



Northern Light



The Spelling Bee

By Lila Halpert

Ever wondered what it would be like to participate in a schoolwide spelling bee? Unless you were one of the forty-three students who were onstage on Thursday, January 12th, 2023, you may be curious about this. Luckily for you, your humble author was in North Middle School’s most recent spelling bee (even making it to the final two!) and will walk you through the main points of the bee.

In homeroom, all of the spellers received a pass to go to the auditorium. After showing it to their first period teachers, they went to the auditorium, which was quickly filled with all of the class bee victors. Upon instruction from the teachers (all wearing bumblebee antennae headbands), the spellers filed onto the stage, sitting down in alphabetical order by last name, and the preliminary round began. It was not livestreamed to the rest of the school, and it was almost like a warm-up for the contestants. Like all of the spelling bee, the words in the preliminary round were pronounced by Mr. Norberto and judged by Ms. Rice, Mr. Del Ferraro, and Ms. Feehan. In addition, Ms. Andreacchi rang a small, silver bell when a contestant spelled a word incorrectly, while Ms. Wang and Ms. Roche helped out onstage.

After the preliminary round, the livestream began with Mr. Derych at the helm. Each round was more difficult than the last, with more and more spellers exiting the brightly lit stage for the darkened auditorium each time. A note about the stage lights: They were unforgiving. Many a speller complained of the immense heat created by the lights, and the spotlights were dimmed in an attempt to make the stage cooler. At one point, Dr. Cozine had to hold open the door to the bus platform to get the cold January air flowing throughout the auditorium.

The bee continued all the same, with the rounds flying by and the words becoming harder and harder. After spelling a word, there was a second of excruciating suspense — *Did I spell that right? DID I?* — and then one of two things happened: Either Mr. Norberto nodded and you returned to your seat, or Ms. Andreacchi rang her little bell of death and you were defeated in your quest for victory. Quickly, the bee entered uncharted territory when the familiar vocabulary morphed into words that had not been on the study list. As the number of rounds continued on into the double digits, the number of contestants onstage dwindled well into the single digits. After several rather intense rounds (We think it may have been fourteen, but even Mr. Norberto was losing track by the end), sixth grader Brian Liu emerged the winner after spelling “marauding” correctly. He will now be the one to represent North Middle in the regional competition.

No matter how far a speller made it into the bee, valuable lessons can be learned from this bee: for example, word hard and study well to achieve your goals. Just look at Brian, who, despite being one of the youngest in the bee, bested students years older than him through determination, fortitude, and dedication. We look forward to following his progress at the regional spelling bee and beyond!

(PS — Somebody, anybody, please get the auditorium a better air-conditioning system.)

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Look on page 5 for a teaser for the school musical!



School News

No-Shave-November

By Reese Yan

On November 1, 2022 the school teachers of North Middle participated in No Shave November. This is a school wide activity where teachers try to grow the best beard or mustache to raise money for a good cause.

Dr.Cozone, the school principal, had won the challenge. "I was excited to be recognized by the students for my amazing beard, but I was even happier that we raised a lot of money for the American Cancer society. I look forward to defending my title next year." You heard him, Dr.Cozone lives on!

Mr.Denise, the music teacher says, "I think that it's a good way to raise money. I think that it's a good idea to grow a beard. I feel like I am still in No-shave November." Have you seen his beard in person? He dyed it purple. It looks so cool, like he just came out of a spy-movie.

Mr. Silva explained, "It's an organization for men's health awareness. I have participated every year since the start." This was a great thing to do, *for all the teachers who hadn't participated in it.*

Coach Fletay, the gym teacher, had shared, "I participate every year, because it's for a good cause." And so should you. This is a great way to raise money.

Who did you vote for?

Gift of Life

By Danai Bezerianou

Starting in September 2022, Ms. Israel organized the third Gift of Life in a row.

Gift of Life has been selling a variety of items to support raising money for Nada's heart surgery. If you have some spare change, please do drop by when we are selling, to support Nada.

Dr Silva, language teacher, said, "It's a great thing to be able to support the families with not enough money for medical treatment, their children need all the help they can get. We all get together and work as a team to raise money."

A fellow journalist agreed and said, "It's a good cause for Nada, people should be a part of it, as it is a magical feeling to know that you've helped a child's life."

Student Hannah Hyman commented, "I think it's a very good idea to raise money for a good cause, and schools should do this. I really like it."

Ultimately, if you do happen to pass by a Gift of Life stall, buy something, and help Nada and her family.



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Seventh Grade DNA Lab Trip: 2022-2023

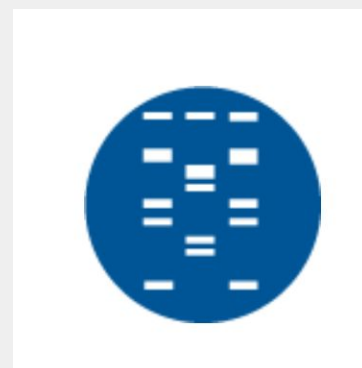
By Catherine Wang

On the last day of November (November 30th), the seventh graders in SWIS 1 went on a field trip to a DNA Lab. SWIS 2 went the following day which was the last day of November or December 1st and SWIS 3 went the day after which was December 2nd. This overview will be focused on how SWIS 2's trip went.

As like many other field trips, the day started out with homeroom before everyone was gathered in the auditorium. There were 3 buses, one for each homeroom. Since there were 4 seventh grade SWIS 2 homerooms, Ms. Sephton's homeroom was split up between the three buses. About half an hour later, the three buses arrived at the DNA Lab which looked like any large ordinary beige brick building. The seventh graders on the field trip were gathered in an enclosed auditorium like space. Surprisingly, there were closets where you would hang your coat and a rack for your lunch meaning it wouldn't get smushed. After this, everyone was sorted by homeroom and each homeroom would alternate between the activities that were available. The following activities will be listed in the order that Mr. Roach's homeroom went to them.

In the first lab, DNA was tested as an experiment to figure out the solution to a murder mystery. There was the DNA of three suspects and the evidence in 4 separate tubes. The seventh graders were first given pipettes so that they could learn and understand how they were used. At each of the tables, there were the supplies needed for the experiment. One of these supplies was a small flat dish that contained some type of gel-like stuff with some markings on it. Once the basics - how to hold the pipette, how the pipette tip worked - were explained, we each got a turn to take the DNA liquid from the tubes and transfer it into the small compartments by the markings on the gel plate. After this, the plate was put into a box of a water like substance and plugged into a machine where the seventh graders were instructed to press certain buttons on it. (One of the buttons was a running man.) Everyone was lectured about how it worked and all as they waited for the gel plate to set in the water box. Once the waiting time was over, the gel was slid off of the tray it was originally sitting on and placed onto another tray that everyone carried over to a machine that would show the traces of Dna. The lines appeared and it was easy to match one of the suspect's DNA to the evidence DNA. Lining up at the door marked the end of that "class."

In the next DNA Lab, there was a museum type display. The teacher there described some of the things such as the skulls outlining the evolution of humans and Otzi. After that short lecture, the seventh graders were free to explore and fill in the scavenger hunt. In the "human skull section" there were skulls of humans today, Neanderthals, Homo Floresiensis, chimpanzees and monkeys, and the dates of the time period in which they existed. Across from that were full human skeletons with the modern human, a Neanderthal, and a monkey. The scavenger hunt packet asked for the seventh graders to figure things out from the information on the signs and the video playing repeatedly. One of the questions asked for all of Otzi's tattoos to be identified. There were many other topics too if you didn't go in order. There was a section where you could guess if an animal's eye was real or a fraud to trick their predator. There was another section about the chromosomes in a male and a female. In fact, if you look at the chromosomes on the sheet and then to the bathroom doors, you will notice that the marking female bathroom door matches a female chromosome and it is the same with the male bathroom door marking. Unfortunately, it wasn't exactly possible to finish the scavenger hunt within the limited amount of time given to allow for there to be other activities fit into the tight schedule but it was a very informative scavenger hunt.



Seventh Grade DNA Lab Trip: 2022-2023 Continued....

By Catherine Wang

Third, upstairs was a room where you would dissect DNA. Not the DNA of a real person but the DNA of a grain. Specifically, a wheat grain. Like the other activities, this one too started with a lecture, this one about wheat grains and slowly transitioning to the different parts of it. What the seventh graders wanted to dissect from the wheat grain was its germ or where its DNA was stored. In the center table, the teacher would demonstrate all of the following actions that needed to be taken in order to complete the task given. Firstly, water was added to the wheat grains in a tube and the tube had to be shaken harshly in order to dissolve the cell wall, cell membrane and any other layers protecting it. Although the water already did a lot of the work, soap was added to help with dissolving the protective parts of the wheat grain. Finally, ethanol was added so that the germ dissected from the wheat grain would clump together and allow the seventh graders to scoop it out with a thin stick that had a circle at one end. Every seventh grader had a small tube with some ethanol in it where they could store the DNA they had collected. A string was also provided to put through the tube's latch to make it act as a DNA necklace. With this in hand, the seventh graders walked out of the classroom and back downstairs where one last activity awaited them.

A murder mystery about the Romanov family's murder would conclude the list of activities provided at the DNA Lab. The room was like an oval with curved thin tables that had laptops on them. From these laptops, the seventh grader's would follow along with the mystery. Anastasia Romanov was said to have been murdered along with the rest of her family during this period of time due to their royalty. All of a sudden, a woman about the age Anastasia would have been if she had survived the murder appeared and claimed a year later that she was Anastasia Romanov. This was a big deal to everyone because not only was she an heir to Russia, she was an heir to basically every European country because she was related to Queen Victoria of England who had her offspring marry into basically every royal European family. During the time this happened, there was really no technology to tell if she was a fraud or not. An ear test was done and from the pictures, their ears appeared to match almost perfectly so that was a good sign. There were many other tests done but there was nothing definitive. She was living by the name Anna Anderson at the time but there was a suspicion raised that she could be Franziska Schanzkowska, a worker at a factory that recently exploded and someone who went missing. In the end, Anna Anderson died before anyone could prove whether or not she was a fraud. Years later, when Dna technology finally became good enough, she was found to not be related to the correct relatives and instead was related to a nephew of Franziska Schanzkowska meaning that she was Franziska Schanzkowska. Although no one really knows if she truly believed in what she said because she never took back her claim of being Anastasia Romanov.

In the end, the seventh graders gathered once again and began filing out of the building/lab. Going back to their respective buses the seventh graders returned running slightly late. This field trip was an informative one that shows the evolution of DNA and how it is used or can be used along with the evolution of humans and the Universe. The possibilities of evolution are present in the everyday world you see today.

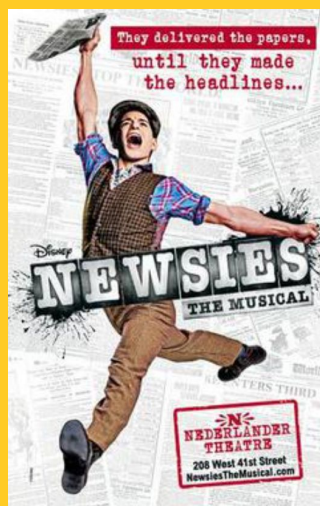


Newsies: A Teaser

By Harrison Albin

The musical is a massive event each school year, and its production is no easy task. This year's play will be *Newsies*, which is about the newsboys in New York during the year 1899. The life of a newsie is a hard one. Selling each paper is a must, or else the newsies face starvation. They live with terrible conditions, but still continue to enjoy every part of their life that they possibly can. After the price of papers goes up due to the demand of papers going down, the newsies go on strike to earn justice from those running the newspapers.

My experience in our theater has been a great one, both performing in *The Descendants* last year and *Newsies* later on this year. It is a great place to bond with others, who you will spend hours upon hours with. It is a kind space where you can be who you want to be. You learn the songs and their respective choreographies, and though it is difficult, completing a show is incredibly rewarding. It is a massive commitment, but one that I would personally say is absolutely worth it. The most grueling parts of the play are often the best. During tech weeks, barriers disappear as you sit in the same room with the same people for hours on end. Each year, the commitment and camaraderie of each member of the cast brings the play to us, and it is definitely rewarding to be a part of it. I hope that the theater program will continue to be able to produce plays and people continue to find a family there.



Dear Miss Know-It-All,

How do I handle school stress if I can't even handle stress from home?

From Avery

Hi Avery,

I would first tell you that it is okay to be stressed. Everyone is stressed at some point in their life. I would advise you that if it is affecting your school work, to speak to your teachers about it. You may feel like your teacher will not understand, but trust me, they do. By taking that step, together, you can come up with a plan to resolve/ treat your school stress. Now to deal with your stress from home. For everyone this may vary, but generally I would tell people to speak to a trusted adult. When I was younger I was in a similar situation. I found out my dad had a type of cancer. My parents said it was treatable and the tumor was later removed. I learned about it when he was a few months away from remission. That caused me to have a lot of stress. I knew that he was going to be ok but, I was thinking about all of the possible but unlikely outcomes. I later realized that if I tell somebody, my stress would start to die down. Later on I told a few of my teachers. This is because at that point it really was affecting my grades. They helped me handle all of it. You may be wondering why I told you this but, let me tie this into your situation. Although you may feel like this kind of stress both at home and at school happens to you, it actually happens to a lot of people. Another way of dealing with stress (instead of speaking to a trusted adult) is finding a coping skill that you like. For example; running, fidget toys, deep breathing, writing, talking to friends about stress, and so much more. Thank you so much for reaching out, Avery.

Sincerely,

Miss Know-It-All

Dear Miss Know-It-All,

How do I help my friends stop fighting without making it look like I am choosing sides?

From Caleb

Dear Caleb,

Thank you so much for reaching out. Well, to be honest, every situation is different. Here are some strategies that would help anyone in this kind of situation. You could distance yourself from both friends. If one of them starts talking bad about the other person in front of you, you could ask them to stop. Don't be afraid to say that the whole situation makes you uncomfortable. Or you could do the complete opposite. You could be there for both of them. Another thing that you could do is that you could sit them both down and try to resolve the issue verbally. Of course there are many other things that you could do, but these strategies always seem to be the more efficient ones. Thank you, Caleb, for asking this question. I think that it could help out many people in similar situations.

Sincerely,

Miss Know-It-All

Blazer's Live: Behind the Scenes

By Abigail Bernstein

“Five, ready audio, four, ready opening clip, three, ready announcer, two, roll clip, take clip, one.” By one, *Blazer's Live* is broadcasting on almost every Smartboard throughout Great Neck North Middle School. Many people watch *Blazers Live* almost if not every morning, but few know how much it takes just to put on one show. It requires a ton of planning, rehearsal and communication in order to put on just one show.

The reaction that is received after someone from *Blazers Live* tells another person that there is a rehearsal before the show is usually, “What? I thought it was live.” To answer this question, yes. *Blazers Live* is live, but in order for it to run smoothly, we have a rehearsal show to work out all of the little issues, and prepare for special accommodations. For example, when we are missing one of the anchors and have to have a one anchor show, it's important to rehearse beforehand in order to change the teleprompter, make sure the audio person is used to keeping mic 2 muted, and let the floor manager adjust the cameras.

There are tons of different jobs that all combine to make the show you see on your homeroom Smartboard every day. There are two rooms in 205: the control room and the set. In the control room, you will find technical jobs, such as the person who controls audio, the person who edits the teleprompter, the person who controls backgrounds and music, and the director. In the set, you will find everyone who appears on camera, such as the anchors, birthdays, sports person, pledge person, etc. Connecting these two rooms is the person called the floor manager, who is in the set room, but connected to the director via headset, and works as the person in charge of the On-Air Talent and cameras.

Blazers Live provides 6th, 7th and 8th graders with a chance to learn all about news stations, and how they run. The people who choose On-Air jobs gravitate towards the musical and other performing arts, as they feel comfortable performing live. Control room jobs use professional equipment, the same ones used on news channels like ABC, NBC, CNN, FOX, and so many more. The people who work in roles like Director and Floor Manager learn how to lead. All together, everyone on the *Blazers Live* team learns how to cooperate, problem solve, how to meet deadlines, and so many more valuable aspects. *Blazers Live* can lead to careers, such as TV News Stations, Radio Stations, Movie/Video production, etc.

Blazers Live has come a long way since it was originally started in 2015 by a teacher named Mr. Crowley. Things were a lot different in that version, compared to today. For one, job rotations didn't exist. It was a first-come-first-serve type situation. However, we now have a daily A-B schedule of jobs for everyone, and those jobs change every few months.

Blazers Live's very own teacher, Mr. Derych had a situation similar to many students today. When he was in sixth grade at Great Neck South Middle School, he didn't go to Greenkill. Instead, he showed up to school wielding a digital camera, and filmed some activities happening around school in those few days. Realizing how much fun this could be, he ended up taking various classes about film, and went to college for film and education. Now, he works here at NMS in the morning, and runs over to South High for afternoon classes. Mr. Derych is a creative, friendly, caring teacher who will attempt to help with anything possible, and make you at least giggle while doing so. If you are interested in *Blazers Live*, or filming and editing in general, Mr. Derych's your man.

He would like to make some announcements:

1. I will never, ever, change the music for the Birthdays & Special Announcements.
2. The most frequently-asked question I get about *Blazers Live* is if we're really live. Of course we are!
3. The second most frequently-asked question I get is why the show looks so glitchy. That has to do with the system that broadcasts us into all the homerooms, which is out of date. We're currently looking into replacements/upgrades.
4. *Blazers Live* has gone through four or five different logos over the years, but for the most part, we stick with the one created by Tyler Brechner, who's now a senior at North High.
5. There are lots of things that I'd like to add to *Blazers Live* in the future, like a Radio DJ pre-show and a physical set in addition to our green screen. Since I arrived, we've upgraded our camera switcher as well as our teleprompter computer and clip-on microphones.
6. During my first two years here, *Blazers Live* was a club, not a homeroom. Students could come and go as they pleased, which made job rotations difficult to enforce, and at one point, we had 30 students in *Blazers Live*! Since we only have between 15 and 20 positions, many of the kids would just be hanging out, and this would make doing shows much more difficult.

School News

Blazer's Live: Behind the Scenes Continued....

By Abigail Bernstein

7. Before I got to *Blazers Live*, there was no opening video. I started that tradition and since 2018, the theme song has been a mash-up of some sort. For the past two years, instead of finding a mashup on the Internet, I've been making them myself. I keep a list of songs or parts of songs I'd like to use for future mash-ups on my phone. Making them is time-consuming, but a lot of fun!
8. Since we record every show we broadcast, I have hundreds of old shows saved to my computer, including a bunch of the shows from the Mr. Crowley days.
9. If we do not receive more anchor stories, there will be more Bongo The Clown appearances. Beware.



The Chorus Did an Amazing Job at the Winter Concert

By Sophia McLaughlin

On December 15, at Great Neck North Middle, the chorus, band and orchestra joined together in this year's winter concert. The show consisted of cheery holiday songs like “On with the Snow” and “Light the Candles.” First the band performed followed by the orchestra. Afterwards the chorus sang some tunes and the band and orchestra performed full orchestra, where all of the instruments played together. Then the big finale “On with the Snow” was sung by the chorus and played by the full orchestra.

For the students in chorus, it took lots of hard work to prepare for the special night. There were four songs that the chorus performed. “More to Me” by Pink Zebra, “Shalom, Pachem, Peace” by Ruth Elaine Schram, “Square Root of Impossible” by Jingle Jangle, and "On with the Snow” by various artists. Each vocal group got different parts to sing and we all had to memorize every lyric of the songs. Each day we worked hard and were focused.

On the day of the concert, everyone was very nervous to perform on stage. We all had to wear black pants and a white top. When it was our turn to perform, we had to go onto risers and were arranged by height order. “It was so cramped and hot on the risers but we eventually got through it,” says Sophia McLaughlin, another chorus student. Overall, the concert went really well and we even had a party with food and drinks to celebrate our hard work. We can’t wait for the next concert in the spring!

Winter Band Concert

By Molly Forst

On December 13th, GNNMS invited their 6th grade band to the stage. They played 3 pieces named, Eye of the Tiger, The Second Storm, and Sleigh Ride. These 6th graders were taught by Mr. Virgilio, the sixth grade Band and Orchestra teacher. He said, “I think the winter concert was a success. I think every student played very well for their first real concert.” This may be these students' first concert due to Covid-19. Covid-19 set these talented students back a year, giving them a slower, rockier start.

When interviewing students who participated in this concert, a flutist named Mia Shamash shared how she thought it went. She’d responded, “I really think our concert went well. Even though we had a few mishaps I would say it was a good day.” It seems other students can agree with her because a fellow trombonist Jacob Yousian says “I think everybody played well, and I think the concert was a success.” According to these answers, the concert played out well. Get it? *Played* out. Anyone who listened in on the concert is sure to have been amazed!

The Day of the Robotics Competition

By Ethan Chiu

On Sunday, January 22, 2023, at 8:15 AM, members of the 6th grade team for Great Neck North Middle School were arriving in the lobby of Mineola High School. Their team name was, *The Blazing Legos #15420*. The team consisted of six members, and one amazing coach. The students' names were Ishan Bagchi, Ethan Chiu, Devan Forbes, William Jin, Mariano Kawai, and Kevin Livian and the coach was the one and only, Mr. Livingston.

The team had been preparing for this event for months, countless hours of hardwork and determination was put into this competition. They had worked until 3:45 PM every Tuesday, until the week before the competition. Members of the team had to meet up everyday after school until 4:30 PM, just to finish the robot missions and their slideshows.

The team members were excited, but also anxious on the day of the competition while getting ready to go on. At 9:45 AM the members of the team had gone into the judging room to present their presentation. The judges had been fascinated by what they were saying. After the judging session had been completed, Mr. Livingston had been complementing the team on how proud he had been. After his speech, the kids had headed back to their table and were preparing for their first robot run. At 10:45 AM, the seven of them had headed out and ran their robot. A while after, they headed out again at 11:25 to go for their 2nd trial. They had done bad on the first try, so this was their second attempt to boost their ranking up. The scorer had totaled up their points, but still no luck. They had scored the exact same amount of points as last time!

They were all tired out and somewhat disappointed with their scores, but it wasn't completely over yet. It was time for their last and final robot run at 12:10 PM. The members had felt confident after test running their robot multiple times and checking for their errors. The robot had gone on, and the team was rooting for it to stay on course. Moments after, the kids were nervously waiting for their scores for round 3 to come out. The leaderboard had refreshed and *The Blazing Legos #15420*, was in 4th place! They all started cheering, including Mr. Livingston with Landon! They all celebrated and were confident that they had a chance to advance to the next round.

After lunch, the students had gone to the auditorium to see who was getting awarded and what teams were going to be advancing! An hour later, the team had left the auditorium, feeling excited about scoring 4th place, but upset that they didn't qualify for the next round. Mr. Livingston had told the students that he was still very proud of them and that even though they didn't advance, it was still a great day and that was what was important to them. Members of the team were very proud of themselves and Mr. Livingston had even sent out an email to congratulate the special day and how outstanding they were.

To conclude, it wasn't how well the team did, or how many points they had scored, what mattered was that everyone had an amazing time and students are already saying that they want to rejoin next year too!

A few words from our members of the team:

"We had lots of fun preparing, building, and working for our competition" -Devan Forbes

"It was a great day! I know that it may not have been the outcome we had hoped for, but we all had a blast! I'm super proud to have coached this epic 6th grade team!" -Mr. Livingston

"I overall had a great experience with the team. We persevered through many struggles and problems and in my opinion did very well scoring 4th place at the competition." -Mariano Kawai

"We had an excellent time there! Even though we didn't advance, our team had done an amazing job getting everything done and I'm very proud of what we did! I am also planning to rejoin the team next year too!" -Ethan Chiu

"It was an amazing experience to work together as a team, and on our first tournament ever placing 4th place. I definitely know I will join next year and I have very high hopes for doing even better. Mr Liv was an amazing coach even when we were nervous or scared for the tournament he would tell us we could do it and he proved us right by us getting such a high scoring place." -Ishan Bagchi

The Russia-Ukraine War: Impacts on the Future

By Daniel Goldberg

On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. This terrible war has currently been fought for 11 long months, amassed at least 42,200 deaths, and resulted in 14 million people being displaced. In this article, our main focus will not be on dry statistics, major events, news, or foreign aid to Ukraine. Our main focus will be on the global impact that the war in Ukraine will have on the future of the world's geopolitics and economics.

First, we shall start with an overview of what happened in the war, and how we have gotten where we are. In the opening day/days of the war, Russia tried to achieve a quick victory using combined arms maneuver warfare. Combined arms is when different types of forces work together to achieve victory. An example would be when aircraft, tanks, artillery, and infantry are all used at once. Maneuver warfare is when an army uses speed, decisive offensives, and shock tactics to quickly overwhelm their foe and destroy their foe's ability to fight. An example of this would have been the German Blitzkrieg strategy in WW2. Russia has oddly failed to do this, probably because of problems in their command structure. After their failed dash towards Kiev, they attempted a more primitive strategy of simply using artillery to shell the Ukrainians. They have been doing this all the way until today.

There have been other worldwide events that are not specifically about the fight, but still very much related to Ukraine. The first problem that arose were the millions of refugees fleeing from Ukraine to countries such as Poland, Germany, and the Czech Republic. People have slowly been getting somewhat more used to this by now, and the rate at which refugees are flowing out of Ukraine has slowed. The next global problem that has appeared due to the war was the large grain shortage. Ukraine is, and has been Europe's breadbasket for centuries, and because of how globalized our modern economy is, this shortage of grain is a problem for the whole world. This issue has been solved by Turkey, which convinced Russia to allow grain to exit ports such as Odessa.

These issues are all temporary, and they will not seriously affect the world in the long run. There are many much larger events that the war in Ukraine will lead to. One of the more significant things is the large-scale weakening of Russia. Russia has already lost over a thousand tanks, over 200 aircraft, one of their largest cruisers, as well as lots of manpower and other equipment. The longer the war goes on, the larger this number will become, and this war seems to have no end in sight. With the economic sanctions that were placed upon Russia by the West as well as corruption and other financial problems, Russia may actually not be able to replace these heavy equipment losses, especially when it comes to their air and naval power. This may or may not be true based on another side effect for Russia. Putin is getting old, and this war is not helping his health. Putin's reign over Russia may be over in the next few years. This will lead to a significant power vacuum in Russia, which will need to be filled in. What could happen is an even more tyrannical leader takes over, or maybe a more democratic future is waiting for Russia. It very much depends on these factors on how much Russia will be weakened in the long term from this war.

Another interesting change that might come out of this war is the strategic meaning of energy and electricity. First off, many countries may try to limit the amount of gas they buy from Russia. This could hurt Russia, but may benefit other countries. Another thing that might occur is the conservation of fossil fuels. All modern militaries run on fossil fuels. All of the vehicles, planes, and ships need them to function, and modern militaries are based on these assets. This is one of the reasons why the U.S. is storing the oil from its oil fields, instead of selling it. In future wars, it may come down to who can keep their tanks fueled, rather than anything else. Also, many countries might try harder to be less dependent on fossil fuels in the first place, and work on renewable or nuclear energy sources. Both alternatives have their own set of problems, but there may be more incentive to invest in them.

In conclusion, the war in Ukraine could have drastic effects on the future of our world in many ways. A large change in Russia, energy, and the global balance of power may be about to occur. On the other hand, it is possible that this war may not actually have as large of an effect on the future as anticipated, and its effect may be overblown. In reality, it's very difficult to predict the future like this, and at every war, it is very unclear what its effects will be.

World News (cont'd)

Traditional Winter Festivals Around the World

By Lila P Halpert

There's a reason winter is regarded as the holiday season — it is the time of celebrations, festivals, and other traditions from across the globe and all its cultures. Ranging from warm, cozy festivals to celebrations of the natural world, Winter has no shortage of holidays.

Soyal: Taking place on the Winter Solstice, Soyal is a Hopi Native American holiday celebrated mainly in the mountains of Arizona. It is a sacred day celebrating nature and new life. *Kivas*, chambers which are often square-shaped and underground, are the location of rituals honoring guardian spirits, or *kachinas*. Many believe that *kachinas* are benevolent, human-shaped beings who represent creatures in nature and are associated with natural events such as rain. Another common belief is that during the time of Soyal, *kachinas* exit their realm and come down to Earth to visit the people. A ceremony is performed in which a decorated shield shows how the sun perseveres, demonstrating the sun's strength and how nothing, not even winter, can dim its light.



Kwanzaa: Created in 1966 during the civil rights movement, Kwanzaa honors African American culture and heritage. Occurring across seven days, Kwanzaa centers around seven principles — unity, self-determination, teamwork, sharing, purpose, creativity, and faith — with each night focusing on a different principle. One of the biggest and most well-known traditions of Kwanzaa is lighting candles on the *kinara*, which holds seven candles: one black in the middle, representing unity among those of African descent; three red on the left, representing the past; and three green on the right, representing the future. While Kwanzaa is not an African holiday, it includes many symbols of African heritage. For example, a traditional woven mat called a *mkeka* is placed on tables to represent the traditions Kwanzaa is based on, and a *kikombe cha umoja*, or unity cup, is set upon the *mkeka*.



Hanukkah: A Jewish holiday lasting eight nights, Hanukkah is a joyous occasion. Usually happening anywhere from late November to late December, Hanukkah commemorates the story of the brave Maccabees, who fought back against the despicable King Antiochus, who was trying to assimilate all Jews and force them into worshipping Greek deities. The most widely-known tradition of Hanukkah is the lighting of a *menorah*, or candelabra, adding one candle each night. The custom can be traced back to the miracle of Hanukkah, when one jar of oil, which should only have lit the menorah for one night, continued to burn for eight nights until more oil could be retrieved. This is also the reason why so many foods associated with Hanukkah, such as *latkes* (potato pancakes) and *sufganiyot* (jelly donuts), are fried in oil. Other popular traditions include playing the game of *dreidel* to win chocolate coins, or *gelt*, and gifting others with presents.



Lunar New Year: Lunar New Year is one of the most important festivals in East and Southeast Asian cultures, and, unlike the Gregorian calendar's new year, usually occurs across several days. Lunar New Year is a time to honor deities and ancestors, occurring for the first fifteen days of the new year. One of the most well-known aspects of Lunar New Year is the way in which each year is represented by a different animal. For example, this year is the Year of the Rabbit. Similar to zodiac signs, the animal which corresponds to one's birth year is thought to predict one's personality. Some traits of a rabbit include sensitivity, compassion, and gentleness. Every culture celebrates Lunar New Year slightly differently, though many give out red envelopes filled with money, clean their houses to get rid of evil spirits from the old year. A common thread is that all traditions represent prosperity, good fortune, and togetherness.



These four festivals are just a few of the many, many holidays, traditions, and celebrations spanning cultures from around the world. If you liked this article, you can take it further and do your own research! You may just stumble upon an extraordinary celebration.

Book, Movie, & Game Reviews

Super Smash Bros Ultimate Review

By Luke Zhong

Super Smash Bros: a game that almost every kid should know about. I was one of those kids, and I used to be an avid fan and played this game any time I had a chance. But is it still the game it once was?

Super Smash Bros is a multiplayer game, allowing up to eight people, and can be played with friends and family. *Smash* can also be played online, but that would require a monthly subscription for Nintendo online. *Smash Bros* has an assortment of characters you can choose from, including characters from *Pokemon* and other popular games. Although *Smash Bros* has simple rules, it has many game mechanics and is very competitive and popular. The game revolves around damage in a percentage format. Every time you are hit, you take some percentage of damage. The more percentage you have, the higher knockback you take when hit. You can defeat someone by knocking them off the map or in some cases, deal so much damage that they just combust.

Every character has their own abilities, but there are some things all players have in common. For example, the shield and grab abilities. The shield ability can be used to block enemy attacks, but for every successful block, the shield will grow smaller, ultimately ending in the shield breaking. But if you have a fast reaction time, you could press the shield button exactly when hit to avoid the effect of the shield breaking. Usually, not many abilities can bypass the shield ability, so grabbing is your best bet. If you manage to get close enough, you can grab someone and bypass their shield. Sadly, It doesn't do much damage. When you first start out, it might be hard to learn the game mechanics. However, after playing *Smash Bros* again, I can confidently say that it is still the game I remember from my childhood and I highly recommend you guys to play it.



WildOak Review

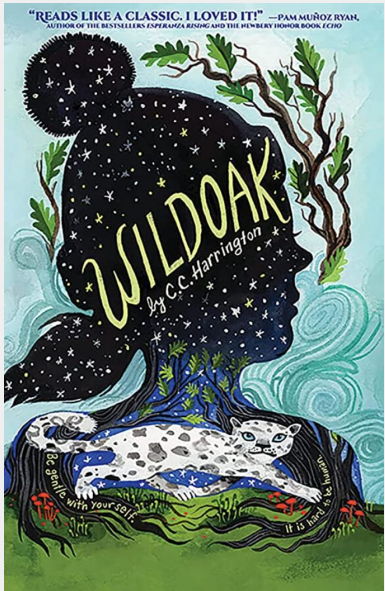
By Danai Bezerianou

If you are an avid nature lover, and love to read, then the book *WildOak* is the book for you! Packed with many different personalities, this book will have you captivated from beginning to end. The author, C.C Harrington, expertly delivers the message that if you stutter, that doesn't mean you cannot get your message through.

For me, this book was a phenomenal experience. Maggie Stephens, the protagonist, can hardly stand up in front of the class, and she'll do anything to avoid it. When her insensitive father, Vincent Stephens, has had enough, he decides to send her to Granville, a school with the most brutal punishments. Maggie's mother however, has other plans, she decides to send Maggie to Fred, her father, and Maggie's grandfather, who she hardly knows. I find Fred a very loving character, and just what Maggie needs. In fact, I would say that he is the opposite of Vincent, Maggie's father.

Throughout her stay at Fred's house, Maggie finds the magical forest of WildOak. WildOak is where she spends most of her time. There, she meets a Rumpus, a snow leopard on the run from hunters.

In my opinion, this book is the best I've read in a long time, full of love, and the importance of standing up for yourself and others!



Entertainment Pages

Book, Movie, & Game Reviews (cont'd)

Video Game Review: *Wylde Flowers*

by Lila P Halpert

In a time with more video games than ever before, *Wylde Flowers* still finds ways to stand out. The game, whose graphics are nothing short of stunning, starts off fairly standard: you play as Tara Wylde, a young woman who moves to the small island town of Fairhaven to help her ailing grandmother, Hazel, on the family farm. The first few quests are simple — plant potatoes, meet the Fairhaven villagers, forage for mushrooms — but a few days after arriving, Tara discovers that Gramma Hazel belongs to a secret coven of masked witches who meet in the woods at night. However, the coven is benevolent, and when Tara finds out she is also a witch, she is welcomed in with open arms. So now, in addition to tending to the farm, building friendships with Fairhaven's residents, and aiding the villagers with various tasks, Tara also juggles her magical responsibilities. While Fairhaven is filled with picture-perfect locations and kindhearted villagers, some of the residents are extremely resentful towards the anonymous coven, which they believe has malicious intentions. This may seem like a lot to manage, but *Wylde Flowers*, with the aid of frequent cutscenes and informative dialogue, makes it all easy.

Wylde Flowers is also extremely narrative-driven, involving players in a story, unlike many other games in its genre (which is self-described as a life sim). The game begins in spring, when Tara comes to Fairhaven, and progresses through a whole year, including seasonal festivals, a drought-filled summer, and a harsh winter. The nature of this leads to many emotional moments that will leave a lasting imprint; for example, after one scene from the end of the first spring, I broke down in tears and couldn't pick up the game again for a day. The "finale" of the game's main storyline, occurring at the end of winter, also left an impression upon me, and I'm not going to forget some of the powerful pieces of dialogue any time soon.

Another area where *Wylde Flowers* shines is in making its characters believable as real people. All of the characters have names, established personalities, and deep life stories. They are beautifully written and very diverse, and no matter what culture you come from or what you identify with, *Wylde Flowers* has something for everyone.

But at its heart, *Wylde Flowers* is a story about acceptance and learning to not judge based on first impressions. After all, Tara is thrust into the story as part of the very thing many of her new friends are terrified of, but she — and *you* — may be the one to finally unite Fairhaven once and for all.

Available on Apple Arcade, Nintendo Switch, Microsoft Windows, and Mac.

The Summer I Turned Pretty Book Review

By Molly Forst

Warmth, joy, love. All the things that make summer what it is. *The Summer I Turned Pretty* by Jenny Han is a romance novel so good, it'll leave you in tears.

Every summer, Belly goes up to Cousins Beach, with close family friends whose family consists of Susannah, Conrad, and Jeremiah Fisher. Both Belly's family, and the Fishers' families are divorced, and even if they weren't, everything done in the summer house was all in the moms' control. The dads had no say in it.

All the fun things about her life are and always will be in summer. Her birthday is in the summer. You name almost any important event in her life and it'll be in summer. This summer, she's 15, going on 16, and she soon realizes other people start to finally consider her as a real grown woman, instead of just being considered as a baby. In addition, everything starts to go well for her. Her crush, no other than Conrad Fisher, finally notices her. But as Conrad begins to show his true colors, Belly starts to doubt whether or not she truly likes him.

Will Belly continue to choose Conrad over everyone, or will she start to move on?



Entertainment Pages

Book, Movie, & Game Reviews (cont'd)

***Matilda* Movie Review**

By Julia Reed

Movie: *Matilda*

What I rate: ★★★★★(5/5)

Why: Such a great musical that has amazing music! The acting is great and great character choice!

What the movie is about: The movie is about a little smart girl who's born to parents who dislike her. Her parents never sent her to school and they need to, so eventually they do! When she goes to school she realizes it's a horrible school because the principal is very strict! Although the teacher is sweet and really nice, even SHE is scared of the principal to stand up for herself and the students!

Main Characters:

Matilda- Sweet and really smart! She can come up with amazing ideas for stories in such great detail, you can feel like it's actually happening!

Ms. Honey- One of the nicest teachers you'll ever meet! She cares so much for her students and makes sure each student learns properly!

Ms. Trunchbull- Mean and aggressive principal who HATES children! She will do anything to the students including locking them up in a "cage" (Chokey) for the day!

Bruce- LOVES eating any kind of food and he's always snacking on something! He's friends with Matilda and he's really scared of Ms. Trunchbull!

Hortensia- Nickname is Red Beret Girl because she wears a red beret everywhere! She is known for her snooty lines warning Matilda of the school! She's one of the funniest characters in the whole movie!

Lavender- Matilda's best friend who comes to school the exact same day as Matilda! She's really, really scared of Ms. Trunchbull and even stutters near her! Although she's scared of her, she always wants to be like the big kids and climb the trees!

Matilda's father- Punishes Matilda for every little thing she does wrong which causes her to rebel! Treats Matilda like a worm and even calls her a son! He'd much rather have a boy than a girl everyday!

Matilda's mother- Loves money and doesn't like Matilda! She would much rather Matilda watch TV than read books!

The Hunger Games Book Review

By Sophia McLaughlin

The Hunger Games is a book written by Suzanne Collins in 2008. It is set in the future, where the ruins of North America have blossomed into the booming country known as Panem with thirteen outlying districts. In the center is the Capitol, where the government and the rich lived. Shortly after the country was founded, the thirteen districts rebelled against the Capitol. After a long and bloody war, the Capitol regained control of the rebellious districts. To punish them for their wrongdoings, the Capitol annihilated district thirteen and introduced the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV. On Reaping Day, each of the twelve districts of Panem picks one boy and one girl tribute from the ages of 12-18 to participate in the annual Hunger Games.

The story centers on Katniss Everdeen, a girl in District Twelve. District Twelve is one of the poorest districts whose main job is to mine coal. Katniss lived with her father, mother and younger sister Prim, until her father died in a mining accident. When Katniss takes her sister's place in the games, she and her fellow tribute, Peeta, must come home victorious or die horrible deaths. Along the way, alliances are made and trust is broken. One thing is for sure, only one person can come home a victor.

The Hunger Games is one of the most exhilarating and well paced books I have ever read. The storyline is super detailed and well thought out, and the characters are believable. There are also many symbolic meanings within the book that add to the story's depth. Each chapter is more interesting than the last and each page will make you want to read more. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who loves adventure and action.

You can purchase this book from a bookstore or borrow it from your local library.



Entertainment Pages

Recipes, Trends, Fun Facts, and MORE!

Trendy Clothes Poll

By Hannah Hyman

What are the trendiest clothing brands today? Great Neck North Middle School (GNNMS) students across all grades were polled and the top six responses had been documented. The results may be surprising.

Forever 21, Abercrombie & Fitch, and Gap are astonishingly not brands students mentioned. Instead, Shein (us.Shein.com), a Chinese-based online and affordable fast fashion retailer was named as a favorite. When asked why this is a great brand, Mia Shamash answered, “Shein is really cheap and has affordable items.” Lyla Mehdyzadeh likes that you can view picture reviews and thinks the clothes are comfortable. “I love these long-sleeved t-shirts I bought from Shein. They are comfy and go with anything,” Lyla replied.

Boys that were polled mostly preferred Nike (Nike.com), an American multinational brand known for its footwear, apparel, and accessories. A seventh grader claimed he only wears Nike. “I like the clothing material and everyone has the socks. Most of my wardrobe is Nike.”

Next was Zara (zara.com), a Spanish multinational retail clothing chain. Claire Hakimi chose Zara because, “It has unique and cute clothes.” Urban Outfitters (urbanoutfitters.com), another multinational lifestyle retail chain came in third place. Genevieve Xu-Ferguson is a fan of Urban Outfitters. “I love their sweaters because they are cozy and fashionable.”

Brandy Melville (is.brandy Melville.com) was named the second most popular brand. Brandy Melville is a European clothing and fashion accessories line that markets their products to young women. Anna Enayatian explained that she enjoys their casual items. “My favorite clothes are my sweatpants because they are extremely soft on the inside,” she responded.

The most popular clothing brand worn and adored by GNNMS students is Lululemon (shop.lululemon.com). Lululemon is a Canadian multinational athletic apparel retailer. Everyone loves its stylish, comfy, and fashionable outfits, including Danai Bezerianou. She commented, “I think the clothes are very comfortable and always make me feel on trend.”

Each season has an effect on outfit choices and considering it is winter, students called out warmth and comfortability as important factors when deciding their favorite brand. As the weather gets warmer, reasons for why students prefer certain brands may change.

Holiday Gift Trends

By Josiah Baires

There are some amazing and cool holiday gifts from this past holiday season!

There is one in particular that is really cool, and it's a pocket projector. They can project movies and other different kinds of things. They're good in size because whenever you're out somewhere and you really just want to watch your favorite movie or show, you have the pocket projector with you.



Another cool gift that is popular is the slushy cup. This item can turn any drink into a slushy. It's good for the summer when you just want to have a cold refreshing drink. You just put it in the freezer for a few hours and then when it's frozen pour your favorite drink into the cup and start squeezing the cup. In a minute your drink will turn into a slushy that you can enjoy.



Another trendy gift is very useful when you need to charge three items at once. This 3 way charging item can be used for your phone, Apple Watch, and AirPods. If you don't want cables everywhere when you're charging any of these three items this item gift is good for you.

This last item is a 2 in 1 item: It is a backpack and as a chair— a backpack camp chair! It can be useful when you're camping and have a lot of stuff you need to carry. Maybe you are tired of walking and need to take a seat, or if you have too much stuff to carry, you can put it in this bag for safe keeping.

Entertainment Pages

Recipes, Trends, Fun Facts, and MORE! (cont'd)

Weird Food Review

By Riley Cheng



Overview

Welcome to the winter edition of *Weird Food Review*. If you forgot the gist of this, I try “weird” food, and review it by its taste, texture, etc. I also write about the history of the brand or food, and not just its taste. If you forgot the ranking here it is (I made a few changes to make it more simple):

1. Terrible
2. Bad
3. Average
4. Decent
5. Great

This season's edition is about Alligator.

History

Alligator meat was used in some southern cuisines in mid-1890s America. During this time, it was used in dishes such as gumbo. Another part of an alligator eaters were its eggs. During this time, people would harvest the eggs and then sell them. This practice was outlawed and you can only hunt wild alligator eggs with a permit. Today the main source of alligator meat are from alligator farms, however alligator hunting is legal in Arkansas, South Carolina, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, and Texas.

Taste

Alligator meat tastes just like chicken. I ate it fried so you can take it with a grain of salt since anything fried tastes good no matter what. Anyways, I’m not mad since chicken, especially fried chicken is pretty good. The texture is really jagged and rough, just like fried chicken. The smell however was very distinct for me, and I don’t know how to describe it. The closest I can describe in words is if swamp water was now in the kitchen. In general it is pretty good. Due to this I kind of want to eat this again. My one gripe however is that I was expecting something more mind blowing and not just chicken, but it is what it is.

Final score: 4/5

Conclusion

I never thought alligator would have been so good, but as I said before it was fried. Anything fired is automatically good. If someone gave me a fried boot I might take a bite. But back on topic, it’s a very cool food and just reeks of the south which is good since they have good food. For next time I got weird drinks to review. Anyways, I’ll see you in the spring article. Buh-bye.

Fun Facts

By Richard Yi

1. When you sneeze, your heart stops beating for a millisecond (don’t worry, this is nothing to worry about). That is also why people say, ”Bless you.”
2. “I am” is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.
3. $111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$. Math is pretty cool when you think about weird stuff.
4. Honey never spoils (unless bugs get in) because bees create enzymes in the honey that stop bacteria from growing.
5. The Masseter muscle (used to move your jaw) is the strongest muscle in the human body.
6. An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain. Also ostriches are some of the dumbest animals on earth.
7. It is physically impossible for pigs to tilt their heads 90° up without ripping their neck muscles.
8. Cats can’t taste anything sweet. That is why they probably like salty snacks more.
9. Shrimp’s hearts are in their head.
10. A sloth takes about 3 weeks to digest their food.
11. Lobsters pee out of their faces. They also do this to attract mates.
12. Abraham Lincoln, who was a president, was also a professional wrestler.
13. The Supreme Court has its own private basketball court called "the highest court in the land." Pretty clever, if you ask us. It also features a full gym.
14. You're taller in the morning than at night. This is because over the course of the day our cartilage compresses and makes us a bit shorter.
15. Over the course of an average lifetime, most people will spend an entire year sitting on the toilet.
16. If you put batteries in your microwave, the door would blast open from pressure and heat and the batteries would blow up the microwave.
17. If you put grapes in the microwave, they will explode.

Recipes, Trends, Fun Facts, and MORE! (cont'd)

Winter Fun Facts

By Emmie Kontente

Here are some fun facts about winter!

- Every snowflake has six sides.
- The sun looks bigger in the winter.
- Nights are longer in the winter.
- In the Southern Hemisphere, the winter solstice begins June 20th.
- You can see your breath when it's below 45 degrees Fahrenheit.
- The first Winter Olympics occurred in 1924 in the French Alps.
- Snow can be different colors: Once it hits the ground it changes color because snow is colorless.
- The Lowest Temperature Recorded on Earth is -128.6 degrees Fahrenheit (-53.6 Celsius).
- The tallest snow person stood over 122 feet tall.
- Traditional winter holidays in the U.S. include Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Year's Day, Groundhog's Day, President's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and Valentine's Day.

Cool Winter Gadgets

By Daniel Shemesh

1. The first cool snow gadget is the snowball maker. It will make really round snowballs, and they will break on the target. This goes with the snowball launcher! Your snowballs will fly so far in the air and always hit the target!
2. The second cool snow gadget is a snow cone maker! It is used to grind up ice and make really tasty ice cones.
3. The third snow gadget is hand warmers! They are very good when you're so cold, your hand turns red. They also make it for your feet, so you can put it in your boots and keep your toes warm!
4. The last snow gadget is the snow colorer. You can spray this on your snow, and it will make your snow so cool. You can decorate your snowman, or you could even make a 2D snowman instead of building it!



Taiwanese Street Food

By Harrison Albin

Cou dou fu (stinky tofu)

This dish is notorious for its unusual aroma, but its taste is something very different. It is tofu with an aerated exterior, great for holding flavor, that is firm and somewhat crispy. It is sour and salty, and a great pairing for it is pickled cabbage. Once you brave the smell, you will experience something great.

FR (flavor rating): stinky/10

Eamisau (oyster rice noodle soup)

This dish is often sold in stalls on the streets of Taiwan. It is a comforting, thick soup with thin noodles all throughout. It has oysters mixed into its broth, and has a mellow salty flavor, punctuated by the taste of the oysters.

FR: add to much spicy oil and you will see/10

Yan shu ji (salt and pepper popcorn chicken)

These pieces of chicken are quick, flavor packed bites to be enjoyed anywhere. They are usually eaten with a toothpick, which makes them very convenient for snacking. They are crispy and juicy pieces of chicken, often served with fried basil leaves and topped with a spicy red powder.

FR: guess my sister isn't getting any/10

Hujiao bing (pepper beef buns)

These treats are often old at night markets in Taiwan. They are baked by being stuck to the sides of vat-like ovens until the exterior is crispy and the beef inside is cooked through. They have a very beefy flavor, punctuated by the pungent aroma of pepper and the bun encasing it all. It is a convenient and delicious Taiwanese snack.

FR: food wars/10

Chua bing (shaved ice)

This is a dessert sold anywhere, from dedicated stores to street stalls at night markets. The ice can either be normal ice or milk based. This ice is usually topped by sweet condensed milk as well as a sweet and dark sauce, and toppings such as boba and taro.

FR: my mom's favorite dessert/10

Eazen (oyster omelette)

This dish is often sold at night markets, where its unique flavor is appreciated. The egg will have some potato starch mixed in along with the oysters. Then it will be covered in a sweet and spicy sauce, packed with interesting flavor. The oysters punctuate this dish, with their unique flavor making the omelette into something special.

FR: slimy oyster egg/10

Shen zian bao (crispy bottom buns)

These buns are filled with juicy meat and pack a strong umami punch. Their buns are plump and bouncy, and its powerful flavors and textures are made even better by its crispy bottom.

Taiwan is filled with interesting foods, and these are some of its best.

FR: Café 48 ate it all on the ride home/10

Creator's Corner

Winter Craft: “Winter Polar Wonderland”

By Madisyn Chan

Are you bored this winter? Need a *Winter Craft* to do? Well, you're in luck! I have a craft for you! I call this craft a “Winter-Polar-Wonderland”!

The supplies that you will need are pencils, scissors, glue (sticks or bottles), markers (black, pink, and gray), and paper (white, light blue, and dark blue).

Step #1: Get out your dark blue paper, and lay it down on your desk/table.

Step #2: Put one of your hands 🖐️ on the white paper, and trace it with a pencil (it doesn't matter what hand you use).

Step #3: Cut out your pencil marks with a scissor.

Step #4: Cut out medium sized rectangle pieces of your light blue paper (No need for them to be perfect!)

Step #5: Glue your one big piece of light blue rectangle to the dark blue paper.

Step #6: Glue your *hand* (upside down) to the dark blue paper (on top of the light blue rectangle).

Step #7: Cut out a small white circle for the polar bear's head.

Step #8: Glue the head onto the polar bear's body (Above your *thumb*).

Step #9: Cut out two small semi circles as ears.

Step #10: Glue both semi circles to each side of the polar bear's head.

Step #11: Draw a face with the markers on the small circle/polar bear's head.

Step #12: Draw feet marks “///” and/or “\\” on the polar bear's feet.

Background Time!!

Step #13: Glue some smaller light blue rectangles around your polar bear. (They are icebergs!)

Step #14: Cut out some small (white) paper snowflakes* around your polar bear.

Step #15: Draw some waves with your black marker: “w”

Step #16: You're done! I hoped you had fun!



This is a picture of the finished product!

A Morning's Snow: A Haiku

By Lila P Halpert

Snow blankets the world
Will be plowed soon, but now is
Perfectly untouched



Winter Cheer

By Sophia McLaughlin

The holidays are already here
Bringing in the Winter Cheer
I see the snow falling over here
(Even if it only happens once a year)
Families will come together
Even in this frosty weather
We'll sit by the toasty fire
Eating marshmallows
We'll all go caroling in a choir
And catch up with old fellows
We'll drink some hot chocolate
With presents in our pockets
And even though the end is near
The winter cheer will always be here
In our hearts and in our souls
Feeling the warmth only winter lovers know

Creator's Corner (cont'd)



By Heather Beerman

“Winter”

By Reese Yan



Blue crystals softly touching the ground
Big piles of white fluff glittering
My boots crunched in the sea of white
I twirled and laughed
My boots leaving prints in the white wonderland
My breath blowing little puffs of cloud into the air
The pine was generously sprinkled with white
Ahhhhh.... This was winter

Winter Craft: Paper Snowflakes

By Madisyn Chan

If you don't know how to make paper snowflakes, well then here are the simple steps to making it!

Step #1: Get a piece of white paper (square shaped).

Step #2: Fold your paper in half.

Step #3: Fold your paper in half *again*. (You can fold it as many times as you want, but four times is the max.)

Step #4: Cut out many different shapes out of your folded paper (square, circle, rectangle, and/or triangle cuts).

Step #5: Unfold your paper.

Step #6: Yay! You now have paper snowflakes!



Creator's Corner (cont'd)

Winter Recipe:

Lamb, sweet potato, coconut mafè curry

By Genevieve Xu-Ferguson

From Food & Wine



Curry Powder Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons ground coriander
- 2 tablespoons ground cumin
- 1 ½ tablespoons ground turmeric
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- ½ teaspoon ground cardamom
- ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper

Directions

Make the curry powder:

Combine coriander, cumin, turmeric, ginger, mustard, cinnamon, black pepper, cardamom, and cayenne in a small bowl; whisk to combine. Set aside 2 tablespoons curry powder; store remaining curry powder for another use in an airtight container at room temperature up to 2 months.

Making the curry:

Heat 2 tablespoons oil in a large heavy-bottomed pot or Dutch oven over medium-high. Toss together lamb and 1 teaspoon salt in a medium bowl. Working in 2 batches, add lamb to pot, and cook, turning occasionally, until browned on all sides, 8 to 10 minutes per batch. Using tongs or a slotted spoon, transfer browned lamb to a separate medium bowl; loosely tent with aluminum foil to keep warm.

Do not wipe pot clean. Reduce heat under pot to medium. Add onion, bell pepper, ginger, garlic, and remaining 1 tablespoon oil. Cook, stirring often and scraping up browned bits from bottom of pot, until vegetables are softened and lightly browned, about 8 minutes. Add reserved 2 tablespoons curry powder; cook, stirring constantly, until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add peanut butter and tomato paste; cook, stirring constantly, until tomato paste mixture turns a dark red-mahogany color, about 2 minutes. Return lamb to pot, along with any juices that may have accumulated in bowl. Add chopped tomato; stir until lamb pieces are coated in tomato paste mixture. Slowly stir in broth, scraping up browned bits from bottom of pot. Bring to a boil over medium-high. Cover pot; reduce heat to low, and simmer until lamb is tender, 1 hour and 15 minutes to 1 hour and 30 minutes, stirring bottom of pot once or twice toward end of cook time. Stir in sweet potato, coconut milk, habanero, and remaining 1 teaspoon salt. Increase heat to medium-high, and return to a boil. Reduce heat to medium; simmer, uncovered, stirring occasionally with a wooden spoon to prevent sticking, until sweet potato is tender, 15 to 20 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in lime juice. Spoon curry over cooked fonio, and sprinkle with parsley.

Curry Dish Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons peanut oil or vegetable oil, divided
- 2 pounds boneless lamb shoulder, cut into 1- to 2-inch pieces
- 2 teaspoons fine sea salt, divided
- 1 cup chopped yellow onion (from 1 medium [8-ounce] onion)
- ½ cup chopped green bell pepper (from 1 small [7-ounce] bell pepper)
- 1 tablespoon chopped peeled fresh ginger (from 1 [2-inch] piece ginger)
- 1 medium garlic clove, chopped (about 1 teaspoon)
- 3 tablespoons of creamy peanut butter (preferably natural and unsweetened)
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 cup chopped tomato (from 1 small [7-ounce] tomato)
- 3 cups vegetable broth
- 1 large (16-ounce) sweet potato, peeled and cut into 1 1/2-inch cubes (about 2 1/2 cups)
- 1 (14-ounce) can of coconut milk
- 1 to 2 habanero chiles (about 3/4 ounce) (to taste), stemmed, seeded, and finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice (from 1 lime)

Sports Pages

The 2023 Super Bowl

By Derek Gao

1/17/23

The Super Bowl is coming up. Some people's brackets are still alive, when others are completely ruined. The Bills barely survived, Tom Brady's divorce was not worth it, the Jags recreated the 28-3 Super Bowl even more, Daniel Jones made history, the Bengals almost lost, and Brock Purdy is still undefeated. Now the divisional round is coming up in a couple of days and here are the matchups. Bengals at Bills, Giants at Eagles, Jaguars at Chiefs, and Cowboys at 49ers. With all of this, the divisional round will be exciting.

1/24/23

The divisional rounds are done. Joe Burrow and Patrick Mahomes are back at Arrowhead for the exact same game for 2 years in a row. Bills and Chiefs fans need to get refunds for the Atlanta game that never happened, and Brock Purdy is STILL undefeated. The conference championships are here and the Super Bowl is coming closer than ever. In the NFC, Jalen Hurts and the Eagles are trying to move on to complete an amazing season, but they have to go through the undefeated Brock Purdy. In the AFC, Burrow and Mahomes face off again in the same place, same team, and same game.

1/31/23

Well, we got a Super Bowl folks. Joe Burrow finally lost to Patrick Mahomes, and the 49ers and Brock Purdy's Cinderella story finally came to a close. It's time for a game review. The Eagles went in terror, forcing two fumbles in the first half, with one of them leading to a touchdown. And even if the 49ers scored a touchdown, the Eagles defense stopped Christian McCaffery and tore through their defense which turned out to be the best in the NFL. In the AFC, the Chiefs and Bengals faced off again. But Mahomes finally got revenge. With a huge sack which was the 5th of the game for Burrow, that led to a punt by the Bengals which eventually led to the game winning drive to send the Chiefs to the Super Bowl. And with the Super Bowl coming in two weeks, it will be the Eagles vs Chiefs.

2/14/23

Well, we have a Super Bowl winner. The Kansas City Chiefs. A flawless second half and great execution from the Chiefs led by Patrick Mahomes cut a 10 point deficit to a 10 point comeback. Even if the Chiefs won it, Jalen Hurts has to be given credit, he led the Eagles to a horrible team to a scary team to look towards after just adding AJ Brown. While Eagles fans are in their beds sad and upset, and Chiefs are partying for a second Super Bowl win in 4 years.



Sports Pages



The New York Giants

By Noah Hourizadeh

1/5/23:

The NY Giants future this year is looking bright. The fans are loving the progress happening in this young bright star team. All are focused on one player that can get the job done. His name is Daniel Jones who is the future star Quarterback for this team. He has shown all of the skills needed for a playoff QB this year but can he keep it up? Can he be the guy to fight nicely into the Giant's coach Brian Daboll's offense?

1/16/23:

Fans are as happy as can be; the players are as happy as can be. All fans are surprised at how they did in the Wild Card that they don't care about what comes next. Many fans, thinking about how their life would be with a Giants Super Bowl, makes them go crazy. The whole teams' confidence has skyrocketed and Daniel Jones and Isiah Hodgins are the men of the NFL at this moment. They both had incredible games while Isiah Hodgins burst out of nowhere! Daniel Jones completed 24 of 35 passes for 301 yards and two touchdowns while adding 78 rushing yards on 17 carries in Sunday's 31-24 wild-card Giants win over the Vikings.

1/17/23:

The game is set. Every New York Giants fan has set a reminder for Saturday night the 21st at 8:15 vs the Philadelphia Eagles. The Giants fans believe in their team and hope for an exciting win vs their division rivals. The Giants players and Giants media team are posting more videos than ever. They are getting the fans so excited but some fans think of this as bad news not good news. They think of this because this calls to the Eagles players' attention and could possibly bring the fan's expectations much higher. Brian Daboll is impressed but not surprised by the incredible job he has done to this rising star team. The General Manager Joe Schoen has brought in many of these new amazing factors to the staff from the Buffalo Bills. He has also brought in the new rising star receiver Isiah Hodgins who was waived from the Buffalo Bills roster at the beginning of the same month that the New York Giants claimed him from the free agency.

1/24/23:

Some fans are sad. Some fans are mad. Many fans are happy. Many fans find this as an opportunity. Daniel Jones speaks as if he is finished. He can't seem to keep his love for this team. As he said, "I really enjoyed playing for this team..." which isn't much of a great sign. Leonard Williams and Dexter Lawrence wish to stay and play together which is great. Brian Daboll is still interested in Daniel Jones but is Daniel Jones still interested in him? Offensive Coordinator Mike Kafka has not been shining recently in his offensive play calls. He believes that Daniel Jones can be used the same way as Lamar Jackson even though the Giants have star running back Saquon Barkley. Mike Kafka is interested in Lamar Jackson because he will fit behind HIS offense and the new plays that have never been stored until recently. Sterling Shepard has made an incredible impact even on the sidelines by his season ending injury, he has brought so much confidence to this team with not a lot of talent. Sterling Shepard makes these players feel like they are the best at their position or job in the whole NFL. Brian Daboll loves his impact and who he is and talks about him so passionately. Jamie Gillan earns \$1,065,000 a year and is one of the worst punters in the whole NFL. He has had so many terrible punts and mistakes over the season which have cost them countless amounts of losses or trouble.

1/31/22:

Where are the years heading? Where are the players heading? Where are the fans heading? Are there fans heading our way? Is New York City turning into a Philadelphia Eagles fan base? These are the questions people are starting to question. These are the questions that can change the history of the New York Big Blue Giants. New York City has decided to turn green like not very smart people and try to convince Giants fans to turn on their team. The question is has it worked? The answer is not so clear; many fans feel tired of not having any real seasons even though this season was an incredible success with no wide receivers and no cornerbacks. Might I ask, maybe our fans are just the not so smart ones? Are our fans turning into the enemy that we have been turning away from for so long just because of a green Empire State Building?

One question that hits me in the eyes is how good is the Giants coaching staff that they were able to catch Landon Collins' ability at middle linebacker. He has shown amazing progress at this new position while he is at the older NFL age of 29. He is fulfilling his Giants career after being in Washington for a little while.

This Giants coaching staff has gotten so much better and we have a better Head Coach than we have had in a very long time. In my opinion, this season was an incredible success and I believe that if there are fans that think otherwise then they are not in for the long hard ride of the New York Giants success.

Sports Pages (cont'd)

NMS 8th Grade Boys Basketball

By Nathan Zhong

Basketball is one of the most popular sports all over the world, and here at North Middle School, we also have our very own basketball team. The basketball team consists of 15 players, whittled down from the 60+ students that tried out over the course of multiple days of tryouts and two cuts.

This season, our 8th grade team went 4-6, but we lost many close games where the score difference was only a few points. Our last game was definitely the highlight of the season. We played Manhasset, a strong team who we beat in our first game. In the first quarter, we played really well and ended the quarter with an 8-point lead, 13-5. However, we had a tough time breaking through their defense and started falling behind. In the third quarter, the game was really intense and one of the players on the other team got a tech. In the fifth period, we were down by a lot. Through the collective efforts of the star players, as well as a really clutch three-point shot, we tied the game up with 2 minutes left. In the end though, we lost by 5 points. It was a great season, and I'm looking forward to next year's 8th grade team!

NBA Updates

By Jayden Wen

Old Stars - What Happened?

We all know of Carmelo, Isaiah Thomas, Dwight Howard, Tacko Fall and Demarcus Cousins, but what happened to them? For starters, Dwight Howard quit to play in Taiwan after every team decided to pass on him. He now plays for the Taoyuan Leopards. Similarly, Boston fan-favorite, Tacko Fall has also left for a Chinese league. He is now playing for the Xinjiang Flying Tigers. Carmelo Anthony, Isaiah Thomas, and Demarcus Cousins are still trying to make it back into the league.

Luka Dončić - One Crazy Kid

The name Luka Dončić is ringing around the world right now. The 6' 7" Slovenian guard is dominating the NBA. Right now he is in second place, one away from leading the league in points with an average of 33.6 points per game. One thing is for sure: Luka's future is bright.