



Northern Light



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GREAT NECK NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

WINTER 2020

7th Grader Wins the NMS Geography Bee

By John Ahdout

The National Geography Bee is introduced by schools to engage students in friendly competition. North Middle School took part in this competition through classroom-wide preliminary rounds and a school-wide round. Each class had a different date for their preliminary round, but the school-wide Geography Bee took place on December 18th. Each Social Studies class, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade, took part in their own preliminary round. The contestants chosen to participate in the school-wide Geo Bee were the winners of their classroom competitions.

During each preliminary round, the teacher read aloud instructions, as well as the questions. Students had an answer sheet on which they would write their answers to the questions, which were repeated twice by the teacher. These questions had to do with the geography of the world. There were seven rounds within the preliminary, with each round having a subject, such as state capitals or the countries of the world. Six of these rounds consisted of multiple choice questions, while the last was open-ended. Whichever student answered the most questions correctly, advanced to the school-wide competition. If there was a tie, a dependent amount of tiebreaking questions would be asked to those students, and when someone answered a question wrong, they were eliminated. This continued until there would be a class champion. All class champions would advance to the school-wide event on the 18th.



On December 18th, all class champions reported to the auditorium. Each champion picked a slip of paper consisting of a number out of a basket. My number was 1, so I was the first to answer any questions. The champions then went on the stage and arranged themselves by number. I sat in the front left corner. Many Social Studies teachers then announced the rules, saying that when you incorrectly answered 2 questions, you would be eliminated. Each person also had a time limit of 15 seconds to answer. We were also informed that we had some written questions, whose answers would be written on the loose leaf paper under our chairs. We also had maps for these questions. We all answered one question by writing our answers on the loose leaf, then went down the rows to announce our answers. After a few rounds of varying questions to each student, the whole school came to watch. It was very nerve racking. Students that had already been eliminated stepped down off the stage. Each remaining student was then asked different questions from varying categories until two students were left. I did pretty well! I was the fifth person left on stage! By the time two students were left, the championship round had begun.

The championship round consisted of three questions that the last two contestants had to answer on their loose leaf paper. Each question was asked twice, and 15 seconds was given for their answers. After time was up, the answers were revealed as well as whether or not they were correct. This went on for three questions and by the end, one person had answered two questions correctly, and the other had answered all of them correctly. The latter student, 7th grade Tamas Smulovics, was the champion, and had the opportunity to compete in the state-wide Geography Bee. The runner-up, 6th grader Ofer Adar, was the former. All class champions were then brought back to the stage and given certificates of their participation in the NMS school-wide Geography Bee 2019-20.



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Presents



March 18 & 19, 2020
at 7pm

Starting March 3rd, tickets may be purchased online on the NMS website, in person (in room 118) and at the door.

Only \$10 each

Article on page 3

Coupon for one FREE snack or drink on the back page!

Question Corner

With Willie Benjamin & Jonah Berkowitz

This Newspaper’s Theme is... Gordon Korman!!!

Question: Who is the new visitor coming to NMS?!

As you may know, there is a very special visitor coming to Great Neck North Middle School on April 2nd. This extraordinary guest is Gordan Korman, and he is a numerous award-winning and best-selling author. We are very fortunate and excited to have him come and speak to us about his inspiration to write, popular/famous books, his back-story, and so much more!

When Korman was in seventh grade, he had a track and field coach who subbed in for his English teacher. For the creative writing unit, the coach gave the class total freedom on whatever they wanted to do as long as if it was English-related. Korman then had an interactive and unique idea, and he began to take action. He decided to create a novel of his own, and after, write a book report on it. After finishing his novel, Korman was so astonished about how it turned out, that he sent the manuscript to Scholastic Press in hopes to be published. In fact, Scholastic DID end up publishing his novel when he was just 14! This novel, *THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING AT MACDONALD HALL*, is currently one of Korman’s proudest books. Korman says that *Macdonald Hall* was the book that turned him into a true writer.

Korman was born in Montreal, Quebec and grew up in Thornhill, Ontario. Currently, he lives in Long Island, New York with his wife, Michelle, and his three children. In his free time, Gordan loves supporting his kids at rehearsals, practices, and games. He states, “Either that, or I’m on the road, appearing at schools, libraries, and bookstores, meeting my readers.” This really represents how Korman appreciates the support of his fans throughout the years, and how they inspire him to create more and more awesome books.

When asked what is the answer to all the world’s life’s problems, Korman answers by saying that humor is the greatest gift of life. He states, “Although laughter may not solve anything, it sure makes the bad stuff a lot easier to take. So maybe the answer to all the world’s problems is: keep on laughing!” This shows us readers how the goal in all of Korman’s novels is to encourage others to always have a laugh, because it can go very far. You could be happier, more joyful, and have a new way to look upon life.

Gordon Korman has won many awards throughout his life for many different reasons. The main reason, however, is for his excellence in writing. This list below shows us the many awards he has won, and it symbolizes the time and effort he put into writing his books.

1. 2000 Black-Eyed Susan Award Winner- Grades 4-6 (*The Sixth Grade Nickname Game*)
2. 2003 Virginia Readers Choice Award Winner- Middle School (*No More Dead Dogs*)
3. 2004 Flicker Tale Children’s Book Award Winner- Juvenile (*Shipwreck*)
4. 2004 Heartland Award Winner- Young Adult (*Son Of The Mob*)
5. 2009 Great Stone Face Book Award Winner- Grades 4-6 (*Swindle*)
6. 2010 Charlie May Simon Children’s Book Award Winner- Grades 4-6 (*Swindle*)
7. 2010 Maine Student Book Award (Second Place)- Grades 4-8 (*Swindle*)
8. 2011 Nutmeg Book Award (Second Place)-- Intermediate (*Swindle*)
9. 2013 Black-Eyed Susan Award Winner- Grades 4-6 (*Ungifted*)
10. 2015 Colorado Children's Book Award Winner- Junior Novel (*Ungifted*)

The above list only shows ten of Gordan Korman’s awards, out of many more. Korman has also been nominated numerous times for many different awards.

Students and teachers at North Middle School are extremely overjoyed to have Gordan Korman come and share with us his experience and understanding of writing. All of his stories have big themes and life lessons that everyone at NMS can use, and it is awesome that Korman can share these lessons with us. We are all ecstatic to meet Gordan Korman and for us to hear Korman’s story first hand, instead of typed in a book!

“But here, two thousand miles from home, there was a real shipwreck, a real hope. A choice big enough to change our lives forever.”- Gordan Korman



DNA Trip

By Katie Park

Every winter, the seventh grade takes a trip to the DNA Learning Center in Cold Spring Harbor. Just like the years before, the DNA trip was an unforgettable experience enjoyed by all, and the students were not disappointed. “I thought the DNA trip lessons were very informative and it was pretty fun,” commented Aybriel, a seventh grader. For most of the seventh graders, this was not the typical educational trip they expected.

The science trip consisted of four different activities. Students learned how law enforcement solves crimes by injecting DNA samples into the gel and use ultraviolet light for clues. The second lesson on the evolution of humans and how Otzo the skeleton was preserved. Another experiment was making “DNA necklaces” extracted from wheat germ and inserted into small plastic containers which were hung on colorful strings.

Last, but not least, was learning about the mystery of the Romanov family. The class was captivated by the story of the missing Russisn Royalty. The usually rambunctious kids became silent as they listened intently to the lesson. The students learned on how DNA was used to find where the members of the Romanov Family were. “I didn’t think that a school trip could be fun and informative! I learned a lot. My favorite was definitely the one about the Romanov mystery.” a student stated.

At the end of the day the trip fueled the Great Neck North Middle’s seventh graders’ motivation to learn, provided interesting activities that they all happily participated in, and left them with good memories. The DNA trip is definitely something for the current sixth graders to look forward in the next year.



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The One Acts

By Owen Flood

The One Acts are a great way to get involved with theatre at North Middle School. The club advisor, Ms. Dove, is a super fun and friendly English teacher at NMS. Ms. Dove says, “The One Acts are special because students can be involved in the production and still be a part of other sports and clubs. They are also able to get a taste of what the theatre department has to offer.” What Ms Dove likes about the One Acts is that she gets to develop relationships with all three grade levels outside of the classroom. The One Acts also work with Ms. Brendel, an art teacher, who organizes the stage crew and helps with sound, lights, set changes, and so much more. The One Acts take place at the beginning of the year, from October to November, and start almost right after the club fair which is held in September.

The first meeting that the club has is the informational meeting. At the meeting audition information is given to each student. This information tells students the dates of auditions and monologues which the students audition with. Auditions were simple and easy and each audition took about 3-6 minutes. Students were asked to speak two provided monologues and added their own emotions, tone, and volume. The next meeting was the parent meeting (students included). During this meeting, performers received their parts, scripts, performer contracts, and more.

Rehearsals started out in room 175 (Mrs. Dove’s room) so performers could really get a feel for their lines and how their lines and parts fit together with other lines and parts. Each play had a different rehearsal day, so all of the performers would come in on their day. If you were in one play you would come in one day a week, if you were in two plays, two rehearsals per week, etc. Rehearsals generally start at 3:10 and go until about 4:00.

Tech week -which is also known as “hell week”- is where the performers finally work onstage. This is also when the plays really come together. All of the performers are “off book” at this point which means no scripts can be used. In addition, lights and microphones are tested and sets are put together and used. During tech week final adjustments are made to each play as well. With these changes in mind, performers run through each play multiple times.

On the night of the show, performers’ call time is 5:30. All performers must wear makeup and are asked to come with it applied. The adrenaline is high on that night and everyone is so excited to be there. Backstage, props are being set up and performers go to their places about a minute before their play starts. During intermission, the dressing rooms are packed with performers reapplying makeup and quickly running through lines a last time. From my experience as a performer, the One Acts were really fun and a great way to get involved with theatre.



8th Graders ‘Bring the Swing’

By Rachel Sutin

This December, 8th graders had the opportunity to show off their ballroom dancing skills in the gymnasium. After eleven lessons of gym-class preparation, North Middle students demonstrated the meringue, foxtrot, rumba, salsa, tango, swing, and waltz. For students involved, the experience, as part of the Dancing Classrooms program, encompassed themes of respect, teamwork, cooperation, and elegance.

The day of, students arrived at the auditorium at 6:30 pm. Eighth graders then made their way to the gym in three groups. First went on group one (meringue/foxtrot/waltz), then group two (salsa/rumba/foxtrot), and, finally, group three (swing/tango/salsa). It is crucial to note that one member in each group shared a reflection about the Dancing Classrooms experience before their peers showcased the dances. After students were finished dancing in individual circles, all eighth graders came together for a group ‘meringue’.

I then interviewed North Middle student Jules Sanders for an inside scoop on the event. The interview transcript follows:

Me: What was your favorite part of dancing classrooms?

Jules: I liked that we learn something we probably wouldn’t learn elsewhere.

Me: Do you have any advice for incoming 8th graders about the experience?

Jules: Don’t think about how awkward it is. It’s just going to make everything more awkward.

Me: What was your favorite dance and why?

Jules: The swing. It felt modern, and I liked the music with it.

Led by Miss Jesse and Miss Eileen, the eighth graders unanimously agreed that the Dancing Classrooms experience was a meaningful one. As students ‘foxtrot’ their way to high school, they surely won’t forget the bonds they’ve made and the lessons they’ve learned through Dancing Classrooms.



6th Grade Social Circle

By: Mia Malhotra

Sometimes, we all need a little bit of time to regroup and reflect. We are all different, yet we are all alike in many unique ways. In North Middle School, every month, the 6th graders have at least four social circles. Social Circle is when everyone in our class sits in a circle, and we all talk about a topic that may impact our lives in some way. For example, you may be in math class and talk about goals you have for all of your classes. In my opinion, social circles are a way to remind you that we all face different but the same things. We all gather around and talk about different things that will help make a positive impact.

Everyone in a Social Circle should listen, speak, learn, help, and try. In a Social Circle, everyone’s opinion is important. Everyone has a say. Social Circles involve the whole class. This means that the students and teachers in the class participate. There is always a time when you reflect on yourself, and reflect on other things. There is usually a game or activity involved as well. It’s amazing how before Social Circle you might have one opinion, but after, you have another. I love how teachers and kids all come together to solve a problem, talk about important things, and think about our future.

Not every school has a Social Circle or something similar. We have the privilege to be able to participate once a week and learn more about each other and about our community. Being part of a Social Circle makes me feel great. When you’re in a Social Circle, you should express your ideas and thoughts. You should feel safe and supported. Everyone in the class should care for your thoughts and ideas. Social Circles mean different things to everyone, but yet they are all meant for a similar purpose. Learning about each other really makes a huge difference in this school.

During a Social Circle lesson, teachers and students come together like a family. Team Adventure’s Math teacher, Mrs. Sposito says, “I really like how we all get to know a lot about each other. It builds us as a little family. Social Circle helps form social awareness to classmates around you. I love how we form connections that we can relate to inside and outside of school.” Science teacher, Mr. Livingston states, “I like that it allows teachers to get to know the kids. I also love how it allows kids to get to know each other. It lets students learn things they don’t usually learn in school.” In conclusion, Social Circles are a great way to reflect, impact, learn, help, try, and strive!



6th Grade Winter Concert

By Nava Sedagat

On December 9, 2019, the 6th graders had their first winter concert! The 6th graders at Great Neck North Middle have two concerts a year—one is in winter, another in spring. At the concert there is a chorus, band and an orchestra group.

Mrs. Murdoco’s choir class also performed and sang songs,. They were: *Candy Covered Gingerbread House*, *Bells Are Ringing*, *Freedom's Flame*, and *That Time of Year*. Each year the chorus teacher (Mrs. Murdoco) has a theme for the pieces of music she picks. This year she picked Disney!!

In the chorus there were two different groups singing. One group is the sopranos, with the higher keys singing the melody. The other group is the altos, who sing the lower keys, singing harmony. Sometimes the students are separated into groups, two groups of altos and two groups of sopranos. This gives the songs more dimension. This will be presented in the spring concert. Be sure to come to the spring concert to hear with all the new songs!! There are songs from a bunch of movies that were in theaters. I don’t want to give it away, but I think you will love the show!

Freaky Friday Preview

By Ayla Silberstein and Miriam Kagan

Freaky Friday is this year’s musical. Additions were held in November and now the parts have been casted and rehearsals have begun! We have interviewed Mrs. Murdoco and asked her some questions about the show.

A&M: How many years have you been with the show?

Mrs. Murdoco: Since 2013 and directing for 4 years.

A&M: Why did you pick Freaky Friday?

Mrs. Murdoco: I wanted to bring a modern show with music of a more pop and rock genre.

A&M: Do people normally just do it once or come back?

Mrs. Murdoco: We have a lot of kids return, but sports play a big part of them coming back.

A&M: Do you normally double cast roles?

Mrs. Murdoco: We try to so we can give more kids a chance to have a role.

A&M: Why is the tech rehearsal longer than the One Acts?

Mrs. Murdoco: It is because we have more technical aspects.

There you have it, from the director herself! We are so excited for the show! It will take place at NMS on March 18 and 19. We can’t wait to see you there!



6th Grade Greenkill Trip

By Avia Hakimian and Naomi Zarnighian

From November 6-8, the 6th grade students went on an overnight trip to Greenkill Education Center and had a ton of fun. They got to spend 3 days out in the woods doing different activities and hiking around.

On the first day of the trip everyone got their bunks. There were counselors to lead each student to their cabin. After that we all ate lunch. Most of the students claimed the food was horrible, but some enjoyed it. After eating it was time for the students to meet with their activity groups. Each group had a naturalist. They took us around to do different things. Some groups went on hour long hikes through the forest. Some groups did activities that taught them how to work with others. Some groups looked around for different animals or bugs. Then it was time for dinner. All the students quickly gathered into the cafeteria. Everyone got their food and ate. At dinner they had this really good bread that everyone liked, so all the students kept going back to get more. Then after dinner it was time for the dance party. The students walked until they got to the field house. It was a huge building. There was a DJ standing at the front. The DJ played all our favorite songs and everyone danced and jumped. We all had a great time on the first day.

Just as the sun rose, our counselors and teachers for our bunks came to our rooms to wake us up. Everyone had already gotten comfortable in their bunks. We all walked to the cafeteria. After breakfast, we split into our activity groups and went hiking. In my personal opinion, the hiking was the worst part. We all had to walk for 1-3 hours in the rocky, cold woods. When we were finally done hiking for the morning, we went back to the cafeteria for lunch. After lunch, guess what we did? That's right, we went hiking. When we were almost finished hiking, it started to rain, so all our naturalists rushed us back to our cabins so we wouldn't get wet. After that, we went to have dinner. The night before, they had given this bread that everyone was obsessed with and everyone kept on taking more, but this night they gave each table bread so no one would have to get up to get more. Later that night, we all went to watch a bird show. In this show, this man brought a bunch of big birds. Around the middle of the show, something interesting happened. One of the birds flew across the whole room and everyone screamed. When the bird show came to an end, so did the day.

The third day wasn't as interesting as the first and second. This day consisted of mainly packing, packing, and packing. We all had to finish our packing before breakfast, and breakfast wasn't that far away. Everyone finally finished and headed on to breakfast. After breakfast, everyone headed on to a new activity, but this time, we weren't with our activity groups. This time, they sorted us by what activity we wanted to do. These activities consisted of crafting, canoeing, geocaching, critter hunting, etc. While we were doing these activities, it started snowing. Everyone was freezing their fingers off. When we finished that, we all gathered up in the cafeteria for our last meal of the trip. As we all finished cleaning up, they started to dismiss us to our busses so we could go home. That was the end of our Greenkill trip.

Some people really liked the trip, but others didn't. One 6th grader that enjoyed the trip, Wynne Gruder said, "I thought that it was fun because you got to be with all your friends and you also got to make new ones. I also thought that it was nice because I like the outside, so it was fun to go on hikes and stuff like that." One of the Great Neck North Middle School teachers, Mrs. Sposito, had really liked the trip. She says "I think that Greenkill is an amazing opportunity for students to get to know each other and push their comfort levels. I love interacting with the kids outside of academics and getting to know more about them. I think it's great for students to get to see teachers in a different element." Another Great Neck North Middle School teacher, Mrs. Viruet, said, "I think Greenkill is an amazing opportunity for 6th graders. It allows them to experience a variety of activities that they may never otherwise go through. It encourages their independence, fosters collaboration, and builds new friendships. On a personal front, I find Greenkill to be cold, wet, and more outdoorsy than my comfort level. If Greenkill was in the spring, it would be perfect." This shows that many people had different opinions on the trip to Greenkill. Most people enjoyed it, but some didn't.



Spelling Bee 2020

By Kajal Ramphul

On Wednesday, January 8th, 2019, North Middle School hosted its annual school Spelling Bee. The winners from each class participated in spelling out words on different complexity levels that ranged from 'implore' to 'diaphoresis.'

During the month of December, all NMS students engaged in a competition within their English period classes. The winner of each class went on to the school event on the 8th.

One by one, students were eliminated if and when they misspelled a word, until there was only one student left. The winner this year was Ari Kashanian .

After this round, the winner will eventually proceed to a higher level. If he is successful, the levels will increase in participants and difficulty until the national round.



MOVIE REVIEWS

Frozen II

By Mia Sakai

Frozen II was a charming musical! It is rated 77% on Rotten Tomatoes! In my opinion *Frozen II* was more mature than *Frozen I*, but I think young Elsa and Anna fans would enjoy the songs. Elsa sings a siren song featuring “the voice ” that brings Elsa to the mysterious enchanted forest. In *Frozen II*, a Norwegian singer Aurora performs a wordless aria throughout the film aka “The voice.” Elsa hears the voice out of nowhere a lot, so she travels far away. I think younger fans would also love Olaf in the movie. Olaf is a hilarious, and sweet character who likes “warm hugs.” The main idea of the movie was about how Elsa aka the Snow Queen has the power to create ice and snow, but no matter how happy she is, she is surrounded by the people of Arendale. After hearing “the voice” call out to her, Elsa travels to the enchanted forest, and dark seas. It is an adventure that turns into a journey. Overall I loved *Frozen II*, and I hope there is a third one!



Star Wars: The Rise Of Skywalker

By Amit Chanoch

Star Wars: The Rise Of Skywalker, directed by J.J Abrams, is the much talked about sequel trilogy. It takes place two years after the *Last Jedi*. In this film, Kylo Ren is on a mission to defeat the emperor and find his true self. Rey, Finn, Poe and BB-8 are on a mission to find the emperor’s location. This film is visually amazing, but the way the movie develops its characters may be disliked by many of you. There are many unnecessary scenes that you may not like either. The movie is not the type of movie that you sit bored for the whole time. The reveals to key plot points are often stale, with little to no build up. It’s clear that things are rushed. This movie is sometimes very enjoyable in some scenes. But if you’re going to binge watch the whole sequel trilogy. make sure that you know that they don’t really make sense chronologically. It’s like every movie is solo. The movies don’t fit well together, but it’s fun to watch *Star Wars*. What I’m saying is that most good Star Wars movies never get old. But *The Rise Of Skywalker* is a movie that you probably won’t re-watch. Clearly, the movie is decent, but I was expecting more. But, if you’re a fan of Star Wars, you should watch it. I’m going to give *Star Wars: The Rise Of Skywalker* a B-.



Spies In Disguise

By Amit Chanoch

Spies In Disguise is directed by Nick Bruno and Troy Quane. It brings in many celebrities such as, Will Smith, Tom Holland, Karen Gillian, DJ Khaled and more. In this film, Lance Sterling (Will Smith) is a world famous spy who is on a mission to capture an important drone. On the way there he meets young scientist, Walter Beckett (Tom Holland). Walter tries to make Lance invisible, but accidentally transformed him into a pigeon. Together, they go on adventures to capture the drone. This movie is repetitive from other films. Personally, I had some laughs and enjoyed this movie. There are rifles and fight scenes, but they’re funny and harmless. A child will find these funny and entertaining. For example, if you took a three year old to this movie he/she would laugh instead of whimper. This movie can be very cringe-worthy. For example, halfway through the movie, it shows a pigeon being tempted to eat old food on the ground. It’s an enjoyable movie for the whole family, no matter what age. If you’re looking for a family movie, this is the way to go. Although, this movie can be “cringy,” it is ultimately funny and entertaining for the whole family. I’m going to give *Spies In Disguise* a B.



Winter Crafts

By: Mia Malhotra

Crafts are always a fun thing to do in the winter! They can serve as decor, inspiration, and more!

Craft: Hanging Snowflakes

Materials:

- Colored paper
- Scissor
- Pencil
- String
- Tape
- OPTIONAL: Glitter, Tracer



1. Take your colored paper and draw unique snowflakes with your pencil. You can also get a snowflake tracer and trace that.
2. Cut out your snowflakes with scissors.
3. Take your string, and measure how low you want the snowflake to hang.
4. Then cut the size of your preference.
5. Take the string and tape it on the back of the snowflake.
6. Find a spot, and hang the snowflake!



DONNELLY

“There’s no snow, so we made him out of dirt.”

WINTER RECIPES

Gingerbread Cookies

Submitted by Katie Park

One of the most iconic recipes for the wintertime are the classic gingerbread cookies. Whether you celebrate Christmas or not, these cookies are something everyone can enjoy. Making these can be a challenge, so it is recommended to make these with your family. You can even use this recipe to make your own gingerbread house as well.

Ingredients:

Cookie dough:

- Melted butter (¾ cup)
- Brown sugar (¾ cup)
- Molasses (¾ cup)
- Salt (1 teaspoon)
- Cinnamon (2 teaspoons)
- Ground ginger (2 teaspoons)
- Allspice (1 teaspoon)
- Egg (1)
- Baking powder (1 teaspoon)
- Baking soda (½ teaspoon)
- Flour (3 ½)

Icing:

- Powdered sugar (3 cups)
- Milk (6 tablespoons)
- Food coloring (red and green)

Instructions (from “Tasty”)

1. In a large bowl, whisk the melted butter, brown sugar, molasses, salt, cinnamon, ginger, and allspice until smooth.
2. Whisk in the egg until combined.
3. Fold in the baking powder, baking soda, and half of the flour.
4. Add the remaining flour until the dough comes together.
5. Wrap it in plastic wrap and chill in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.
6. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C)
7. Roll out the dough to about ¼ inch (6 mm) thickness. Then cut the shape out.
8. Transfer the shapes to a parchment paper-lined baking sheet and bake for 8-10 minutes.
9. After the cookies cool completely divide the powdered sugar into three bowls.
10. Add two tablespoons of milk to each bowl and whisk until it is smooth. (Add more sugar if it is too thin and more milk if it is too thick.)
11. Add red food coloring to one bowl, green to the other, and leave the last bowl without coloring.
12. Transfer the icings to three different piping bags.
13. Decorate cookies with icing and let it dry.



Peppermint Hot Chocolate

Submitted by Katie Park

(original recipe from <https://www.marthastewart.com/336727/peppermint-hot-chocolate>)

Ingredients:

- ⅓ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 quart milk
- ½ cup semisweet chocolate chips (3 ounces)
- 7 peppermint sticks; 3 crushed (¼ cup), 4 left whole
- 1 pinch of salt

Instructions:

1. Place the cocoa powder in a medium saucepan.
2. Gradually whisk in milk until cocoa has dissolved.
3. Add chocolate chips and crushed peppermint.
4. Simmer over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until chocolate and peppermint have melted.(8-10 minutes.)
5. Bring to a boil and immediately remove from heat.
6. Add salt.
7. Serve with peppermint sticks.



Cinnamon Tortilla Chips

By Daniella Nissim

Cinnamon Tortilla chips are the perfect afternoon snack or dessert. In order to make these delicious chips you only need...

- 1 small tortilla per person
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon sugar

You want to start out by preheating your oven to 350°F. Next, measure olive oil, cinnamon, and sugar into a small bowl. Mix the ingredients until they are fully combined and have a brown color. After, take a pastry brush and brush the cinnamon mixture onto the tortilla's. If you are using more than one tortilla, stack them on top of each other on a cutting board in order to cut them. If you are only using one, just put it on a cutting board. Next, take a pizza cutter and cut your tortilla into 3 or 6 triangle shaped chips. Lastly, put the chips on a baking sheet with aluminum foil and put them into the oven for 8-10 minutes. I did this recipe in FACS and learned different skills, like the proper way to store food in the fridge, how to dice, mince, chop, and so much more.



Gingerbread Cupcakes with Cinnamon Browned Butter Buttercream Frosting

By Syvonne Shadi and Taylor Weber

We found a few cute winter recipes, and we decided to try them out ourselves. We tried Gingerbread Cupcakes, with Cinnamon Browned Butter Buttercream Frosting. We loved all of these things, and we would love to share these recipes so everyone else can too! We hope you enjoy these winter recipes!

Gingerbread Cupcakes: We made a batch of 12 gingerbread cupcakes. In our opinion, they were super good, and we definitely recommend them. They taste like a cake version of our frosting we made last issue. But... not quite. Some ingredients like the ground ginger made the batter have a bit of a different taste. Here are the ingredients:

- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Ginger, Ground
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Cinnamon, Ground
- ¼ teaspoon McCormick Nutmeg, Ground
- ¼ teaspoon McCormick Cloves, Ground
- ¼ teaspoon kosher salt
- ½ cup whole milk, at room temperature
- 1 stick (½ cup) salted butter, at room temperature
- ½ light brown sugar, packed
- 2 teaspoons McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract
- ½ cup molasses1 egg, at room temperature

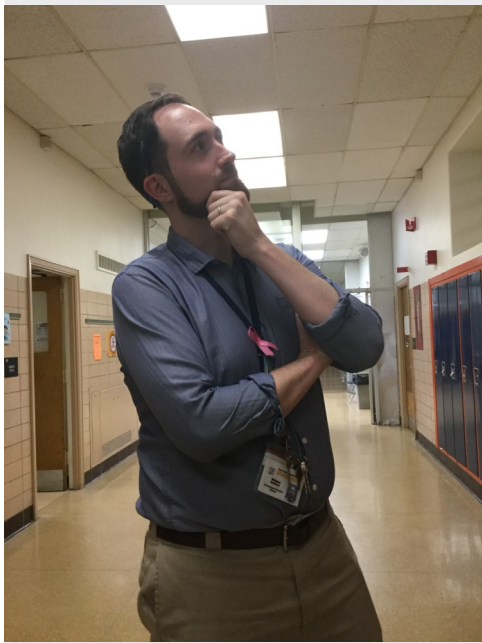
Cinnamon Browned Butter Buttercream: We made buttercream frosting to top our cupcakes, and we think it's even good on its own!

- 2 sticks (1 cup) salted butter at room temp.
- 2-3 cups powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Cinnamon, Ground



Meet Mr. Siciliano

Journalist Emma Lavian interviews computer teacher, Mr. Siciliano



What is your favorite part about teaching? My favorite part about teaching is that every day is different.

What do you like the most about your students? I like that they each have different personalities.

What are some hobbies of yours? I like playing video games and card games.

How would you support students who have never used a computer before? I'll provide the with audio and visual examples of what I want done.

How would you develop a students confidence in class? I'll provide them with resources to help make them successful.

Did you teach at a different school before this and if so where? I taught at a school called The Bridges Academy.

Meet Dr. Kuhner

By Jeffrey Quintanilla Zepeda

Dr. Kuhner is a new teacher for F.A.C.S since Ms. Neckin accepted a job for assistant principal in a different (unknown) school. Some of her hobbies are photography, triathlons, and cooking. She lived in Italy and Australia and traveled all over Europe, and New Zealand. She is married and has two kids. She also has an Ed.D., which is a doctorate of education with a focus in human development. So far she has a few classes in F.A.C.S., but once 3rd quarter starts she will have a lot more. Down the on the “basement floor” near the main stairs there’s a bulletin board showing tons about herself and inspirational quotes from inspirational people like Eleanor Roosevelt. It says, “No one else can make you feel inferior without your consent.” When asked about her thoughts on NMS, she said, “Everyone has been very friendly and welcoming, and I’m excited to be here.”



Dear Miss-Know-It-All,

I’m having trouble at school. I feel unsafe and people bully me a lot. I tried to stand up for myself but that didn’t work out. Please help me.

Thanks for Listening,
Veronica Shnichtenstein

Dear Veronica,

You seem like a very nice person and you don’t deserve to be treated that way. I recommend you go to a teacher and/or a parent. They are there to help and don’t be afraid to talk to them.

Good Luck,

Miss-Know-It-All

Dear Miss-Know-It-All,

I just don’t know what to do. I have the worst grades on the planet. I know that grades are important, but when I try and study, my grades just get worse. I do have things that are bothering me like problems in my family that are distracting.

Please Help Me,
Billy Lotiskiamorsh

Dear Billy,

You don’t have to worry at all. I will be here to help you. I have some solutions. Maybe if you are sleeping late then you should go to sleep earlier. Also, I recommend that you talk to an adult that you trust and they can definitely help you out. If you need anymore advice always make sure to inform me.

Sincerely,
Miss-Know-It-All



TikTok Craze

By Michael Zaken

TikTok is a social media app, and it’s taking the world by storm. It is the fastest growing app right now, and it is the successor to musical.ly, a social media app like TikTok, just with different types of videos. Tiktok has many effects such as green screen, video green screen, filters, and TikTok text. People make 15-60 second videos from dancing, to vlogs, to OG musically type videos, to really anything. This app does not always have a positive vibe. There has been bullying on TikTok, and people’s relationships have really been messed up because of this. If you walk really anywhere and see people (usually in groups) either dancing, trying to dance, or literally piling on top of each other for the chance to be on video, tehances are, they are making a TikTok video. TikTok recommends that kids from age 12+ use it, because there can be some pretty vulgar stuff on there. Tiktok IS addictive, and some kids spend hours on end watching and making videos. If you have tiktok, I suggest that you don’t insult people on it, because then you can lose people you truly cherish. And to people who don’t have TikTok, download at your own risk.



Trending: YouTubers

By Wynne Gruder and Nicole Volman

Emma Chamberlain is a trending YouTuber who is 21 years old. She does everything on her YouTube channel. She does cooking with Emma, DIY projects, helps with choosing Halloween costumes and so much more. She was born on May 22, 2001 and won the 2018 Streamy Award for a breakout creator. She has a podcast on Spotify called *Stupid Genius*. She has 8.7 million subs on YouTube. You can get her merch on the website <https://shopemmachamberlin.com>. That’s all you need to know about Emma Chamberlin. Go check her out on YouTube.



The Dolan twins are trending YouTubers. They were born on December 16th, 1999 in New Jersey. The first time the Dolans became famous was through Vine. Vine is now a dead app though, so it doesn’t work. Then they became YouTubers, and now they have 10.6 million subscribers. They do a lot of really cool stuff on their channel, such as challenges, pranks, and vlogs. Grayson Dolan has 9.5 million followers on Instagram. Ethan has 9.2 million. They have merchandise, so go to dantwins.com. They are social media stars and so much fun to watch.



David Dobrick is a trending YouTuber. He started getting famous from Vine, which is now a dead app. He has 15.5 million subs on YouTube. He does a lot of give-aways, so maybe you can win one. Right now he is doing a Tesla give-away and you still have time to enter. On his channel he also does vlogs, challenges, and so much more. You can get David’s merchandise from www.fanjoy.co/David/Dobrick. David Dobrick’s Instagram is davidcobrick. Go watch this social media star on YouTube right now.

Seasonal School Sports: Basketball

Journalist Brandon Etan Reed Interviews Coach Mendoza – NMS teacher and coach of the NMS Boys and Girls Basketball Teams

Coincidentally, as I was writing my second Seasonal Sports column, I heard the sad news that a former basketball superstar passed away in a helicopter crash. Kobe Bryant was incredibly talented and so much fun to watch on the court. He helped the Los Angeles Lakers win 5 championships. I was grateful to have had the opportunity to sit down with Coach Mendoza to discuss not only his experience with our NMS teams, but also a part of how Kobe affected his life.

BR – How long have you coached the NMS teams?

CM – I’ve coached the NMS boys’ and girls’ basketball teams for twenty years!

BR – How are both teams doing this season?

CM – They’re doing very well. What we focus on in Middle School is improving, and I believe they improved a great deal.

BR – How hard is it to make the team?

CM – It is very difficult to make the team because of the sheer numbers. I take fourteen kids, but started with forty.

BR – How do players typically balance being on the team with school and homework responsibilities?

CM – I always make it a point of emphasizing that they have to be good students first and then good basketball players.

BR – What’s your favorite part about coaching?

CM – Getting to know the kids in a different way.

BR – What is your favorite basketball team?

CM – The New York Knicks

BR – Do you have a favorite memory of watching Kobe on the court?

CM - I can say that my favorite Kobe moment on the court was when I was with Team USA in Barcelona prior to the 2012 Olympics. It was an incredible honor seeing his hard work and dedication on the court during practices. He would just shoot over and over and over again, working on honing his craft with an incredible amount of focus. Here’s a photo I took from one of the practice sessions in Barcelona.

BR – Cool! Thanks!



Yankees Signing

By Emma Lavian

The Yankees have made the biggest move of the offseason. They have signed, arguably the best pitcher in baseball, Gerrit Cole. Cole joining the Yankees makes their pitching rotation even better, maybe even the best of all time. His contract is the largest ever given to a pitcher. It is also the fourth highest contract in baseball history.

Gerrit Cole compiled a record of 35-10 over the past two seasons playing for the Houston Astros. Cole had a 2.68 ERA (earned run average) in his 65 starts in which he had struck out 602 batters in 412 ⅔ innings. He helped the Astros win the American League Championship, leading them to the World Series.

He’s a special kind of pitcher that doesn’t come around very often. The Yankees were determined to get him, reminding fans of how they were run when George Steinbrenner was in charge. He was the best free agent available and the Yankees always pursued the best. As Aaron Boone, former Yankee and now manager said, “...when you are talking about a player at the level of Gerrit Cole, in a lot of ways that’s a game-changing type talent.”

The Yankees could not improve their rotation better than this. Cole will be the ace followed by James Paxton, Masahiro Tanaka, Luis Severino, and J.A. Happ. The Yankees had not won a World Series in the past decade but with Cole they come into 2020 as the favorite to win it all!



Great Neck Native Steve Cohen Almost Buys the Mets

By: Liana Kase

Great news for all Mets fans! Well, almost great news. If you wanted a new owner who would actually go out and get the key players we need for our team, no matter what the cost is, we thought we finally got him. But it turns out, we don’t have him. Steve Cohen, who almost bought the majority of the Mets to make him the owner at the beginning of the offseason, has dropped out of the deal. The Wilpons were supposed to have control over the Mets for the next five years and then hand it off to Steve Cohen, who unlike the Wilpons, would have spent money.

But as it turns out, 50 days before Opening Day, Cohen decided he didn’t want to wait five years to officially have control, but already had paid 2.6 billion to get majority share. In other words, he technically owned the Mets, but didn’t get to make the decisions till 2025. Cohen didn’t want the Wilpons to have control while he owned the Mets, and the deal fell through. So there went the Mets great new ownership. The MLB also had problems with Cohen before. Cohen is overall a good guy, but he was once in a scandal. With all the cheating going on in the league, they didn’t need another possible influence.

When I originally wrote this article, it looked like Mets fans were going to be extremely happy with Cohen as the owner. But then, the Wilpons took their job back. So down below, are some facts about Steve Cohen, from when I originally wrote this article of him becoming owner.

Born in Great Neck, Steve Cohen is one of seven kids. Also, he went to North Middle! Born in 1956, Cohen is a billionaire hedge fund manager, who has a net worth that is around 13.6 billion dollars. Steve Cohen’s house in Greenwich, Connecticut, is on a 14 acre estate, with the house at 35,000 square feet. It involves an ice rink with a zamboni, a two hole golf course, an indoor basketball court, and an indoor pool.

Cohen also collects art. He has famous pieces of art throughout the entire house. From the outside, he has three sculptures in his backyard. On the inside of his house, he has more sculptures and paintings. Once he bought a sculpture that was made of glass, a few years after he bought it, the glass was getting dirty. Cohen paid the artist 100,000 dollars to come to his house and fix the sculpture.

The Wilpons are still looking for a new owner, but it won’t be Cohen.



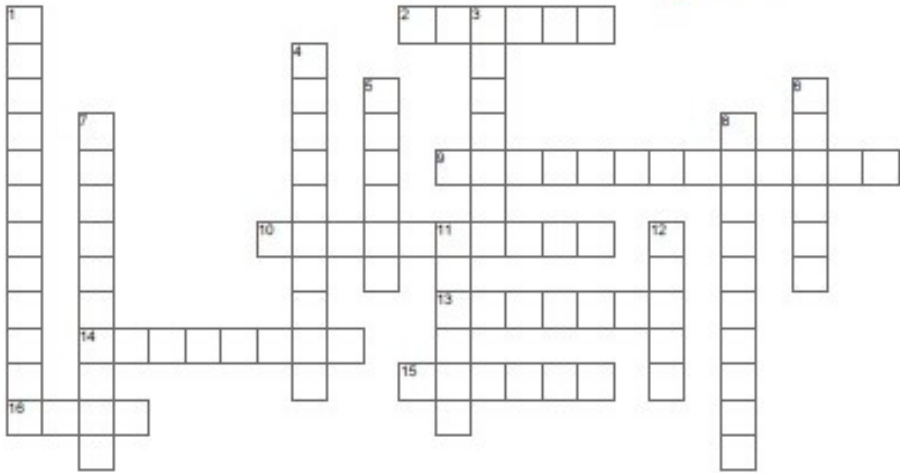
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SEE YOU IN THE SPRING!



Sports Crossword



ACROSS

- 2. Stick, puck.
- 9. Short board with 4 wheels.
- 10. Acrobatics, tumbling.
- 13. Bike, helmet.
- 14. Bases, home plate, bat.
- 15. Rackets, greenball, net.
- 16. Clubs, ball, greens, 18 holes.

DOWN

- 1. Long, wide board attached to feet, snow.
- 3. Ball, bat, teams of 11, not baseball.
- 4. Team of 6, high net, spiking, serving.
- 5. Ring, gloves, mouthguard.
- 6. Two long boards, snow.
- 7. 10 foot high hoop.
- 8. Swimming, biking, and running back to back.
- 11. Use only your feet.
- 12. Scrum, knock on, oval ball.

HOCKEY	SNOWBOARDING	TENNIS	CYCLING
SOCCER	SKIING	BASKETBALL	BOXING
CRICKET	GYMNASTICS	RUGBY	VOLLEYBALL
BASEBALL	GOLF	TRIATHLON	SKATEBOARDING