



Northern Light



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GREAT NECK NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

SPRING 2018



Award Winning Author, Chris Crutcher, Visits North Middle

By Ava Hoffman

On March 6, 2018 author Chris Crutcher, came to visit North Middle School. He is best known for books such as *Ironman*, *Deadline* and *Athletic Shorts*. He gave one presentation to each grade, and covered stories from his life, as well as what inspired him to become an author. He shared some of the most meaningful experiences, and how they shaped him to become the successful person he is today.

Mr. Crutcher shared several funny stories about his childhood with the audience. One of the most memorable was about the two times that he knocked his teeth out. He told us how he grew up in a small town where being an athlete was the most important thing. The problem was that he was not a very good athlete! He tried however, to pretend he was athletic in order to impress a girl--ending very badly both times and with a loss of his front teeth to show for it. The lesson he learned, that he shared with us, was don't try to be the person you're not--it will only lead to embarrassment and failure (and a lot of soft foods!). He encouraged us to learn from his example and be proud of the person you are.

Several lucky students got to spend more time with him in a detailed interview session, but each and every student in the auditorium walked away inspired by the stories Chris Crutcher shared, and hopefully learned a little bit more about what it takes to become a well-known writer. We are looking forward to next year's author visit!

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North Middle’s Science Olympiads Win Top Honors

By Renee Zeng

On February 10th, North Middle School’s Science Olympiads Team competed in the Nassau Regionals. They ranked 25 out of all the schools and participated in 22 events. In the 22 activities, they ranked top 20 in 12 events and won medals in 6, earning four medals for official activities and two medals in trial events.



Those in Science Olympiads have worked hard and prepared for the competition for a long time, putting much effort into it. In addition to studying for several written events, they also built, from scratch, different machines for building activities. After months of hard work and dedication, it was an exciting experience to finally go to the competition. It was a proud moment for many who scored well. Team members said they “couldn’t believe [they] won a medal,” and upon hearing were shocked they had done so well.

The team won medals for Mystery Architecture, Meteorology, Dynamic Planet, Ecology, the Duct Tape Challenge, and the Science Quiz Bowl. Renee Zeng and Jonathan Kim won 9th place for Ecology, David Zeng and Julia Huang won 7th place for Mystery Architecture and David Zeng and Jordan Mayorga won 6th place for Dynamic Planet. For the students who won top five in their event, Adrian Shiu and Zi Han won 5th place for the Duct Tape Challenge and David Zeng, Jonathan Kim, and Julia Huang won 3rd place for the Science Quiz Bowl. Last but certainly not least, in first place for Meteorology, was Jonathan Kim and David Zeng.

7th Grade Trip

By Matthew Kwong

On March 3, NMS 7th graders went on their second field trip of the year, and it was very entertaining. The first stop was to the Broadhollow Theater in Elmont to see the play, *1776*. After that, they headed over to Dave and Busters in Westbury, NY to play some games and win some prizes.

The play, *1776*, was a musical, with both acting, singing and dancing. It was based on colonial times, which was what most students are currently learning. It focused on the time period when the 13 colonies were debating on whether they should fight for independence or stay with Britain.

After the play, the students returned to their previous buses, and when all students were aboard the buses, they headed for Dave and Busters. The trip between the play and the arcade was about 20-30 minutes long, which gave the students time to eat lunch. When they arrived, students were given a game card that students bought when paying for the school trip. These cards were not to be refilled during this visit, and could be brought home for private use. Students were able to play for about 1-2 hours. To their surprise, it wasn’t too crowded there, but on the bus home, it was crowded with stuff animals.

When it was time to proceed back to the school, students were satisfied with the day, bringing home prizes and stuffed animals. It was a great day of learning and playing.

Blazers Live Update

By Sam Friedmann

This is Sam, reporting live from the Blazer Live’s studio in room 205. Every morning we meet in 205 to bring you your show. It may feel like it only takes a few seconds until it’s on your screen and you’re watching, but there’s a lot more to it than that. I’m going to take you inside Blazers Live--from the mic check to the real show that you see live. The first thing that we do every morning is the mic check. We do this every morning to make sure that all of the microphones are working before we start the show. We usually do this at 7:45 A.M. While all of this is going on, we have someone who’s writing the script for that day’s show.

After we’re done with mic check and have fixed any technical issues that we have, we start a rehearsal. The rehearsal is basically just a run through of the entire show. We do this so that everyone on screen is familiar with what they are going to be talking about that day. We usually start the rehearsal anywhere between 8:00 A.M. and 8:10 A.M.

Inside the control room there are two very important jobs to help the show run smoothly- TD (technical director) and director. The TD is the one who is always changing the camera shots. Every type of change that you see on the screen is done by the TD. The director is responsible for telling everyone when to start talking. They also control a lot of the show. They have to tell the TD what to do and when to do it, as well.

One more important job is the floor manager. The floor manager is the one who cues the anchors to start talking. They’re in control of the entire stage area. Also, some new things we’ve been doing are *HQ-style questions and Mindful Mondays*.

Finally, at 8:20 A.M., we hit the live button and start our show. Even though it can take a really long time to get ready for the show, we have a lot of fun doing it. It is important to remember that every job matters and without one job, the whole show could fall apart. I hope that you enjoyed this Blazers Live update. Tune in next time.

Mr. Deryck ruminates on the future of Blazers Live... “There’s three things I’m hoping to accomplish next year. For one, I’m hoping to start earlier into the year. Now that I’m familiar with the studio and I have a nice base of crew members who are more familiar with the studio, I think we’ll get on a lot earlier than we did this past year. Another hope I have is to perhaps, start a couple new segments on the show—possibly some movie reviews or book reviews. Another thing and this is a new development I’m really excited about is I’ve been talking with Mr. Zahn, the Director of Educational Television over at South. We have been discussing bringing in some new technology—possibly bringing in new stations—a lot of cool new features that we may have here next year or possibly the year after.”

Great Neck North Middle Math Team

By Christopher Yang

A group of around ten students sit in a large room, in a long hallway that the rest of the school never goes to. Each student is deep in concentration of their paper that’s in front of them. Pencils are in hands, making calculations, running across the paper. An alarm rings; the sound of an iphone alarm echoes in the room. Pencils drop, and the overseer of the competition, Mr. Boyt, takes all of the tests.

This is what it's usually like during a normal competition day. The Great Neck North Middle Math Team is an activity after school where anyone can attend to compete with other people in the district in math. Mr. Boyt, the man himself, conducts these tests and helps out the team by giving tips and conducting the tests. The people on the math team have participated in many contests, such as the AMC 8, AMC 10, Math Olympiads, the New York Math League, and Math Circle.

The AMC 8 and 10 are contests that if you do really well, you can do the AMC 12. Then if you do well, you can compete with other nations in the world when you’re older. The highest scoring person in the AMC 8 was Ryan He, a very smart person. When you’re in 8th grade, you’re recommended to take the AMC 8, which many did this year. Way back, what started the competitive spirit was Math Olympiads. It has a special place in many of the team’s hearts. It was usually what got them into competing, since it was offered in fourth grade to compete. The team had five math olympiads in this year, and many did well.

Afterwards, the team competed in Math Circle and The New York Math League. Both of them were challenging but, just like before, the team tried their best and did really well. The GNNMS eighth grade math team won first place in Long Island, and fourth place in the state. We also claimed the first three top scores in Long Island. Ryan He got first in Long Island for test score, and also third in New York State. Yours truly got second in Long Island, and eighth in New York State, and David Zeng got third in Long Island and 13th in New York. As Mr.Boyt said, “It's our time to shine”.

The GNNMS Math Team is a fun place that has many students come together to compete. You don't have to excel at math to be in it, and you will learn a few things as well. People from any grade can come and have fun.

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Author Chris Crutcher Shares Stories with the Sixth Grade

By Kajal Ramphul

On March 6th, 2018, 6th graders gathered in the auditorium. Their heads were full of questions. After waiting several minutes, Chris Crutcher stepped up two the microphone, and started to speak.

Sports:
Mr. Crutcher has two distinct memories of playing sports: “One was having my teeth knocked out in baseball, the other of having my teeth knocked out in basketball.” He recalls not being good at sports, but they were a big part of his life--everyone played.
One memory was of him playing baseball. He was trying to impress some girls, and he started to play. At first, it wasn’t so bad, but then, he heard a sickening crack as the wooden bat slammed into his face. He remembers going to the emergency room, his teeth stuck in the bat, and his mom saying, ‘We’re having corn on the cob for dinner; you don’t like that anyway.’
Two years later, Mr. Crutcher joined the basketball team. “I only made it because my coach made no cuts.” He was rarely put in the game. However, he finally got his chance, after months of being benched. “I still remember my coach saying,”Don’t embarrass yourself.” He played one quarter, not that well, and then was told, “Don’t embarrass me.” Crutcher was thrown back into the game, and no one noticed him. He was about to make a shot, when he got distracted. The ball hit him in the head, and knocked his teeth out.
Even though he wasn’t great at sports, he includes them in stories because they had a huge impact in his life.

Inspiration and Method:
“I look for tragic things and funny things, because those two things combined make a good story.” -Chris Crutcher
Chris Crutcher gets his inspiration from real life. However, sometimes these stories are adapted. For example, he wasn’t that good at sports in real life, but in his stories, the main character is often great at this.
One of his bestselling novels, Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes, is based on the true story of a girl with a cruel and abusive father. Her kind mother left after her husband, ‘Sarah’s dad, nearly suffocated her and burned Sarah as a 3 year old. Her father fed her the same fake story, that said she’d pulled spaghetti on herself when she was a baby. She was also isolated from potential friends. Nevertheless, Sarah remembered the true story and spread it. When the story reached Crutcher, he immortalized it in this book.
A friend, named Craig, but nicknamed Telephone Man, was also featured in a short story. The real Telephone Man was very irritable, and he sometimes threw tantrums. He always wore a belt made of telephone parts. This story is about a boy who eats strawberry shampoo and flour for breakfast.
It is clear that Crutcher uses real stories to reveal the truth to the world. Chris Crutcher cares about showing what is really happening in the world, and bringing to light important issues.

A Conversation with Chris Crutcher

By Elizabeth Margiloff

Q: Why do your books seem to provoke so much controversy?

A: “I think the biggest reason is a certain level of irreverence toward institutional thought. I have what could easily be called an overdeveloped resistance to the status quo. When I get into it with the religious right - or the political right - it’s usually because a character is challenging what I consider to be their ill-thought-out decrees. They call me blasphemous and I accuse them of putting their philosophy ahead of their humanity. On the rare occasions that I get into it with the politically correct Left, it’s because I use racial epithets in my writing or attach a personality trait to a character that seems cliché. Truth is, I can’t portray the kind of racist I grew up with without using racial slurs. If memory serves, I saw one African American person in the flesh before I was eighteen years old, but I heard the N-word every day of my life. So my writing is a reflection of what I know...or at least what I perceive. More simply put, I believe the controversy comes from the fact that one side thinks we can protect kids by keeping them from discovery, and I think we protect kids from helping then discover.”

Q: If you could be remembered for one YA book, what would it be? Why?

A: “You’re asking me to pick a favorite child here, but to this point, probably *Whale Talk*. I have certain intimacies with many of the characters, it contains issues I’m passionate about and it’s probably as complex as anything I’ve written. Sarah Byrnes and Deadline are close seconds, though, and I couldn’t have had more fun writing the suspense/thriller aspects of Period 8... I have a certain love for all my books!”

Q: What makes you keep writing after all these years and all this controversy?

A: “Well, the years of controversy don’t have anything to do with my writing. Every story is a new adventure for me...to see whether or not I can pull it off... Since I don’t think about the controversy while I’m writing, there’s no stress there, and when I’m finished writing, I have a little extra time on my hands. As you might imagine I’m one of those people who doesn’t mind a little controversy... When I match that irritation for lack of a better word, with the lives of some of the people I’ve worked with in therapy over the years, I can’t complain too much.”

Q: Do you ever get tired of dealing with your books being challenged and having to justify their use in classrooms?

A: “Not really because the truth is, I don’t spend a lot of time on it. I’ve responded so many times I know it by heart, so most times it’s just tweaking it a little for whatever the new censorship location is. It’s harder on teachers and librarians than it is me... I’m always hugely grateful when they hang in there because they think there is merit to whichever story it is. I’m also aware that sometimes they just can’t do it.”

Q: When you envision a new story, what do you create first? The protagonist? The conflict? The outcome? Something else?

A: “That really depends on the story. Sometimes an event will trigger a story and sometimes a person or persons will. I start with anything that fires me up; spurs my intensity... I would love it if the outcome got me started because I would know in which direction I’m writing from the first page, but that never happens.”

Q: Of all the characters you have created, which one was hardest for you to write?

A: “...Probably Jennifer Lawless from Chinese Handcuffs. Though I had worked with a lot of girls with sexual abuse in their histories, I only knew it from the outside. I couldn’t afford to get it wrong because if I did, the entire book would be invalidated... two of the girls I was working with were voracious readers who wanted their stories told without actually having their stories told, so they became my editors... when I wrote something into Jennifer’s thoughts or conversation that didn’t ring true, they would let me know in no uncertain terms. Partly she was hard to write because she was so trapped. While I’m writing I’m paying so much attention to the craft that I don’t have much of an emotional response, but when I read it over later, I do.”



A Tale of Two Shreks

By Jack Brenner and Owen Roubeni

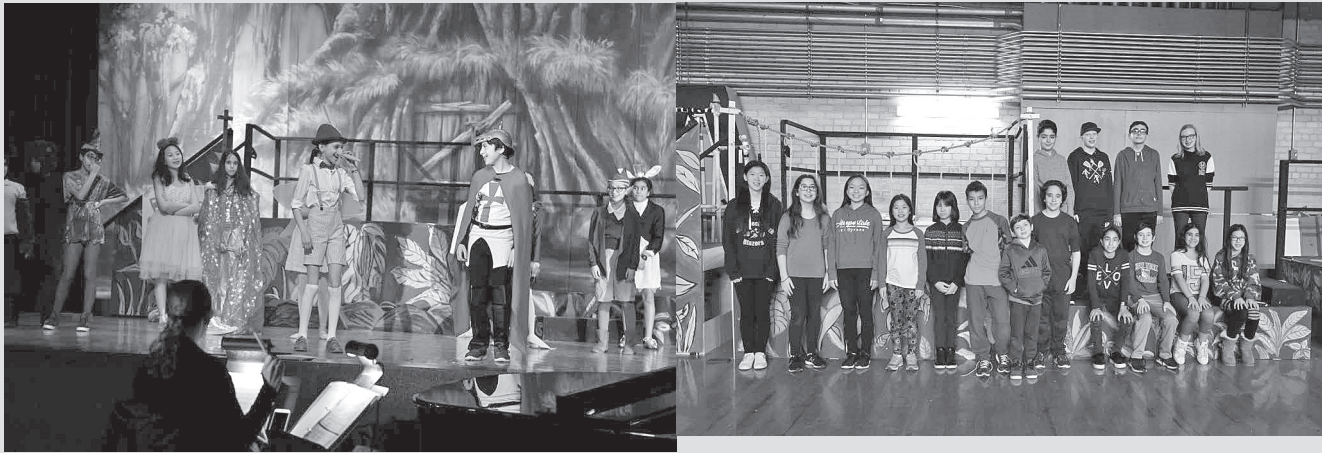


How do you do? My name is Owen, and I performed the role of Shrek on the first night of the Great Neck North Middle School’s production of, *Shrek the Musical*. The experience overall was very fulfilling, and I’m really glad I got to participate in this year’s production. At first, I was very nervous about getting the part because during rehearsals I was crazy-anxious, and I even messed up my audition song! I thought to myself, “*I’m never going to get the role of Shrek!*” After a while, the callback list popped up and I was hoping that I would be on there so I could get another chance to prove my capabilities. The callbacks went super, super well and I was beginning to feel a little more confident in myself. But the day the parts were going to be put up after school, everything was hectic and all over the place. To top it off, we had a field trip that day which didn’t help with the jitters everyone was getting about their part. By the time we arrived back to school, I was breaking a sweat to find out what role I was going to get. The rehearsals were very tiring and a bit redundant in the beginning, but as the play got closer and closer, things were shaping up, and looking and sounding awesome. It was remarkable to see the growth of everyone during our endless rehearsals and I’m so proud of our cast. Running through the lines, songs, choreography, actions, and just performing together created one big family. We had each other’s backs and it was honestly a thrill getting together everyday and doing what we do best! The days leading up to the show were exciting and nerve-wracking, but once we finally got to perform, it was the biggest relief and utmost joy. The feeling of being up on the stage and channeling the role of the character is breathtaking in a sense, an indescribable emotion. It’s amazing to be able to bring smiles and laughter to others, while doing something I love, and it inspires and motivates me to continue acting in the future.



Hello. My name is Jack and I performed the role of Shrek on the second night of the Great Neck North Middle School musical, *Shrek the Musical*. If I had to describe the experience, I would say it was a lot of work, but the result was worth it and it was a great feeling of accomplishment at the end. The auditions were a bit nerve wracking and the callbacks were even more so. In fact, the day I was going to find out my role, I had a field trip and it didn’t hit me until about lunch. After that point in the day, I was just an anxious, nervous wreck. The rehearsals were long, and sometimes it was frustrating doing the same thing over and over again for hours on end, but overall, it was just so worth it. The feeling you get from just that one list on the wall, or that one hour of praise on one night is so incredible; it’s definitely worth the work and the wait. It’s almost addicting. But as much as I enjoy praise and success, the best part of this experience, by far, is being part of the team, the family, the power of the show. It feels like an honor to be accepted into something bigger, of a greater purpose. It’s almost like being a part of a huge movement. It’s an amazing feeling, like you can do anything. I also enjoyed how close the cast became. I mean, we were dancing together, eating together, performing together and even messing up together. We laughed together and that is what creates some of the best memories for me. This experience just is one of the best things I’ve ever been a part of, and I’m hoping more people will come along for the ride next year.

We remember the day that we saw the cast list, almost not wanting to look in fear of disappointment about something that we had been waiting for, for most of the day. Finding out the parts we received was like a rush of relief and excitement. It was a great day. Being that we have been the same roles in the same shows for three years straight, shows that we definitely have that friendly competition that pushes and encourages us to be the best we can be when the red curtain parts. We can both agree that we wish there were more nights to perform, perhaps four or even three shows, like South Middle. This is because having the production running for three to four days instead, would be more rewarding for the time and energy we all put into our rehearsals. Nevertheless, it was still extremely gratifying and enriching to be part of this phenomenal experience. Even that one night we each got to perform as Shrek was more than worth the time and effort we both put in. We couldn’t have done it without the behind-the-scenes crew and the diligence of the adults in the program. Thank you so much for the extra time and energy that you all put in--your dedication means so much to us!



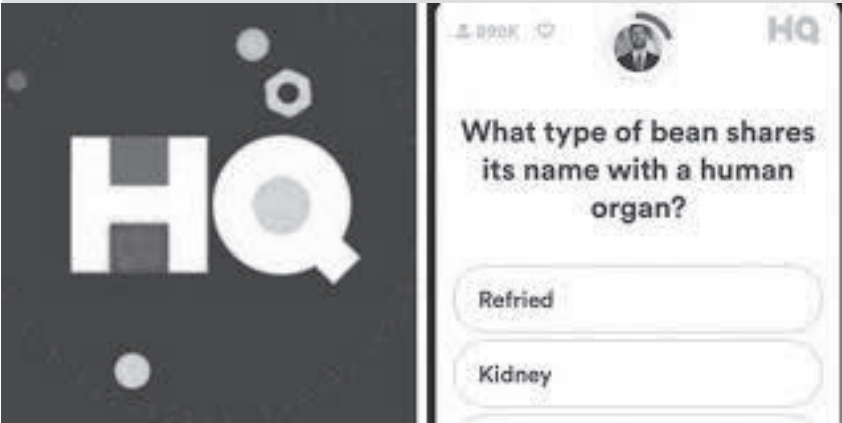
Winning Big with the HQ Trivia App

By Rebecca Bernstein

In August 2017, when the HQ trivia app debuted on IOS, the jackpots per game were only set to \$100. The app launched a beta version of its app specifically for Android users. But now, over a million players are answering 12 questions per game, with a goal of winning \$2,500. On Sunday nights, jackpots are set to \$10,000, \$20,000, \$25,000, or even \$50,000. This prize is mostly split with other people, and it is rare that one person wins it all. Players typically win about \$10 to \$20 per game, and it is cashed in through a Paypal account.

Scott Rogowsky, the main host of HQ, who once hosted his own show called *Running Late with Scott Rogowsky*, became a well-known comedian for launching this app along with tech entrepreneurs Rus Yusupov and Colin Kroll who also together developed Vine. Rogowsky is mostly known for his catchy phrases such as, “quemero número uno, and lets get this show on the road!” “I’d love to give away a million dollars someday,” Yusupuv told Business Insider. This trending app goes live on 3pm ET and 9pm ET on weekdays, and 9pm ET on the weekends.

HQ has been referred to as “the future of live television,” and “a harbinger of dystopia.” As of January 1st, 2018, this fad was the fourth-most popular game on IOS in the US, and the 13th most popular US IOS app overall. Little did Scott Rogowsky and all of the people who founded HQ know they would have over a million users on their phones once or twice a day when they first started this, to play HQ and to win big.



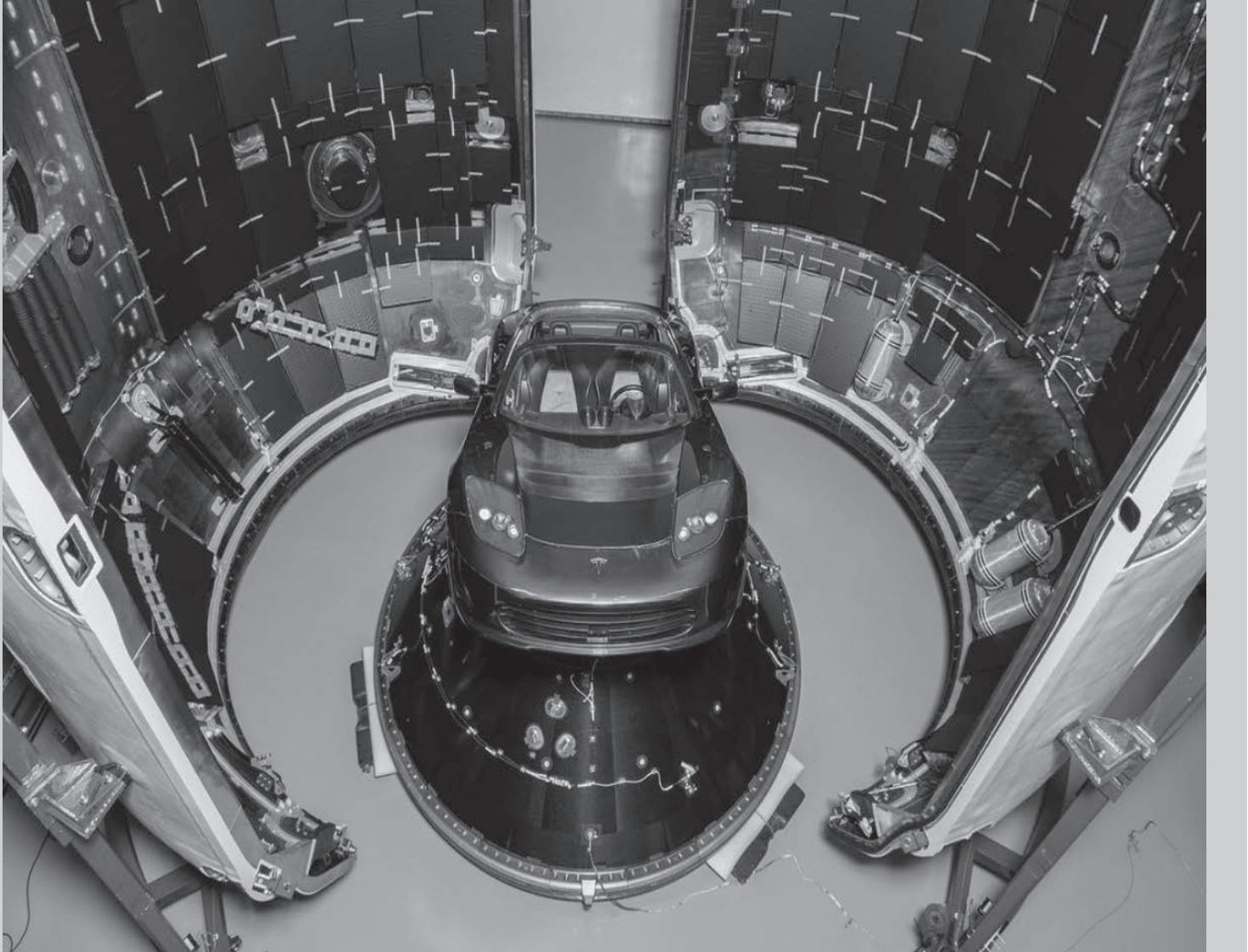
Cars in Space?

By Nina Zar

On February 6, 2018, SpaceX test launched the new Falcon Heavy rocket. The original Falcon 9 mission began in 2012, when the first Falcon 9 rocket was first launched.

The new Falcon 9 is extremely efficient. It can even travel about 24,854 miles per hour. Usually the side rockets break off, and fall into the ocean. However, Elon Musk, owner of Falcon Heavy and Tesla, thought that it's a waste of money, and it polluted the ocean. As a result, SpaceX figured out how to make the side rockets break off, and fall back where they launched. According to SpaceX president Gwynne Shotwell, it managed to save 30% and reduced the cost from \$61.2 million to \$42.8 million. Now, the side rockets can be used for future launches.

Since the experimental first launch of the Falcon Heavy was very risky, clients were not willing to launch their expensive satellites. Elon Musk took this as an opportunity to advertise for Tesla. He launched his own personal Tesla in the rocket. They even put a spacesuit in the driver’s seat, to look like someone was driving the car.





Dear Miss Know it All,
Yesterday, one of my friends was telling me how much she hated somebody. What this friend didn’t know was that the person she was talking about was actually one of my other friends. I don’t want to seem uncool, but I also don’t want to laugh along if this happens again. What should I do?
Sincerely,
Torn Between Friends

Dear Torn Between Friends,
First off, if your friend repeatedly gossips about *anyone*, then they’re not a friend worth keeping. But, if you do decide to stay friends with this gossip, courageously tell them that you’re friends with the person that they repeatedly talk about. It’s also best to do this politely, and in private. If they hold a grudge against you for standing up for what’s right, they’re *wrong*.
From,
Miss Know it All

Dear Miss Know it All,
I always sit alone at lunch, and can never find partners in group activities at school. I don’t feel cool, and sometimes I wish that I were athletic, smart, or popular in some way. I really don’t want to keep being lonely. What should I do?
Sincerely,
Lonely

Dear Lonely,
First off, know that you are *not* lonely! A lot of kids in middle school feel the same way that you do. I find that trying to remember the people that you can deeply connect to helps. Say you and another person both love Harry Potter. You can talk about your (least) favorite character, your house, your favorite book in the series, your favorite Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher, your dream wand, or how you would react if you got an acceptance letter to Hogwarts. And that’s just conversation topics! Maybe you guys can eat chocolate frogs together, or coordinate Halloween costumes (if you celebrate). Heck, you guys could even go to Harry Potter World together! That makes for a lot of conversation, and a lot of activities that you can plan. When you have a common love with someone, you may feel connected: like you have something special that only you two have. Anyway, good luck making new friends! And remember, you don’t *have* to be as athletic, smart, or popular as some people are- you just have to be you.
Best,
Miss Know it All

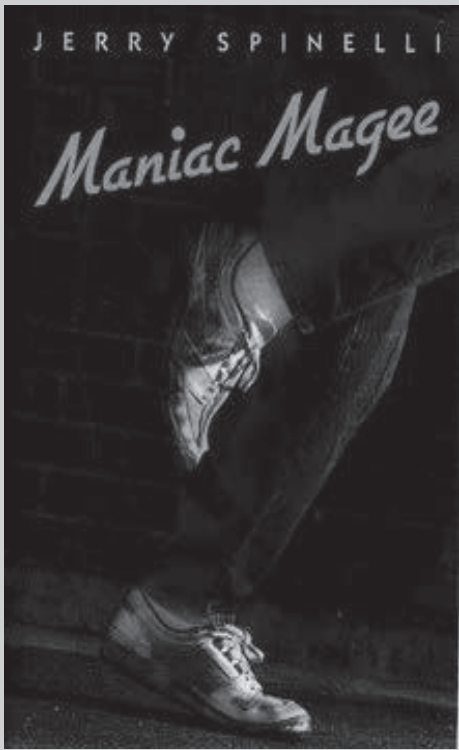
Book Review: *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli

By Han-Ah Kang

A book that I can recommend is a novel by Jerry Spinelli called *Maniac Magee*. It’s about a homeless boy, nicknamed Maniac, who tries to find a home in a town named Two Mills. The town is divided by the color of your skin. There is separate section for black people and white people. But Maniac can’t seem to find a home anywhere. He’s always on the run.

In the beginning Maniac lives in the zoo. His parents were killed in a trolley crash. One day he borrows a book from a girl named Amanda Beale. He promises to return it back. When he returns the book back Amanda’s dad realizes he doesn’t have a home. He lives with Amanda for a while but then he leaves. He goes from home to home, never staying too long. But in the end will he find a home?

I recommend this book because it has many emotional parts. Some parts are happy and sad. It’s an emotional rollercoaster. It also has an interesting plot. It makes you want to read more and more of the book. I really recommend the book, *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli.



Spring Inspired Poetry

Submitted by Elizabeth Margiloff

Spring By Melissa Russell

Spring has sprung,
The sun has begun
To shine upon our world.
Spring has sprung,
The lambs have begun
To run about the fields.
Spring has sprung
To blossoms have begun
To brighten up the trees.
Spring has sprung
The daffodils have begun
To dance joyfully in the breeze.
Spring has sprung
The children have begun
To run gleefully in the sun.

Spring Showers

Pitter Patter, Pitter Patter
Drip Drip Drop

The rain came down
Like someone wringing out a mop

Pitter Patter, Pitter Patter
Splish Splish Splash

We heard thunder and lightning
A boom and a crash

Pitter Patter, Pitter Patter
Glip Glop Glop

We sloshed through the mud
Until the last drop

Pitter Patter, Pitter Patter
Where did you go?

The sun was shining so bright
It makes a big rainbow

Video Game and TV Review

By Sam Feldman

Fortnite:
Fortnite is the biggest free for all battle royale which has everyone that has an Xbox one a PC, Mac, or Ps4 playing (even celebrities are playing). It is a really fun game and has made an insane amount of money. In my opinion it's pretty addicting, and I love the “battle royale” mode. I also really love the “save the world” mode, but in my opinion I like save the world better because its a tps rpg which is the type of game that I love. *Fortnite* is an amazing game and the best part is that it’s free.



Stranger Things:
Stranger Things is a Netflix original series that has become an insanely good show. In my opinion, I love it because it has a amazing story line and always keeps me on my feet waiting to watch the next episode. I have almost finished watching Season 1 and 2 for the second time. If you love shows that scare you and make you jump, then this show is for you. In the end it's an amazing show which won a lot of awards. I highly recommend that if you have Netflix and haven't already watched it, please do.



English 8 Enriched Students Become Journalists

By Alexa Nissim

A few weeks ago, the English 8 Enriched students began to write their investigative journalism articles. The students had to learn about current issues in Great Neck and chose from the following categories: community, environment, school life and health and wellness. They were given packets and had to research their topics and had to have different sources to make sure their article was neutral and unbiased. The project required students to find two reliable sources, which included websites and books. Additionally, they needed to interview experts and non-experts (people who had some input and knowledge on the topic, but weren’t devoted to it) on their topics. For instance, Rebecca Karpel, a student in the English Enriched program focused her article on the safety of Middle Neck Road and included a few expert opinions in her article. She interviewed Councilwoman Anna Kaplan, Legislator Ellen Birnbaum, and Supervisor Judy Bosworth, and her father, Max Karpel. Lastly, students had to use a non-reliable source. This includes polls, surveys, and social media. Many students used both social media and a poll to create a survey, where their friends could vote. Overall, this project really helped the English Enriched students learn about their community and expand their research abilities.

Read on to see what English 8 Enriched students, Eden Gol, Alexa Nissim, and Rebecca Karpel investigated!

Do You Know the Real Effect of Makeup on Skin?

By Eden Gol



The before and after of makeup on skin

Has your skin ever been affected by makeup? Have you ever wondered why this is happening? Just by putting on some makeup can impact your skin in many ways. Some don’t realize that the types of makeup that they are putting on their face is actually impacting their health in many different ways. Imagine trying out a new product not knowing what it can actually do to your skin. The next morning you wake up and see a rash on your face. How could this be? You thought this brand was trustworthy, but it turns out it’s not. Do you know if what you are putting on your face is safe to use? Makeup is used occasionally by 50%-80% people in the world. How many of them do you think actually know what the makeup that they are wearing is doing to their skin?

To get to the bottom of this, different sources revealed how makeup actually affects the skin. In an interview with a Cosmetologist, Deja, from Sephora, she revealed the effects of makeup on skin if not taken off properly. “Every time makeup is worn it needs to come off at the end of the day. This prevents skin issues and fine lines.” Something so simple like not taking makeup off can change the way your face looks. Additionally, according to a *Bustle* article, *there are 10 different ways that makeup can affect your health. Who knew that sharing makeup products can cause you to become sick? Well, by sharing brushes with someone else that is even slightly sick, can also cause you to become sick because the brushes are unsanitary. Using the same products especially the ones that come into contact with your eyes and mouth can be very unhealthy. So next time you think about borrowing your best friends mascara, think twice about it.*

Some may ask themselves if drugstore brands effect the skin differently than high end brands do. According to the Cosmetologist, Deja, she says, “The difference between drugstore and high end makeup is the price range.” Not all drug store brands will hurt your skin. With drugstore brands it is really a “hit or miss”. It is also important to test out different makeup brands on small patches of your skin before putting it on your face and getting breakouts and rashes. Many people do not know that makeup has expiration dates, so it is important to check the expiration dates of makeup products before you buy them. According to a teenage girl, she was in a situation where she broke out from buying an expired product. She commented, “I was at a Forever 21 and while I was in line I picked up a few packs of face wipes. When I got home I tested it out and in the morning, I was horrified to see a big red rash on my face. It turns out that this product has been expired for a month before I bought it. I was shocked to find out that the employees didn’t notice that it wasn’t good to sell.” She further noted, “Always ask someone about a product before you buy it just to make sure that it’s safe to put on your face.” It is always important to talk to someone that is an expert in this field. In most makeup stores there is always someone that is available to help you find the perfect product match that is right for your skin.

Usually, people tend to overspend money on high end makeup products when they can just use products that are in their own homes. For example, did you know that a variety of different oils can be beneficial to your skin? One example is coconut oil. Coconut oil is used in many different ways. For one, it is a good moisturizer and also helps to reduce added bacteria on skin. It is a good face cleanser and it is a natural way of removing makeup. You can even make your own makeup products with coconut oil. Additionally, another product that you can use to benefit your skin is one of the basic household staples, olive oil. Olive oil is also a good moisturizing oil and is often used in natural repair creams to help repair and renew the skin. Furthermore, another oil that is beneficial to skin is peppermint oil. This is a problem solving oil that helps reduce redness on skin and helps to soothe skin. All these oils are staples that many people have around home and there are even more oils that do wonders for your skin.

Makeup has different effects on different types of skin. Anyone can be affected by makeup, even you. Next time that you are using makeup, keep it into consideration of what types of products that you are putting on your face.

And the Sign Says: “Out of Business”

By Alexa Nissim

Have you ever walked in the town of Great Neck, New York to see that all the stores have closed? Imagine walking down Middle Neck Road and seeing all the stores having signs saying “Closed”, “Closing Soon”, “Everything Must Go” and many other devastating announcements. This is what Great Neck is turning into if the community members don’t help out. There are many reasons why stores are closing and why other places might succeed.

Sadly, Great Neck is the only town that is suffering. Port Washington, North Shore, and Huntington all have great towns with much variety. In the last two decades Great Neck has lost attraction. Yossi Gurevitch, the owner of Judaica of Great Neck since 2002, had to recently close his store. He explained to the Great Neck Record that “It was always difficult, but then it became impossible.” A resident of Great Neck, Barbara Hamlin, told the Great Neck Record, “Too many of the places I’m familiar with are closing.” This is absolutely true. Another resource describes a store that also recently closed called MMKidz. The village had a hard time keeping this store open. Jay Corn, the vice president of the Great Neck Plaza Business Improvement District, said it’s “very difficult to compete with the Internet”, especially when it comes to retail. He also believes that it isn’t a surprise that their store closed, and it would have been a shock if they made it. The internet and online shopping is one of the many reasons why stores are closing. Many community members want to know what the village will do about this issue.

MMKidz posted an Instagram photo, which told their customer that they are closing. They described how “this Sunday will be our last day open in Great Neck!!! Come shop 1-4!!! Many \$10 items and 50% off everything else!!!” This shows one store of many that have closed, that shared that they are closing. They had to sell their products at very low prices to get rid of the items. They weren’t able to make a profit off the clothes that sold for their clearance sale.

A resident of Great Neck, Albert Nissim, gave his input on the situation. He believes that the stores in Great Neck have high rents to pay, which is a major factor of why the stores aren’t doing well. They have to charge higher prices in order to pay their rent, but people can find cheaper prices online, therefore, they won’t buy goods in Great Neck and will buy them online. There is a product that people don’t often buy online, which is food. Albert believes that restaurants are doing well because you can’t buy their food online. This gives an idea of what some community members believe and gives suggestions on what people can do to help.

Ron Edelson, the executive director of the Great Neck Plaza Business Improvement District gave his thoughts. Mr. Edelson said the shops are closing because of the Internet and the competition between the stores. Many stores are the same and there isn’t much variety. If there was variety and two stores for each type of business, such as clothing, delis, and supermarkets, people would be forced to shop there when they need products. Mr. Edelson said “the ease of online shopping like Walmart and Amazon, which is much easier and you don’t have to leave your house,” which is a cause of shops closing. Mr. Edelson gave advice on how businesses can succeed. If businesses want to do well then they should have some sort of online presence, make a website and if you don’t, then the chance of your business surviving is low. A step above just making a website is creating an online shopping page, where people can actually purchase products.

That’s what’s going on in Great Neck, New York. Businesses are closing and people’s lives are impacted by this. The owner(s) and the few customers that do shop will all be affected. If the stores continue to fail, then Great Neck, as a whole could fail too; people won’t want to live somewhere, where they can’t enjoy the atmosphere.

PARABENS

FOUND IN Shampoos, conditioners, lotions, facial, shower cleansers & scrubs.	HEALTH CONCERNS Endocrine disruption, developmental and reproductive toxicity, allergies and immunotoxicity.
WHAT TO LOOK FOR ON THE LABEL Ethylparaben, butylparaben, methylparaben, propylparaben, other ingredients ending in -paraben.	REGULATIONS EU: None (Denmark has independently restricted propyl and butyl parabens in children's products) Japan: None Canada: None US: None

The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics

Parabens are found in many beauty products, especially makeup. Parabens can damage your health in different ways.

The Dangers of Middle Neck Road

By Rebecca Karpel

“Stop accidents before they stop you.” Many people have been affected by the conditions of the county road, Middle Neck Road. Two people were greatly impacted by those conditions. Nina Karpel stated that her father was hit by a car on Middle Neck Road. Thankfully, he is ok today, but was severely injured and took a long time to recover. The other man was hit and killed by an SUV going too fast on Middle Neck Road. Nobody knows who the driver was- this was a hit and run. Unfortunately, those aren't the only people who were hurt or killed by the conditions of the road; many have been injured or killed. Of students polled, 70 percent of them have heard of or witnessed someone get into an accident or a near miss.

There are many reasons why Middle Neck Road is so dangerous. According to Supervisor Judy Bosworth, the main causes of the road’s safety issues are speeding, “a combination of high traffic volume, double parking and drivers ignoring the rules of the road.” Nassau County Legislator Ellen Birnbaum stated that the danger is caused by speeding, distracted drivers and crossing pedestrians.

There are multiple solutions that have been thought of to help make Middle Neck Road more safe. Max Karpel, the Co-President of the Allenwood Park Civic Association, said that he spoke with the Mayor of Great Neck Plaza, Jean Celender, and she said that the way to fix the problem is to add a system of islands, single lanes and turning lanes. That solution has fixed the conditions

on Great Neck Road, which used to be similar to Middle Neck Road. Bosworth said that she'd like to increase the enforcement of the law of driving on Middle Neck Road. In addition, she’d like to have a public education campaign for both drivers and pedestrians, so they can learn more about the rules of the road. Councilwoman Anna Kaplan, and the newspapers, *The Island Now* and *The Great Neck Record* all say that reducing the speed limit from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour would also solve some of the problems. Kaplan also said that the Town’s Pedestrian Safety Committee has asked Birnbaum to put up “Yield to Pedestrian” signs on the corners of each street.

There is some action being taken by our local elected officials. Birnbaum has put up the “Yield to Pedestrian” signs that were requested. She has also stated that the traffic lights will be replaced with the latest traffic lights, the whole road will be repaved and the crosswalks will be repainted. Bosworth has successfully advocated for the installation of two additional traffic signals. Kaplan, along with the town has held distracted drivers campaigns. In those campaigns they wrote to newspapers, posted on social media and reminded pedestrians to keep their eyes on the road.

The recent pedestrian fatalities is a reminder that we have to take action to protect our people. We have to do everything we can to ensure safety on our main road. *The Great Neck Record* said that

“[they] call upon all mayors and village officials to get behind these proposals. Delay is not acceptable; inaction is not acceptable.” *The Island Now* said that they encourage all residents to communicate with their mayors about this important issue. If you would like to voice your complaints about this issue you may call your local representative.

Read to Feed

By Trinity Wu

Students at North Middle School are incredibly lucky--food, clothes, and shelter are provided without most giving it a second thought. It's easy to take these for granted; but, how fortunate really are Great Neck residents? In short, nearly half of the world’s population lives in poverty, leaving them with inadequate meals, unsanitary drinking water, and lack of access to healthcare. What we see as basic necessities could easily be a struggle for others. Surely, there’s a way for us to aid those who are less fortunate.

Heifer® International is a charity organization designed to direct their donated funds to poorer towns/villages. What makes Heifer unique from other charities is that they don’t donate the money, but rather spend it on animals, medical care, and other physical tools that change a person’s life. Founded by Dan West, he realized that giving away a cup of milk would last a day, but giving a cow could provide for years. This is what encouraged Heifer to ship cows, goats, chickens, llamas, etc., with the intent of it supporting a whole village.

GNNMS took part in Heifer’s ‘Read to Feed’ campaign, where students actively recorded how much they read throughout the month of March. Family members that agreed to sponsor the students donated to the school’s fundraising page based on the number of pages or books their child read. Students and parents contributed a staggering \$2,110, enough to put our school at the top of Heifer’s official Spring campaign.

Heifer does allow donors decide what the money will be spent on; Currently, students are polled on what they want, cows being a popular option. No matter how it’s spent, it will be for a good cause.



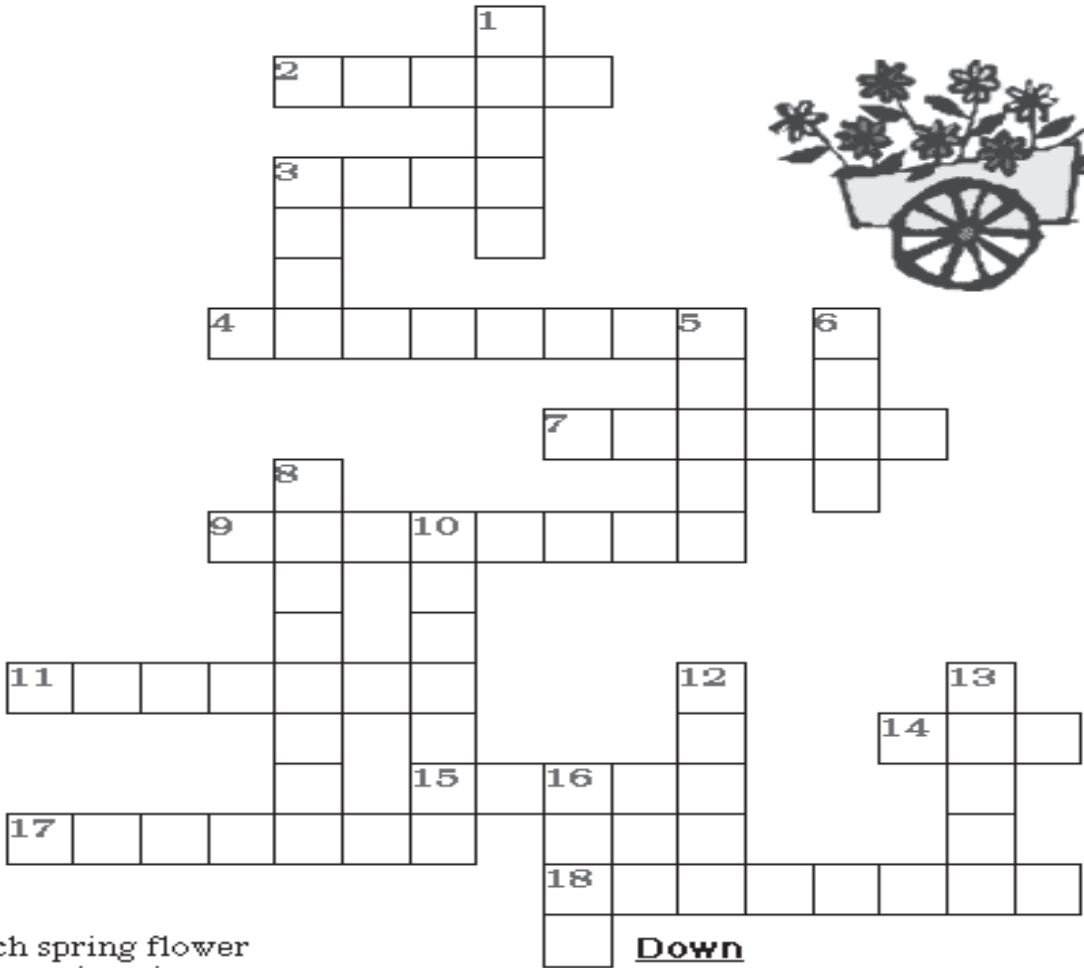
Great Neck Public Schools Get New Website



On Monday, April 30th, Great Neck Public Schools is getting a whole new website. From the district level to each and every school, the websites will all be new. Mrs. Larson, the webmaster for North Middle School, has been working on the development of the new website since May of last year. As a committee of webmasters from around the district, it was decided that all the schools will have the same template, meaning that all menus will be in the same place so it's easy to find information. However, every school will be able to select different colors as a theme. NMS colors will be orange and blue. It’s been a lot of work, but hopefully users find it easy to navigate and use.

Like the current NMS webpage, there will be a section just for students. In that section, students can view the bell schedule, including special schedules when the bells are different. Students can also view the extra help schedule, athletics schedules of games, and find their teachers’ emails easily through a staff directory search option. Something that is new to the website will be an entire list of online resources available to all students in the district.

Squigly’s Spring Crossword

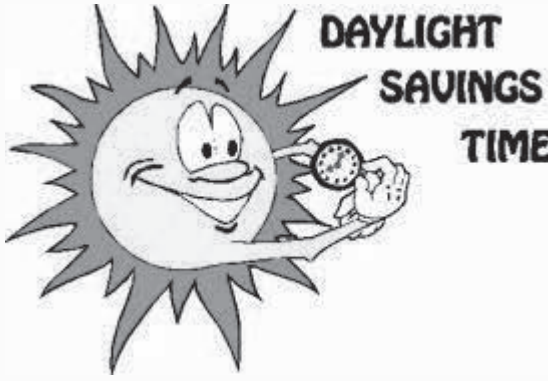


- Across**
- 2. Dutch spring flower
 - 3. Fast moving air
 - 4. Rain protection
 - 7. A season
 - 9. Yellow spring flower
 - 11. Appears after a rain
 - 14. Spring month
 - 15. Spring bird
 - 17. Small formations of water
 - 18. _____ savings time

- Down**
- 1. Winged animals
 - 3. Temperature in spring
 - 5. Spring month
 - 6. Spring month
 - 8. Game played with a bat and ball
 - 10. April showers bring May _____
 - 12. Type of weather
 - 13. Spring month
 - 16. The beginning of flowers

Effects of Daylight Savings on Students

By: Liam Kashinejad



Daylight Saving Time in most of the United States starts on the 2nd Sunday in March and ends on the 1st Sunday in November. When daylight savings starts, you change your clocks to an hour later. This means sunrise and sunset is also an hour ahead. For example, in Great Neck, on Saturday, March 10th 2018 sunrise was at 6:13 A.M. and sunset was at 5:56 P.M. On Sunday, March 11th 2018 (1st day of daylight savings), sunrise was at 7:11 A.M. and sunset was at 6:57 P.M. (those 3 extra minutes in the day on Sunday just has to do with the sun).

How does this affect students? Well, say you wake up for school at 7:00 A.M. It will feel like it is 6:00 A.M. due to the fact that you change your clocks to an hour later. This means that it feels like an hour earlier, meaning that you will feel more tired when you wake up until your brain gets used to the time change.



MLB Season Preview

By Harrison Rich



The other New York team, the Mets, had a pretty calm offseason, like many other teams. They did get a new head coach, former Cleveland Indians pitching coach Mickey Callaway. Most people are optimistic about him being a good coach. As for signings, there weren't many. The Mets signed slugger third baseman Todd Frazier and pitcher Jason Vargas. They brought Jay Bruce back after trading him last season at the trade deadline. They also signed veteran first baseman Adrian Gonzalez, to aid rookie Dominic Smith and provide consistency in the lineup. For the bullpen, they got hard thrower, Anthony Swarzak, and kept Jeurys Familia and AJ Ramos. The face of the Mets, Noah Syndergaard has looked scary to start off spring training. Jacob deGrom is looking good, and Matt Harvey better perform well this year, as it is likely his last season with the Mets before he gets a contract (maybe) from another team. A big part of the offseason was getting the players healthy, and building up their strength so they don't all get hurt again this year.

The 2017-18 baseball offseason was a strange one. It was one of the slowest free agency classes in recent history, as many top free agents didn't sign their new contracts until late February or early March. The season starts at the end of March or beginning of April, and usually free agents have chosen their new teams by January. The off-season was so slow, most likely due to the fact that teams didn't want to throw a lot of money at someone who may get injured or is rising in age. This year more than others, teams were more reluctant to make moves. This offseason was so slow that the MLB set up a spring training for the many players who were yet to sign.

That is, except for the Yankees. The Yankees made a big splash, trading for perennial all star and top 10 MLB player Giancarlo Stanton. They acquired him in a trade, with the most notable piece that got moved from the Yanks being Starlin Castro. They also got a new head coach, ditching Joe Girardi after 10 Years. The new coach is Aaron Boone. Now the Yankees have solidified themselves as a big threat to win this year's World Series, due to their filthy hitting combo of hometown favorite Aaron Judge, catcher Gary Sanchez, and the newly acquired Giancarlo Stanton. Also, the Marlins were sellers this offseason, trading their top 4 hitters, Stanton, Marcell Ozuna, Christian Yelich, and Dee Gordon. Another move that happened throughout the MLB offseason was Japan phenom Shohei Otani making the move to the MLB. There was a close bidding war to get him, but ultimately, he signed with the Los Angeles Angels. Staying out west, the San Francisco Giants may be in for a bounce back year after a horrendous one last year. They acquired two all stars, Evan Longoria from the Tampa Bay Rays, and Andrew McCutchen from the Pittsburgh Pirates.

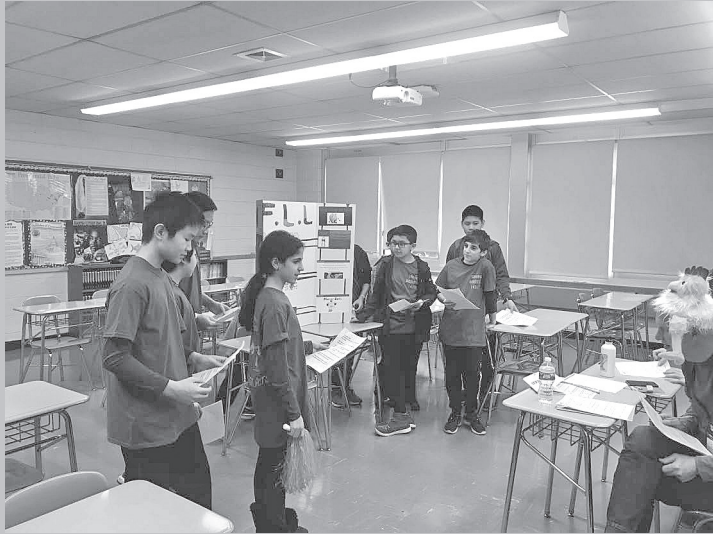


NMS Competes in the FLL Robotics Competition

By Tyler Brechner

The North Middle Robotics team recently competed in the FLL Robotics Competition. They had to do a series of tasks that were related to Hydrodynamics, throughout this experience Core Values, celebrating discovery, teamwork, and Gracious Professionalism®. In this competition, they use, build, test, and program with LEGO® MINDSTORMS® robots in the Robot Game tasks. Also, they had to make ways to solve problems related to water shortage, and present them to a committee of people. Unfortunately, they didn't make it to the state competition, but they finished "in middle of the pack in all phases of the competition".

They are now going to the Adelphi Robotics Competition where there are three Robot challenges. First, the robot has to collect bricks that are scattered along a mat and return them to a collection area. Then, the robot has to navigate some obstacles collect a LEGO person, and push him to as close to the center of a target as it can. All of the activities mentioned above are all autonomous, but the last challenge is a remote control challenge where you have to navigate a narrow path without falling off. The competition is on June 2nd.



Winter Olympics

By Tyler Menker

The Winter Olympic Games, traditionally defined as a major international sporting event is held once every four years and focuses on sports played on snow or ice. This year's 2017-2018 Winter Olympics occurred in PyeongChang, South Korea and will be known as one of the most intense Olympic Games of all times, with medals coming all the way from Norway with 39 medals to Liechtenstein with 1.



Did you know that this is the first year South Korea has hosted a Winter Olympics? Yes, it's true; the only other Olympics that has ever taken place in South Korea was in 1988 during a summer Olympics. Also, the Mascots for the 2018 Winter Olympics are Soohorang (White tiger) and Bandabi (Black bear). These animals have been considered a guardian to South Korea for some time now. To add, this years Winter Olympic Games took a total cost of about \$10 billion-- that's around 5 times less than the cost of the last Winter Olympic Games in Sochi. The Olympics are a fun

and dramatic way for many countries from around the world to come together and show cultural differences between each other.

Spring Word Search

N	Q	F	I	P	F	S	D	R	I	B	L	S	B	F	Z	R
J	V	P	X	X	O	X	S	B	G	P	I	S	R	E	P	S
T	D	X	M	R	A	W	S	N	P	T	R	R	F	S	Q	E
N	M	Z	B	G	T	E	A	E	O	Z	P	E	N	J	M	O
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Y	R	W	D	M	L	G	Q	T	T	I	A	O	A	F	F	B

SPRING
MAY
GREEN
WARM
UMBRELLA



MARCH
FLOWERS
GRASS
SHOWERS
EASTER



APRIL
BASEBALL
SUNSHINE
RAIN
BIRDS

