



Northern Light



VOLUME 53, NO. 1

GREAT NECK NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

FALL 2017

LIMB POSSIBLE ENCOURAGES NMS TO DARE TO CARE

By Rebecca Bernstein

On Wednesday, October 18, North Middle School students were proud to experience the inspiring stories of amputees from the organization Limb Possible. This organization was established in December 2016, initially by Robert Rodriguez, to bring awareness to the community of amputees. Limb Possible raises money to inspire, grow, and expand awareness. Limb Possible also has professional athletes training for the 2020 Paralympics set to take place in Japan in various sports such as basketball, soccer, hockey, track, and more.

Amputees Robert Rodriguez, Patrick Filosa, and Matthew Robert came to NMS to educate students about their organization and people with similar disabilities. An interactive assembly was held in the gym where students participated in events such as basketball, hopping on one foot, and running. The amputees demonstrated how they are able to participate in similar sports, and they also informed us about their backgrounds and lifestyles. During the assembly, some of the amputees' different prosthetics were displayed. Robert, Patrick, and Matthew talked about each different prosthetic, and how they were used. Additionally, students at the assembly learned that a prosthetic foot costs about \$5,000, and a leg is about \$13,000. A prosthetic arm can cost anywhere between \$18,000 to \$100,000, and can weigh about 6 pounds.

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NMS Students Recognize Red Ribbon Week



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NMS Supports National Coming Out Day

By Rachel Sutin

On October 11, 2017, members of North Middle’s GSA (Gay Straight Alliance), along with the rest of school, recognized National Coming Out Day. As students and staff entered the building, they were greeted by members of the GSA and were given rainbow ribbons and rainbow stickers.

National Coming Out Day was founded in 1988 by Robert Eichberg and Jean O’Leary. These activists were determined to create positivity and celebrate coming out. October 11 was actually chosen as the date for the celebration because it is the mark of the anniversary for the 1987 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

According to Ms. Ernst, co-advisor of the GSA, NMS started the GSA because “more and more school-aged children were struggling with figuring out who they were.” When asked how she feels about National Coming Out Day, she said, “I feel nervous and proud at the same time. I wish for the day to be a day of acceptance for all, especially our LGBT population. I feel extreme pride that we can have this day at Great Neck North Middle School every year.”



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8th Graders Zip into a New Year

By Renee Zeng

In mid-October, the eighth graders of Team Orange and Blue went on a field trip to Long Island Adventure Park. Along with many staff members, the eighth graders enjoyed activities such as, rope climbing, ziplining, walking on tightropes (strapped to another rope for safety) and ziplining.

Upon arrival, students were given a tutorial on safety, including using the harness correctly. The groups were then split up randomly, allowing students to hang out with their friends. Once everyone knew what to do, the fun began! All of the activities completed were aerial and divided up by different levels of adventures, such as yellow, green, blue, and black. Yellow is for beginners and you can work your way up to black. The yellow paths are generally shorter and have more walking. When you reach blue and black paths, you start to see that they are longer, and the path is more unstable or risky (less walking, more climbing, swinging, etc.), however, the zipline is a lot longer, since it’s high up into the air (above buildings). To go on the blue and black paths, you first have to take at least two green or yellow paths first. Blue or black may be too hard on rookies who haven’t started on yellow or green yet.

The zip lining, according to other eighth graders (who preferred to be anonymous) was very fun and they’d like to do it again. One student said, “I loved it. Honestly, there weren’t any bad parts except for trying to find your friends.” It was a great way to start the new year!



No Place for Bullying at NMS

By Maya Sharon

In June of 2017, Great Neck North Middle School was named a **GOLD STAR-NO PLACE FOR HATE SCHOOL**. In order to create a bully and bias free environment—one that is accepting to all—members of the No Place for Hate/Dare to Care Committee, sent a survey out to the students to gauge the climate here at North Middle.

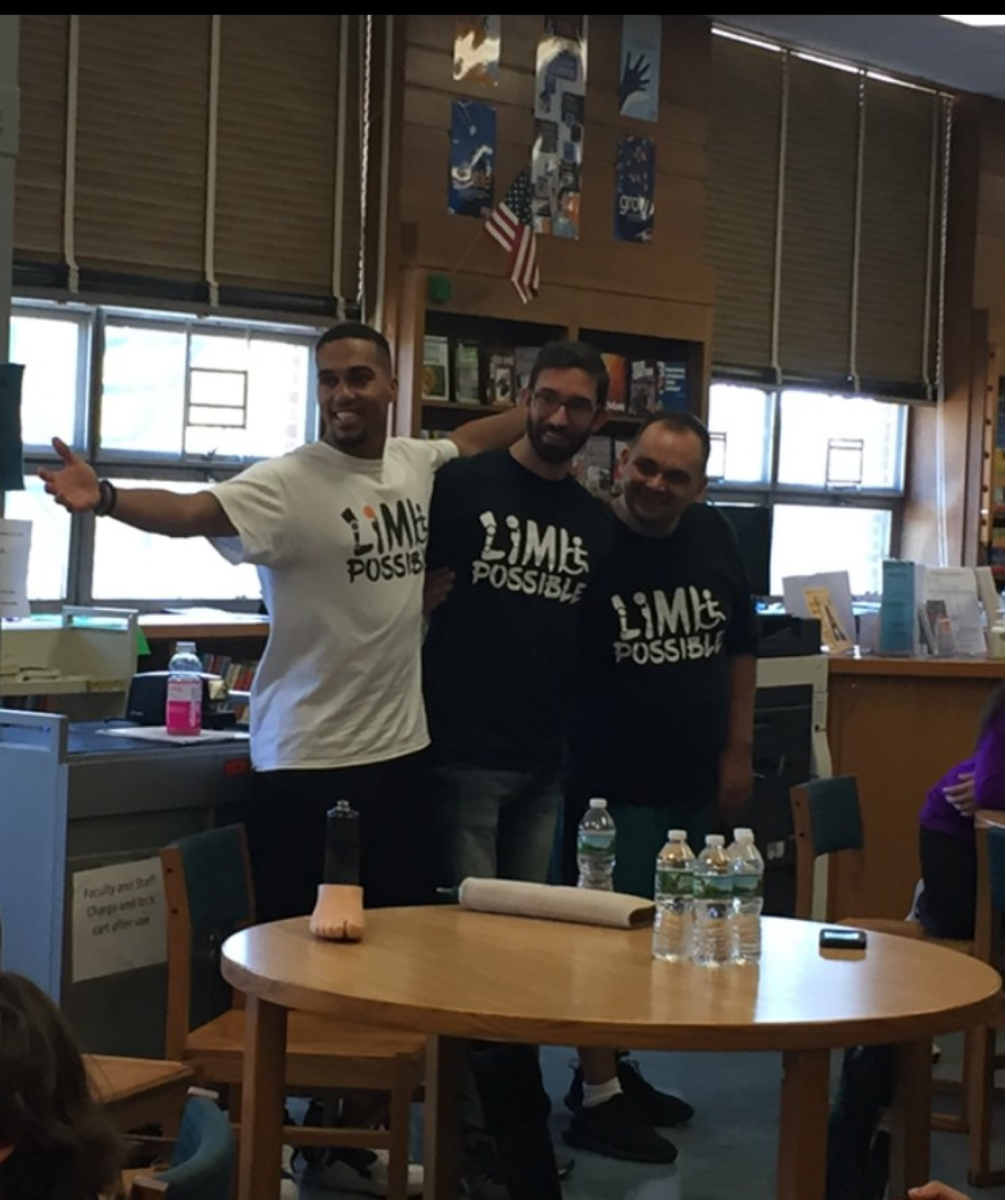
The survey assessed the presence of bullying within our school. One question from the survey asked students whether they have experienced or taken part in any form of bullying. The answers are all anonymous and the results will be used to help plan assemblies and activities that promote a culture of acceptance, and respect. The survey will be given again to see how the students are responding.

Bullying is identified as the use of one’s own strength or popularity to injure, threaten or embarrass another person on purpose. All teachers and administrators at North Middle are trying to prevent any sort of bullying, to ensure safety and comfort to all students. Throughout the years we’ve learned that bullying is wrong, so we should all come together to stop it once and for all. According to Mrs. Goldberg, a NMS teacher and member of The No Place for Hate/Dare to Care Committee, “North Middle School’s goal is to be a happy, safe and supportive environment for everyone. We want all students to know that there is no tolerance for any form of bullying and students should know that they can go to any adult in the building for support.”

One of the most meaningful parts of daring to care is to look out for and respect our peers. If you see any bullying (physical, verbal, social or cyber) you should tell an adult. Great Neck North Middle School is a safe school for everyone to express their feelings and to be yourself.



At the end of the assembly, Limb Possible was proudly awarded the NMS Dare to Care award for October of 2017. One statement on the award read: “In recognition of your selfless commitment to showing the world that ‘*Anything is Possible.*’” “Anything is Possible” is an inspirational and motivating line that these amputees follow in their daily lives. Robert Rodriguez also emphasized “Don’t make a mountain out of a molehill,” to not exaggerate the significance of a negative situation. These amputees live their lives like anyone else, except with one disability. Other inspiring messages Robert, Patrick, and Matthew follow in their daily lives are to “never give up” and to “keep a positive mental attitude.”



“Your Future is Key, So Stay Drug Free”

Students and Staff participate in *Red Ribbon Week*

By Adam Fine

Great Neck North Middle School participated in National Red Ribbon Week on Monday, October 30th –Friday, November 3rd. Red Ribbon Week is a community awareness campaign that promotes positive decision-making. This year, the theme for Red Ribbon Week was “Your future is key so stay drug free,” and many students and staff came out this year and participated in what has become a very valued tradition at North Middle School.

Each day students were able to wear something different to show their support for that day’s theme. On Monday, students and staff wore red to show that they were committed to Red Ribbon Week and its meaning and values. On Tuesday, they wore costumes or crazy hats for Halloween, and Wednesday they wore team jerseys to “team up against drugs.” During the final days of Red Ribbon Week, students and staff showed their school spirit by sporting North Middle’s blue and orange and on Friday they wore pajamas to show that they can put drugs to bed.

Ms. Christopher and Ms. Sicurella, two health teachers at North Middle, said on Blazers Live that NMS is participating in Red Ribbon Week to show that we will not let drugs take over our lives. Additionally, Mr. Derych, who runs Blazers Live, said, “It’s important to celebrate Red Ribbon Week here because by making the informed decision to not use drugs while in middle school, your chances of abusing drugs as you go to high school or become an adult will be much lower.” It’s a fact that drugs are harmful for people of all ages, and Red Ribbon Week is a great way to promote and teach kids not to use or take drugs.



NMS Welcomes Ms. Plotke

Journalists Kajal Ramphul and Nina Zar chat about living in the past, dealing with stress and what makes NMS so great!

Kajal: What is your favorite part of teaching social studies?

Ms. Plotke: Social Studies is like one big story. It's not a bunch of little stories, it's one big story. Everything is connected, from the beginning of time, like we learned about, from pre-history and the Paleolithic age. So I like the fact that everything is connected, like one big book!

Nina: What are some of your hobbies?

Ms. Plotke: I like to read, I like to play with my cat, Gordon, I like to study social studies. It doesn't sound like a very fun hobby for other people, but for me it is.

Kajal: How do you handle pressure or stress?

Ms. Plotke: When I'm stressed out, I like to exercise. I run, and then it helps me focus because I don't like running very much. I run anyway, and I focus on how much I don't like running, instead of being stressed. When I'm done running, then my mind is clear, and I can focus on what is causing the stress, in order to handle it better.

Kajal: That sounds like a good strategy!

Ms. Plotke: It is. Especially when you don't like running, because I don't like running.

Kajal: Me either.

Ms. Plotke: But it works. So I do it because it works.

Nina: What's your favorite thing about North Middle School?

Ms. Plotke: My favorite thing about North Middle...I don't know... I like everything! I like that all of the students tend to be kind to one another, and focus a lot on that aspect of being kind, nice and treating each other with respect. Teachers respect students, and students respect teachers, and everyone is just kind to another, and putting emphasis on that.

Kajal: If you had to choose one historical time period to live in, which one would you choose?

Ms. Plotke: That's not a fair question to ask a Social Studies teacher! I think I'd choose World War Two, because there's so many different aspects of World War Two: we have a war in the Pacific and a war in Europe, and life here, there's so much to learn, to experience firsthand.

Kajal: That would be cool!

Nina: What drew you towards history!?

Ms. Plotke: Probably going back to that it's a whole big story. So I like the fact that everything is connected and how one thing in one time period directly impacts what happens next. So that's what drew me to liking history. But what drew me to teaching Social Studies was my 8th grade Social Studies teacher, who was very strange, but very good. And one day, he was teaching us about something called the flag-pole sitting, where you have a big flagpole, like what they have outside, so in the 1920s, people would put chairs on top of flag poles, and they would sit on top of them. And it would be a contest. So he was telling us about this contest, so what he did was put a chair on top of his desk, and sat on it for the rest of the, period. We did all kinds of crazy stuff, and that was in eighth grade. My high school teachers did things not quite as strange as that, but all different types of interesting activities and stuff.

Nina: What advice do you have for middle schoolers dealing with stress?

Ms. Plotke: Advice for dealing with stress in middle school... that's a good question. Maybe go for a run, even if you hate running.... So find something you enjoy, whether it's an after school club or activity, or a sport, or something you enjoy, that can help take your mind off the stress for a little while, and then you'll clear your mind, that when, you know, after the club is over that day, you're ready to tackle your homework, your assignments, or whatever else you have to do.

Kajal: That's a really good idea!

Ms. Plotke: I know!!!

Kajal: How would you describe yourself?

Ms. Plotke: Awesome?! I think I tell you guys that I'm awesome. No... I would describe myself as one, being awesome, and two, as very hard working. I work hard on everything I have to do to make sure it's all done and done well. I try to teach all my students to be hardworking too because it just makes everything you do better, and you're prouder of yourselves.



Category 4 Storms Cause Destruction

By Sam Friedmann

Throughout the late summer and the beginning of the school year of 2017, three major hurricanes occurred. The first, Harvey, a Category 4 storm hitting Texas on August 25, 2017. The second, Irma, a Category 5 storm hitting Florida on September 10, 2017. Finally, hurricane Maria began to devastate the island of Puerto Rico on September 20, 2017.

A hurricane forms over warm water. When a hurricane makes contact with land, it pushes the ocean water with it. This can cause flooding. A hurricane has very high wind speeds. They are measured in categories, ranging from one to five, and are powerful enough to destroy houses, buildings, etc. This natural disaster has been devastating different places for many years. Homes were destroyed, and lives were lost with each of these hurricanes. Harvey dumped over forty inches of rain on Texas over the course of four days. Irma weakened as it got closer to Florida and eventually downgraded to a Category 2 storm. Irma passed over Puerto Rico only two weeks before hurricane Maria. More than two-thirds of the island is still without power. Puerto Rico has suffered the most out of all three.

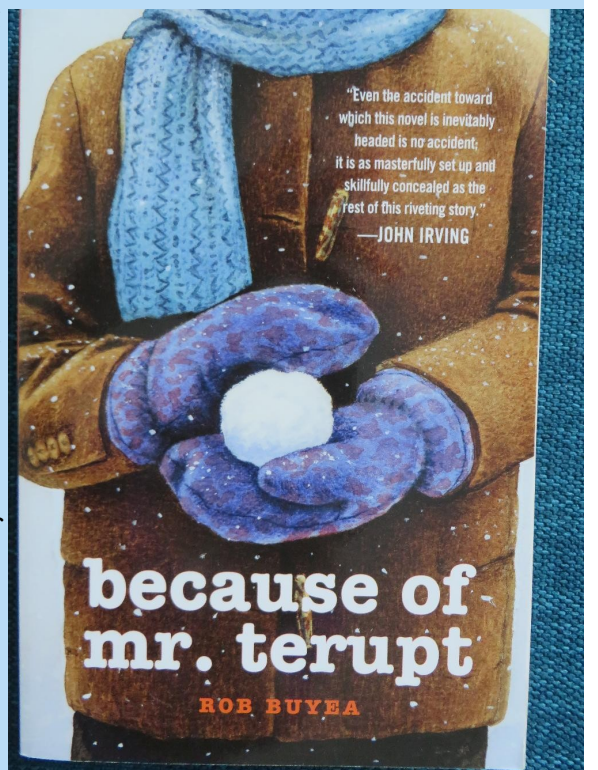
Hurricane Maria was a category 4 storm, with winds up to 150 mph. The 3.4 million people on the island are all suffering in different ways. Sam Weinberg, a 6th grader at NMS has family living in Puerto Rico that was affected by the hurricane. "Only 25% of the island has water," he said. Furthermore, only two of his relatives have power, water, and gas. His family is currently sending out supplies to Puerto Rico.

North Middle School's staff and students also pitched in to help those affected by the hurricane. The school's "Dare to Care Hope and Comfort Drive" collected, diapers and other basic supplies for the people of Puerto Rico. Additionally, students and staff brought in bottles of water to support **H2O FOR PUERTO RICO**. The charity organization, Long Island Cares will ensure that the water gets to the people who need it the most.

Book Review: Because of Mr. Terupt

By Jesse Toro

I enjoyed reading the book *Because of Mr. Terupt*, by Rob Buyea. Every time I would put this book down, I couldn't wait to pick it up and read it again. This book is about a teacher (Mr. Terupt) and all of his students. The book induced many cliff-hanging moments. Mr. Terupt teaches all of his students and changes them as people. One day, as a reward for good behavior throughout his classes, they got a treat and were allowed to go outside to play in the snow. One of the kids accidentally threw an icy snowball at Mr. Terupt's chest, and he went into a coma. His reaction was very severe, because when he was in high school and college he got a lot of concussions. He played football and wrestled. Mr. Terupt's injury brought his whole class together and they worked together to raise money to help his injury. I like what this book represents because it shows that if everyone works together it can make a huge impact on something. I think that if you want to read an inspirational story this is the book for you. If you enjoy the first book, *Because of Mr. Terupt*, the sequel, *Mr. Terupt Falls Again* is available.



TECHNOLOGY REVIEW

iPhone 7 vs iPhone 8 vs iPhone X

By Matthew Kwong

Recently over the course of 2016 and 2017, Apple released new iPhones; the iPhone 7, 8, and iPhone X. The iPhone 7 and 8 are pretty similar, though the X is a full screen, so that is a big change. But the question most people are asking is, *Is it worth the switch from the 7 to the 8?*

The iPhone 7 and 7 plus were released by Apple on September 1, 2016. The iPhone 7 is considered one of Apple's lower priced phones with camera improvements and water resistance. But the overall design is not much different from the 6s. The iPhone 7 also has a better battery life compared to the other phones. The iPhone 7's home button also does not have a physical button anymore. Though there is a pressure sensor so when you press the button, it won't physically be pushed down. It will detect your finger and act as a normal home button. The iPhone 7 also has a new system of listening to music; there is no headphone jack anymore. If you want to listen the music using earbuds, it either has to be using a wireless bluetooth earbuds or using the lightning adapter. The iPhone 7 also features new and much improved speakers. The sound has a much better quality, and the speakers are located at the top of the phone and as well as on the bottom. This phone is made of aluminum unibody on the back, and the front is made with glass. The normal-size iPhone 7 has a smaller camera than the iPhone 7 plus. This circular camera is the same shape as the 6. The 7 plus's camera, which is larger than the 7, is a horizontal oval, but overall the quality of the camera is the same. In brief, the iPhone 7 features many new things, such like the eliminated headphone jack, but the overall quality and the interior is about the same as the iphone 6s.

The iPhone 8 is a new phone released by Apple on September 22, 2017. The iPhone 8 was a huge step forward in Apple's success. But, of course not as big of a change when the iPhone X was introduced. The iPhone 8 and 8 plus are a little mix of all the iPhones. The general shape and features are the same as the iPhone 7 and the glass body and aluminum frame is the same as the iPhone X, but unlike the iPhone X, it still has the home button. The phone comes in only 3 colors this time, silver, space gray, and a gold shade. The iPhone 8 is one of the strongest and most durable phones Apple ever created. It had a drop test and survived pretty good, or at least better than the 7 did. The phone is water and dust resistance and the phone's speaker has been updated to be 25% louder with deeper bass. The iPhone 8 features a 4.7 inch display while the iPhone 8 plus features a 5.5 inch display. The whole phone is made with glass unlike the previous phones. The A11 chip inside the phone is also a big improvement. Apple says it is the smartest and most powerful chip ever to be made. This chip is 25% faster than the A10 chip which is inside the iphone 7. The 8 and the 8 plus also feature better camera lenses and improved sensors. The iPhone 8 and 8 plus also have wireless charging. The charger is like the apple watch charger. There is a pad connected to a wire that needs to be plugged in. All you need to do is place the iPhone on top of it and it is charging. However, this new system of charging may not work with cases. Additionally the iPhone 8 plus has a dual lens which means there are two camera lens in the front. Apple's portrait mode, limited to the Iphone 8 plus' dual lens camera system has been updated with a new portrait lightning effect to dynamically change the lightning in a image to mimic studio lighting techniques.

The iPhone X (iPhone 10) is the most recent phone Apple made and it is a dramatic change compared to the other phones. It does not have a home button. The phone is a fully led touch screen and it has many better and well built features in it which makes it a big difference from the 8. It also has face ID unlike any other phone, which means the phone can scan your face to unlock your phone. Its chip is also much better and faster. The phone could be very debatable on either if it's worth it or not since there is a big change, unlike the difference between the iphone 7 and 8.

Now the question is, *Is it worth the switch from the 7 to 8? There really isn't much difference to it. The general features are the same, except the difference in the chip. The size of them is the same.*

Even the cases designed for the 7 fit on the 8. Even though the 7 is made of aluminum and the 8 is made of glass, the feel of it and the weight isn't much different. The major differences are only the chip difference and the durability, but if you have the 7, might as well buy the X.

According to multiple online resources and Apple itself, the X is worth waiting for rather than buying the 8 with barely any change. So if you are planning on buying the 8, maybe you should rethink that and make sure it is worth it. So out of all 3 phones Apple released over the course of 2016 and 2017, the X is the one worth waiting for.



NMS Earns a Top Spot in the Vocabulary Bowl!

By Han-ah Kang

This year North Middle School was one of the 100 top schools on Vocabulary.com's Vocabulary Bowl! Vocabulary.com is a website that helps students expand their vocabulary and is used in many classes at North Middle--especially in English. This fall, students at our school showed that they excelled in vocabulary. In October, we mastered 27,324 words, ranked #1 Middle School in New York State, and #2 school in New York State (middle and high schools). In November, we mastered 13,191 words, ranked 1 Middle School in New York State, and #2 school in New York State (middle and high schools). NMS certainly has some vocabulary skills!

Here's what the students of NMS have to say about vocabulary.com: "It's a cool opportunity for us," says a 6th grader. Another student agrees, "Vocabulary.com is a fun way to learn."

Vocabulary.com is a great tool to help students who are struggling with definitions and spelling, as well as for those students who are looking to enrich and expand their vocabulary. Students can search up words, practice vocabulary lists that are assigned by their teachers, and even play a challenge. NMS is doing a great job using Vocabulary.com as we continue to expand our vocabulary every day. The students at this school should be very proud. Make sure to go to Vocabulary.com to practice your vocabulary, and check out how awesome we are doing! If you haven't started yet create an account using your Google account. Go North Middle!

Behind the Scenes of *Blazers Live*

By Emily Hyman

Blazers Live broadcasted its first live show of the school year on Wednesday, October 18. From a viewer's standpoint, it might look easy to put on this show, but do you know how much work and effort it takes to get the show up and running?

First, it is important to understand that everyone is important--everyone is needed to make a good show. Mr. Derych, Blazers Live's Producer, helps and guides us through the process in order to help everything run smoothly.

The morning starts at 7:30 AM. Upon arrival, students report to the television studio and see Mr. Derych to find out their job. Some of these jobs include, anchor, director, assistant director, floor manager, announcer, audio, teleprompter, clip station, technical director, and camera crew. Once we know our job, it is time for a microphone check (that is when we check the microphones to make sure they are working and so we can find a good volume for the people that are speaking). Next, we rehearse the show and then we go live at 8:20 every morning. Gooooooooo Blazers!

International Literacy Day

By Liam Kashinejad

International Literacy Day was celebrated on September 8th, 2017 at North Middle School. International Literacy Day was created by UNESCO on November 17th, 1965. UNESCO, which stands for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations based in Paris. Its aim is to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies.

Through English and Reading classes in North Middle School, teachers read international folktales or fairy tales. Some of these included:

"The Rough Face Girl"

"Why the Spider Has 8 Thin Legs"

"The Emperor and His Nightingale"

"How the Tiger Got His Stripes"

"Cendrillon"

"The Amigo Brothers"

"The Boy Who Drew Cats"

"Baba Yaga"

"The People Could Fly"

"Two Wolves"

It was a fun day engaging in stories and videos that reflected different cultures. When asked about the importance of this day, English Department Chair, Ms. Serowik remarked, "Celebrating International Literacy Day helps us to highlight the importance of reading and writing while exploring wonderful stories that reflect various cultures from around the world."

Fall-Inspired Poetry

Collected by Elizabeth Margiloff



October
Author Unknown

October's the month
When the smallest breeze
Gives us a shower
Of autumn leaves,
Bonfires and pumpkins,
Leaves sailing down -
October is red
And golden and brown,

October leaves are lovely,
They rustle when I run
Sometimes I make a heap
And jump in them just for fun.

Autumn leaves float quietly down
And form a carpet on the ground,
But when those leaves are stepped upon,
Listen for the crackling sound

An Autumn Day
By carmen Lagos Signes

Pumpkins in the cornfields,
Gold among the brown,
Leaves of rust and scarlet
Trembling slowly down;
Birds that travel Southward,
Lovely time to play;
Nothing is more pleasant
As an autumn day!

Falling Leaves

Little leaves fall softly down
Red and yellow, orange and brown
Whirling, twirling round and round
Falling softly to the ground

Little leaves fall softly down
To make a carpet on the ground.
Then, swish, the wind comes whistling by
And sends them dancing to the sky.

An Autumn Poem
by Aileen Fisher, All in a Word

Thanks for time to be together, turkey, talk, and tangy weather.
H for harvest stored away, home, and hearth, and holiday.
A for autumn's frosty art, and abundance in the heart.
N for neighbors, and November, nice things, new things to re-member.
K for kitchen, kettles' croon, kith and kin expected soon.
S for sizzles, sights, and sounds, and something special that about.

That spells **THANKS** for joy in living and a jolly good Thanks-giving.



Fall Crafts

By Kajal Ramphul

Pinecone Candy Corn:

You will need;
Pinecones
Yellow paints
White paints
Orange paints

Step 1: Collect pinecones from outside.
Step 2: Paint the top (narrowest part) white.
Step 3: Paint the middle section orange.
Step 4: Paint the last section (widest part) yellow.
***You can make colorful candy corn colors!

Apple Trees:

You will need:
Pinecones
Green yarn
Red pompoms
Wooden Spoon
Scissors
Glue

Step 1: Wrap green yarn around your pinecone numerous times. If you are using a smaller pinecone, regular worsted weight yarn works well. For larger pinecones (or smaller hands), use a chunky yarn.
Step 2: Cut off the end of the yarn and tuck it in. If you want to make sure it won't come undone, place a small amount of glue on the ends.



Mini Candy Apples

By Stephany Barbu

It's fall!. This means that it is time to get into the kitchen with some fall recipes! In the fall edition of Northern Lights I am going to be showing you how to make an awesome fall treat. This treat has been based on a treat the is known "world wide"! Except that we are making minis. Try the guess the treat that we are based on. The answer will be at the bottom the page!
So, let's get started!

The treat that we are going to be preparing is mini candy apples!

For this recipe you are going to be needing:

- an apple
- Caramel
- Sprinkles
- Melon scooper
- Microwave
- Popsicle sticks
- Microwave safe bowl

Preparation time: about 10-20 minutes!

- First, you want to start by unwrapping your caramel and putting it into your microwave safe bowl.
- Next, put your caramel in the microwave at intervals of 30 seconds until your caramel melts.
- During this time, take your melon scoop and carve out a piece of apple. Stick a popsicle stick through the apple, just before the stick pops out.
- When the caramel melts, take it out and dip your apples that are on your stick into the caramel. Top them with some sprinkles and you are done!



Fall Fashion Trends

By Ella Pourmoradi

Do you want to be in style this fall? If the answer is yes, then keep reading for some suggestions.

A onesie is not only super comfy but it is very cute and will keep you warm and cozy. You can find these at Denny's or Target.



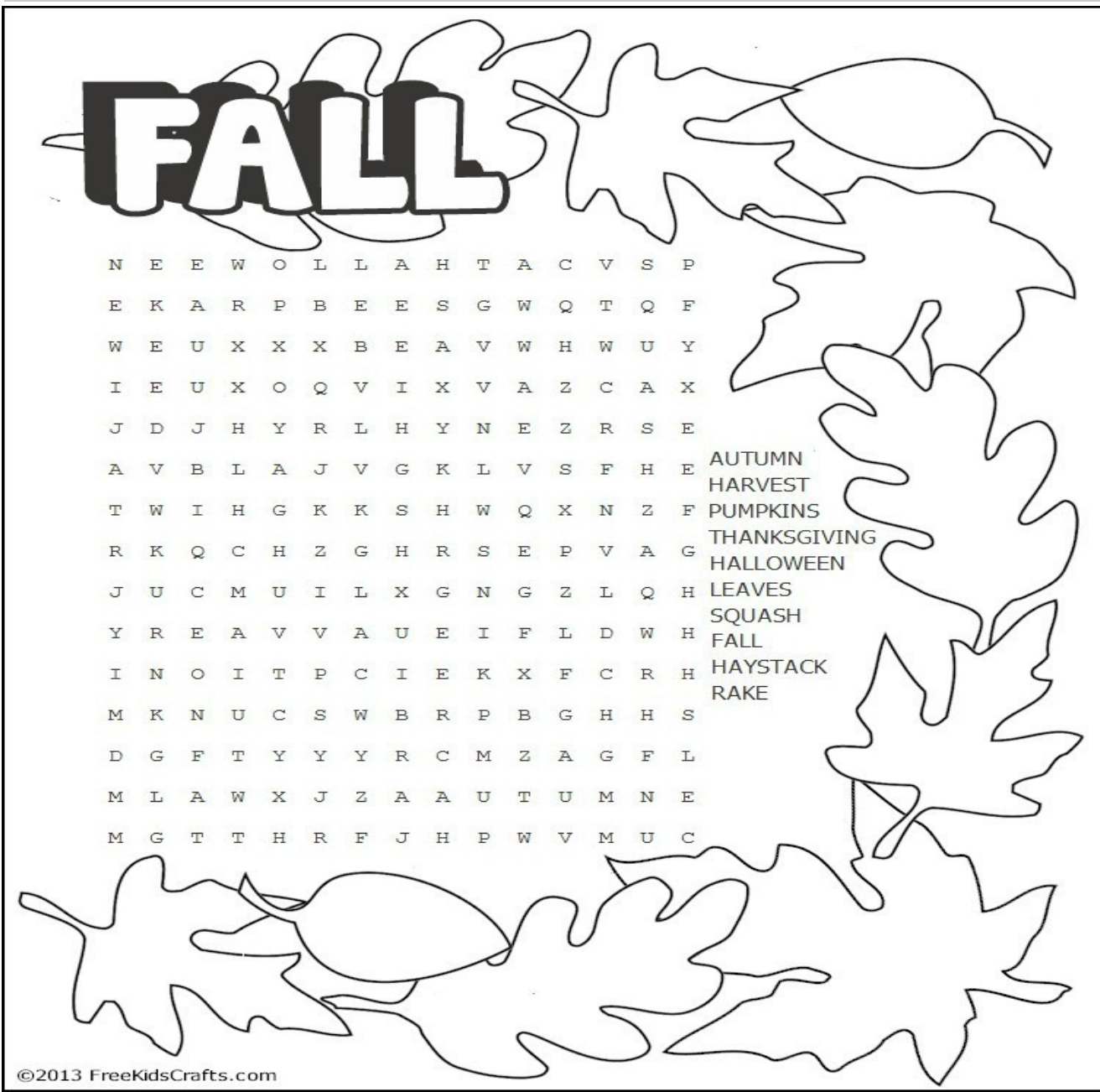
A cold shoulder top is cute and stylish for a day out or a nice dinner with friends or family. A great store to buy these amazing tops is Infinity.

Another cute, comfy and stylish option to wear are Adidas sneakers. They are not only for girls but also for boys, which makes them a must have in your closet. You can buy them at Foot Locker and enjoy them until you outgrow them!



One final great fall fashion trend is ripped jeans. Ripped jeans are cute to go out or to just wear them because you want to. An example of a place to get ripped jeans is Lesters.

These cute fashion trends are sure to become staples in your wardrobe this fall. Happy Shopping!



Astros Win it All

By Harrison Rich

The 2017 MLB playoffs was a wild one, filled with excitement and suspense. It started with the American League and National League wild card games, which are when two extra teams are chosen from each league besides the division leaders. They are chosen by record. This year, the two teams from the NL that were given the spots were the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Colorado Rockies. The Diamondbacks won, 11-8, after almost blowing a 6-0 lead. The Rockies got as close as 6-5, before the D-backs answered back with a triple by the pitcher, Archie Bradley! With the score at 8-6, Rockies shortstop Trevor Story hit a solo home run to bring the game to 8-7. However, in the end the D-backs held on, winning 11-8 and advancing to the NLDS, facing the Dodgers.

In the American League, the wild card game was the Yankees vs the Twins. In the first inning, the twins hit two home runs, leading 3-0 early on. In the bottom of the first inning, Yankees Didi Gregorius hit a 3-run homerun, to tie it back at 3-3. In the bottom of the second, Yankee outfielder Brett Gardner hit a solo homer, taking a 4-3 lead, but not for long as the twins tied it back up. Aaron Judge also hit a 2-run home run, and the Yankees took at 7-4 lead. The Yankees never looked backed, winning 8-4, and advancing to the ALDS to play the Cleveland Indians.

In the NLDS matchup between the Dodgers and the Diamondbacks, the Dodgers showed they were the stronger team, carrying out the best record in the MLB from the regular season, at 104-58. They swept, winning 3-0 and advancing to the NLCS. In the American League, the Yankees beat the Indians in a very close series, winning in game 5, 3-2. The Indians blew a 2-1 lead in the series. The Yankees hitting proved to outlast



the Indians pitching. Also in the American League, the Houston Astros beat the Boston Red Sox, 3-1, in a pretty non-competitive series. In the other National League game, the Chicago Cubs beat the Washington Nationals in 5 games as well. This set up an Astros-Yankees matchup in the AL, and a Cubs-Dodgers matchup in the NL. The Dodgers once again blew away their opposing team in the NLCS, this time the Cubs, winning the series 4-1, after sweeping the Nats in the last series, 3-0. In the AL, the Astros beat the Yankees, in a close 7-game series. With the Yankees youth push, it was a pretty successful season considering the ages of their stars. The World Series was action packed, going down to the wire. Game seven was a little bit of a letdown, following a close game 6, and the earlier games in the series were close as well. In game 7, the Astros took the win by a score of 5-1, pulling ahead in the second inning with a 5-0 lead, and never looking back, only allowing a run in the bottom of the sixth, by an Andre Ethier pinch-hit RBI. 2017 was a good year for baseball, and the playoffs were especially one of the most interesting in recent years (besides when the Mets made it, of course).



Changes in the NBA

By Nathan Rabizadeh

During this past NBA season, there were four major changes that took place. The first change was that seven different all star players changed teams. It all started on draft night when Jimmy Butler got traded to the Minnesota Timberwolves, then Chris Paul got traded to the Rockets. Paul George got traded as well to the OKC Thunder. Gordon Hayward signed with the Celtics, and Paul Millsap left for the Denver Nuggets. Finally, at the end of the season Isaiah Thomas and Kyrie Irving got traded for each other. Those were six off-season moves which moved seven all stars, affecting the league dramatically.

The next change was in the NBA jerseys. The NBA's contract with Adidas expired so, Nike started making the jerseys. Some of the jerseys stayed the same, while some other iconic jerseys changed. The Cavaliers jersey, Pacers jersey, Suns jerseys, and Timberwolves jersey were just some of the ones that have changed.

The next NBA change was in the All Star game. For the last 53 years the format was East vs West. As was mentioned before, the East lost a lot of talent to the West, so if they had the same format, the teams will be extremely lopsided. Therefore, they changed the format. The new way to chose teams is that the fans vote captains for 2 teams and they take turns selecting players.

The final change happened on November 5th 2017, when the Celtics, Magic, and Pistons were riding the top of the East while the Cavs, Bulls, and Hawks were at the bottom. In the West, The Grizzlies, Wolves, Rockets, and Warriors were at the top, and falling at the bottom were the Kings, Suns, and Mavericks.



The NFL National Anthem Controversy

By Brandon Nabavian

On August 14, 2016, former 49ers backup quarterback Colin Kaepernick protested racial inequality by sitting during The Star Spangled Banner before the 49ers opening preseason game; however, no one really noticed. A week later, Kaepernick once again sat on the bench during the anthem prior to a game in Denver and once again, nobody noticed. Finally, on August 26, someone noticed, leading to much controversy. Officials in games didn't know about this. Kaepernick stated many times that his reasons for kneeling was to bring attention to police brutality against African-Americans; "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color," Kaepernick stated. "To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way...." Other players, including Marcus Peters, Albert Wilson, Robert Quinn, Johnny Hekker, and Marshawn Lynch began supporting Kaepernick by sitting or kneeling during the National Anthem as well.

Some people think that what Kaepernick did was the right way to approach this issue. On the other hand, others believe that what he did was disrespectful to the flag. What do you think?

