



Northern Light



VOLUME 52, NO. 3

GREAT NECK NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

SPRING 2017

AWARD WINNING AUTHOR REBECCA STEAD VISITS NMS



Stead Inspires Students to Pursue their Dreams

By Rebecca Bernstein and Lynna Tsai

On February 14, 2017, author Rebecca Stead came to Great Neck North Middle School. Rebecca Stead grew up in New York City, and currently resides in New York. Arriving to school early morning, her day included two assemblies: one with the 6th graders and one with the 7th and 8th graders, as well as one luncheon with some teachers and students. As she came into Great Neck North Middle School, she was greeted with posters, each talking about one of her four books students read in their English classes, and a big welcome sign displaying her name. During periods two and three, the 6th graders met with Rebecca Stead, and the 7th and 8th graders met with her during periods seven and eight.

During her presentations, Stead talked about the books she wrote and the inspirations for each of the books. She wrote *Goodbye Stranger*, *Liar & Spy*, *When You Reach Me*, and *First Light*. Each of the books has an excellent plot along with unforgettable characters. Stead is currently working on a fifth book. Details about that book are currently unknown.

As a child, Rebecca Stead did not always enjoy writing. Her interest began when she was in third grade. She had to go to London with her father, and her English teacher made her keep a diary for writing about the adventures she had during her vacation. Stead claims that this is when her love for writing began. Her passion for writing also continued to grow as she began to read more and more books. While talking about her early life, she mentioned that one of her favorite books was *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'engle.

Stead's visit to Great Neck North Middle School was not only very educational, but also fun at the same time. Her visit also inspired a few students to pursue their dreams, even if they had nothing to do with writing. Stead showed students that your future is not written in stone and you can change it to what you want it to be. This is the second year in which an author came to Great Neck North Middle School and talked about their writing experience and early life, the first being Ben Mikaelson. This program in which students can meet their favorite authors and ask them questions should definitely continue.

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Actress and Journalist, Nina Phillips reveals what went on behind the scenes to make the production a smashing success!

SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL

By Nina Phillips

Recently, the Great Neck North Middle drama program performed Seussical the Musical on March 22nd and March 23rd. This musical by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty is based off a variety of Dr. Seuss’ books, including Horton Hears a Who. The musical follows Jojo, a young thinker in Whoville who is a bit too creative for his world, Horton who finds Whoville on a speck of dust and is disapproved by his jungle for it, and the Cat in the Hat who narrates and observes the story! This show was full of many Dr. Seuss stories, colorful costumes, and multiple thrilling songs.

Auditions for Seussical the Musical began in late November, and shortly after, students could find out their parts. Soon enough, the actors started rehearsal in December. Monday and Wednesday were reserved for singing rehearsals, including learning harmonies, solos, and different parts, and acting, by Mrs. Murdocco, the director and musical director, and Mr. Swerdlin, the musical director. Tuesday and Thursday were used to learn the choreography, which was taught by Ms. Coutieri, for the song that was learned vocally the previous day. While it was not always easy, the musical members persevered and learned their parts. As the musical performances neared, the rehearsals began to get longer. Toward the final weeks, rehearsals were dedicated to run-throughs, or performing the entire show each rehearsal, alternating the Wednesday and Thursday cast each day. Additionally, Sunday's were utilized for a rehearsal day. Finally, tech-week arrived, where the stage crew would work the lighting, sound system and the final set being on stage. The actors wore their costumes, which were put together and made

by Mr. Kroll, microphones, and props. Additionally, they sang with the pit full of instruments below. At last, the students were prepared for the show.

The stage crew also significantly contributed to the performance. Without them, there wouldn't be a show to perform. The stage crew helped build and paint sets, including the platforms, made by Mr. Broffman, which were frequently used throughout the show. Additionally, stage crew sometimes moved props onto the stage. Vital components of the show were run by stage crew; lighting and sound. The lighting was run by the balcony, which gave the actors spotlights, and different lighting settings. The stage crew also manned the sound, which turned microphones on and off, and gave the show sound-effects throughout the show. The musical really couldn't be put on without the stage crew.

On the twenty-first of March, the Seussical cast completed their first performance; the teaser. This year, instead of just one teaser, two were done; the first for the fifth graders of John F. Kennedy Elementary School. Then, later in the day, they performed for the rest of North Middle School. The teaser does not include the entire show; it is bits and pieces of it (for Seussical, it only included part of act one) so the school gets a general idea of what the show is like, and if they want to see an official performance of it. The next day was the first performance of the full show, with the Wednesday cast. Thursday was then the final performance of Seussical the Musical for North Middle’s drama program, with a different cast. The eighth graders made their annual closing-night speech, and the cast took their final bows.



NMS CELEBRATES READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

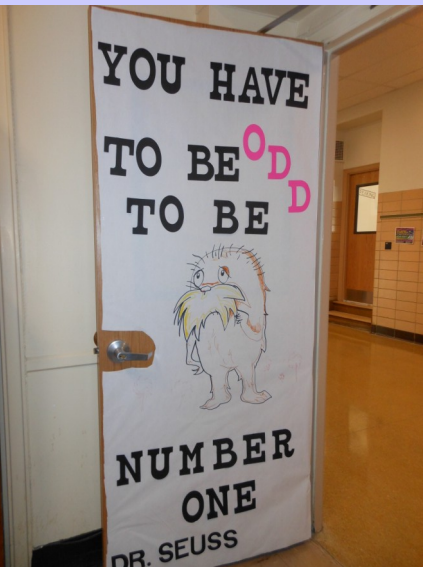
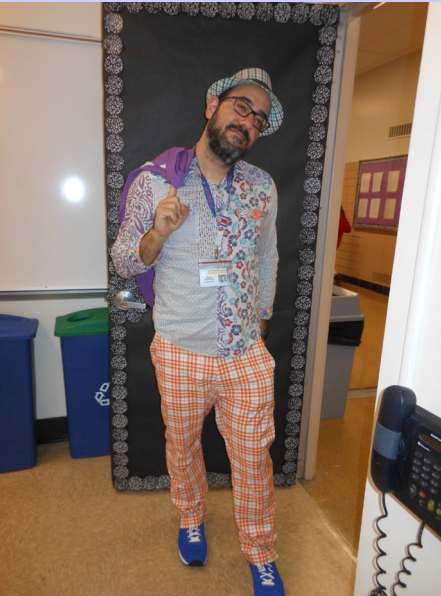
By Michelle Zeng



Read Across America is a one week awareness program which promotes reading, as the title suggests. Our school promotes the “30 by 6” regimen, which is reading for 30 minutes a day, 6 days a week. In North Middle, we celebrated every day of Read Across America week by having everyone wear something special. On Monday, students wore blue and orange to represent the school colors and show the school spirit. On Tuesday, it was “Wacky Socks Day”, where everyone wore silly socks. On Wednesday, it was “Backwards Day”, in which everyone wore mismatched clothes. Thursday was “Dress Up as Your Favorite Character Day”, and staff and students alike donned the outfits of their favorite literary characters. Lastly, on Friday, it was Pajama Day. Thursday was also Dr. Seuss's birthday. Dr. Seuss is the author of books such as ‘The Cat in The Hat’, and his books were also the theme of this year’s musical production (see the article on Seussical for more info!).

Teachers even joined in on the fun by decorating their classroom doors. Each teacher chose a theme that was inspired by literature and students helped to bring the theme to life. The doors looked amazing and the decorations truly reflected North Middle School’s love for reading.

Overall, Read Across America week was a success, as it encouraged the students of North Middle to read more books. The “silly” dress-up days may seem ridiculous and nonsensical, but they definitely send a message out: Reading can be fun!



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GSA Raises \$260 to Support LGBTQ Youth

Journalist Brenner Yellis interviews Ms. Ernst, co-advisor of the GSA

On Thursday, February 16, droves of students piled into the cafeteria for a bake sale. This bake sale wasn’t for the usual causes, however. The bake sale that day was hosted by the GSA, which is run by Ms. Ernst and Ms. Wulfow, and the funds went to the Ali Forney Center in Manhattan. I interviewed Ms. Ernst for more information about the bake sale:

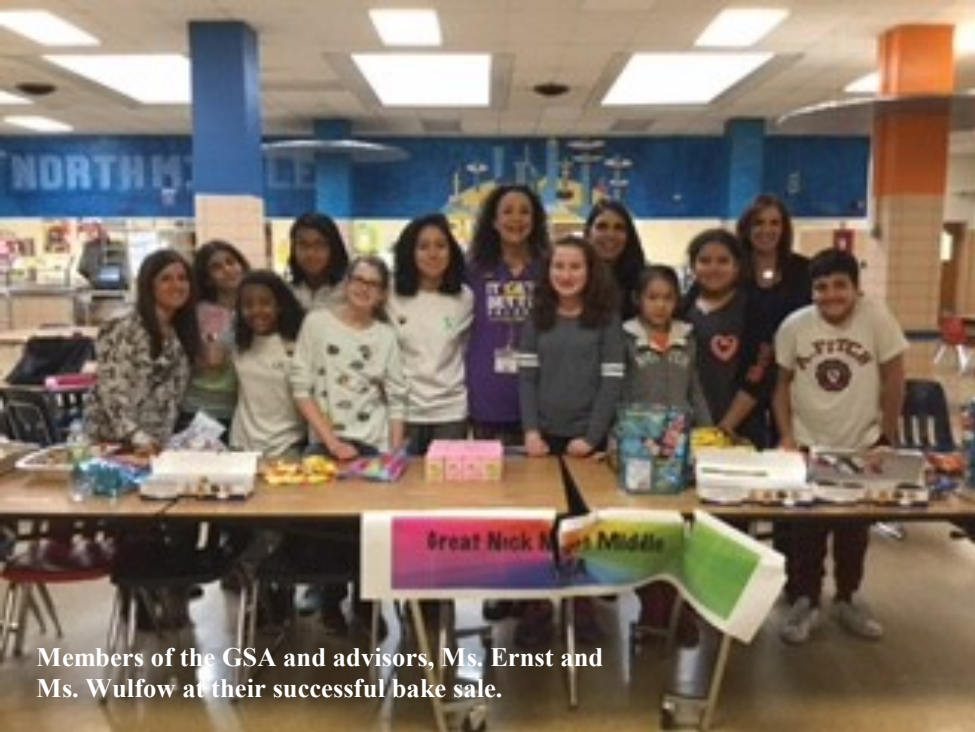
Q: What organization did the bake sale raise money for?
A: We raised money for the Ali Forney Center in Manhattan.

Q: What is the organization about?
A: The Ali Forney Center helps LGBTQ+ youth that have come out to their families and, sadly, been kicked out of their home. The Ali Forney Center is a safe place for boys and girls who are no longer safe in their own homes.

Q: How much money was raised?
A: We raised \$260 for the center. We are very excited. This was the North Middle GSA's first ever fundraiser. We were really happy to accept the help of our school's Student Council Organization, since they have lots of bake sales. The most amazing part was when our guidance counselors came down and supported us. They even helped us sell because we got so busy.

Q: Does the GSA plan on supporting this organization in the future?
A: We have discussed that and we are not decided yet. We may want to find something more local on Long Island.

Q: What other fundraisers/activities is the GSA doing?
A: We will have another bake sale on April 20. That's the day before the National Day of Silence on April 21. We are looking forward to our next big event because we love spreading awareness about LGBTQ+ issues, but really it's just about acceptance of all differences. The Day of Silence is a day where students can participate by being silent all day. Those that do will be showing their support for kids who feel they HAVE to be silent every day for fear of being bullied. This day is not just about LGBT students. There are a lot of kids who feel safer not sharing things they may really need to talk about, because they are afraid of being too different.



Members of the GSA and advisors, Ms. Ernst and Ms. Wulfow at their successful bake sale.

Sixth Graders Take the Stage!

Journalist Matthew Kwong highlights moments from the 6th Grade Winter Concert

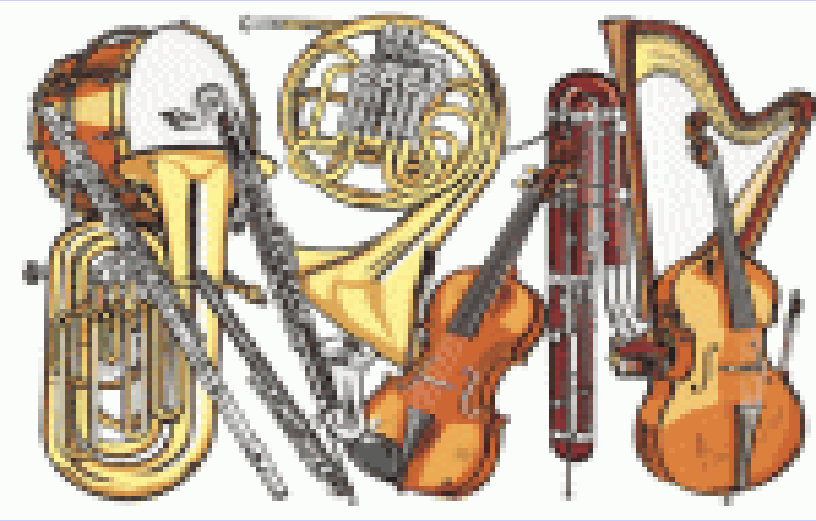


On February 8, 2017, the 6th graders of North Middle School had their first concert for the year. The performance started at 7:30pm, but the performers had to get to the meeting area by 6:40pm. This presentation was to show the parents all the hard work the 6th grade Orchestra, Band, and Chorus had done. Each group of musicians performed 3-5 songs. Almost every single seat in the auditorium was packed.

The orchestra performed first, followed by the chorus singing, and then the band finally performed last. The instrumental part of this concert was conducted by the instrumental teacher Anthony Virgilio, and the chorus was conducted by Arielle Murdocco. All performers wore a white shirt and black pants.

Additionally, each group performed a pop song, or a song that is well known . For example, the orchestra’s “fun song” was “Theme From Jurassic Park”. The Band’s “fun song” was “Eye of the Tiger”. The chorus’ song was “Fight Song”. After the orchestra and the chorus played, they sat in the audience to watch the band play. Finally, the concert came to an end and the audience applauded with approval.

The 6th graders had been practicing a lot since September and it was clear that they had worked hard. This Winter Concert was the 6th graders’ first concert at North Middle School and they are already back to work, preparing for the spring concert to take place in June.



Swinging Their Way Through Dancing Classrooms

By Chelsea Cohen

On Thursday, March 2nd, 2017, the eighth graders gathered together at North Middle’s ballroom dancing event. At this event, which was held in the gym at 7:00 p.m, all 8th graders gathered around, 3 classes at a time, to perform a variety of dances from different countries around the world. In total there were six dances:

The Rumba
Originates from Cuba
Paired with the Merengue

The Salsa
Originates from Cuba
Paired with the Foxtrot

The Swing
Originates from Harlem
Paired with the Tango

The Foxtrot
Originates from America
Paired with the Salsa

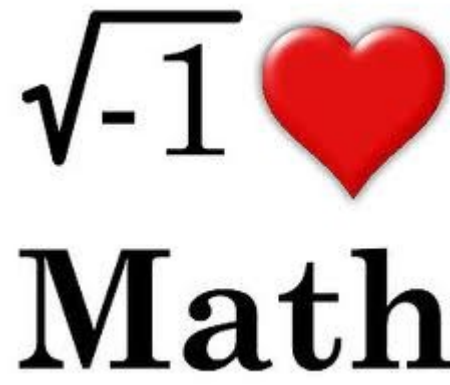
The Tango
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Paired with the Swing

The Merengue
Originates from the Dominican Republic
Paired with the Rumba

In the end, Ms. Janna, the ballroom dancing teacher, brought in all eighth graders to come together to dance two encore dances-the Salsa and the Merengue. Eighth grade boys escorted the girls out of the gym to do the final dance as they completed their 20 week course of dancing classrooms. A ninth grader who returned to watch the show she participated in last year says, “The show was really funny and entertaining!” Overall, the show was a success.

The North Middle School Math Team

By Alice Liu



The Math Team is a club here at North Middle, meeting weekly after school on Wednesdays. They generally meet in the Math Office, which can be located on the first floor. All seventh and eighth graders seeking to utilize their knowledge in mathematics are welcome to come and participate. Interested sixth graders can go seek out the Math Olympiads club, which meets on Wednesdays as well.

“Come to the Math Team to challenge yourselves!” says Sarah Tsai, an enthusiastic seventh grader. One may be wondering what, exactly, is it that the Math Team does in their weekly Wednesday meetings. Over at Math Team, the students frequently take part in challenging math competitions that test and stimulate their skill. When not doing a competition, they take practice tests in order to prepare for the next one. Just how difficult are the problems in the exams? Well, it all really depends. The problems can range from basic addition to complex trigonometry.

The Math Team has participated in a variety of different competitions, and will continue to do so. Some of these tests have included: the AMC 8 and 10, MATH-COUNTS, Math Olympiads, and, more recently, Math League. Great Neck North Middle School placed 4th in the Long Island MATHCOUNTS Chapter Competition this year, and placed 2nd last year.

Joining the Math Team may seem intimidating and overwhelming, but the overall atmosphere of it is light-hearted and enjoyable. The students are encouraging of each other and there is always a positive attitude within Math Team . Even if a test question is a little too hard, they try their best and always strive to improve. There is absolutely no punishment for doing poorly on an exam.

“Math team is fun! Especially with our humorous, loving teacher Mr. Boyt who enhances the experience!” Preston Chan, a passionate lover of Algebra in the 8th grade, excitedly states. Mr. Boyt, the head of the Math Department here at North Middle, supervises and coaches the Math Team. He helps out the students with their problems and always looks to motivates them. “Mr. Boyt is a great inspiration. I’ve always looked up to him,” Albert Jan, another 8th grader, says, as he diligently works on a set of challenging math problems. He, like the other members of the Math Team, hope that more students will develop a passion for mathematics and join the Math Team.



NMS WELCOMES AUTHOR REBECCA STEAD

Journalist Avery Park interviews Rebecca Stead

Rebecca Stead, an author of many books that were read across the school, came to North Middle on February 14th. She shared information about her books and talked about her life story during the assembly in the auditorium.

Who is your inspiration in life?
I have many but in writing, two of my biggest inspirations were Harper Lee who wrote "To Kill a Mockingbird" and E. L. Konigsburg who wrote many children's' books.

What is your funniest memory when writing a book?
Writing is so much of sitting alone and working. I am amazed that we can think of anything at all to say when we talk to readers because it's really just being alone in your head. I did have a funny moment which was sort of about writing. For a while, I used to go to this coffee shop near my house and I was there. It was right near Teacher's College and a lot of teachers go for these special seminars. I was sitting and working on Liar and Spy and someone sat at my table. She was reading When You Reach Me and I didn't say anything because I felt really shy. I sort of watched her read the ending. Out of the corner of my eye, I watched her read it. She finished it and she rolled her eyes. I was thinking that I probably should have said something so then she wouldn't have done that. It was actually a funny moment. I find it kind of funny, bittersweet in a way.

What inspired you to write children's books?
My love of reading, for sure. Basically, all of my writing is inspired by the books I read. If I didn't read, I would stop writing probably immediately. There is a writer whose name is Saul Bellow and he said that, "most writers are readers who are moved to emulation," and that is exactly who I am.

How often do you write?
Not every day, not every week. It depends on what stage of writing I'm in. Right now, I have written all these scenes for another book and I am trying to figure out what the shape of the story is going to be. Now I'm thinking more critically about the material within the book. I have a funny scene with this but it doesn't connect with the other material in the story. I start to think about the threads of the story, the time, length of beginning, and this is when I am beginning to question and interrogate myself.

What books did you read that inspired you a lot?
I read so many different books. I loved reading contemporary stories about girls in New York City whose parents are divorced and they lived on the west side. That was like me and I loved reading stories about people like me. But, I also love science fiction and love fantasy. I loved Anne McCaffrey who wrote this dragon world series and I loved these books about an English vet named James Herriot. These are books about this vet in England that I just fell in love with as a kid. I read really widely including historical and all kinds of things. I was not super picky.

What is your writing ritual or your typical day like?
I have totally failed at achieving writing rituals. I know many people who have writing rituals and I do think it is the right way to go. I truly believe that you can sit down and kind of train your brain to get to work every morning by sitting



down in the same way everyday. I can achieve that by short periods of time. I might be able to do that for a month. Where everyday I wake up, my sons leave for school and I make another cup of coffee. I sit down in a certain chair and I take out my pencil and my paper. I sharpen my pencil and I have a little ritual. But, I have found that it is basically impossible for me to keep it going for more than a month. I just fall off the wagon. I can sit there and write for a while, but then often I can tell that I'm not interested in what I'm writing. Then, I might stop and be on a bus for six hours later running an errand or bringing my kid to the dentist. That's when I'll have an idea when I'm doing something that actually feels interesting to me. One of my big rules is carry paper or even have my phone to talk it into. Sometimes I'll just dictate or type it up because those random moments where your brain is sort of switched off, is often where your brain will give you some kind of connection or idea you didn't know about.

What was your childhood like and how did that affect your writing?
My childhood was interesting, great, and challenging in some ways. My parents got divorced when I was really little and I went back and forth from house to house everyday. Mondays I was with my dad, Tuesdays I was with my mom, Wednesdays I was with my dad, Thursdays I was with my mom, and Fridays would alternate with the weekend. This started when I was about three and I grew up as an only child. When I was fifteen years old, my dad had another son in his second marriage. I have a brother and two step brothers. I grew up feeling like an only child with divorced parents. Often times, I feel like I had awesome parents but I feel like I was outside of the regular life that everyone had that you would see on TV or in books. This probably does influence my writing. I felt a little bit as an observer at a young age. I also think it made me love reading a lot because I had a lot of one on one time with adult parents. I read a lot because I didn't have siblings. It sounds sad, but it really wasn't.

Do you have a hobby besides writing?
Besides writing, my hobby is trying to get together with my friends. I like to talk and writing is really lonely for me. My old job as a public defender was community based and there was a ton of interaction. One of the big struggles for me with being a writer was being alone a lot. I do spend time just being with my friends and talking about life. I know that sounds like

a weird hobby but being that kind of friend and having those relationships is actually huge for me.



Stead chats with some 8th graders about being a writer.

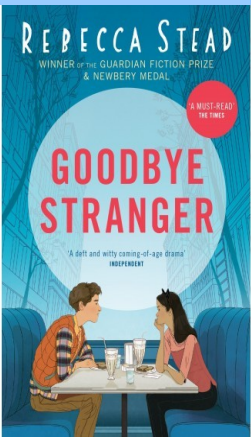


SO officers, Avery Park and Jared Ohebshalom present Rebecca Stead with a Dare to Care award.

Book Review: Goodbye Stranger by Rebecca Stead

Reviewed by Nina Phillips

Goodbye Stranger is the most recent book by Rebecca Stead, who visited our school this year. She is also the author of Liar and Spy, When You Reach Me and First Light. This children's author published the book in 2015. Goodbye Stranger is written from different perspectives, and follows the lives of Bridget, Emily, Tabitha, Sherm, and an anonymous high school girl who has friendship conflicts. Throughout the book, the lives of these students intertwine into a story.



The story starts with Bridget Barsamian, a middle schooler who by some rare chance, survived a roller skating accident straight into traffic when she was eight. Even though she physically repaired, she was never the same. She even asked to be called "Bridge" and started wearing cat ears every day to school. Though she was different, she had two of her best friends in the world to rely on; Tabitha, or "Tab," and Emily, "Em", who she had been introduced to by Tab after the accident. The seventh graders venture through life together-including Bridge meeting Sherm Russo. They start to develop a friendship-or maybe more than that. Meanwhile Em meets an eighth grader named Patrick. They continue to send pictures of different body parts until he wants a specific type of picture. Em has to deal with gossip and teasing from different kids in the school once the rumor gets out. Finally, we have an unknown person who narrates her life from second perspective. Older than the other girls, she is in high school. Her entire narrative takes place on Valentine's Day. She has to deal with Vinny, an obnoxious and manipulative friend of hers, and watch her make the girl choose between her friendship with Vinny, or Gina, another friend she has from another school. She deals with being betrayed-and betraying her friends. *She learns to try to forgive, and ask for forgiving-admitting you were wrong is hard.*

This was a very intriguing book, and I was captivated by it. It was extremely interesting to see how each other's lives would intertwine together, until everything made sense. Mostly, it was a coming of age tale, and about how kids make mistakes, grow up, and learn to find their feelings. Middle and high schools are places for finding yourselves, which can be challenging, and this book deals with that. Teenagers struggle with learning about forgiveness and betrayal, and being acquainted with their feelings, and *Goodbye Stranger covers all of that. This book not only holds strong moral value, but it captured my interest when each person's different perspective was shown, so it shows their thoughts of their counterparts, and it was capturing to see how they responded to that. Overall, I would recommend this book, especially to middle schoolers if they want a book they can relate to, and one that captures their interest.*

Author Visits: Past, Present and Future

By Leila Bakhshi

Who doesn't love author visits? You may not appreciate author visits too much, but you may not know that all schools do not even have authors come for their students because of various reasons. One may be because they may not be able to afford to bring an author or have their students get ready to bring an author. Another reason can be that the authors may just be too busy to go to schools that are smaller or with less students. Having author visits is really a very exciting event that all students of the Great Neck Public School district in middle school should be very appreciative of.

Last school year, Ben Mikaelson had visited our school and was our author in both North and South Middle School. It was actually the first year we had an author visiting North Middle School. This year we had Rebecca Stead visiting our school and some students also had a lunch with her, besides the assembly for the whole school. Now here comes the BIG, NEW, TOP SECRET NEWS (shhhhhh... don't tell anyone)! Our author visitor next year is *tentatively...* *Chris Crutcher*. *He wrote the books Iron Man, Athletic Shorts, and Whale Talks. Who's excited!?*

Author visits are not all fun and games, though. Having authors come to our school and speak about their experience is pretty important. We learn more about the writing process and the differences between how each writer is inspired and their methods or techniques for writing. These visits do help students and even help students to read more when they get a chance.



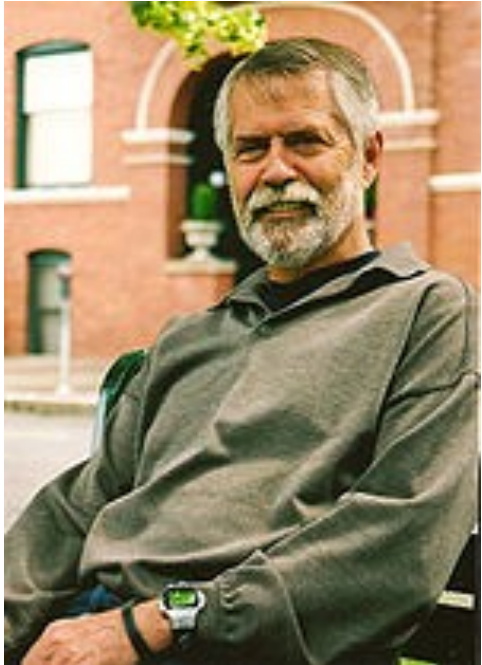
Present...NMS students have lunch with author, Rebecca Stead and listen to her tell stories about what inspired her to become a writer.



Past...Last year's author visit, Ben Mikaelson



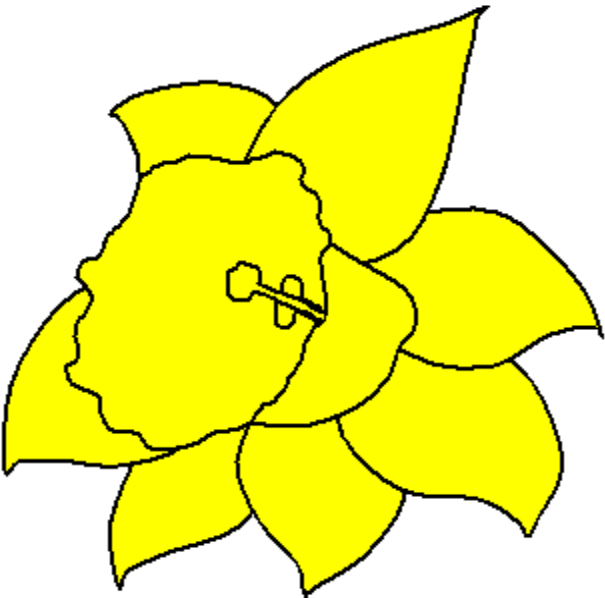
Future?...Author Chris Crutcher is *tentatively* scheduled to visit NMS in 2018.



Spring Word Search

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

daffodil
flower
gardening
green
growth
jacket
melting
puddle
rainbow



raindrops
rubberboots
seeds
splash
springtime
sprout
sunshine
tulips
umbrella

President Trump Picks New Secretary of Education

By Lynna Tsai

In November, President Trump nominated Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education and on February 7th, Senate voted to make Mrs. DeVos the 11th Secretary of Education. Mrs. DeVos is a billionaire philanthropist who donates millions to the Republican Party. She got her education from Holland Christian Schools and Calvin College both located in Michigan. Her family was very well off and donated millions to Calvin College too. There is much controversy surrounding her election as Secretary of Education. Holland Christian Schools and Calvin College are both private schools which made the public angry about having her as Secretary of Education. The public claims that Mrs. DeVos is not fit to oversee public schools since she has never attended a public school herself.

Another controversy about Mrs. DeVos as Secretary of Education is that some people may believe that she does not have the knowledge to oversee college and school programs. In multiple interviews with Senators, she said she did not know the issue well enough. She also had a difficulty understanding questions asked by the Senators about growth, proficiency, student loans, etc. Many Senators, including Senator Bernie Sanders, believe that without her family’s donations to the Republican Party, she would not have gotten the nomination as Secretary of Education by President Trump.



With all the controversies surrounding her election as Secretary of State, the vote by Senate was a fifty to fifty tie. Vice President Mike Pence had to act as tie breaker; the only vice president to break a tie for a Cabinet nominee. Vice President Pence voted for Mrs. DeVos, making her the 11th Education Secretary.

Opinion: Standardized State Assessments

By Renee Zeng

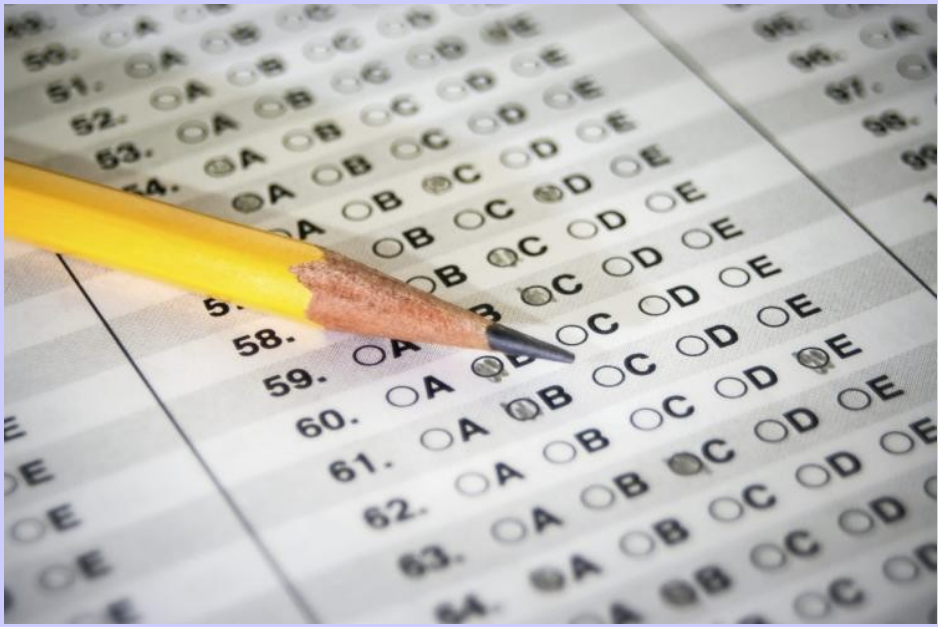
The NYS English Language Arts exam took place over the course of three days, March 28-30 and the NYS Math Test is scheduled for May 2-4. Over the years there has been some controversy over whether or not these tests should be administered. Read below for some insight on both sides of the argument.

Why We Should Get Rid Standardized Testing

Schools should get rid of standardized testing. Standardized testing is inaccurate, causes stress, and hinders learning in students. It also doesn’t measure the improvement of a student over the school year. Since standardized testing only happens on one day, it only evaluates a student's performance on that particular day and doesn't take into account any external factors. In addition, standardized testing causes teachers to only “teach the tests,” which doesn't allow students to learn anything new, thereby hindering their learning potential. Teachers are pressured to prepare their students for the tests, so they might neglect to teach students skills that go beyond the exams. In addition to the teachers, students also feel unnecessary stress from all the testing. The pressure of the test results in test anxiety among students; students who would normally do well on a class quiz become nervous, and are incapable of performing their best on the standardized tests because of the stress they are facing.

Why We Should Keep Standardized Testing

Schools should keep standardized testing. Standardized testing helps teachers, improves schools, and provides an accurate comparison between schools. The testing helps guide teachers when they teach a subject by assisting them with what to teach. This ensures that the teachers don’t go too far ahead or fall behind in their instruction. Furthermore, standardized testing helps to create an accurate comparison between schools and districts, since everyone takes very similar tests with similar content.



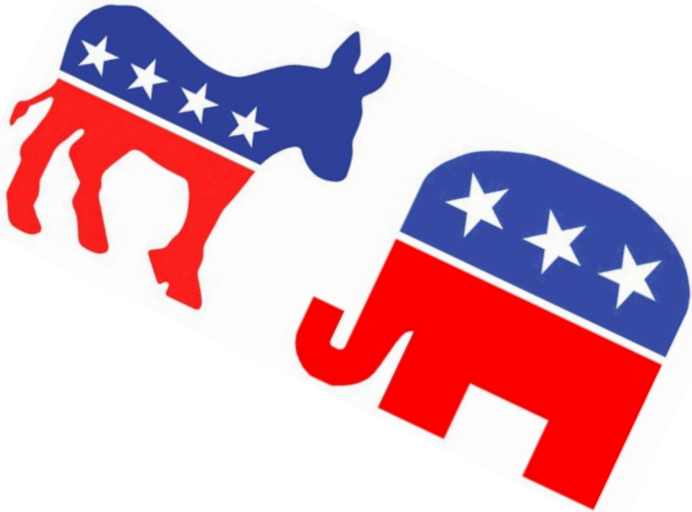
“From Politics”

by Sahar Tartak



Tanned skin, gorgeous hair
Say what you want, I don't care!
Across the border, make a wall
Immigrants will take the fall
Mexico will surely pay
We'll do more building every day!
Let's talk about me
I'm just so great!
Health care for free!
In every state
We'll do it the new way
I'll pass a bill!
I'll convince congress
They'll do it, they will
Because I never lose
Not even the race
So stop making fun
Get out of my face!

Famous husband, fancy school
In my backyard, a gorgeous pool
Emails? What are you talking about?
Stop it, oh stop it
There's no need to shout!
Welfare of the destitute man
You can't just make a travel ban...
The FBI said I did nothing at all
So leave me alone
I need to take a call
You want an interview?
I want 2,000 or more!
Talking to the press
Is just such a chore
Anyways, I must go
I need some new suits
The last one I bought
Didn't match with my boots!



SPRING TIME FUN



“From You Have I Been Absent in the Spring” (Sonnet 98) William Shakespeare, 1564 - 1616

From you have I been absent in the spring,
When proud-pied April, dressed in all his trim,
Hath put a spirit of youth in everything,
That heavy Saturn laughed and leaped with him,
Yet nor the lays of birds, nor the sweet smell
Of different flowers in odor and in hue,
Could make me any summer’s story tell,
Or from their proud lap pluck them where they grew.
Nor did I wonder at the lily’s white,
Nor praise the deep vermillion in the rose;
They were but sweet, but figures of delight,
Drawn after you, you pattern of all those.
Yet seemed it winter still, and, you away,
As with your shadow I with these did play.

Spring Pools by Robert Frost

These pools that, though in forests, still reflect
The total sky almost without defect,
And like the flowers beside them, chill and shiver,
Will like the flowers beside them soon be gone,
And yet not out by any brook or river,
But up by roots to bring dark foliage on.

The trees that have it in their pent-up buds
To darken nature and be summer woods -
Let them think twice before they use their powers
To blot out and drink up and sweep away
These flowery waters and these watery flowers
From snow that melted only yesterday.



Spring Song by Robert Louis Stevenson

The air was full of sun and birds,
The fresh air sparkled clearly.
Remembrance wakened in my heart
And I knew I loved her dearly.

The fallows and the leafless trees
And all my spirit tingled.
My earliest thought of love, and Spring's
First puff of perfume mingled.

In my still heart the thoughts awoke,
Came lone by lone together -
Say, birds and Sun and Spring, is Love
A mere affair of weather?



You will need:

- Elmer’s glue
- Shaving foam
- ½ tsp. of Baking Soda
- Eye drops
- Glitter
- Flower beads

In a bowl add the whole bottle of glue. We used clear glue for this particular slime.



You can add 5-10 pumps of the shaving foam.

Then add ½ tsp. of baking soda. Remember you need to add one 1/2 tsp. for every bottle of glue that you use.

Pour in your glitter and flower beads and give it a good mix.

Next add the eye drops a little bit at a time. Keep mixing it together until it no longer sticks to your fingers.

When it is ready take it out and knead it a bit.



Edible Cookie Dough

Submitted by Michelle Zeng

Have you ever tasted cookie dough raw and become addicted, only for your parents to remind you that raw eggs aren't safe to eat? Well, there is a safe alternative, Edible cookie dough! Here is a recipe:

- 1 stick unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 cups packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoons vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons milk

With your mixer, cream together butter and brown sugar. Add in vanilla and salt, mix. Add in flour. Add in 2 tablespoons of milk and mix. This will be the “base” for your cookie dough. Other ingredients can be added such as :

- 1/2 cup mini chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup milk chocolate chips
- 1 tsp lemon flavoring
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- M&Ms
-and whatever else you might want to add.

Disclaimer: It is recommended to heat the raw dough on a cooking sheet for ten minutes at 450 degrees in order to kill bacteria found in dough.



March Madness at Great Neck North: Wizards vs. Blazers

By Avery Park

Well, the wait was worth it! The Harlem Wizards, an exhibition basketball troupe founded in 1962, came to challenge our principal and a large group of GNPS faculty to a game of basketball last March, after being postponed by almost 2 months due to the January Nor'easter. The timing couldn't be better, however, with March Madness in the air, inspiring numerous teachers and administrators in the GNPS district to don the Blazers uniform and take on the court to compete. And the event was just as much about music, dancing, games, and comedy, as it was about shooting hoops.

The DJ belted out hip tunes, such as "A-Train" and "Loonatik," which the Wizards, encouraged the crowd to get up and dance to. Feeling bad that our team did not have any "cool" names, the Harlem Wizards MC gladly tagged our teachers with nicknames such as AirMommy, Richie Cunningham, Shaggy (that would be Mr. Nelson), Britney Spears, and Cindy Lau-per. There were also pre-game and half-time events for the students that involved passing drills, free throws, and a blindfolded student gathering free souvenirs.

The sold out event was jointly organized by the North Middle School PTO, SDMC, and Student Council Organization and involved more than 100 faculty, parents, and student volunteers. Playing for the team from North Middle were: Mr. Cozine, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Gunning, Mr. Amato, Mr. Boyt, Ms. Feifer, Mr. Friedman, Mr. Jablonowski, Ms. Larson, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Norberto, Ms. Oddo, Ms. Puca, Ms. Serowik and Ms. Sicurella. Ms. Neckin and Ms. Weissman also served as North Middle mascots and 8th grader Dana Livian sang the national anthem.

The event sold out on tickets and raised additional funds through merchandise sales, pizza and delicious homemade desserts, and raffles. Proceeds from the fundraiser will be used to purchase STEAM-related items to create a makerspace in the library, LittleBits educational classroom for kids, snap circuits, ping pong tables, and digital cameras for photography for Great Neck North Middle School.



GNPS faculty getting ready to play against the Harlem Wizards!

Free Agency Frenzy

By Leo Korman

Finally, it's here! Free Agency in the NFL! On March 9th, 2017, teams in the NFL could officially sign "free agents", or players without a team that were released by their former team. Free Agency is a special time of the offseason in the NFL, which gives opportunities for players and teams to win Super Bowls.

First, let's start with the New York Giants. Last year, the Giants had made many defensive free agent signings, like Damon Harrison, Janoris Jenkins, and Oliver Vernon. Although dropping 3 offensive players, (Victor Cruz, Larry Donnell, Rashad Jennings) the Giants focused on their offense and brought new names into the big apple. For example, the Giants picked up Brandon Marshall, a wide receiver who was on the Jets, but was cut along with Darrelle Revis. The Giants got him for 2 years for 11 million, with a guaranteed 5 million. Next the Giants snubbed Rhett Ellison from the Vikings and D.J. Fluker from the Chargers to improve their blocking game. The Giants got Rhett Ellison for 4 years on a 18 million dollar contract, with 8 million guaranteed. D.J. Fluker only signed for 1 year for 3 million, with 3 million guaranteed.

The Giants weren't the only team that most people in NMS like that were completing free agent signings. The New York Jets had 2 free agent signings, but the bigger story for the green guys are who they let go of. As you know, Brandon Marshall and Darrelle Revis were both cut by the team, including Nick Mangold and others. The Jets' 2 signings are Kelvin Beachum from the Jacksonville Jaguars and Morris Claiborne from the Dallas Cowboys. Kelvin Beachum came to the Jets for 3 years and 24 million, with 12 million guaranteed. Morris Claiborne hung up his Cowboys helmet to join the Jets for an unknown amount of years and money.

The big apple holds 2 of 32 NFL teams releasing and signing players. Down below you can view the chart to see some important free Agency signings around the league.

Player	Former Team	New Team
Alshon Jeffery	Chicago Bears	Philadelphia Eagles
A.J. Bouye	Houston Texans	Jacksonville Jaguars
Calais Campbell	Arizona Cardinals	Jacksonville Jaguars
Stephon Gilmore	Buffalo Bills	New England Patriots
Cordarrelle Patterson	Minnesota Vikings	Oakland Raiders
Desean Jackson	Washington Redskins	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Brandin Cooks	New Orleans Saints	New England Patriots
Tony Jefferson	Arizona Cardinals	Baltimore Ravens
Martellus Bennett	New England Patriots	Green Bay Packers
Jabaal Sheard	New England Patriots	Indianapolis Colts

The chart above doesn't state every important signing in Free Agency; there are only ten up there. Free Agency is an important part of the NFL and is still going strong with many signings still happening. You never know if that one player a team gets leads them to a championship. And hey, there's always the draft.

Opening Day 2017: Predictions for the Upcoming Season

By Harrison Rich

A new season of baseball is upon us. Whether you're a Yankee fan hoping the big prospects like Gleyber Torres, Gary Sanchez, Greg Bird and Clint Frazier will perform, or a Mets fan with hopes of a World Series run with healthy pitchers, there is something to be very excited about. New Jersey math professor, Bruce Bukiet made his predictions for the two teams. Last year, he predicted 8 out of 10 postseason teams right. This year, he predicts the Yankees to miss out on the playoffs, going 80-82. He thinks the Mets will fall 5 games behind the Nationals, going 92-70. If this happens, the Mets would make the playoffs for the third season in a row, and the Yankees would finish under .500 (more losses than wins) for the first time since 1992. I predict the Mets to finish with 94 wins and 68 losses, just finishing behind the Nationals by 1 game. The Yankees will go 81-81, finishing just at .500, and not making the playoffs.

