



Northern Light



VOLUME 53, NO. 2

GREAT NECK NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

WINTER 2018

What's All the Buzz About?

NMS Students Participate in the Annual Geography Bee

By Kajal Ramphul and Nina Zar

On December 19th, 2017, NMS held its annual Geo Bee in the auditorium. A few weeks prior, all North Middle School students took part in a Geography Bee in their social studies class. They were asked many challenging questions that ranged from continents to culture, to oceans to cities. The winners of the classroom competition moved on to the school-wide bee that consisted of 37 students. The winner would then move onto the State Geo Bee, and then hopefully move to the National Geo Bee.

During the competition, each contestant can only get one question wrong, if they get two wrong, they're out. The contest goes on until there are only 2 contestants left in the game. Then they each get asked three questions, which they have to write down. Then whoever answers the majority correctly wins. "After over a year of studying, it finally paid off!" said Jules Sanders, 2017 winner.

We asked Mrs. Crisafulli what she liked about the Geo Bee, and why she wanted to be a judge, and she replied "One of my favorite parts about the Geo Bee is not only how well the students on stage are doing, but how attentive and exited the audience is when

they're listening to the questions. And then when it gets down to the final two, having 800 students applauding for two students who've gotten to the top. And one student; Jules, who became the champion is a really exciting moment for a social studies teacher. That's why we love it."



Jules Sanders, winner of the Geo Bee and Ms. Crisafulli, S.S. Department



NMS Students Showcase their Spelling Abilities in the Annual Spelling Bee

By Rebecca Bernstein

On January 9th, 2018, North Middle School held its annual Scripps Spelling Bee. Thirty-eight students competed in the school-wide bee, after winning the spelling bee held in their respective English classes. The rest of the North Middle School family was able to get in on the action by cheering on their classmates during the assembly. This event was judged by the North Middle School English department.

"Gregorian." This final word was spelled correctly by 8th grader David Zeng, who is our 2018 2-time North Middle Spelling Bee champion! The runner up in the Scripps National Spelling Bee was 8th grader, Claire Cho! With this win, David will represent North Middle in the Hofstra Long Island Regional Spelling Bee varying from grades 4 - 8. He will compete in a series of elimination rounds from February 4th to February 11th.

2018 marks the 90th year of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. This iconic competition was first established by the Louisville Courier-News. The Scripps National Spelling Bee progresses from schools to the national competition in Washington D.C.. According to spellingbee.com, this bee was started by 9 newspapers in 1925, and now in 2018, they had not the slightest idea that their spelling bee would involve 11 million students every year.



David Zeng, 2-time winner and Ms. Serowik, English Department



In this issue...

School News

Shrek the Musical Snack Coupon.....2

Night of the One Acts.....3

7th Grade DNA Trip.....3

SCO Target Trip.....3

Dancing Classrooms, Dancing with the Stars.....4

Greenkill Trip.....4

Cultural Heritage Celebration.....5

English 8 Enriched Project.....8

Entertainment

Winter Crafts.....6

Recipe.....6

Miss Know it All.....6

Technology

iPhone X Review.....7

Nintendo Switch Review...7

Internet Safety.....7

Sports

Super Bowl LII.....8

NBA News.....8

February 26 - March 2 Shrek the Musical & Read Across America

SPIRIT WEEK

**Monday- Lord Farquaad Day of Perfection
(Wear Blue and Orange)**

**Tuesday- Ogre Day (Wear green like an ogre.)
Shrek tickets go on sale tomorrow!**

**Wednesday- Freak Flag Funday
(Forgo all fashion rules for this day of crazy fun.)**

**Thursday- Dynamic Duo Day
(Like Shrek and Donkey, pair up with a friend to
re-create dynamic duos in literature, movies, or real life.)**

**Friday- Curl Up With a Good Book to
Celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday!
(Wear Pajamas!)**

The Night of the One Acts

By Elizabeth Margiloff

This year’s Night of the One Acts was again a spectacular performance, put on by a large group of dedicated actors and actresses from North Middle School. The annual, once again magnificent show, directed by Ms. Dove, consists of several funny, original small skits, which are usually chosen by Ms. Dove. This year’s event was a huge success, consisting of a total of six short plays, with a 15 minute intermission between the fourth and fifth performances.

The Night of the One Acts always takes a lot of focus, effort and determination from everyone involved to be a success. From Ms. Dove’s point of view, preparing for the Night of the One Acts is often extremely stressful and hectic every year. But, she remarks, directing the performances every year is a very rewarding experience in the end, especially when she sees her actors and actresses performing on stage and having a lot of fun in the process.

Ms. Dove is not the only one that says that the Night of the Acts takes a lot of work, but her actors and actresses think this as well. One anonymous actress says, “It sometimes takes a lot of work to memorize your lines but it’s worth it because it turns out great in the end...” Other performers remarked that they had to be open-minded and extremely focused during the show. The reason for this was that if someone forgot a line, someone had to improvise or say the line themselves so there wasn’t just “dead air.”

Ms. Dove further mentions that getting involved in the One Acts is a great taste of the theatre program. She says that later, if they find they like acting, they can open themselves up to other musicals and plays, whether it be outside or inside of school, like for example, trying to go for the annual musical in the spring. Socially, actors and actresses can branch out to new people, and make new friends, while having a great time!

Overall, the hard work and effort that Ms. Dove and her performers put in created a fabulous show, despite their stresses about it. Hopefully, the 6th and 7th grade performers from this year’s show will continue to contribute to the Night of the One Acts next year!

Names of All of the Skits Performed:

- Play #1: “Three-and-a-Half Years!!! And I Am Sick of You”
- Play #2: “In Search of the Perfect Roommate”
- Play #3: “Dead or Alive”
- Play #4: “The Dance”
- *A 15 minute intermission for tasty treats and snacks!*
- Play #5: “The Doctor Won't See You Now”
- Play #6: “The Cheerfully Geeky, Dramatically Bullish, Talentless Talent Show”



7th Graders Journey to DNA Lab

By Leo Korman

Did you know that there is a famous DNA lab right on Long Island? On November 30th and December 1st, 2017, 7th grade students traveled to the world-renowned Cold Spring Harbor DNA lab to learn about heredity, which 7th graders were learning about in their science classes at the time.

The Cold Spring Harbor DNA lab was founded in 1890 by a group of biologists. The president of the DNA lab today is Bruce Stillman, who has been president since 1994. A very old, but famous scientist named James D. Watson, who is credited for the discovery of the structure of genes, studied genetics at the very lab your fellow students went to in November and December. Dr. Watson still holds presentations at the DNA lab today!

I know what you’re thinking: “I want to go to this totally awesome lab! Wait, what do you actually do there?” There are multiple workstations that have so many cool things. First, there is a room with many microscopes where you observe samples under different perspectives. Second, you actually get to extract DNA from wheat, using a process of combining substances that separate the wheat DNA from the wheat. Third, there is a section where you learn about an ancient man who died in the mountains. The crazy thing is, his body was preserved after all of this time! (Guess what?; he’s dabbing). Scientists used DNA technology to discover what happened in this man’s final days. The final section was about a Russian princess who went missing.



One lady showed up a long time later, claiming she was this princess. After a long dispute, using DNA technology again, she turned out to be- did you really think I was going to spoil it for you? Good one.

The DNA lab trip received very positive feedback from people who enjoyed the lab. I, for one, loved the trip. I thought it was so much fun and very interesting learning about how far DNA has come so far. Another 7th grader, Dylan Kohanim said, “On the way to the trip, I wasn’t as excited as I was going back to school. The DNA lab exceeded my expectations. It was pretty cool!” Ms. Blitz, a 7th grade science teacher who went on the trip as a chaperone tells the Northern Lights crew, “At the DNA lab we experienced the history of Otzi as well as doing labs on DNA and how we could use it in our future or our science classes and our life. The children and the teachers enjoyed the experience at the DNA lab.”

Overall, the DNA lab was a successful field trip that the 7th graders enjoyed greatly.



SCO Helps the Less Fortunate

By Tyler Brechner



The SCO, or the Student Council Organization had a field trip on December 5th, 2017 at Target, where they bought toys for less-fortunate kids using money donated by students and generated by bake sales. There were about 30 students involved.

They met with the Nassau County coordinator of the Toys for Tots program, J.D. Quinton, at a marine base to donate the toys. Toys for Tots is a program run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve that donates toys to kids who can’t afford them. This program has received a lot of support over the time when it was started in 1947, Toys for Tots has been endorsed by Disney, Michelle Obama, and Warner Bros Studios. As of 2016, they have distributed more than 512 million toys.

The SCO did an amazing service by organizing and collecting for this charitable event. Ms. Manoff said that “this trip is a great experience, it’s a wonderful thing to do that really improves lives of children.” It’s great North Middle has this outstanding program that really makes a difference in kids’ lives.



NMS Students Dance their Hearts Out

By Renee Zeng

On December 4 at 7:00 PM, the eighth graders of North Middle School participated in their dancing classrooms performance. Beginning in September, students practiced long and hard with Ms. Jana, and finally were able to pull off an amazing performance at the dance, performing the merengue, foxtrot, salsa, rumba, tango, and swing. Though they did an amazing job, many weren't exactly excited when they began.

When they found out about dancing classrooms in the first weeks of September, many of the eighth graders groaned and complained right away. Some felt nervous or uncomfortable dancing with people they didn't know. Eighth graders recalled the first time dancing with others in class. Many said it was "uncomfortable," "awkward," and might've been a bit "weird." Although some people were comfortable right away, it took others weeks, even, to get used to dancing with others. After a few weeks of dancing classrooms, many felt that dancing was "exciting," "fun," and it was "definitely not what [they were] expecting." As you can already tell from the amazing dance, the eighth grade definitely got used to dancing with others.

Some doubt the seriousness of dancing classrooms, and some may question the reason for it. Although it is nice to learn dancing, many people don't understand why we have dancing classrooms. Learning how to do different dances may come in handy sometimes in life, but the most important thing to take away is how to be open to new experiences, and new people. Eighth graders opened up to dancing, potentially a new experience, and needed to get comfortable with dancing with those they didn't know.

In addition to the regular phys ed classes taking dancing classrooms, students in the adaptive phys ed class learned dancing classrooms with Ms. Sicurella, an eighth grade health teacher. This class, however, had a separate performance called Dancing With the Stars. After months of hard work and effort, it finally paid off in their dance. Their performance was a few days after the original dance, but it was equally as stunning.



NMS 6th Grade Students Take on the Great Outdoors

By Adam Fine



For two days and two nights, 6th grade students had a blast in Greenkill. With all of the hiking, fishing, fire building and more, time went by way too fast.

We got there around 11:30 AM on November 7, went straight to our bunks and made ourselves at home. As we entered our assigned bunks--named Hemlock, Rocky Top, Tall Pines, Laurel or Kleinstuber--we saw that one side contained the girls' bedrooms and the other side had the boys' bedrooms. In between the two sections was a common area for us to lounge in.

At 12:00 PM we went out to have lunch. We had lunch at this time everyday. On the first day we had grilled cheese for lunch, and lasagna for dinner. The second day, we had pancakes for breakfast. We had pizza for lunch and chicken stuffing for dinner. On the final day we had scrambled eggs for breakfast. For lunch we had hot dogs and hamburgers. Before we left for home we had pasta for dinner. We could go up for second servings for all of the meals. Dylan Yaghoutiel, said "My favorite meal at Greenkill was definitely the barbecue, and best of all were the hot dogs. They were great."

After breakfast, we went back to the bunks and waited about 15 minutes until we could go to the activity groups. Activity groups 1-8 consisted of kids from Team Adventure and activity groups 9-16 contained students from Team Discovery. When we were in our activity groups we went on hikes, learned about nature, and played games.

There were a few hikes you could go on. One of the hikes lead to the pioneer cabins, while another went to a waterfall. You could also choose to hike around the lake or visit a rock pool. "I liked the Rock Pool hike because I got to make face paint from the rocks in the stream," Zachary Hyman said. "It was fun to rub the rocks together and watch the sediment come off."

Another fun thing in Greenkill was that we learned many new games. One of the games was that a seeker would stand in the middle of an area and have to find the others who are hiding. The seeker can turn around, but he or she is not aloud to leave his or her spot. The seeker would pretend to be a hawk and the people who are hiding are rabbits. Rachel Sutin said, "My favorite game that I played at Greenkill was the first one that our group played; the one where we threw balls to each other and said each other's names while we tried not to drop the balls."

Greenkill is all about nature and the kids saw plenty of it. We went fishing, but didn't catch much; however, there were plenty of trees, plants and animals! Joseph Edelman and Aaron Mashieh both saw a deer. They said, "When we saw the deer, we felt so scared and nervous. We thought that the deer would chase us, but they were scared of us. We kept getting closer and then they ran away. We felt relieved." Jacqueline Park says, "I loved all the animals there. Especially when they brought the animals close to me."

The naturalists of the activity groups took us to a shelter where a turtle and a snake lived. We were able to touch them if we washed our hands. Jayden Wen said, "My favorite animal at Greenkill was the snake, because we were allowed to hold the snake and feel it's cool skin."



During both nights, we enjoyed two different presentations. On the first night the presentation was about birds. During the presentation we saw many interesting birds. On the second night we saw all different kinds of animals. Joshua Rafaeil said, "I liked the bird show. Birds are awesome."

Thursday, November 9 came very quickly and some people were happy and others were sad--it was time to leave Greenkill.

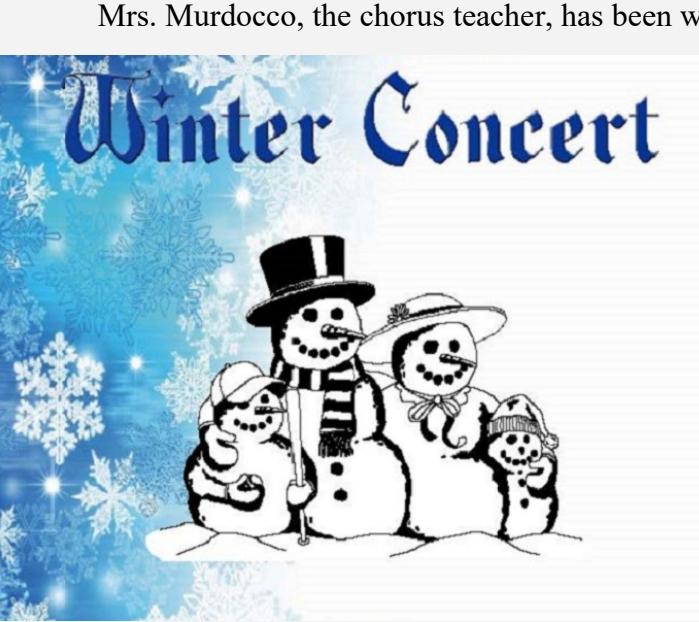
Ms. Nagle, a sixth grade social studies teacher and one of the teachers who came to Greenkill said, "I go to Greenkill to see who my students really are. The first year I was teaching sixth grade, I did not go on the trip. When the students came back on Monday, they were different from the last time I had seen them in class. They had grown wiser and more self-confident; they had new friends. From that year forward, I needed to see and participate in the magic of the trip. Forest, mountains, and lakes had been important to me while I was growing and I had made sure my own children shared in those adventures too. Now I understood that the magic from the challenges and the interactions between the people in the woods were more than just family activities. They bring people closer, build confidence, and strengthen character while having fun."



Winter Concert fills NMS Auditorium with Warmth

By Sam Friedmann

On Wednesday, December 13 at 7:30 P.M., North Middle School held its 7th and 8th grade winter concert. The concert consisted of the band, orchestra, and chorus. In the end, all three music groups performed the song *On With The Snow. They perform this song every year.*



Mrs. Murdocco, the chorus teacher, has been working at North Middle School for five years. She is in charge of the 6th, 7th and 8th grade chorus. She also runs the school musical and three other clubs. The songs that the chorus performed were *Believe (from the Polar Express)*, *One Candle*, and the opening number from the musical, *Into the Woods*. When I talked to Mrs. Murdocco she told me that she picked the music herself. She picks it based off of what she wants her students to learn. “I see the most progress near the end of 7th grade and during the start of 8th grade because of so much time in the music room.” When I asked her about the musical compared to the chorus she told me, “Even though I love doing the musical, it is nice to be able to focus on just the music.”

I also talked to Owen Roubeni, a 7th grade chorus student who was also in the sixth grade chorus. “I love chorus and I love to sing,” he told me. “I’ve always loved jazz and classic rock more.” Mr. Trinkwald has been working at North Middle School for 12 years. He is the band and orchestra teacher and runs one club. The band and orchestra performed together as one group. They played *Light The Candles*, *My Favorite Things*, and *The Three Minute Nutcracker*. “*The Three Minute Nutcracker* is my favorite song,” he said. He told me that he picked the music based off of a holiday theme. Mr. Trinkwald says that he sees the most progress in his students during the 7th grade. This is because once they’re put with the 8th graders they try to catch up to them.

We can’t wait to see the spring concert and the upcoming 6th grade winter concert on February 7. We hope to see you there.

Cultural Heritage Celebration

By Ava Hoffman

On January 23, 2018 North Middle School held its third annual Cultural Heritage Celebration and Talent Show. The celebration included foods from many different places including Israel, Greece and Italy among others. Then there were performances from different cultures including Korean, Persian and more!

The night started with a celebration in the cafeteria with food from different places. There were cannolis and cheesecake from Italy, and Spanakopita and olive dip from Greece. There was seaweed from China and chocolate from Israel. Everything was super delicious and everyone had a wonderful time trying new things and exploring new foods.

After about an hour, everyone filled into the auditorium to see the performances. The opening number was from a group from North High School and was followed by a thrilling snake dance. The dancer really moved like a snake!.

Then there was a violin performance, and following that a Chinese yo-yo showcase, which is always a highlight. Watching the group do their tricks wows the audience every year.

After that, the school’s show choir, the Treble Blazers, performed the song *Lost Boy*. They sounded beautiful! Additionally, there were some amazing Israeli and Burmese dancing numbers, followed by a group K-pop dance. Next, the audience was treated to a Kung Fu demonstration and two Persian Piano performances. Finally, the school’s chamber orchestra performed and there was a spectacular Lion dance through the auditorium and onto the stage.

Cultural Heritage Night was a lot of fun and was enjoyed by everyone. People learned a lot about the different foods and heritage of students coming from all parts of the world. Mrs. Weissman and Ms. Block, who were in charge of the event, said “Multicultural Night was a huge success this year. We are so proud of our club, our school, and our community.” They also said that they can’t wait for next year, and neither can the students!



Behind the Scenes of Cultural Heritage Night

By May Tun

January 17, 2018
Richard S. Sherman Great Neck North Middle School
3:20pm

The last rehearsal. The next time will be the stage, in front of my peers, and peers’ parents. There isn’t as much pressure because it’s not the real thing but some pressure is there. Rehearsal goes smoothly, no big bumps or problems.

Jan 23, 2018
Richard S. Sherman Great Neck North Middle School
5:00pm

I’m getting ready. I do a few practice runs before the show just to make sure I remember all the moves, but I still can’t crack the pre-stage jitters. Thoughts like, “What if my classmates don’t like it, what if I get jeered at, what if, what if.” It’s nerve-wracking because I’ve never performed in front of my peers. I have danced in front of 10,000 people but this is what gets me the most nervous. I scoff at myself and I shake those off and try to believe in what I’ve practiced all these months. Breathe, May. I put in my contacts and start putting on my makeup. Even though I’ve done this countless times, the butterflies in my stomach never get old. I put on the temane, and it feels like home. I tighten the temane and lose my breath for a few seconds I have been dancing for almost 10 years, and this is no surprise. I put on my longyi and get ready perform at school.

6:00pm
At school, I gather some stares, I mean I was wearing a bedazzled hot pink dress. Who wouldn’t? My friends were gushing about how I never wear pink, nor makeup so this was news to them. Many teachers said I looked pretty so that was bit of a confidence booster, and the food was great. It was really fun learning about all the culture, The meatballs were amazing and the Greek food, Oh. My. God. Shoutout to Mr.Nelson and Mrs.Kourpous! With a full stomach, I got called to the band room. Everyone was pacing and being nervous, especially the ones who were going on first. I could hear clips of conversation, “What if I fall off the stage and to my death?”, and my personal favorite, “If I can’t throw this yo-yo correctly, I am going to throw myself off the stage.” I unconsciously became the role of mental caterer because I went around calming everyone and making sure people were breathing because people were so nervous. I was the seventh act so when the noise of everyone left, I began to rethink again. I needed to practice again. Where’s my phone? Right, with my mom. I mentally cursed myself for not bringing it. Nothing I can do about it now. I try to compose from my memory, the bits of the songs I remember. Image training.

7:00pm
“May, you’re up” a tap on my shoulder breaks me from my thoughts.
“Ok.” I reply. Breathe, you’ve told others to do this, you need to do the same.
I go onstage.
“Woouoooooooooo! Go May!”
Cheers? I was expecting polite applause but cheers. I look for where they are coming from. My Friends! I mentally remind myself to thank them later.
I can’t help but break a smile.
I hear the music starting. I’ll be honest. I do not remember anything from the performance at all. Everything is blurry to me. Next thing I know, I’m in my ending pose when I hear cheers even more.
Wow, friends are amazing man.
I go off the stage with legs wobbling.
I get compliment after compliment. I guess dancing wasn’t as bad after at all. There was some minor mistakes but who cares anyway?.

An Interview with Ms. Carmody

By Elizabeth Margiloff

This year at North Middle School, both the students and staff have not only welcomed quite a few new students to our school, but also many new, incredible teachers. One of these teachers is none other than Ms. Katie Carmody, an excellent 8th grade math teacher.

After graduating from a 5-year masters program from Adelphi University in Garden City, Ms. Carmody previously worked for another school in Queens for five years before coming to teach at North Middle. In addition, after arriving at North Middle, she has complimented that here, both the staff and students are always very friendly and happy. She also absolutely loves that at North Middle we have lots and lots of clubs, which she remarks are all very open and hold great opportunities for all students here. Furthermore, she remarked that students always go to extra help, and the staff at NMS are always willing to help one another.

In truth, Ms. Carmody likes teaching middle school children for many different reasons. When asked why she wanted to teach middle school kids, she says that she loves teaching middle schoolers because they are at a great age, an age while they are still developing their personalities and passions for careers, learning about the real world, and most importantly, that there is still room for them to find a love for math, like she did when she was in middle school. She remarks, “What other subject can you walk away knowing that you got that question right?”

In fact, when asked why she wanted to become a math teacher, Ms. Carmody replied that the main reason was that she had a great experience with math in middle school. She had patient teachers with her throughout her middle school experience, which gave her the chance to learn topics like Algebra without a lot of difficulty.

On behalf of all the students and staff at NMS, we welcome her to our community, and we wish her many more fine years at NMS!



Fun Facts about Ms. Carmody:

- Favorite hobbies and activities: Cooking, baking, walking and exercising!
- Loves to play sudoku!
- Favorite color: Blue!
- Favorite animal: All dogs!
- Favorite subject in school: Math!
- Favorite season: Autumn!



Dear Miss Know-It-All,
I am having trouble keeping up with my homework and sometimes I don't know that I have a homework for a class even if I get the notification on my iPad. I don't want bad grades in my classes, but I am always busy because I have after school activities.

From,
Helpless with Homework

Dear Helpless with Homework,
I recommend getting the most homework you can get done at any time, like lunch. When you drive to your after school activities you can do homework. Also, you should download the classroom app on your phone so then when you look at your phone you will see the notifications, since kids don't actually read the notifications on their iPads.

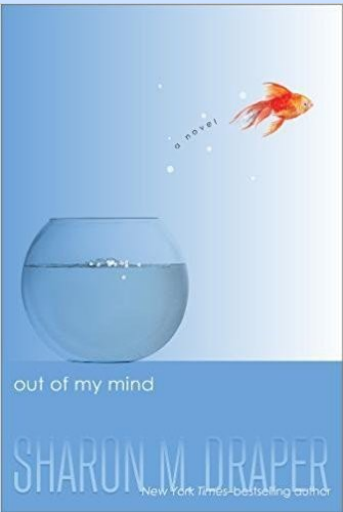
Dear Miss Know-It-All,
I have a group of friends who always want to hangout after school. I want to hangout with them, but I always have homework or I need to study. What should I do?

From,
Study Buddy

Dear Study Buddy,
What you should do is tell your friends that you need to do your do homework and study. Ask them if they want to help you or need help themselves. If they do, you can hangout and do homework together so that you can get it done while being with them.

Book Review

By: Emily Hyman



The book Out of My Mind by Sharon M. Draper is an excellent story that I recommend. I first read the story in 4th grade but it doesn't matter what grade you are in for you to enjoy this story. The main character of the story is disabled; she can't walk, talk and she can barely move her arms and fingers. However, she has a photographic memory. Her life is hard because she knows so much stuff, but since no one knows that, she is stuck learning the alphabet every day. She does get some help from a neighbor and get a voice that's almost hers.

Poll: Favorite Winter Activities

By: Liam Kashinejad

I asked 40 NMS students what their favorite winter activity is. They were allowed to give as many as two answers. Here are the results:

- Skiing/Snowboarding: 17 Votes (28%)
- Sledding: 14 Votes (23%)
- Snowball Fights: 10 Votes (16%)
- Staying Home And Having Hot Chocolate: 20 Votes (33%)

You can learn a lot from people with polls and they are pretty easy to make. You can make one yourself with just paper and a pen, asking people their opinions, or you can use a website online. There is a lot of websites that make polls like www.strawpoll.me or www.easypolls.net.



Hot Chocolate Brownies

By Han-Ah Kang

- Makes 24 brownies
- Ingredients
- Cooking spray
- 2 sticks (1 cup) unsalted butter, melted and cooled
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup hot chocolate or cocoa mix
- 1 teaspoon fine salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- One 12-ounce bag semisweet chocolate chips
- 72 mini marshmallows

Directions:
Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line a 9-by-13-inch baking pan with aluminum foil, and spray with the cooking spray.

Stir together the butter, sugar, eggs and vanilla in a medium bowl. Add the flour, hot chocolate mix, salt and baking powder and stir until just combined. Stir in half the chocolate chips. Spread the mixture in the prepared baking pan.

Bake until the brownies begin to pull away from the edges of the pan and are set in the center, 30 to 35 minutes. Remove from the oven, immediately sprinkle with the remaining chocolate chips, and let stand until they are very soft, about 5 minutes. Spread the melted chips evenly with a spatula, and let cool for about 10 minutes. Use the foil to lift the brownies out of the pan, and let cool completely on a rack. Cut into 24 squares, and top each with 3 mini marshmallows.

Cook's Note: For best results, don't use hot chocolate that includes dairy.

Winter Crafts

By Rachel Sutin

Snowman Stress Balls

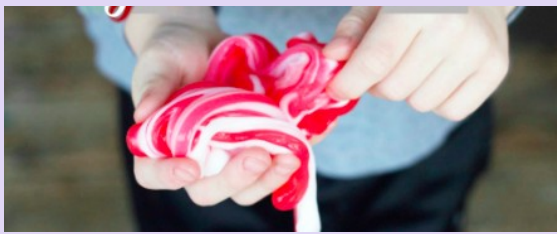


- Things You'll Need:**
- One bag of flour
 - White balloons
 - Colored permanent markers
 - A water bottle

Directions:

Make sure that your water bottle is completely dry, and your cap is unscrewed. Next, fill your water bottle with as much flour as you'd like to be in the stress ball. Take one white balloon, and stretch its opening around the smallest part of the water bottle where the cap used to be. Then, tip the bottle upside down to allow the flour to empty out into the balloon. After all of the flour is inside of the balloon, detach the balloon from the bottle, being careful not to toss or play with the balloon just yet. Afterward, tie the opening of the balloon so that the flour is locked inside. Finally, take your markers, and carefully decorate the white stress ball according to what you want your snowman to look like. Have fun with it! Give your snowman a scarf! A hat! Heck- you can even stack balls to look like a 3-tiered snowman, and you can give him clothes! After you finish decorating, you are absolutely and positively *done*. *Squish away!*

Candy Cane Slime



- Things You'll Need:**
- A bottle of liquid starch
 - A bottle of PVA glue
 - Spearmint essential oil
 - Red paint

Directions:

Pour your glue into a large cup. Next, transfer your glue from the cup, splitting it evenly in two bowls. Mix red paint into one of the glue bowls, until you have the color of the red portion of a candy cane processing that bowl. Now, add drops of spearmint essential oil to your glue bowls to make them smell minty. Mix a small amount of liquid starch into both bowls of glue, repeating this step until you're glue begins to solidify and come together equally in both bowls. It is important to be patient, as if you add too much liquid starch to your glue portions, your slime will become hard. Finally, pick your slime up out of the bowls and knead them. You can mix the colors, twist the colors, or place the slime out on a table to look like a candy cane. The possibilities are endless! Store slime in an airtight container when you are done. Remember that there are thousands of videos on YouTube on troubleshooting slime. So, if you have a problem, and you have access to YouTube, look no further than *Talia Tossell*, or *Karina Garcia*! *Enjoy!*

Think Before You Click

By: Maya Sharon

The internet today is a great source of information. It is also known as the super information highway because it is the number one source that people of all ages turn to. Safety on the internet is very important. It is a place where anything can happen, and if you're not careful damage can occur.

Though the internet can be a very fun place, it can be very dangerous if you're not being careful. On September 15 we had the honor of meeting Alisty Keneth of AJK Diversified, an organization to address Long Island's growing need to understand and adapt to the ethnic/cultural changes on Long Island. She came to North Middle to discuss internet safety. Some guidelines to staying safe are to never post inappropriate photos online, don't talk to strangers and when joining a social website you should always look at what privacy settings there are, so you can block any information that you don't want people to see. Mr. Vigliotti added "It's important for us to protect our personal information so people can't use it against us and it's important for us to know how to deal with information and to understand it."

In conclusion the internet can be a very helpful place, but also a very dangerous place. As said by Dean Mendoza "think before you click." It is far easier to think twice and refrain from posting than it is to try to take it back. Anyone using the internet should take into consideration this information as it will help in the future to protect privacy and maintain security.



iPhone X Review

By Matthew Kwong

As we all know, every year the Apple company produces a new phone. However, in the year of 2017, Apple produced two new phones, the iPhone 8 and the iPhone X. The iPhone 8 has the same concept as the other phones. The iPhone 8 is what you expect Apple to produce again, but this year, Apple also launched "The Phone of the Future," the iPhone X, also recognized as the iPhone 10. The iPhone X is the same size as the iPhone 6, 7, and 8, but the screen is larger. Apple made this possible by taking away the home button and the top notch.

The iPhone X is a full screen phone, with only a camera notch at the top. The phone vertically measures 5.5 inches, and 2.79 inches wide. The camera quality of the new iPhone X also improved from the previous productions. The camera is a dual lens camera, similar to the iPhone 7 and 8 Plus, but this oval shaped camera is vertically installed on the back of the phone. The top lens is for normal camera, video, slo-mo, etc., but there is a new mode called the portrait mode that Apple installed for the *iPhone X*. The camera quality and detail improved a lot from the previous iPhones. The portrait mode allows the option of natural light when you take the picture. However, there is only one camera facing the person occupying the phone, but in that notch, it includes the camera that Face ID uses to scan somebody's face. Face ID is a new feature that the iPhone X only has. The phone has to be held up to your face, and once the picture of the lock shows an unlocked lock, you swipe up and the phone is unlocked.

In 1999, emojis were invented, but in 2017, animation emojis were invented. You can use this feature in a text. You choose an emoji, and whatever movement your face moves in, the emoji will imitate your movements. In the iPhone X, not only can emojis be animated but the screen wallpapers also can. For instance, you pick a normal photo to be your wallpaper, but if you hold the screen, the picture will move and animate and move. As expected, the iPhone X is completely made of glass and has no headphone jack. However, the iPhone X only comes in 2 colors, space gray and white. Compared to the iPhone 6 and 7, the iPhone X is a little heavier because the whole phone is made of glass. But, the X is still light enough to carry around with you everywhere.

Many physical appearances of the phone has only been changed, but so did the chip and the technology working the phone. In the previous iPhones, the 7 and 8, their chip was the A-10 chip. The chip of a phone is mainly the brain of the phone and computes it to work. For the iPhone X, Apple changed the chip and upgraded it to an A-11 chip. Apple says this new chip is 50% quicker and more efficient than the A-10 chip. The phone is more durable and is both water resistant and dust resistant. Also, the iPhone X's speakers are 25% louder, deeper, and better quality than the speakers in the iPhone 8. Now with the new phone, Apple introduces something called wireless charging. This means that there is a pad or a brick shaped charger that the phone can be placed on and charge. This concept is very similar to a charging case. The wireless charging source does have to be either plugged in, or charged. Although with this new charging method, the phone could still be charged with a iPhone adapter.

Since there is no home button on the iPhone X, to get to the home screen, the phone needs to be swiped up from the bottom. Also, on a phone with a home button, it needs to be double clicked to swipe out of apps, but with the iPhone X, you swipe up from the bottom and hold it for a few seconds until you can see the apps that are out. When swiping apps with the iPhone X, you can't just swipe when you see the page. One of the apps has to be held down until the red X mark shows. To access the control center, you need to swipe from the top right corner of the phone instead of the bottom. Although there is no physical home button on this phone, you can add a virtual one with settings. It is a gray button that shows on the screen and it can be modified to control and access different things.

The iPhone X is the newest design Apple came up with. Some say this new phone is strange and a few negative quirks but some say it's original, creative and useful. There were many phones produced by Apple, but the iPhone X is the most modern and newest of them all.



The Nintendo Switch: Review and Comparisons

By Sam Feldman

Review:

The Nintendo Switch is one of Nintendo's most thoroughly planned consoles, which was a huge twist on the consoles that Nintendo normally makes. They made a portable and home-tv connected console. That's why it's called the Nintendo Switch--you can switch between portable and home console very easily. In addition, the Switch was ranked the console to sell the most models ever. Plus, it costs only \$300 dollars; a fair price!



Comparison:

Compared to other consoles Nintendo has made in the past, this console blew every other console ever made out of the water. The reason for this is because it can be used either at home or as a portable system. You can even play in the park or on an airplane. Overall, it is Nintendo's best console so far.

Games:

My personal favorite game is *Xenoblade Chronicles 2* action RPG (Role-Playing Game). All of the games for the Switch can cost anywhere from \$30 to \$60. For accessories, the variety kit costs \$70, and the robot kit costs \$80; both reasonable prices!

Upcoming News in the Nintendo World:

Nintendo just released information on the *Nintendo Labo*, a new create-it-yourself system.

Interpreting Texts and Emojis

By Brandon Nabavian

In today's world, we don't WRITE...we TEXT. C'mon people, it's 2018 and some of us are still not learning the basics/shortcuts of texting. Pay close attention to the following lesson of texting, so that you all understand something; no one wants a long PARAGRAPH as a text. A text is a short message that is a quick way of communicating with others, so don't send long messages to someone because no one has the patience to read all of the message.

Quick Terms

- "Lol" means "laugh out loud," which means that you are laughing to something someone else texted you. This phrase is probably the most useful set of letters you will need while texting. :) (emoticon) can describe smiling/laughing and responding "lol."

- "Tysm" means "thank you so much." This is a shortcut to go fast while typing and to get your message out easier and faster to your recipient.

- "Omg" means "oh my gosh," which is a term used in the state of shock or being frightened by something.

Emoticons and Emojis

Have you ever seen this; :) in a message? This is a smiley face that means you are probably laughing or smiling.

- 😞 means that you're sad.

- 😐 means that you're neutral.

- 😍 means you "love" something.

- 😱 means that you are in shock.

Remember to use these symbols while typing to save you time and to get your point across easily and efficiently via text message.

Super Bowl LII

By: Harrison Rich

Prediction
On February 4th, the New England Patriots and Philadelphia Eagles face off in Super Bowl LII. This will only be the Eagles’ third Super Bowl appearance. They have never won the game before. The Patriots will be going into their 10th appearance, with five wins already. The Eagles and Patriots both had a 13-3 record this past season. I predict the Patriots to win, because the Eagles are heavy underdogs. Based on last year’s Super Bowl, when the Patriots came back from a 28-3 lead, I think that they can win against the Eagles.

Result
Who did you think would win? Well, it was the underdogs, the Eagles, who came out on top. This is a pleasant surprise for many people, because the Patriots aren’t very accepted around here. The final score was 41-33. While the Eagles had the lead for the whole game, there was never a dull moment. You can never count the Patriots out, as shown last year against the Atlanta Falcons. The Eagles quarterback, Nick Foles, won Super Bowl MVP, and it is well deserved. At the beginning of the season, Foles was a backup to Carson Wentz. However, when Wentz tore his ACL, Foles was forced to step in. He took on the role as well as anyone could, and led the Eagles to the playoffs, of course with help from the rest of the offense. Some highlights in the game included tight end Zach Ertz’s controversial touchdown in the fourth quarter that put an end to the game, and Nick Foles catching a touchdown. The Ertz touchdown was controversial because he caught it, but then bobbled it in the end zone, then recovered again. Nick Foles’ catch was nothing short of spectacular, because he is a quarterback. Nonetheless, this was an exciting Super Bowl.





News in the NBA

By Nathan Rabizadeh

The standings in the NBA have changed drastically. Previously, teams like the Orlando Magic were at the top of the East; however, now they are at the bottom. Taking the top spots are now the Cleveland Cavaliers, the Boston Celtics , and the Toronto Raptors. However, the Cavs have been losing a lot, and now the Wizards have pulled ahead of them for the third spot in the East. As for the West coast, the Warriors, Rockets, and Spurs are riding the top.

Two important games were played during Christmas and Martin Luther King Jr. Day that determined these new standings. The Warriors and the Cavaliers faced off in a finals rematch. The Warriors had home court advantage on the Christmas game and the Cavaliers had home court advantage on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. That being said, the Warriors easily won both games.

Lebron James was the Eastern All Star captain and Stephen Curry was the captain for the west. Lebron drafted DeMarcus Cousins, (New Orleans Pelicans), Anthony Davis (New Orleans), Kevin Durant (Golden State) and Kyrie Irving (Boston Celtics), to join him in the starting lineup. Curry’s starting lineup is Giannis Antetokounmpo (Milwaukee Bucks), DeMar DeRozan (Toronto Raptors), Joel Embiid (Philadelphia 76ers) and James Harden (Houston Rockets). Paul George will replace Demarcus cousins because of a season ending Achilles injury.

English 8 Enriched Students Investigate the Issues

By Alexa Nissim

On January 23rd, Mr. Steven Blank came to speak to the English 8 Enriched students about a new and exciting investigative journalism project that they will be working on from February through the middle of March. Steven Blank is a journalist who gave the students some great advice to use for their upcoming project. He was a reporter for over ten years and covered many important issues over his career. He is currently the editor of Blank Slate Media

The students are investigating issues that are relevant to the Great Neck community. There are four categories for the students to investigate, which include community, environment, health and wellness, and school life. The students received useful advice from Mr. Blank for their project. He advised students on how to prepare for an interview and the importance of always verifying your information. He also said to be persistent and don’t give up when you haven’t done your best. Rebecca Karpel said, “I think Mr. Blank gave really helpful advice. It will help my project and I’m going to use his advice on it.”

Additionally, Mr. Blank encouraged students to use technology and computers. This can help students because it allows them to have some knowledge and an understanding from someone who has been reporting and investigating for a long time. Not only can the students of English 8 Enriched use Mr. Blank’s words as assistance for their project, but also in life.





Valentines for Vets

On Friday, 1/12/18, NMS welcomed Assemblyman D'Urso and veterans from the military. They came for a special breakfast with a few of the SCO members to talk about their experiences in the military. This is was a great kick off for the District Wide Valentines for Vets endeavor.

Valentines for Vets is a way of saying thank you to the veterans who have served our country. Students and staff donated personal hygiene products as just one way to make veterans’ lives a little brighter at the VA Hospitals.

