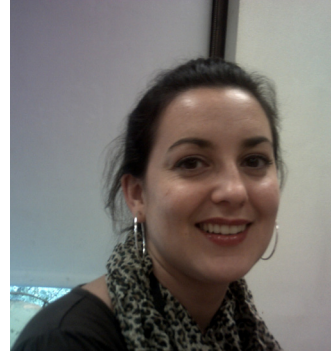
Ms. Mustelier is the new Spanish teacher at Eastview. Ms. Mustelier's previous school was in the Bronx. Before that, she had worked in Miami and Costa Rica. In total, she's been working as a teacher for 10 years! Ms. Mustelier says that the change between schools was smooth and nice, and now, she loves Eastview. She feels very welcome. She likes all the teachers but she immediately became friends with Ms. Plant, Ms. Wahl, and Ms. Verias.

Ms. Mustelier became a Spanish teacher in the first place because she has always been in love with the Spanish Literature, Arts and Culture. Ms. Mustelier grew up in Cuba, speaking Spanish. She loves dancing, painting, traveling, writing poetry and discovering New York!

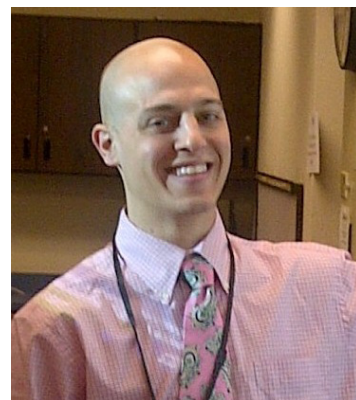
For those who don't know her, she teaches in room 316, on the third floor. (Alli tienen su casa!)

Miss Pennacchio

By Rachel Rose



We are happy to have a new Spanish teacher at Highlands. Her name is Ms. Pennacchio. She teaches seventh and eighth grade. This is her first year at Highlands. She is from Argentina and loves Highlands very much. In addition, she enjoys teaching Spanish. She loves dogs and she has one of her own. Ms. Pennacchio loves all colors. I think Ms. Pennacchio is a great teacher.



Mr. Alberga

By: Gabby Nobile

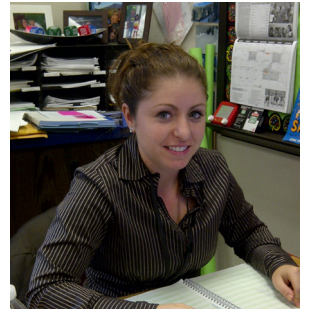
Mr. Philip Alberga is a new teacher at Highlands Middle School. He teaches Computer APP Life, a class where we learn many different things that will help us use the computer. We learn a lot and have fun while we work.

This is his fourth year teaching. He was teaching at Carmel High School for two years, and Yorktown High School for one year. He loves teaching, especially at Highlands. He loves students, loves transferring knowledge, and he has always wanted to become a teacher. Mr. Alberga likes Highlands because of the kind colleagues. He says that he is lucky to have such great students. He went to college at Undergrad at Iona College and got his Masters degree at Pace University.

He has always been good with computers, even though he didn't grow up with them. He chose to teach Computer APP Life because that topic falls under the category of business, along with marketing, management, accounting, and finance. That was the subject he got his degree in. His favorite research website is any online encyclopedia and his favorite online search engine is Google. He likes Macs much better than Windows, but when it comes to school, he thinks Windows are better because they are less expensive. We are glad to have you at Highlands, Mr. Alberga!

Miss Carfi

By Jenna Reilly and Emma McAteer



Miss Kelly Carfi is a new sixth grade English teacher at Highlands. She is currently in room 203 and she teaches sixth grade ELA and Great Books. Before coming to this school, she taught at Eastview and also taught at a school in New Haven, Connecticut, called King Robinson Magnet School. She really enjoys teaching at Highlands, but she had to move rooms multiple times. With help from her students, moving hasn't been much of a challenge. Miss Carfi lives in Fairfield, Connecticut with her Italian greyhound, Bentley, and she has to wake up very early to come here. We should all appreciate the things she does for us!

Mrs. Murray

By Anna Tender

We are very lucky to have Mrs. Murray as a part of our teaching staff. She is a 7th grade E.L.A. teacher that is new to Highlands this year.

Mrs. Murray grew-up in New York City in the Bronx where she had two brothers, one older and one was younger. She was a stay-at home-mom when she decided that she wanted to get her teachers degree, and she went after it. Mrs. Murray has been teaching 7th grade ELA. for a while now, and she hopes to stay at Highlands so she can teach E.L.A. to White Plains students for many years to come!

She uses PowerPoint Presentations because she wants her students to visualize what they are learning so that they understand in a new and intuitive way. Mrs. Murray is very enthusiastic and interesting while she is teaching and she has a humongous sense of humor. She also tries to pick good stories that would interest students so that learning would be fun. She loves books from the Victorian time period such as Middle March. Mrs. Murray also loves to write informational pieces such as persuasive essays.

Her favorite vacation was when she visited three islands of Hawaii and went snorkeling. She loves to go biking with her husband and children who got her interested in it. Mrs. Murray has been married for twenty-nine years and has had five children, three girls and two boys.

We are very lucky to have Ms. Murray as a part of our teaching staff and we all hope that she stays for many years to come!

FEATURES

MOVIE REVIEW

Dolphin Tale

By Lauren Scully

I recently saw the movie *Dolphin Tale*, a movie based on a true story about a dolphin named Winter that was injured. I was excited to see the movie because I remembered seeing Winter myself a few years ago when I visited the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, where Winter lives. This movie was entertaining while also being inspirational with some valuable life lessons.

Dolphin Tale is the heartwarming story of Winter, a bottlenose dolphin. This poor dolphin gets caught in a crab trap and ends up on shore with her tail wrapped tightly in rope tied to a trap. In the movie, an 11 year-old named Sawyer Nelson discovers Winter and cuts the ropes while he waits for a rescue team. Winter was taken to the marine hospital in nearby Clearwater, FL. There she started a long process of rehabilitation. A man named Dr. Clay from the rescue team asked Sawyer if he would help them rehabilitate Winter because Sawyer was there when Winter was suffering and he found himself drawn to helping this dolphin. Also, Winter seemed to like Sawyer. Thanks to Sawyer and an inventive prosthetic limb designer, Winter was able to recover happily and live a full life at the Clearwater Aquarium.

In the movie, Sawyer and others learn a lot of lessons. Sawyer learns the importance of being there for others, even if it's a dolphin. Dr. Clay learns to never give up on anyone or anything even when he almost loses his business

and Winter. This movie was inspiring to many people. A couple of people told me that they walked out of the movie wanting to become a dolphin trainer. This movie can especially be inspiring to people who are disabled. It inspires them to strive to overcome challenges and to live regular and productive lives.

Dolphin Tale is a great movie for everyone. It is inspirational and it is filled with life lessons we can all learn from. Most importantly, it tells a true story of a remarkable dolphin.



Real Steel

By Joshua

Real Steel is an action-packed movie about 2,000 pound 8 foot tall fighting robots. The movie stars Hugh Jackman as Charlie Kenton. Hugh Jackman also plays the famous wolverine in the X-men movies. Charlie Kenton lost his robot when he fights a rodeo bull, but he makes just enough money while babysitting his estranged son Max. Charlie buys the famous "Noisy Boy" which he fights with "Midas", yet he loses another robot. When Charlie hits rock bottom he teams up with his son Max and a robot named Atom and against all odds they get one more chance at a comeback. *Real Steel* was directed by Shawn Levy.



THE LION KING 3D

By Jasmine Baez and Zoë Weiner

The *Lion King* 3D, "Roared" into theaters on September 16, 2011. Unlike the original movie released in 1994, this version is in 3D. The *Lion King* earned \$8.8 million dollars on its opening night.

A young lion prince, named Simba, is born in Africa. That makes his uncle Scar second in line to the throne. Scar has to come up with a plan to get rid of King Mufasa and Prince Simba, so that he can become king. Scar gets help from the evil hyenas. Will Scar be able to defeat King Mufasa and get rid of Simba to become king? Or will Simba find a way to save

the kingdom from Scar and his evil ways?

This is a great movie that you will truly enjoy; it will make you sing, laugh and cry! If you didn't get a chance to see it in theaters, "Hakuna Matata" (which means, no worries) it will be available on Blu-Ray and DVD for a limited time only.

White Plains Public Library Foundation

By Samantha Fazio



"The Trove" is the children's section of the White Plains Public Li-

Ever wonder where the White Plains Public Library's money comes from. Well, there's the once in a while late book or movie, but does that really cover everything? It seems that the library has some financial helpers called the "White Plains Library Foundation."

The foundation has raised money to form the Trove (the children's section of the library) and all the after school activities. They also raised money to help form the museum across from the Trove. In 2005, the year they made the Trove, they raised over 1 million dollars. Recently they've been raising money to make a new place called "The Edge", scheduled to open on Saturday November 5, and located on the first floor of the library.

The great foundation provides money for the AWESOME librarians, and super security guards. Also, the foundation provides the key to many library services. The library is a place for kids to enhance their reading skills, the place where kids want to learn and do homework, and a place for people to help kids when they're troubled. This foundation makes the library cool and fun for everyone.

Now that you know about these fabulous people be sure to think about them while you're at the library. Let this remind you that organizations like this change the world. They've definitely made it a better place for the students of White Plains!

REMINDER TO ALL STUDENTS CHECK YOUR LOCKER CHECK YOUR BEDROOM CHECK YOUR BACKPACK AND RETURN ALL OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS!!!
Mrs. Ciofalo and Mrs. Neglia

RESTAURANT REVIEWS



51 Court Street
White Plains
(914) 422-0115

By Harriet Rose-Barwick

Step back in time into a little piece of Brooklyn, NY, in the 1950's! This restaurant is fun and the food is just as good as the atmosphere! When you step inside, you are taken back to before we were born. The menu is filled with different foods, and it's easy to find something delicious no matter what you love! For me, I love the milkshakes—a classic chocolate milkshake to their creative strawberry oreo shake! But the fun doesn't stop there. In addition to all the old favorites, Vicki and Dano, the owners of the restaurant, added their own home-made treats: a wide variety of fresh pastas and sauces, two foot long subs, gourmet salads, and much, much more! So be sure to visit Brooklyn's Famous, 51 Court Street, White Plains New York!



Sports Page Pub
200 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains
(914) 437-8721

By Patrick Wynne

Sports Page is not a very packed restaurant, and the servers are always polite. The food is served to you within minutes. If it takes long, you won't care because it will all be worth it in the end. I ordered the spicy peanut wings as an appetizer, and a grilled cheese as my entree. It was delicious. Little kids will love it because there is a kid's section where the kids can color, watch videos on TV, and play. That will keep the kids occupied while the adults talk or watch big flat screen TV's.

If I were you, then I would go to Sports Page right now.



EASTVIEW

By Ruben Cortes

Every day we work and study;
Sometimes we have problems,
We try to solve them.
But in the end,
We're brothers and sisters again.
When we all join together we get
EASTVIEW!

Amy's Corner

By Amy Rosenblatt

This is my first installment of Amy's corner. This article is mainly about food! I will dish about what's tasty and what's not.

First things first, let's talk about the cafeteria food at Eastview. I can tell you that it is way better than normal elementary food for one reason and on reason only! There are nachos! Now since I'm not the only one who has a perspective of Eastview cafeteria food I spoke to a student who has been here for a year already!

This person (let's call him Bob) thinks that the nachos are amazing but are totally over priced! The nachos are 2.50 and a normal lunch is 2.00. Plus you have to pay for a drink on top of the nachos. Plus the dish comes in a smaller tray indicating that the portion is indeed smaller. However, compared to a normal tray of nachos at the City Center, which cost a lot more than a plate of nachos here, it's an awesome deal! Bring it on and don't hold the cheese. Bob also thinks that the sandwich bar is delectable and is a must-try! I definitely agree. The best part about the sandwich bar is that they let you customize it. Have it your way!

Poetry

The Voice of the Diamond

By Ben Covello



I steal a diamond
I run away
A voice behind me tells me to stay
It is a simple voice
It compels me
I go
It gets closer
I run towards it
I see a hole in the floor
I jump in
The voice gets closer
I fall to my doom
I am on the voice
But there is no one here
I am trapped!
And I throw the diamond
I throw it so far
It shatters
And the voice stops

School

By Ben Covello

The thoughts
The fright
The nerves
The pride
You worry
Will they like me?
Will they hate me?
Can I fit in?
Will I stand out?
Then you go,
Proud and brave,
And realize
They are happy thoughts,
They are warning frights,
They are nerves of bravery,
There is much pride,
And you realize that you are
who you are,
No matter what anyone tells
you,
You are yourself,
And you must never forget
that.

CLUBS AND SPORTS PAGE

BOYS' MODIFIED SOCCER

By Steven Serna

Modified soccer isn't as easy as it looks. This year, the team had 4 wins 3 losses in the 2011-2012 season. The try-outs were in September when we got back from our summer vacation. We had to run a couple of laps, do some stamina drills, and obviously soccer drills. We played our first game against Edgemont on the turf field at Highlands. The White Plains Tigers suffered a 4-2 loss. The next game was against Albert Leonard in New Rochelle. The Tigers got their first win 1-0. During the game was against Albert Leonard, Eduardo Gonzalez made the first goal in the first half. The Albert Leonard team was a little dirty but we handled it. We were up by one goal until Albert Leonard scored a goal to tie it up. The game was tied 1-1 in the first half. In the second half the game was getting exciting. Nick Wilson scored what would be the winning goal, and a couple of minutes later Juan Camilo Benavidez secured the win with an insurance goal. The final score was White Plains Tigers 3, Albert Leonard 1.

The captain of the team, Richard Bonilla, reacted, "When I started the game I was very nervous. When we made the first goal I was very

excited. When they (Albert Leonard) made the goal to tie it up, I knew that we were going to come back and win. We made the winning goal because of Nicky, I was very pumped and I felt good." This is Nick Wilson's reaction after the game, "When we started this game, I had a feeling we were going to win. When we made the goal, I felt excited. When the game got the tying goal, I knew we were going to come back and win. When I made the winning goal, I was very excited. After the goal I felt faster." Overall it was a great game and a great win!

GIRLS' MODIFIED SOCCER

By Gabby Nobile

The Girls Modified Soccer Team is made up of about 23 girls led by Coach Stepenie Maffei. We have a strong team and have won most of our games. We usually play a line-up of two forwards, four midfield, and four defenders. We have many amazing players on our team; three have stood out to us the most, Melina Africano, Jenni Moss, and Robyn Moss, our team captains. Our goalies are Jenni Moss and Danielle Okun. We had record of four wins, one tie and two losses. Our home field is Eastview Middle School. We hope to see new players try out for our team next year. Don't forget... GOOOOOO TIGERS!!!

PEP RALLY 2011

By Matthew Barberio

Students and staff came together to celebrate the successful fall sports season. The Highlands Pep Rally was on November third in Parker Stadium. All the fall teams were there to play games and a few lucky people from the crowd caught to join in on the fun. We were even honored with a visit by the school mascot. It was a fun time for everyone!

Photos courtesy of Mr. Salley

MODIFIED FIELD HOCKEY

By Sarah Salino and Sophia Rainone

Lots of people who don't play field hockey don't know exactly what it is. Field hockey is a game played on a turf field between two teams of 11 players each. The object is to direct a ball into the opponent's goal with a curved hockey stick. Field hockey is a very enjoyable, but is a sport that requires a lot of commitment. It is very popular for the 7th and 8th grades.

For our report, we interviewed Susanna Schuler, a member of the team, to tell us a little bit more about the team. There are 16 team members and there is no team captain. Participating in field hockey is a big commitment and it sometimes affects other activities that they would like to participate in. One thing field hockey doesn't affect participating in the school play. Also, lots of them participate in dance. Susanna said that the best part of the game is teamwork, cooperation and being with friends. Winning is always the best feeling, but of course, sometimes it is okay to lose.

If you are interested in playing a sport, maybe try field hockey. You may turn out to love it.

KICKBOXING

By Courier Reporter

The Kickboxing class at Eastview was an excellent two week class for 6th grade girls. In the class we learned what to do if ever kidnapped and how to prevent being kidnapped. We also learned many kick boxing moves for self-defense.

We also learned many tips that did not involve kicking or punching, such as not to wear pony tails when walking out alone. This is because it makes an easy target for a kidnapper to grab. Also if you feel uncomfortable with someone on the elevator or such look them right in the eye and ask a question. For example, "Really cold weather out there, huh?" Now that you looked them in the eye, you know what they look like and

once you get the police you can show them who it is that tried to kidnap you.

The most important piece of information we got out of kick boxing was that if you are ever in danger of being kidnapped, just cause as much attention as possible. This is very important because the kidnapper won't want people to know who they are, because then they can be reported to the police.

We all had a lot of fun Kickboxing. We had snacks in a small class room and played Simon says—kicking style. We learned our punches in the room but once we started to kick we had to go out in the hallway. Sometimes someone would walk by and laugh at us, and we just laughed back. We all got along well and had a fun time while learning the art of self-defense.

The Community Service Club
is collecting backpacks for people in need. Please help! Donations can be dropped off at the Main Office.

Yearbook
Cover designs must be submitted by December 2nd.
For more information, see Ms. Flynn in room 308 (EV) or Miss Pietsch in room 309 (HL)
All designs must include the year "2012" and the word "Visions"

Boys' Swimming
begins on Monday, November 28
See the nurse for an updated medical card. You must bring a swimsuit, towel and goggles.
Practice is from 3-5. Swimmers will take the shuttle to WPHS but **MUST** be picked up by a parent.
Coach Fahey

Art Club
All 6th grade Art Club members are to come every Tuesday.

