



Northern Light



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GREAT NECK NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

SUMMER 2018



MEET BLAZE THE GOAT...

By Kajal Ramphul

North Middle School has always had a mascot: Blaze the Goat. However, this year, it was realized that although we had a name to call ours, we really didn't know much else. NMS didn't have a back-story or appearance for our mascot, and we wanted to find out more. Some eighth grade social studies classes decided to dig deeper into NMS history, and they found the story of Blaze the Goat.

The Story of Blaze the Goat:

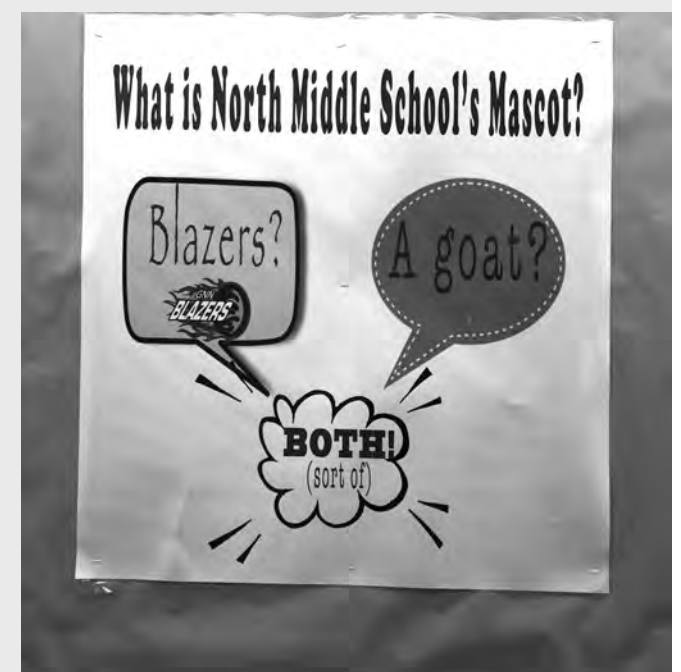
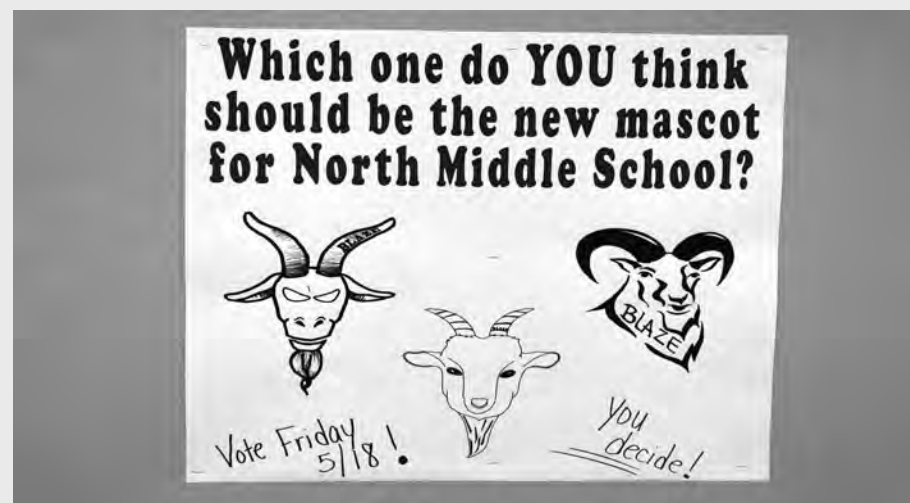
Once upon a time... there was a farm on Polo Road. A goat named Blaze lived on that farm. Often, students from the high school and jr. high school, (now called North Middle,) would take Blaze from the farm and bring him to the football games. Around 1940, Blaze the Goat became North's official mascot. That's why we're known as Blazers, and sometimes have goats appearing on our uniforms.

The school decided to host a mascot contest that was run by the students. They wanted something student created so everyone could get involved. It would also help Blaze the Goat to become more meaningful to both students and staff. Everyone would feel more connected to our school and mascot. The winning design would be featured on the NMS school website as our mascot.

The Process:

In the beginning, anyone could enter. A student would create their own design on what they thought North Middle's new mascot should look like. The entry could be either hand drawn or digitized. Students were encouraged to enter and be creative. There were no restrictions, except for the fact that all work was a child's own art. Many people entered this contest, and created beautiful artwork. After the entry deadline, some teachers narrowed the ideas down from about 30 drawings to three finalists. Then, on Friday, May 18, 2018, kids were asked to vote on which of three images they thought best represented NMS and Blaze the Goat. Later that day, the winning image, designed by 8th grader Lan Zheng was revealed.

Next year, around September, Blaze the Goat will be appearing on some school spirit merchandise, like water bottles, sweaters, T-Shirts, and bags. NMS hopes to see you supporting our school!



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Relay for Life Field Day is June 19



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On May 25, 2018, Great Neck North Middle was honored as a Gold Star No Place for Hate School for the second year in a row. Our entire North Middle School family has worked diligently on creating a climate of Acceptance and Empathy for all—free of bias, bullying, prejudice, and discrimination. Our work is far from over. We are looking forward to welcoming our new sixth graders to join us because at North Middle School—There is No Place for Hate.

TEAM ORANGE TRAVELS THROUGH THE DECADES



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7th grade SWIS 1 and SWIS 2 Battle it Out in Competitive Brain Games Competition

By Leo Korman

On Wednesday, April 28, the last day before students would be on spring break, the entire 7th grade gathered in the auditorium for one last fun activity-Brain Games.

The competition pitted two teams against each other: SWIS 1 and SWIS 2. The two teams competed in both mental and physical challenges to determine which team was better. The victorious team would have bragging rights over the other team for an entire year until next year's brain games.

Students are chosen for the activities by the team leaders, who are teachers. The mental activities were short trivia games modeled to be similar to Family Feud. Three students or teachers from both teams are given the same question, and the team to press their button before the other team and give the correct answer to the question gets 10 points. If a team gives the wrong answer, they lose 10 points. Nonstop trivia questions are asked for 60 seconds until the timer stops. The team with the most points at the end of the round wins and 100 total points are awarded to their team. The physical activities include anything from hula-hooping to spelling to dancing. Anywhere from 5 students to 15 students would be chosen for physical activities. Like the trivia, whichever team wins the activity wins 100 total points for their team.

Mental and physical activities went on from 1st period to the end of 5th period, when a short break for lunch was taken. After lunch, the game was finished, and it went down to the wire. It was so close, a tiebreaker was needed. Although it was so close, a victor was named. SWIS 2 defeated SWIS 1 in the brain games competition by 100 points.



North Middle Has Talent!

By Sam Friedmann

Talent. We all have it. Whether it's acting, performing magic, or dancing, we all have something that makes us who we are. Even if you think you don't have a talent, you probably do. We even enjoy watching other people's talent with shows like *America's Got Talent* or *American Idol*. Middle school is a place full of talent. That's why it's so great that students have the opportunity to show off their talent at NMS. This year was the fourth year of the talent show and was called *North Middle's Got Talent*.

Auditions were held on Tuesday, May 8, 2018. Many students auditioned, but only 19 got in. "This was a much bigger turnout than last year," said Mrs. Murdocco. The show took place on May 22 at 7:00 and was free to attend. *North Middle's Got Talent* kicked off with a performance from the show choir (a club led by Mrs. Murdocco). The types of acts were fairly varied. There was singing, dancing, people playing instruments, and finally singing while playing an instrument. There were a couple of Broadway songs and many instruments being played. The lighting and sound were also well done. The audience was going wild at the end of every act. Each act was very passionate and you could tell that the performers put a lot of work into it.

By the end of the night the audience was going crazy when the performers took their final bow. The audience loved every minute of it. All of the kids were very talented. It wouldn't surprise me if next year's talent show was even better.

8th Graders Visit Club Getaway

By Renee Zeng

On Thursday, May 17, eighth graders went to Camp Getaway as a graduation trip. The eighth graders travelled a few hours to Connecticut, where they arrived at Camp Getaway. At Camp Getaway, the students participated in many fun activities, such as team-building activities, ziplining, dance parties, and more. Team-building exercises included balancing on a large beam, leading a blindfolded person without speaking, and trying to get across to different platforms using only certain materials given. After lunch, they had a dance party, which was, "Super fun, I wish it was longer though!"

When the dance party was over, different groups of students tried a variety of activities afterwards. They bungee-jumped on large trampolines, went ziplining, and rock climbing. "Some activities were pretty hard, but going there was just a fun experience in general," said one student. Many eighth graders definitely recommend this trip for the next graduating year, or going with your family during the summer or during breaks.

Chris Poulos Inspires NMS Students

By Han-Ah Kang

On April 26, 2018, Chris Poulos came to our school to give us a bike stunt performance in the gym. Chris Poulos is a motivational speaker and a professional bike stunt rider. As well as showing us many daring stunts, he also taught us some very valuable life lessons.

Mr. Poulos taught us to respect others, work hard and be kind. He explained these things by telling and showing us some of the tricks that he learned by working relentlessly on, and the lessons he learned while growing up because of his bike stunts. For example, one day he wanted to learn this trick where he jumps up and down on the front wheel. His coach said to just jump up and down, but he didn't get how to do it. After hours and hours of practicing, he successfully learned how to do the trick. Through his tricks and stories, Mr. Poulos showed us that talent takes a lot of hard work and practice.

Mr. Poulos' finale was jumping over three teachers: Ms. Serowik, Ms. Neckin, and Ms. Kouroupos. As the audience held their breath, they watched him successfully soar over them. By the end of his performance, Mr. Poulos showed us what hard work and practice amounts to. He believed in himself, worked hard, and wasn't ever afraid to do his tricks, and ended up doing what he loves doing.



School Leaders Meet with Chris Poulos

By Sophia Hanover, Kayla Kavakeb, Julia Shafizadeh and Sahar Tartak

After the recent motivational assembly, the SCO had the pleasure of meeting and eating lunch with Chris Poulos, the speaker at the assembly. Chris Poulos is a bicycle stunt artist who travels the world, motivating kindness, honesty, and good morale based off of his personal experiences.

In our meeting, Mr. Poulos shared with us the many years of hard work he put into his job. He trained and worked hard at perfecting his stunts for years. He also told us a lot of inspirational stories. Poulos told us about how he often fails at assemblies during stunts, showing that it is okay to make mistakes. He managed to prove to the student government that even people who seem perfect can mess up and that we shouldn't allow it to lower our confidence.

Furthermore, Chris explained how it isn't fair to other people to challenge their fears. He told us about how his son was afraid of Niagara Falls, but he did not force him to go near it. He showed that overcoming your fears is essential, but doing so should be done in a personal matter, and nobody else can control it. Mr. Poulos really changed the spirit of North Middle School by promoting and spreading kindness throughout the building.



Eighth Graders Honored at the Quality of Life Awards

By Elizabeth Margiloff

On April 17th, 88 eighth grade students, out of the 278 students in their entire grade, received the Quality of Life Award, an award only for students who contribute to and benefit the quality of life in North Middle School. Examples of contributing to the quality of life could be, but not limited to, participating in the school musical, being a member of the school orchestra, band or chorus, and/or being a part of extracurricular activities such as before and after school clubs and sports. However, in order to be recognized for this award, students in the eighth grade had to go through a process of filling out a short form, which was mainly about what they have done over their three years to contribute to the quality of life of North Middle and of the community, and why they should receive the award. Students who completed this form, and those that successfully demonstrated that they fit the criteria to receive the award, were recognized for benefiting North Middle's quality of life at the start of the Board of Education meeting in the North Middle School's auditorium on April 17th. Each student was individually recognized when each student was presented with their Quality of Life Award certificate in front of their families, peers, and the Board of Education.

NMS Assistant Principal, Ms. Andersen feels really proud of all of the many students who received the Quality of Life Award. She said, "In one way or another the students have all contributed to the quality here at NMS as well as the Great Neck community. It also shows that we have a vibrant, bustling student body whose invested in making North Middle the best it can be."





Dear Miss Know-It-All,
I want to earn some summer money so that I can go shopping with my friends, but I am too young to get a real job. What should I do to make money?
From,
Money Girl

Dear Money Girl,
I have some tips to make money.
You can ask your parents if there are any jobs that they could have you do to make some money in the house. Also, you can sell old clothes online. I would recommend Poshmark and you can start it right away; you don't have to wait until the summer. The last bit of money-making advice I have for you is just to go on YouTube and search up easy ways to make money. I myself have watched a ton of videos on YouTube and they are very helpful.
From,
Miss Know-It-All

Dear Miss Know-It-All,
All my friends are going to sleepaway camp and I want to go, but I have never been away from home before. I am scared I will be homesick.
From,
Miss Scaredy Camp

Dear Miss Scaredy Camp,
If you are not comfortable with going away from home then don't do it, but if you really want to go I say do it. Just take photos with you of everyone you will miss and hang it on your walls when you get there. I am also going to sleepaway camp for the first time. I am going in California, so just remember that you will probably be much closer to home than me.
From,
Miss Know-It-All

Summer Fun in Great Neck

By Rachel Sutin

Great Neck is an amazing place to be. Anyone who lives in or visits Great Neck knows that we have so many diverse options as to what to do when life is boring, especially in the warm weather. With so many choices, sometimes making a plan can be overwhelming! Here are my top five picks for what to do in Great Neck this summer:

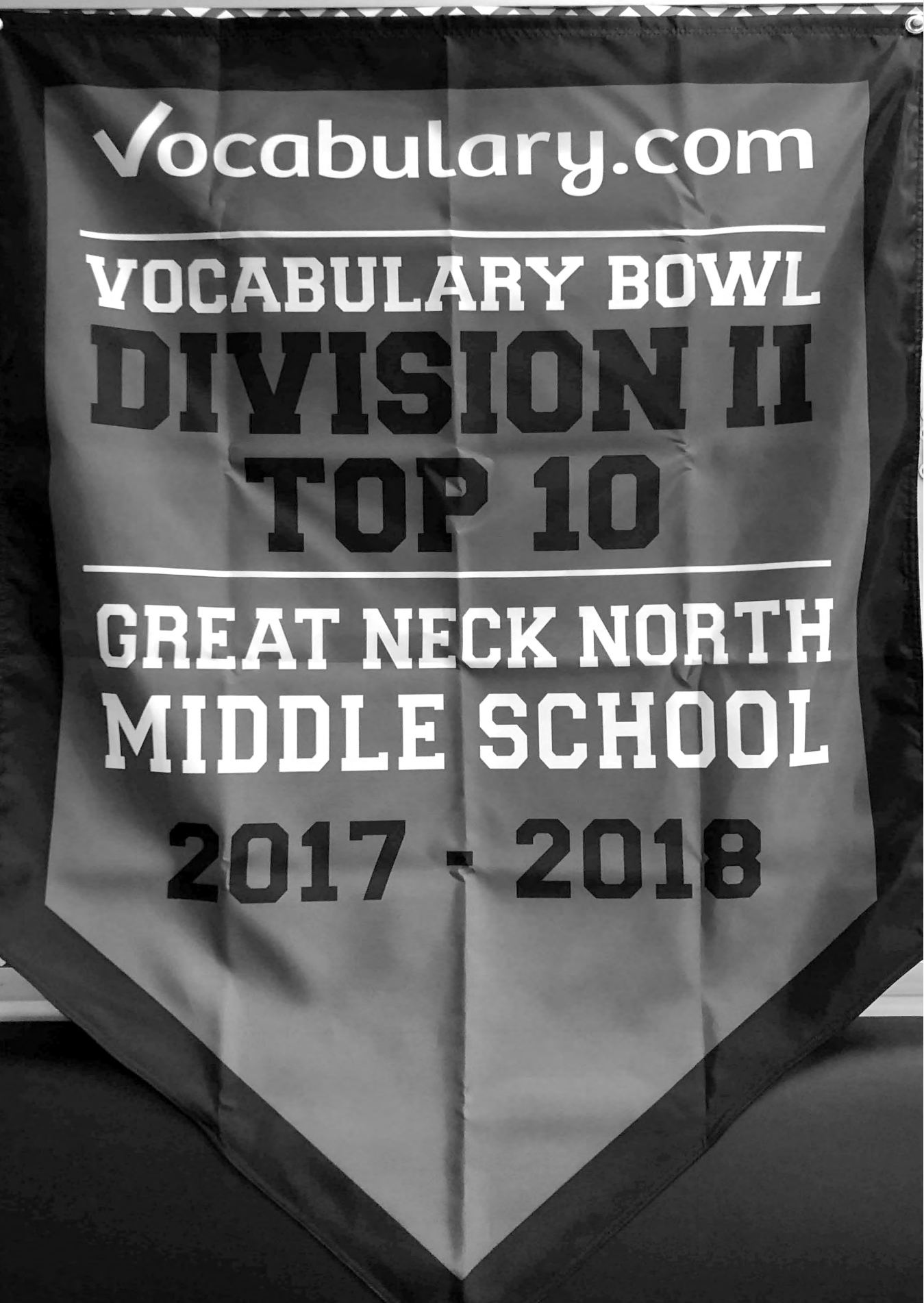
5. Take a trip to one of our town parks! Some of these parks include Grace Avenue Park, Steppingstone Park, Kings Point Park, Cuttermill Park, and the Village Green Park.
4. Meet a friend in town! If your parents give you the “ok,” walk to Sixteen Handles, Gino’s, Ralph’s, or even Starbucks from your home. If you live far from this area, ask a parent to drop you off in town.
3. Make a splash at Parkwood Pool! If you have a park card, you can go for free, but if you don’t have a park card, you may have to pay a small fee before you enter the pool area. Anyways, it’s worth it! From the water slide, to the lazy river, Parkwood Pool is great fun for everyone!
2. Go to a concert at Steppingstone Park! In the summer, there are many scheduled concerts on Saturday and Sunday nights. You can go with a friend and bring lawn chairs, or you can stop by for a quick churro and some music!
1. Go to Bond Street and enjoy some outdoor eating and music on select nights in the summer! You can try the Great Neck Diner, Elaine’s, or even treat yourself to a slice of brick oven pizza. The best part is finishing it off with a foughnut!



Movie Review: *Ready Player One*

By Sam Feldman

The movie *Ready Player One* (RPO for short), is based on the book by Ernest Cline. It takes place in 2045 where the world is addicted to the virtual reality system called the oasis. The oasis shaped the world up to the present day, but when the creator, James Halliday died it was announced that there was an Easter egg hidden inside the oasis. Whoever found it would be given half a trillion dollars and total control over the oasis. People looked and searched everywhere, but one day somebody found the first test. A portal appeared where you could race to find the key, but people have given up since then except for the gunters (the remaining egg hunters). Since then no one has found the remaining keys or even clues about them until now.



BEACH FUN CROSSWORD PUZZLE

C
L
U
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S

Across

3. Beach house for a King or Queen.
6. What's for dinner?
7. Fun to ride on your float.
8. Watch out! It might pinch your toes.
9. What do you row the boat with?
10. It flies overhead but not on a string.
11. Someone who keeps you safe on the beach.
14. Ice _____.

Down

1. Where do the fish live?
2. Beach shoes or the sound they make.
3. A popular color at the beach.
4. Ride waves fast on this.
5. _____ your boat.
6. Pretty home for tiny sea creatures.
9. Type of seashell or Popeye's girlfriend.
12. _____ Cream.

C
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Sixth Graders Participate in NMS' 2nd Annual Children's Literature Festival

By Adam Fine

The Children's Literature Festival was a celebration of all of the ways we have learned to be kind. It was inspired by the book, *Pay It Forward* by Catherine Ryan Hyde. It's about a kid named Trevor who is given an extra credit assignment. The assignment was to make a plan to change the world and put it into action, and the protagonist shows just that.

To show our ways of changing the world, kids made videos that show it. For example, one was about a kid who bullies another kid and then realizes the error of their ways. They then fix their mess and once and for all stop bullying. This is just one of the many amazing themes taught by these 2-3 minute videos. Joseph Edelman, one of the people whose video was presented, said, "It was nice to see Brandon Tehrani and my video up on the screen. I'm happy my work paid off and I think the message we were going for was presented well."

Team Discovery's leader Mrs. Manoff says, "Just a book can give us a message that we should put in our lives. The purpose of this was to show kindness can be shown anywhere." NMS really is a "No Place for Hate school!"



Summer Reading...

Northern Light Reporters Share their Favorite Books



Ender’s Game by Orson Scott Card

Recommended by Sam Feldman

I would recommend Ender’s Game because overall it has a really good plot and is just a really good book in my opinion. I think that this is an amazing book for kids who like sci-fi because it takes place in the future. In this future universe, a kid named Ender Wiggin goes to a training facility called the Battle School to prepare for another alien “attack“ because the world was already attacked by aliens once before this. Does the government have the right to start training little kids at the age of 7 or 8 through their teenage years? Read the book to find out!



Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Recommended by Sam Friedmann

Many fictional stories are about fantasy-like characters. The book Counting by 7s is about the life of a girl and the friendships she makes along the way. After losing her parents, she lives with two of her new friends. They must take over their own guidance counselors home so she can be put up for adoption. But in the end after trying to find a family, she knew that she already had one. Counting by 7s is a wonderful book about a girl and her brain.



Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Recommended by Adam Fine



Wonder by R. J. Palacio is a great book. It shows important theme, including the importance of acceptance and that being different is okay. Wonder is about a kid named August, who has a face deformity. Soon enough he starts middle school and faces many challenges. In the beginning he doesn’t have any friends, but by the end that all changes.

Series: Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling

Recommended by Han-Ah Kang

The Harry Potter series is about Harry Potter, a boy abused by his uncle, aunt, and cousin for almost his whole life. Suddenly on his eleventh birthday, he is invited to attend Hogwarts. Hogwarts is a school for witches and wizards. There he meets Hermione and Ron, who become his best friends. The trio will solve mysteries and save the day from the dark lord. I really recommend this series because it’s mysterious, creative and really fun to read.



The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Recommended by Rachel Sutin

Summary: Teenage Percy Jackson is not ready for his mother to die. He is not ready to be sent to a protection camp for children who are half-bloods. He is not ready for his world to turn upside down when he has a revelation; that being he is the son of Poseidon, the Greek god of the sea. But these revelations and memories seem like pieces of pie compared to the quest that follows for Percy and two of his friends: to retrieve Zeus’ stolen Lightning Bolt, and clear Percy and Poseidon’s name, all by the Summer Solstice. Whilst attempting to restore peace between gods, Percy, Annabeth [Percy’s friend], and Grover (Percy’s other friend] meet many new creatures, including Ares, the Greek god of war, Medusa, who turns her victims into stone, and Hades, the Greek god of the underworld. Will Percy return the bolt to Zeus and restore peace in the world? Or will Percy be killed by Zeus, who thinks that he/ Poseidon stole the lightning bolt?

Reasons to Read: This book is great for mythology lovers, because it mentions many Greek Gods and Goddesses. Though it helps, you still don't *have to know anything about mythology to enjoy this fun-filled and action packed story. I didn't, and here I am recommending it!*



The Cupcake Queen by Heather Hepler

Recommended by Ella Pourmoradi

I will just say now that I think the girls would like this book more than the boys. To be honest, this book is very different from its title. It’s about a girl named Penny who just moved to Hogs Hollow because her parents are taking a break. Before school even starts, the popular crowd hates her for something very unreasonable, but Penny finds a way to navigate through the school year and ends up actually enjoying part of it. This was a great book and I think that you guys should read it!



Summer Survey

By Gavyn Hon and Matthew Kwong

We walked around the school, selected certain students and teachers, and asked them what they were planning to do over the summer. Based on what we surveyed, some people may be traveling, while others may be staying home with family and friends.



Ms.Christofer: “As a matter of fact, I am retiring this year. But I’m very sad because I love what I do. It just so happens that I am going to be traveling. In September, the very first day of school, for you, I am going to Italy, and spending a month there. So during the summer, I plan to eat healthy, and exercise to get in shape, to be able to walk and hike, and to take long walks in Italy. What plan to do almost daily is practice mindfulness.”



Dr. Cozine: “I am excited about the summer because it’s an opportunity for me to spend more time with my family. During the school year I’m at work a lot, so I am looking forward to seeing my kids, and spending some quality time with them....I love reading books, so it’s my guilty pleasure to read some books over the summer. I hope everyone has a great summer and we look forward to seeing everyone in September.”



Dylan Kohanim: “For the first 2 weeks of summer, I will be going on a vacation to Israel, and possibly going to Mexico. For the last 5 weeks of summer, I’m going to be at tennis camp, and I’m going to be practicing my tennis.”



Alex Zhuang: “I’m going to stay home and sleep. I’m probably going to go to the Great Neck Recreation Program.”



Lily Weiner: “I’m going to sleepaway camp, which is actually four days after school ends. At sleepaway camp I get to go to the lake, play soccer, do gymnastics, and go swimming. I’m really excited because I get to see all my camp friends for 7 weeks. I really hope when I get home I get to go to the beach.”



Nathan Bikhman: “During the summer, I am going to Paris hopefully, playing table tennis and tennis hopefully a lot. I also need to do a lot of studying to prepare for high school.”



Pierce Hakimian: “During the summer vacation this year I am going to Israel to have my Bar Mitzvah.”



Mrs. Rice: “I’m looking forward to spending time with family, reading new books, and going to the beach.”



Sam Friedmann: “I’m going to California and Colorado, and then I am going to camp. After I get back from a month of camp, I am going to Washington D.C and then I have a couple days left until school.”



Dylan Friedrich: “I’m going to go to summer camp and I’m having my Bar Mitzvah.”



Mr. Boyt: “I’m traveling to Puerto Rico for a week. Then I’m teaching robotics and chess in the summer program. And after that, I’m going to California to do some hiking.”

Updates in MLB

By Harrison Rich

The MLB season in New York started off on an interesting note, as the Mets surprisingly jumped out to a 7-1 record. The other two times that happened, they made the World Series in both, winning once, and losing once. The Yankees started with a bit of a slow first 2 weeks, before heating up towards the end of April. The Mets also cooled down a lot by the beginning of May, as they went on a pretty bad streak of losses, dropping their record to 17-15, and falling to third in the division. Former fan favorite, Matt Harvey got released from the team, and it is unknown at the time of this article what team he went to. After refusing a minor league assignment, the Mets made the sad, yet right move by getting rid of him. He was doing awful for the third straight year after doing amazing in 2015, 2013, and 2012. In 2014 he was nowhere to be found, as he had Tommy John surgery that season. Some people credit his recent struggles to his thoracic outlet syndrome he acquired in 2016, which caused him to miss more than half the year. For the Yankees, top prospects Gleyber Torres and Miguel Andujar got the call to the majors, and while Andujar started off slow, he heated up dramatically at the end of April. Gleyber Torres showed the potential he has in the field, by making some nice plays at second base, and with a walk off homer on May 6th. Outside of New York, some surprising teams including the Angels, Braves and Phillies started off well. The Braves and Phillies are in first and second place in the NL East, while the Angels are in first place in the AL West.



NMS FIGHTS CANCER

By Rebecca Bernstein

Relay For Life is the “signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society.” They are committed to raising awareness across colleges, middle schools, and high schools to make a global impact on cancer through various events. With volunteers in thousands of communities and 27 countries, Relay For Life is working hard to gain attention to this situation across the globe. Although North Middle School is small compared to others, every penny counts. NMS is focusing on educating students to pay attention and make sure that they help support these important organizations. In our way of spreading awareness, Great Neck North Middle School will be holding their annual field day on Tuesday, June 19!

In the past year, bake sales and fundraising events have taken place. These include basketball fundraisers, and wearing the color hot pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The dunk tank is always popular, but this year a new student only raffle was added. From this, NMS made almost \$600 for the American Cancer Society. Prizes included an Amazon Echo, Amazon Echo Dot, and the chance of acting as Dr. Cozine, Ms. Gunning or Ms. Andersen for a day. Last year, Relay Field Day included many events, such as one of the biggest hits, the dunk tank.

This year, a brand new blow-up obstacle course will be featured at the event as well as other activities that will be revealed at the occasion. One big change happening this year is the involvement of students. Peer leaders from the Relay For Life club are making major decisions and creating new ideas and programs from scratch. Relay Field Day is sponsored by the PTO, school faculty, staff, students, the community, and the American Cancer Society. Students can get involved by attending meetings, special events and fundraising events. And remember to purchase stickers to vote for which teachers go in the dunk tank!



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P S V L L A B Y E L L O V L A

- | | | | |
|----------|---------------|----------|-------------|
| Athlete | Cross Country | Playoffs | Stadium |
| Baseball | Goalie | Score | Swimming |
| Bicycle | Gymnastics | Scuba | Tennis |
| Boating | Halftime | Soccer | Volley Ball |

NMS Participates in the National Day of Silence

By Tyler Brechner

On April 27, 2018, Great Neck North Middle participated in the National Day of Silence. Members of North Middle’s GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) helped with this day by handing out passes, stickers, and explaining the meaning behind the day/movement.

In 1996, the Day of Silence was created by students at the University of Virginia in response to a class assignment on non-violent protests. At first, 150 students participated, then in 1997 the effort went national and nearly 100 colleges/universities participated.

North Middle students took a vow of silence to represent those who feel silenced by bullying and harassment especially for being LGBTQ+. Co-advisor of the GSA, Ms. Ernst said “[The Day of Silence] is a day for students and just people, in businesses as well, to decide to stay silent, and they are staying silent because they are representing the silence that LGBTQ+ feel when they feel like they can’t come out, when they feel like are going to be bullied or made fun of for actually speaking their truth and being who they are.”



Have a wonderful summer!