

THE COURIER

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June 2019

The longest running middle school newspaper in the United States!

HIGHLANDS' SECRET GARDEN

By: Nadiya Jones and Eva Mandlebaum

Picture this: a perfect spring day, birds chirping, and greenery growing in magnitude, the smell of lilacs and flowers, and a calm breeze, all in the background while sitting on a rocking chair reading. Fantasy or reality? Well, this has recently become the reality for Highlands middle schoolers. There has always been a small courtyard accessible from the library and first floor, but it seems to be mysterious and unknown to most of the Highlands students. You are probably wondering, if this garden is so beautiful and magical seeming, why does it seem to be so unknown? Well, in the past it has been extremely run down, and as a result neglected and not very enjoyable to spend time in, along with it never quite being brought to students or teachers attention.

Well, thanks to Mrs. Ciofola and Mrs. O'Leary who generously donated plants, the WP PTA for funding, Mr. Cadet, Ms. Danz, Mr. Sally, Club Men, the Community Service Club, and The WP Youth Bureau programs, who have recently gotten involved in sprucing up this once run down garden, it has recently been repaired. Teachers and student clubs have been kind enough to volunteer their time tending to the garden and making it beautiful again for the enjoyment of Highlands' students and faculty. Now, all we need to do is bring this newly beautified space to life! There have recently been sign-up sheets posted by the

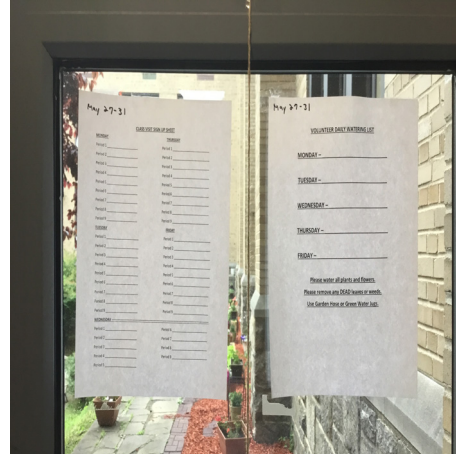
first stairwell, or one of the entrances to the garden. As stated by Mr. Cadet during an interview on how he originated this idea of bringing the unknown garden to life, "I love gardening and I wanted to share my love with staff and students from various after school groups who came together after school and did all of the planting in our new garden. Many students were planting for the first time and really enjoyed it."

So, if as explained by Mr. Cadet, how amazing this new outdoor space truly is, why do students and teachers still neglect this opportunity for some free time spent out in the garden? The problem is that not enough students are aware of this opportunity for relaxing while given the chance to complete schoolwork, all in this lovely garden. Well, believe it or not, we are in fact allowed to sign up to go out during our lunch period, as long as an adult is brought to accompany you.

So, what are you waiting for? Go sign up for this amazing opportunity, or else you will be seriously missing out! Go enjoy the scenery, lilacs, flowers, rocking chairs, fruits and vegetables, and efforts done by students and faculty for the enjoyment of you, the students and staff of Highlands.



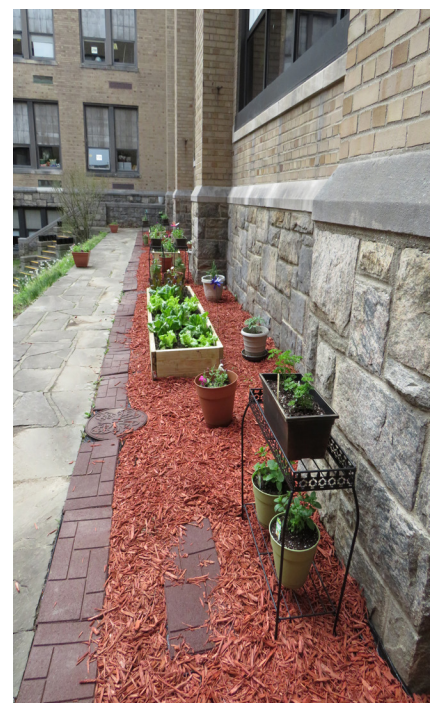
You can sign up to go out to the garden at the back of stairwell 1.



A view from above



One of the two lilacs donated by Mrs. Ciofola and Mrs. O'Leary



Different lettuces as well as herbs are planted here.



Flowers as well as vegetables and fruit are planted in our garden



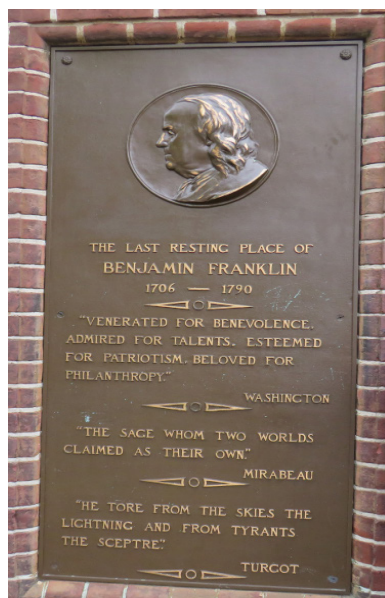
There is lots of seating to come and relax or work

SEVENTH GRADERS TRAVEL TO PHILADELPHIA



By: Colleen Cave

On May 9th teams A, B, and E went on a trip to Philadelphia in order to further our knowledge of America's history during the Revolutionary War period, which is what the 7th grade is currently learning about in class. The first stop was the National Constitution Center, where we toured exhibits and talked to reenactors who described America's fight for freedom covering topics such as the Revolutionary War, The Constitution, the amendments, the Civil War, women's suffrage, and much more. We also experienced an inspirational show that talked about America's fight for justice and equality. Afterwards, we visited the Benjamin Franklin Museum where we learned about his contributions to the country. There were also artifacts and treasures to view from Franklin's life, such as his sedan chair, which is a chair that he was carried on during his later years when he was ill. We also saw the Liberty Bell and learned the history behind its old, cracked, metal surface. Lastly, we visited the U.S. Mint, which is the building where they make the country's currency coins. We even got to tour the building and see the process for making the coins. All in all, the trip went smoothly and was an interesting experience. We got to see all of the special buildings and artifacts we've been learning about in social studies and got to hang out with our friends.



By: Matthew Selinger

As many of you know, history is an important part of society. As a result the seventh grade took a trip to Philadelphia. Not only was the trip a success but we visited many important monuments and made the trip in coach buses. We had to arrive early in the morning, we were sorted into groups of our buses, and after a long wait, we were on them. I am obviously not the only person who liked the buses since they *were* coach buses. Now on the way there, all I really did was look out the window, watch YouTube, and play cards. In addition, I could not really sleep because *certain* people were making a long of noise. When we finally got there we were sorted into our groups and went on our way. When we first entered the National Constitution Center, we all grouped together for a picture. After that, we were taken to a circular presentation room, where an amazing presentation was held, titled *Freedom Rising*. Sadly, we could not take any photographs or videos. After that, we went to the Liberty Bell museum where (obviously) we saw the Liberty Bell, and other cool artifacts from the 18th and 19th centuries. Then we were in our way to the Benjamin Franklin Museum where there were many interactive exhibits. There were also many artifacts from, and concerning his life. Some examples of those artifacts are bifocals, and a pneumatic air pump that were created by Franklin. Then we had our way back but not before we were taken to get Philli cheese steaks, and ice cream. Somehow, on the way back I miraculously found some way to sleep. I rate this trip a 10/10 and it was very educational.



THE EIGHTH GRADE TRIP TO ROCKING HORSE RANCH



By, Alicia McIver

On May 14 the 8th grade went to the Rocking Horse Ranch. We went Horseback riding, canoeing, and more. The food was great, and because I was able to be with my friends the whole time it made it even more fun. The weather was bad, and it prevented us from going in the water, and doing other fun activates with our friends, but other than that I enjoyed the Horse Ranch and I would go back. I hope they continue to have this trip every year for the 8th graders, it is very affordable, and it is a great experience for the upcoming 8th graders to have with their peers before going to the high school.

By: Sean Reidy

This year the 8th grade class went to rocking horse ranch for our 8th grade field trip. Many people were unhappy with this, including myself, but I think that overall it wasn't a bad trip. Firstly, we had a short, 2-hour drive, and who wants a long 4-hour drive? We could sit next to whoever we wanted to and essentially do whatever we wanted to. Then when

we arrived, we were free to go anywhere and do anything they had there. We had plenty of different activities to do as we pleased: bungee jumping, canoeing, mini golf, tennis, basketball, tubing, baseball, ping-pong, fishing, an arcade and horseback riding, sure It's not an overnight trip to our nation's capital but it was still a fun trip an I personally had plenty of fun despite my initial hesitation and I hope you did to.



Oh, a year to remember
Excitement for the year to end
Already starting last September
But what was coming I did not intend

Learning about this horse ranch
I simply couldn't see
How peddle boating and mini golf
Could live up to DC

I was looking forward to Washington
Yet what we ended up with I can barely say
For I'm in a state where I disagree
With a trip that was not educational in a single way

I appreciate the hard work
Put into this jaunt
But the lack of things to do
Left much for us to want

The scene took place on a rainy day
With everyone freezing to the bone
For a sweatshirt and long pants
Were not enough when the wind was blown

The purpose of this change
Was to have more students go
This clearly didn't work
As the attendance rate was low

At the end of the day
I really couldn't grip
How this could be labeled
As our eighth-grade trip

By: Sophia Alexandrou and Sophie Ginsberg



EDITORIALS

THE EQUALITY ACT

By: Sophie Alexandrou

In twenty-eight states in this country, it is legal for someone to be fired on the basis of sexual orientation. In thirty states in this country, it is legal for someone to be fired on the basis of gender identity. Most transgender persons are not allowed to serve in the military due to gender identity. This is wrong. This is not what America stands for. A new bill called “The Equality Act” would provide non-discrimination protections for those of the LGBTQ+ community in areas such as employment, housing, education, etc. This act would amend the Fair Housing Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and most notably the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This act would be a huge step forward for the United States and seems reasonable to think that lawmakers would unanimously agree that we must put this into effect. However, there are some representatives who find this act too dangerous and superfluous.

The Equality Act would prohibit anyone of the LGBTQ+ community to be denied service based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. This means that incidents like a pediatrician refusing to treat Krista and Jaime Contreras’ daughter will not happen again. In 2015, Krista and Jaime Contreras were given a different pediatrician than the one they had requested for their infant daughter because they are a lesbian couple. When this incident was brought up in a hearing, Rep. Ken Buck (R-CO) had compared LGBTQ people to Nazis stating, “Is it your position that an Orthodox Jewish doctor whose grandparent was killed in the Holocaust should be required to work with a Nazi patient?” While this example question was wildly inappropriate and irrelevant, it brings up the issue that many may have with offering service to those in the LGBTQ+ community. The solution to that should simply be if someone is not willing to have their service open to everyone, they should find a different profession.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL EFFORT

By: Aliya McIver

This year the WNBA salary is close to 75,000 dollars, and the maximum veteran salary is around 115,000 dollars. This year for the NBA season, the minimum salary of an NBA player is around \$800,000. This is a huge gap between the NBA and WNBA salaries. Yes, the NBA has been around for a long period of time, but because the WNBA is so young it should be more advanced, and the WNBA season should be extended and give WNBA players close to the same amount of money that the NBA players get paid. Elena Della Donne stated, “sexism is in the workforce, as well. There isn’t even equal pay, so its not just in sports it’s everywhere. Women out there need to keep pushing, and don’t let it deter you. Because we need all strong women to come out and speak about it. Equality is coming, we just

have to talk about it.” This quote shows that Elena wants us, the people, to talk about this issue and if we talk about it, a change might happen.

This pay gap is not just in basketball it is in many other sports. Tennis has blown up over the last couple of years because of Serena Williams. Serena has won 23 Grand Slam titles, and has been runner up 8 times. A couple of years ago Serena Williams and Roger Federer won titles at the Western and Southern open. In defending their titles Roger earned \$731,000 while Serena made \$495,000. Serena once stated that “The cycles of poverty, discrimination and sexism are much, much harder to break than the record for Grand Slam titles.” Serena is basically saying that even through all the effort she has put in just to win a Grand Slam title, it is easier to win than to fight the

problems of sexism.

Sports are where most pay gaps are, but there are surgeons, doctors, and specialists that go through these pay gaps as well. The pay gaps aren’t as much as it is in sports but there is a gap. men doctors get paid at least \$100,000 more then women doctors. To be exact men make on average, \$372,000, as a doctor while women make about \$280,000. Over the years the pay gap between male and female doctors has decreased, and it’s getting better.

My opinion is that females shouldn’t get paid less just because they are female. I do think that as time passes the pay gap between female and male doctors, and professional tennis/basketball players will decrease, and we won’t have to argue and put out articles about this issue.

SLAVERY IN SOCCER

By: Lucas Rhode

The 2018 World Cup ended about a year ago, and was filled with surprises. Next the 2022 World Cup will be held in Qatar. This had been decided in 2010. Ever since Qatar was chosen to host the 2022 World Cup, they have been working hard to create an event the world will never forget, but how they’re doing it is horrific. Qatar is a rather unfavorable place for the world’s most celebrated soccer tournament. Qatar’s summertime temperatures often soar into the triple-digits, which led FIFA move the tournament’s kick-off to late November. In preparation for the World Cup the country had created the world-class soccer infrastructure that the tournament demands. However, to meet the tournament’s demands, modern slavery takes place. Qatar’s labor practices use a system meant to monitor and manage migrant workers, who come to places like Qatar from poorer nations. To find work in Qatar, migrants must first find an employer to sponsor them, to whom they are subsequently bound. In addition, Qatar’s exit visa system states that migrants cannot leave Qatar without their passports and paperwork, both of which their sponsors control. This means that even under harsh conditions, the workers cannot leave Qatar’s borders. These horrific labor practices though have existed way before the men’s World Cup. This tournament has brought attention to this important issue. While what’s being built in Qatar for the largest soccer tournament is breathtakingly beautiful, the poor are paying for the risks taken for it.

THE 2020 CENSUS

By: Nadav Wigodsky

The United States conducts a census to count the population every 10 years. The Trump administration proposed to add a new question pertaining to citizenship to the 2020 census. In today’s political climate, immigration is a topic of concern. The new census question poses a very serious problem, and America might suffer a great deal.

The purpose of a census is to count every person. It is used to determine the spending toward a given place based on recorded population. It also determines the number of representatives for each state. The United States census asks for the relationship status, age, race, and sex of all members of each household. The upcoming census may bring back a question of citizenship. This question was

last widely used in 1950. People who are not citizens will likely opt out. There is concern that legal immigrants will not complete the census, and they will go unrecorded. A potential outcome is that diverse cities, such as New York City, might receive a low count due to its high number of immigrants. This would, of course, be disastrous for both the economy and the wellbeing of residents. Then New York City will receive less funding for housing, transportation, police and fire departments, and schools. Diverse and populous states would have fewer seats in the House of Representatives. Every other city in the country would be impacted, including White Plains. The Supreme Court is currently reviewing the question to determine whether it will be added.

This question must not be reintroduced to the census or else countless people will suffer.

THE OPIOID CRISIS

By: Nadav Wigodsky

Each day, more than 130 people in the United States die as a result of opioid-related overdoses.¹ The opioid crisis began in the late 1990s when opioids were prescribed more often. The sudden increase in availability resulted in increasing misuse. The misuse led to addiction. Pharmaceutical companies assured doctors that people would not get addicted to opioid pain relievers. When doctors heard that their patients felt pain, they prescribed opioids.²

The Rochester Drug Cooperative, a large drug distributor, was criminally charged by the federal government and settled for \$20 million in April 2019. The company was responsible for the illegal distribution of opioids. This is not unique to New York – all but two states are now suing large companies involved in the opioid crisis. There are hundreds of opioid distributors and manufacturers charged with deception and false marketing.

Insys is a company which produces opioids. The manufacturer agreed to pay \$255 million to settle national charges of fraud. Insys sold fentanyl, an opioid 100 times stronger than morphine³,

to doctors. One such doctor wrote 672 prescriptions and in return was paid \$44,000 from the company.⁴ Insys was approved for marketing fentanyl to cancer patients. Doctors were persuaded to expand beyond cancer patients, with incentives.⁴

This past summer, I had surgery on my leg. I was prescribed OxyContin for the pain. I didn’t use it, and we returned it to the pharmacy. I was surprised that something this strong was prescribed to me. I understand that some people may need it, butrisks many may be getting prescriptions unnecessarily and are being put at risk for addiction.

Sources:

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/epidemic/index.html>

² <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids/opioid-overdose-crisis>

³ <https://www.dea.gov/factsheets/fentanyl>

⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/05/health/insys-opioid-fentanyl-settlement.html>

THE TOP 5 UPCOMING MOVIES

By: Lucas Rhode

5. **Joker**

This choice might seem biased, as there isn't much hype for the movie, but this might be the first good DC movie. Joaquin Phoenix's joker might be the best joker of the all six Jokers from other movies. Failed comedian Arthur Fleck tries to smile through his pain, until pain made him smile.

4. **The Lion King**

Coming out July 19th is the live action version of the famous animated movie. The movie stars Donald Glover, Beyoncé and more. The previous animated film made almost one billion dollars, and the live action film might make more.

3. **Men In Black International**

The Men In Black movies are known by most, and the unexpected 4th movie is coming out June 14th, 2019. The movie stars Chris Hemsworth and Tessa Thompson and is currently tracking toward an opening weekend around \$40 million.

2. **Spider-Man: Far From Home**

Spiderman is one of the most known superheroes, having about one-million franchises. This is the first Marvel movie coming out after the phenomenal Avengers: Endgame, and as a result it must live to expectations the previous movie gave it.

1. **Toy Story 4**

It has been 9 years since the last Toy Story and it left us with a conclusive ending. Now, there the next Toy Story is here, and it will answer questions most never thought to have asked. Toy Story 4 has a chance at becoming the highest-grossing animated film of the year.



THE FASTEST CARS IN THE WORLD

By: Aryan Mehra

1. Devel Sixteen (300-360 mph)

The Devel Sixteen is a Hypercar from the city of cars, Dubai. The engine supposedly produces 5,007 horsepower, granting it a top speed of above 340 miles per hour! Not much is known about this car. Almost all of it's claims have not been proved. Let's hope their claims are true!

2. Hennessey Venom F5 (300-318 mph)

The Hennessey Venom F5 is an insane car which was created by the car tuner John Hennessey from Dallas. The Hypercar is powered by a 7.4 L twin-turbocharged V8 engine. It produces 1,600 horsepower and can reach speeds above of 301 mph!

Koenigsegg Jesko (300+ mph)

This megacar was only released only this March at the 2019 Geneva Motor Show! The car is named after the C.E.O.'s father, Jesko Koenigsegg. It creates 1,600 horsepower which may get it up to speeds of above 300 miles per hour! You can go see it at this year's New York City Auto Show.

3. SSC Tuatara (300 mph)

The SSC Tuatara is a future car from the record-breaking car company, Shelby Super Cars. It can produce 1,350 horsepower! The claimed top speed of this car is 300 mph. The rival to this car is the upcoming Hennessey Venom F5. It is powered by a 7.0-liter twin-turbocharged V8 engine, and is the successor to the SSC Ultimate Aero.

4. Bugatti Chiron (261-288 mph)

This amazing hypercar, by the legendary company, the Bugatti Chiron can reach speeds of 288 mph, but the tires can only reach 261 mph. Their engine Until Michelin comes up with a better tire, only then, it can withstand higher speeds.

5. Koenigsegg Agera RS (278 mph)

The Agera RS, the only tested car for the highest top speed on this list can reach speeds of 278 miles per hour! It's record-breaking engine produces 1,360 horsepower with the IMW upgrade. The successor to this car is the Koenigsegg Jesko.

6. Hennessey Venom GT (270 mph)

Wow. Just the aerodynamics on this vehicle are absolutely amazing. The design comes from a Lotus Exige, and the tuners from Dallas just gave it all they could. After all of the tuning, the car can reach speeds of 270.49 miles per hour! The successor to this car is the Venom F5.

7. 2010 Bugatti Veyron 16.4 Super Sport (268 mph)

I don't think I need an intro for this one. Everybody knows this insane car, which beat the SSC Ultimate Aero TT back in 2010. The car with it's 1,200 horsepower and 6,400 rpm, can achieve a top speed of 268 miles per hour!

8. 2020 Rimac C2 (256 mph)

The Rimac Concept 2 is an insane car from Croatia which creates 1,914 horsepower, a top speed of 256 miles per hour, and a 0-60 mph is a mind-blowing 1.85 seconds! This is my favorite supercar, and I also think, arguably, it is the best overall supercar in the world.

9. 2006 SSC Ultimate Aero TT(256)

The SSC Ultimate Aero TT is an American Supercar which took the record of top speed of the Bugatti Veyron. It was produced in 2006 and it is capable of 1,300 horsepower and can achieve speeds of up to 256 miles per hour.

THE WEIRDEST FACTS VOL. 3

By: Aryan Mehra

1. When you were born, you held the world record for youngest person in the world.
2. In the world's quietist room, you can hear your blood flowing, because the sound is measured as -9 decibels.
3. In chess, there are 46,783,665,034,756,288,456,012,645 possibilities for a move.
4. The tongue of a tiger is so spiky and rough, it can lick paint of walls. But, they usually use their tongues to rip off flesh.
5. If you didn't have a pinky finger, the strength in your hand would decrease by fifty percent.
6. India is the only country to have native lions and tigers living free in the wild.
7. If you sleep in the day and work at night, then you are a Lychnobite.
8. Peanuts can be used to make dynamite.
9. The sunsets on Mars are blue.
10. Nintendo was founded on September 23, 1889.
11. A twenty-four sided shape is known as a rhombicuboctahedron.
12. Honey is technically bee vomit.
13. The fear of buttons is known as koumpounophobia.
14. The Antarctic Blackfin Icefish has transparent bones and white blood.
15. Goats have accents, depending on where they live, and what flock they belong to.
16. The weight of the world's largest falafel, is 164.80 pounds.
17. Sesame street has been running since 1969 and now it is also a real street!
18. Nearly 15 percent of Los Angeles are parking lots.
19. Dogs can learn up to 165 words.
20. Chihuahuas have the biggest brains in the Canine world.

THE COURIER

White Plains Middle School

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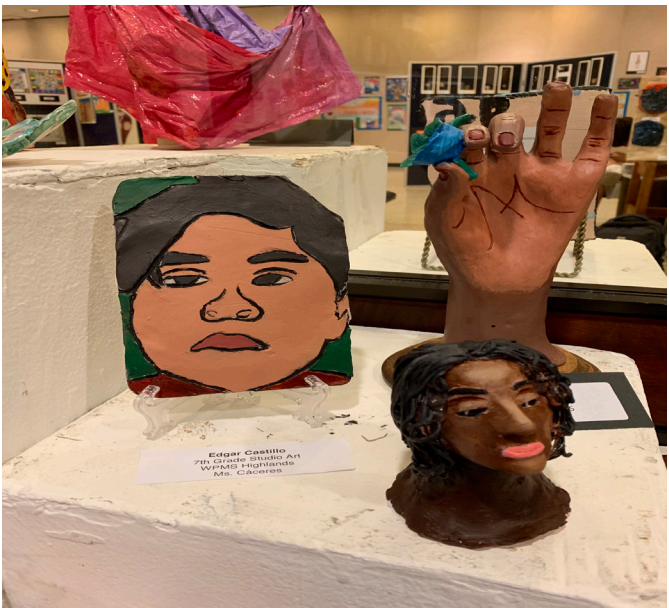
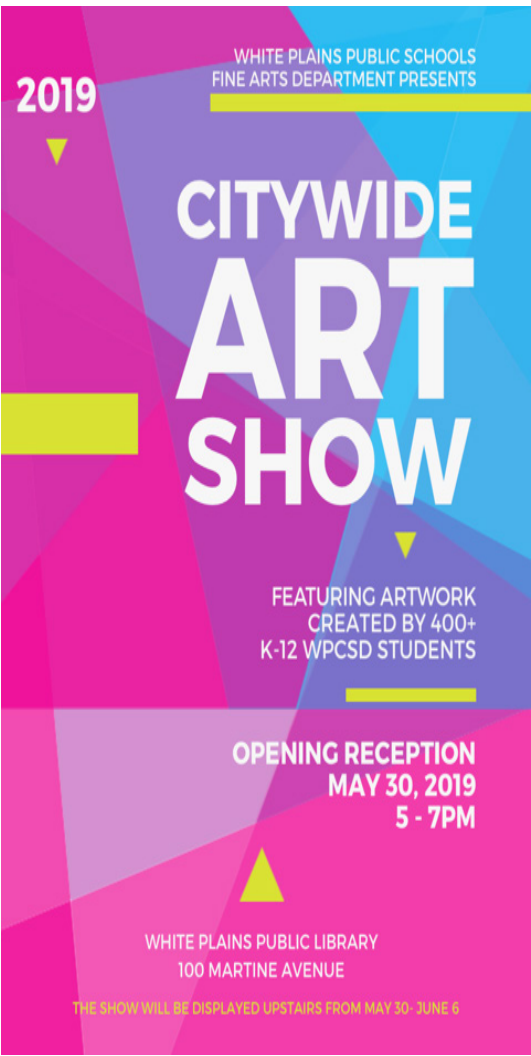
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Editorials reflect the opinion of the editorial board and, unless otherwise noted, are written by members of

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



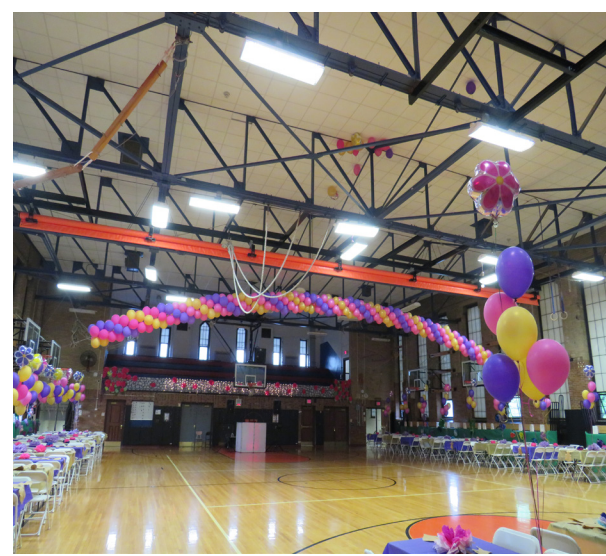
HIGHLANDS STUDENTS REPRESENT AT THE CITY WIDE ART SHOW



Seventh grader Melina proudly shows off her artwork



THE 8TH GRADE DANCE



SUMMER READING

Summer Reading 7th Grade

Every incoming 7th grader must read either

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper OR Anything but Typical by Nora Raleigh Baskin

The additional books on this list are SUGGESTED further reading options. Students should consult Ms. Ciofalo, ELA teachers, and the public librarians for guidance in choosing summer reading.

Choose ONE



Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper

Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time. (from the catalog)



Anything but Typical by Nora Raleigh Baskin

Jason, a twelve-year-old autistic boy who wants to become a writer, relates what his life is like as he tries to make sense of his world. (from the catalog)

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTED READING

Guys Write for Guys Read: Funny Business edited by Jon Scieszka (or any of the Guys Read Collection)



Funny Business, the first volume in Jon Scieszka's Guys Read Library of Great Reading, features ten short stories guaranteed to delight, amuse, and possibly make you spit your milk in your friend's face.

There's something for everyone in this collection of short stories from some of the funniest writers around. This hilarious, offbeat first installment in the Guys Read Library is 100% grade-A humor, guaranteed to have kids of all ages asking for more.

Authors include Mac Barnett, Eoin Colfer, Christopher Paul Curtis, Kate DiCamillo & Jon Scieszka, Paul Feig, Jack Gantos, Jeff Kinney, David Lubar, Adam Rex, and David Yoo, with illustrations by Adam Rex. (from the publisher)

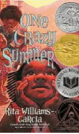
Awkward by Svetlana Chmakova



Cardinal rule #1 for surviving school: Don't get noticed by the mean kids.

Cardinal rule #2 for surviving school: Seek out groups with similar interests and join them.

On her first day at her new school, Penelope--Peppi--Torres reminds herself of these basics. But when she trips into a quiet boy in the hall, Jaime Thompson, she's already broken the first rule, and the mean kids start calling her the "nerder girlfriend." How does she handle this crisis? By shoving poor Jaime and running away! (from the publisher)



One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams Garcia

In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp (from the catalog)

Students: Please remember that you have access to SORA and TALE\$2GO recorded books all summer long. In addition to the regular collection, SORA/Overdrive has added 30 titles with unlimited access until August 15. Instructions for use are on the library webpage: <https://wpms hc.libguides.com/WPHL/>. Email Ms. Ciofalo with any questions.



HL LIBRARY

Summer Reading 8th Grade

Every incoming 8th grader must read **Drums Girls and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick.**

The additional books on this list are SUGGESTED further reading options. Students should consult Ms. Ciofalo, ELA teachers, and the public librarians for guidance in choosing summer reading.

Drums Girls and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick



Thirteen-year-old Steven has a totally normal life: he plays drums in the All-Star Jazz band, has a crush on the hottest girl in the school, and is constantly annoyed by his five-year-old brother, Jeffrey. But when Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia, Steven's world is turned upside down. He is forced to deal with his brother's illness and his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece. Salted with humor and peppered with devastating realities, DRUMS, GIRLS, AND DANGEROUS PIE is a heart warming journey through a year in the life of a family in crisis. (From the publisher)

Suggested Reading:

Refugee by Alan Gratz



Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together (From the publisher)

Gathering Blue by Lois Lowry (or any book in The Giver Quartet)



Lame and suddenly orphaned, Kira is mysteriously removed from her squalid village to live in the palatial Council Edifice, where she is expected to use her gifts as a weaver to do the bidding of the all-powerful Guardians. (from the catalog)

The War that Saved my Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley.



A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.(from the catalog)

To all the Boys I've Loved Before by Jenny Han.



Lara Jean writes love letters to all the boys she has loved and then hides them in a hatbox until one day those letters are accidentally sent (from the publisher)

POETRY CORNER

By: Eva Mandlebaum

Boom

Boom

Boom

By the 3rd gun shot

Another life lost

People try

They try to let it all wash away

Like the sea washing onto shore

On a warm summer day

But no,

We can't just pretend like everything's all OK

These memories don't just

Go away

But the reality is

People have never truly forgot

The value in the life that has been lost

The potential to be someone,

Something important in the world

All these possibilities shattered

Like the windshield on a car after a crash

But that's not permanent,

Unlike the lives

The lives lost

That, that's permanent

The question is why?

Why could people be so cruel?

Why are we letting ourselves live in this society

That causes all this unwanted anxiety

And yet, we still continue to suffer quietly

Questions are asked that shouldn't be

Assumptions are made that shouldn't be

Actions are made that shouldn't be

People are killed that shouldn't be

A life lost, shattered, taken away all at the sound of a gun shot.

The question though is, "what did you do wrong?"

The answer to that question is nothing.

Absolutely nothing at all.

You are a person.

And nothing, absolutely nothing could ever change that

Not even the fact that you are black, white, Latino, gay, straight

But nonetheless, there's all this unnecessary hate

People act.

Society reacts.

The only thing is how we can't ignore the fact

That people are killed

Because of being human,

Pure human

Let that ring in your ears for just a moment, just as the gun shots that kill the people of our very own society do.

all these truths to be self evident that all men were created equal

meaning all the people

no matter what

but what about the women?

like the only real people are men

if that's what most of society wants to believe,

we have some things we need to achieve

as a society, lets take a stand

let's go back time, come with me?

men were the first to own land,

to vote,

own a goat,

anything in between

women would be preferred seen not heard,

couldn't get in a word

"No matter what, the earth will keep on spinning"

But is this really true?

The earth is the thing that just keeps on giving

And we are doing all the taking

Taking from the beautiful Mother Nature

From the water falls, the oceans, forests, desserts, to all the trees

And yet no one believes

What impact we are making on this world

The place we just happened to be born and created on

Yes, you may be sick and tired of hearing

all these activists

Talk, talk, talk

About how amazing the world is

As if ignoring the tragedy, war, sickening things that go on

Glossing over the horrible people born

into this earth

But we need to understand and accept our

earth for what it is,

And see the beauty in it

But in years from now, will that hidden

beauty be gone for good?

you need to help, do something for the

sake of our society!

For the sake of your great grandchildren,

and so on

Or else, there will not be an earth to even

talk about

But it's not about the talking, it's about the

doing

We have plenty of people who care

Just not enough are really there

To help save our beautiful Mother Earth

So all I ask is please,

Next time you see a piece of trash

The smallest piece of trash,

Pick it up

You will be doing the world a favor

And remember: one person can change

the world,

Just one single action

Can create a chain reaction

And together, we can fix, undo

What we did to our very own earth

like the keeping of a bird

wanting to be set free

women are abused when they shouldn't be

women are taken advantage of when they

shouldn't be

women are paid less when they shouldn't be

and yet, that's what we call progress?

well, we have some major things to repossess

from the rights stolen from us women

for simply being born as women

By: Myla Morris

My son

The mom once said,

She loves her black son

But she's in fear he'll run

Talk back to a cop

Won't come home 'cause

he's shot

The drugs the gangs

Fear in her veins

I love my black son

Inside

Seemed nothing wrong

Bright with light

Who really knew what went

on at night

That little boy

Nothing with pain

But that smile on his face was

the only thing he gained

That girl she talked

She roamed free as she walked

But those bruises on her arm

Put her through so much harm

That boy, that girl

Caught up in what we call this

WORLD

As it goes

A friend

A person

A girl

A boy

Memories forever

Pain for now

I'll never forget you

We will talk again

Perhaps soon

My sweet, loving friend

There she goes

Where to;

Who knows

Swaying so beautifully

Butterfly