



Northern Light



VOLUME 52, NO. 1

GREAT NECK NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

FALL 2016



SCO *Dare to Care* Representatives, Jared Ohebshalom, Tyler Menker and Shaina Makhany pose with motivational speaker Gian Paul Gonzalez during a special assembly.

GREAT NECK NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL IS ALL IN!

By Ellie Lampione

Motivational Speaker, Gian Paul Gonzalez inspires students to *Dare to Care* during the *No Place for Hate* special assembly.

On October 27th, Gian Paul Gonzalez came to NMS to kick off the No Place for Hate® assembly and to stress the importance of “Daring to Care” to help make the school a safe and respectful environment. His message was clear—“In order to succeed you have to be ‘All In.’ If you go halfway, you will only get halfway. You have to give it your all and persevere.”

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There is No Place for Hate® at NMS

Reporter Nina Phillips explains the reasons behind NMS becoming a
No Place for Hate® School.



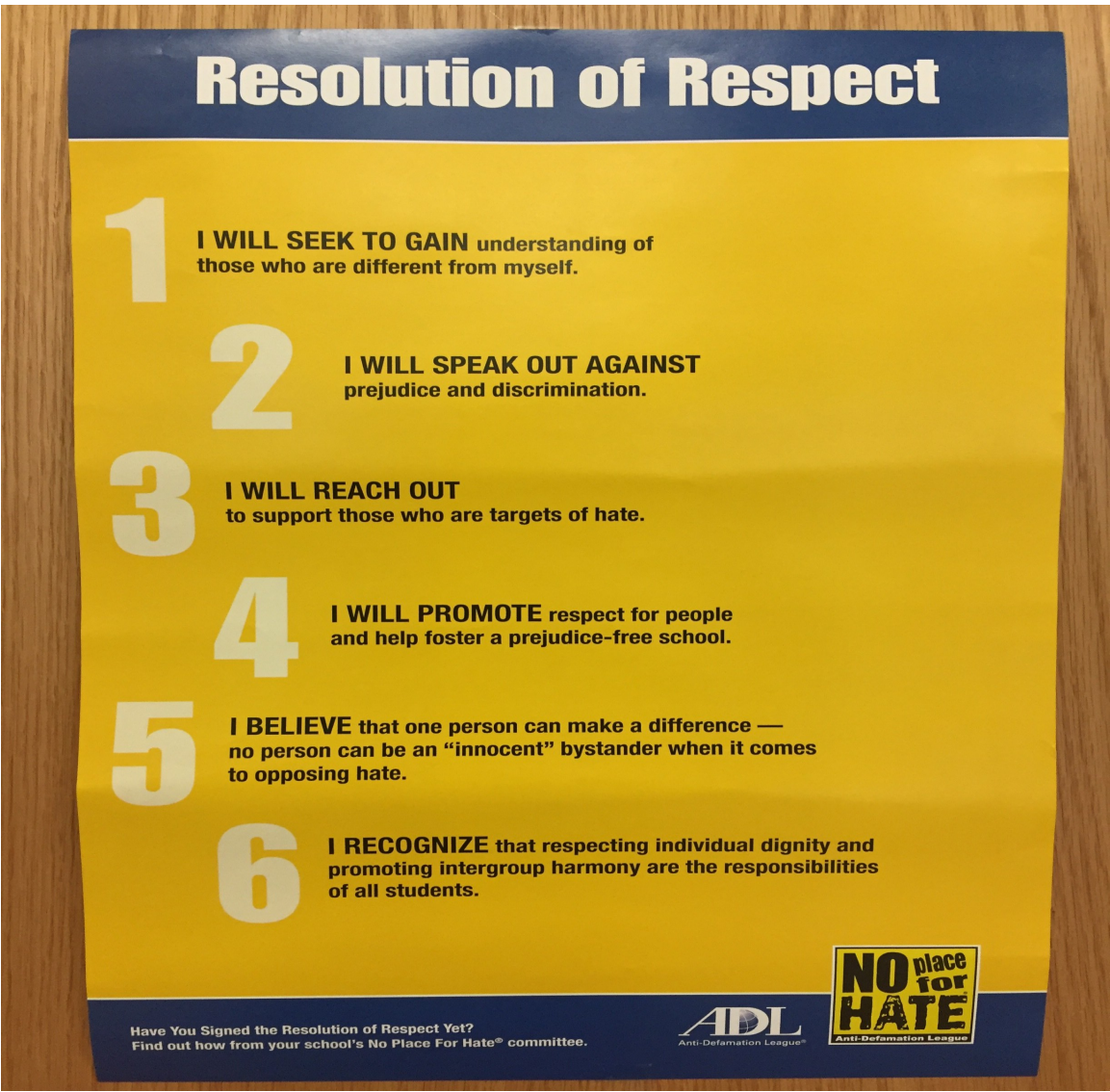
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No Place for Hate®

By Nina Phillips
From Page 1

No Place for Hate® was formed to fight all forms of discrimination. Though America is very diverse, unfortunately diversity sometimes comes with anti-Semitism, racism, homophobia and other bigotry. No Place for Hate® wants to put an end to this and types of bullying. “What better slogan for a middle school than No Place for Hate®?” says NMS Principal, Mr. Cozine. No Place for Hate® is a school section for the Anti Defamation League, and as a school, we want to get involved. The Anti Defamation League is against bullying, and so, becoming part of the No Place for Hate® organization could promote a more positive message for our school. “Hate’s one of those words you’re not allowed to use as a kid... in a middle school, kids are going through so much--emotionally, socially and academically, that sometime our emotions get the best of us. We need to recognize that there’s no place in this school for hate,” Mr. Cozine said in relation to the organization. What school wouldn’t want to stand for an accepting environment?

In the 2016-2017 school year, as part of our commitment to create a safe and comfortable environment free of bias and bigotry, North Middle School will participate in numerous activities in the classroom and beyond. In prior years, NMS has been very proud to be involved in activities that create a climate of acceptance such as, *Dancing Classrooms*, *Multicultural Night* and reading books by author, Ben Mikaelson. “All those books dealt with acceptance. Not hating anyone based on their disability, color, religion,” said Mr. Cozine. Most importantly, as a school we want to rid of hate and discrimination, which is the true goal of No Place for Hate®.



NEW MULTICULTURAL CLUB CELEBRATES DIVERSITY AT NORTH MIDDLE

By Anjelica Wu

“The beauty of this world lies in the diversity of its people.” -Unknown

North Middle School is a family. It is important for us to understand and find compassion about the different cultures and groups of people in this school. The new Multicultural Club aims to do just that. According to the club’s advisor, Ms. Weissman, “The club is amazing! It is the first year when we have an official club. It allows students and teachers to come together and celebrate diversity.”

The Multicultural Club will play a big role in planning North Middle School’s Multicultural night, which will be taking place on February 15th, at 6 PM, in the North Middle cafeteria. This important night will be celebrating the different cultures that make up our community. Families, come! Gather around with your children to make special yummy food samples that represent your culture, and bring them to this special night. There will be drinks, and wait for it... desserts! So make sure to come and taste all these delicious foods from all over the world, and enjoy the spectacular multicultural performance!

Diversity is important. When you get older you will be with different people of all different varieties. The school wants to create a feeling and an atmosphere that you will learn from and love, and this club aims to achieve that.

THE GSA BRINGS AWARENESS TO NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY

By Megan Kashi

On Tuesday, October 11, NMS students and teachers recognized National Coming Out Day by wearing rainbow ribbons and stickers. Members of the Gay Straight Alliance Club (GSA) gave out these ribbons and stickers at the entrance of the school and in homerooms. This day was important to the school because this day made everyone feel accepted and equal.

The GSA is a club whose goal is ensure that NMS is a safe and welcoming place for all students. Niki Tolledo, a seventh grader and member of the GSA, said, “The goal of the GSA club is to have equality and to have a great experience and have fun. I really like how in the GSA club you can be yourself and be comfortable.” The GSA is also planning on recognizing A Day of Silence to help bring a stop to bullying.

The GSA’s advisors are Mrs. Wulfow and Ms. Ernst. The club meets Thursdays after school in room 163A. All are welcome!



NMS students hand out rainbow ribbons and stickers to celebrate National Coming Out Day.



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Trina Rice

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Chelsea Cohen
Alice Liu
Avery Park
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NMS DARES TO CARE

Continued from Page 1

Gian Paul Gonzalez usually spends his time speaking with the NY Giants football team as well as other sports teams and organizations about being “All In.” However, this time he brought his unique approach to NMS students. He brought two students up on stage and told them to do push ups. He said that when he was training, his coach told him that he had to do push ups for five minutes. He then had the students begin another exercise as soon as they were done. He didn’t make the students do five minutes of push ups but he still got his message across. He also spoke about blaming yourself versus blaming others. “If you keep blaming others, then you will not get anywhere. You can only succeed once you start blaming yourself and working out the problems,” he said.

Gian Paul Gonzalez ended his speech by explaining that all students would be receiving poker chips to symbolize what they are “All In” for. He suggested that students write their names on it and keep the poker chip in a place to serve as a reminder of what they are “All In” for. NMS students found this assembly inspiring. It motivated NMS students and staff to “Dare to Care” to ensure that the school has No Place for Hate®.



Gian Paul Gonzalez brings NMS students up on the stage to demonstrate what being “All In” means to him.

An Interview with Gian Paul Gonzalez

By Avery Park

What inspired you to start all in?

It was just kind of something I saw just in a lot of people’s lives-- we regret a lot more things that we didn’t do than we did. That was one of the parts. Another thing is the first time I spoke to the Giants. I used the story from the bible of Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus. Not a lot of people talk about Joseph and how he sticks with Mary even though she says she’s pregnant from God. I was like wow he really stuck with her and he was committed to her and helped raise the son. When I was talking to the Giants, I said, ‘How many of us would be that committed? How many of us would stick with something like that even if we didn’t totally get it or we didn’t see all the benefits or the greatness of it.’ That’s kind of where it originated from.

What was your childhood like? Is this the career you wanted to have?

I think I had a great childhood living in Union City. I actually teach right now so I was able to come back from where I was born and raised. I loved getting to do little things like play football in the streets with my friends. There were a lot of things I went through that were tough. But, knowing what it would make me today, I wouldn’t change anything.

Career wise, I had no idea I would be doing this. When I was in the seventh grade, I was so scared to death to talk in front of people. I did a science fair project and I was going to have to talk about it, so I made a bottle really hot with the can for the science fair project. I kind of burnt myself. That’s how scared I was to talk in front of people. My mom found out and she made me be in every school play after that. When I do assemblies, like at your school today, it just seems like a big classroom with maybe 500 kids.

How can we help further your cause at North Middle?

The best way to further it is just by living it out. ‘All In’ is a lifestyle, not a slogan. It’s all the little things you do. The funny thing is, like I said, the Giants didn’t find me because I was sending my resumé in. They found me because I was trying to tour the world and speak. You do it, wherever you are put even if you only have a little time to do it. Some people tell me, ‘I want to go All In but I don’t have enough time.’ And I say it’s whatever you do--just be all there.

Some guy came up to me and said, ‘I just don’t have enough time for my family.’

I said ‘Alright but do you call your wife when you are traveling for your business on the road?’ He flies to London, Dubai and all these places.

He’s like ‘Yeah.’

I said ‘Do you have the TV on?’

He’s like ‘Yeah.’

I said ‘Well, then turn the TV off. Do you have your laptop open?’

He’s like ‘Yeah.’

I said, ‘If you’re going to talk to her for 20 minutes you need to be all in for that twenty minute conversation.

If you can only talk to someone for 20 minutes, you need to be totally focused there. Sometimes focusing for 20 minutes is better than an unfocused three hours.

How big is your organization now? How many children does it help?

It’s been awesome. It started with 50 kids and just myself and four volunteers. Now, we are over 600 in just a couple of months and we have over 25 volunteers. It’s been really great just to see it grow. I think the greatest thing for me is to see the kids that started it in the beginning, teach the classes. So, the one kid who came in who we were teaching how to kickbox, is now teaching the girls how to kickbox. The one kid we were teaching how to lift weights is now teaching weightlifting. It’s kind of cool to see it continuing like a chain. It keeps on passing down.

How does All In relate to the super bowl?

All In relates to the super bowl when it really comes down to two teams. Not the most talented teams sometimes. Everyone is gifted who play in the NFL. It’s funny because the Giants would say that they were not the most talented team in the playoffs, but, they would say that they were the most committed. ‘All In’ doesn’t start on Friday before the game. It starts on Monday when you’re watching film. Tuesday, when you have to do mandatory massages for recovery. ‘All In’ starts with all the little things you do that add up and help you perform better when it really counts. In the Giants that year, the ones that stayed the most committed to the little things added up. Especially in those pressure situations, that could mean the difference between winning and losing.

What is it like to talk and work with the NY Giants?

It’s fun. They are a great group of guys. They want to make it a better place and want to use their platform of sports to help other people. Rashad Jennings, the NY Giants’ running back started the Rashad Jennings’ foundation. A lot of people say that it’s probably a foundation for kids to play football. His foundation actually does poetry contests. I was like ‘You’re a football player.’ He’s like, ‘But I love poetry and so I don’t want to start just a football foundation. I want to start a poetry foundation.’

Which football team did you grow up following?

I was always a little bit of a Raiders fan because my dad played for the Raiders. But, I’m a Giants fan because I work for the Giants. The team I like most is the Miami Dolphins. As a kid I liked animals, I still like animals. I follow twitter accounts like Cute Emergency and Animal Addict. I like animals and I thought dolphins were really cool animals.



Motivational speaker, Gian Paul Gonzalez and 8th grader, Avery Park.

NMS BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM IS ALL IN!

Sixth grader, Jesse Toro, chatted with Coach Jablonowski about the first season of the Boys NMS Football Team.

Do you think you and your players are All In?
Absolutely. I can tell by their commitment on a daily bases. Mr. Gian Paul Gonzalez echoed what us coaches and teams try to become.

How has your season affected you and your players?
I think it was a great growing experience for the kids. Some of them just started playing--even the 8th graders. It's rewarding to see them developing and I think the kids had a great time.

Do you think this has been one of your better seasons?
I would say 'yes,' even though the record wasn't showing it. Especially because the kids gained experience and had a lot of chemistry together as a team.

YOLO. YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE, SO LIVE IT DRUG FREE

NMS Shows Their Spirit During Red Ribbon Week

By Alice Liu



From the 24th of October to the 28th, Great Neck North Middle School celebrated its annual Red Ribbon Week! For those that don't know, the point of Red Ribbon Week is to prevent illegal drug use and spread more awareness about the negative consequences of drugs. Red Ribbon Week originated in memory of the Drug Enforcement Administration Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena who was brutally kidnapped and killed in Mexico while going undercover in a drug operation. Many people mourned this tragedy, and the red ribbon became a symbol of drug prevention.

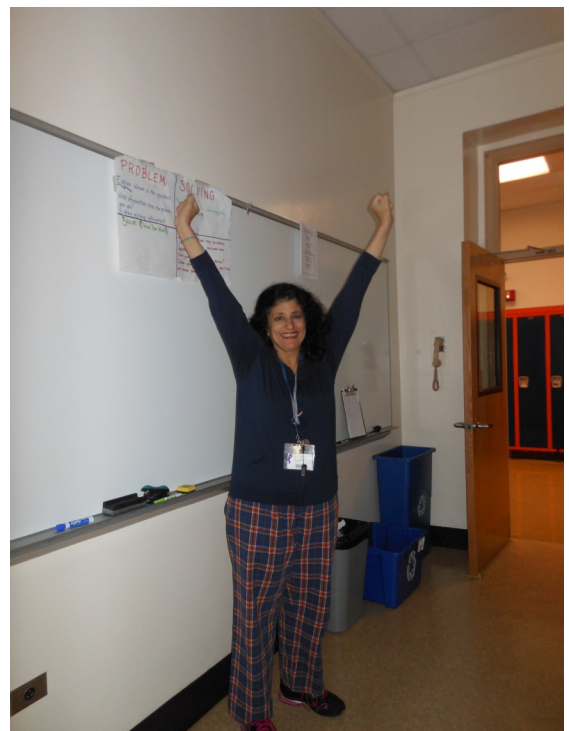
Drug abuse is a very serious issue globally. There are devastating consequences caused by abusing drugs. One of these many consequences is unnecessary death. People illegally use drugs for many reasons, like, feeling 'cool', fitting in, relieving boredom, and to just try it out. Drugs should never be used illegally. It's important to stay drug-free and healthy, and that's why it's important to educate people on this topic.

The students of North Middle celebrated Red Ribbon Week by dressing up to each of the creatively named daily themes. Red Ribbon Week opened up with Red Ribbon Day, in which students wore red. Tuesday was "Put Drugs to Bed", also known as Pajama Day. On Wednesday, students wore sport jerseys from their favorite sports teams to "Team Up Against Drugs"! Thursday was School Spirit Day, and the school colors, blue and orange, were donned throughout the building. Finally, Red Ribbon Week ended off

with Friday, "I Am A Genius Day", which had students wear pieces of denim. Students were not the only ones participating. Many teachers were enthusiastic about this event. It was a very exciting week!

While there were many students who didn't participate in wearing specific articles of clothing, the important thing was that they got the message Red Ribbon Week was trying to convey. Students were encouraged to sign a pledge promising to grow up safe, healthy, and drug free. This pledge was available via e-mail and the North Middle School website. They could then receive Red Ribbon wristbands, which were donated by generous members of the PTO and handed out in the morning. By doing this, they would show their support for preventing illegal drug use, and creating a better, safer, world.

Mrs. Sicurella, an 8th grade Health teacher, says, "Red Ribbon Week is an important time for students and staff to think about our anti-drugs or reasons for living a drug free life. Red Ribbon Week is a reminder to make healthy decisions that keep us safe at school, home and in our community." In Health classes, students did many fun activities in preparation for Red Ribbon Week. They thought about better things to do instead of drugs, also known as anti-drugs, and did creative projects that showed what they enjoyed doing. What is your anti-drug?



International Literacy Day

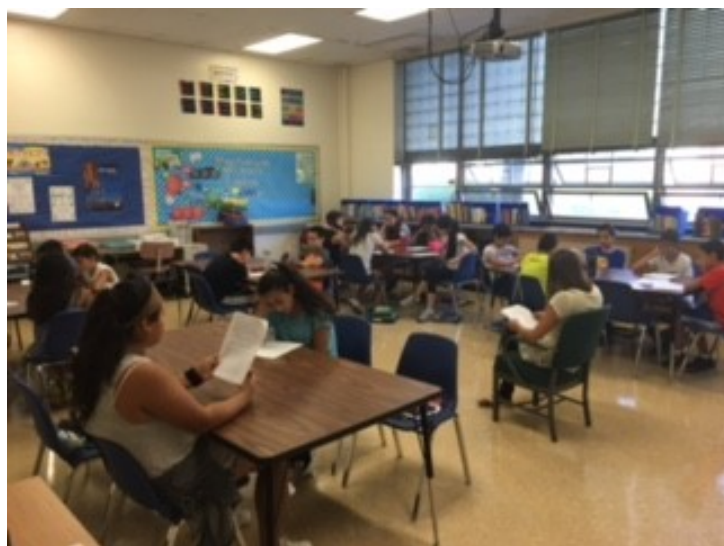
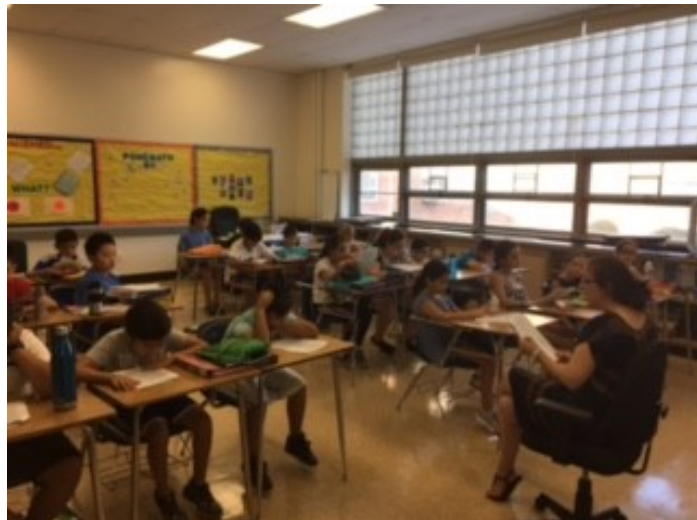
By Michelle Zeng

September 8, 2016, marked the 50th Anniversary of International Literacy Day. International Literacy Day is celebrated around the world with the common goal of bringing together educators to promote the importance of literacy and increase literacy rates around the world. The hope is to educate all youth and adults by 2030 on how to read and write.

English Department Chair, Mrs. Cinthia Serowik felt it was important for NMS to get involved as well. This day brings "attention to the importance of literacy in school--not just in your English and reading classes. Literacy is used across all subjects," she said.

NMS students and teachers celebrated this important day by reading aloud short stories during home-room. The 6th grade read "Amigo Brothers" by Piri Thomas, the 7th grade read "Mother and Daughter" by Gary Soto and the 8th grade read "Rules of the Game" by Amy Tan. Ms. Serowik said, "Since it is called 'international' literacy day, we chose books that are relevant to different cultures and the three stories provided the cultural awareness that is important to this day."

Since this day was such a success, Ms. Serowik is looking forward to facilitating other exciting events that promote learning and literacy. NMS should be on the lookout for the Spelling Bee on January 10 and Read Across America Day on March 2.



SCO Class Elections

By Rebecca Bernstein

The SCO held its election this year from October 11th - October 14th. The speeches from the TV studio were broadcasted during social studies classes. Everyone got to vote for their own grade and the people that would represent them. The final scores came out on October 14th and the vote took place on the 13th. The SCO is a responsibility for all that are part of it. There are bake sales, food drives, events to plan, and many more. All the people that ran for a position in student council wanted to help benefit the school in many different ways.

Many students that run put up flyers around the school with witty captions, or used social media to help promote their campaign. Other students went verbal and campaigned in the school. They asked people to vote for them. Everyone that ran had to work hard and diligently to show that they were the best for this spot on the student council.

Here are the student council representatives from each grade
6th grade: Jason Nejat (president), Luke Cronin (vice president), Alex Moradof (treasurer), and Perla Ayache (ambassador)

7th grade: Jared Ohebshalom (president), Marc Namdar (vice president), Sophia Hanover (treasurer), and Ally Katchis (ambassador)

8th grade: Avery Park (president), Jackson Benjamin (vice president), Luca Arasheben (treasurer), and Eytan Ran (ambassador)

Congratulations to those that won the elections and a great job from all the candidates that ran as well.



Can you find what page I'm on?

SEVENTH GRADERS PARTICIPATE IN TECHNOLOGY DAY

By Jason Mei

On October 14, 2016, NMS 7th graders went to Adventureland, an amusement park located in Farmingdale, NY to participate in Technology Day. Technology Day is an out of classroom experience that was developed by both the Nassau and Suffolk Technology Educators Associations for seventh grade students. According to Adventureland, the day “serves as an introduction to the Technical World, through the students’ investigation of the various rides at the amusement park. A workbook with activity sheets guides students through the learning process as they observe, record time, sketch, and calculate specific aspects of the rides.” When the students entered through those front gates, screams of joy were heard in anticipation for the excitement that awaited them.

First, students went to the *Pirate Ship*, a swinging pendulum that sways back and forth like a swing, but it's about 75 feet in the air. They learned how pendulums use gravity and motors to swing back and forth.

After that, they investigated the *Frisbee*. The *Frisbee*, like the *Pirate Ship*, was also like a pendulum, but it was also spinning at the same time. Students drew some pictures on how to make this ride safer if it instead went around in a circle rather than stopping at it's highest point.

Another ride that students got to experience was the *Musical Express*. It was like a small roller coaster, as everyone was connected, going in a circle over small hills and dips. On this ride, students learned about speed.

NMS students took a much needed lunch break, and then went back to explore the bumper cars. In addition to having a great time “bumping” into fellow students, they also learned how electricity was used safely to make the ride function.

Technology Day at Adventureland was definitely an exciting learning experience!



8TH GRADERS ZIP THROUGH ADVENTURE PARK

By Chelsea Cohen

On Friday, September 23rd and Thursday, September 29, NMS 8th graders went on a school trip to Adventure Park of Long Island. Adventure Park is full of different rope courses ending in zip lines.

Upon arriving at Adventure Park students spent about 30 minutes choosing gloves, receiving passes, and learning how to put on harnesses. When the staff members finished explaining how to use the harnesses we moved on to learn how to complete each course. There are five levels, yellow being the easiest, green, blue, black, and double black being the hardest. One of the staff members demonstrated how to unhook and hook our harness onto the safety locks throughout each course. After forty five minutes of instruction all of the groups were free to go on the course of their choice. There were many different options to choose from. Most people started with the beginner and intermediate levels.

One course that Mr. Boyt, a math teacher in the 8th grade, went on was double black. When asked how to explain it using one word he replied, “intense.” Zoe Lee, another student who went on double black used the word “exhausting.” As the level becomes more difficult climbers would get higher in the air. According to some staff member unless we were 18, students couldn't go on one level of courses!

At the end of the trip students bought ice cream and water from the park. Orange and Blue Team students had a great time. It was “a fun experience,” said Nyah Lamarre. Matthew Bloom called it, “a zip-a-magical experience.” Overall, the trip was an amazing experience for students, staff members, and teachers.



Have You Found Pokémon?

By Matthew Kwong

Pokémon Go has become a very popular application on electronic devices. It is a game that encourages players to go searching around the real world to find and capture Pokémon in order to gain points. Ever since this game has come out, people have been running up and down the street, going to building to building, all while focused on their device's screens--just to find and capture Pokémon.

Pokémon Go is a location based reality game that was released in July 2016. Players use their device's GPS signal to locate creatures called Pokémon. Most locations have some kind of Pokémon nearby, causing players to try and capture it. Easily identified landmarks have more Pokémon wandering around. These places are called *Pokestops*.

In the first four months of the game coming out, 130 million had downloaded the app. *People just love Pokémon Go!*



FIFA 17: Is it the Best One Yet?

By Leo Korman

I played the recently-released video game FIFA 17 and it is the best FIFA game by far. For those of you who don't know, FIFA 17 is the most popular soccer video game by a landslide. EA (The game's makers) made huge improvements and added many new features.

Let's start with the gameplay. In the last game, many weird things occurred and unearned goals were scored. In FIFA 17, EA limited the amount of this. Also, the graphics are unbelievable. When I was first playing, I thought Kevin De Bruyne, Manchester City star and Belgium national team star, was Kevin De Bruyne in real life!

FIFA 17 really hit the mark with their newest game mode: The Journey. It's where you play as Alex Hunter, a young prodigy trying to make it into the English Premier League with his best friend, Gareth Walker. Unlike Career mode in FIFA, there are talking segments in which (sometimes) YOU choose what Alex Hunter says. Once you make it to the Premier League (if you do), Alex starts as a substitute. The way you prove to your coach you are skilled enough to be in the starting XI is through drills and doing exceptionally well in matches.

Probably the most popular game mode is FIFA Ultimate Team. (FUT) FUT is where you make your own team with players you obtain through packs, the transfer market, and squad building challenges. With your team, you can play the computer or real people in real time. There are also special cards you can earn. These cards are rarer than regular cards, and sell for more coins on the transfer market. The most common special cards are In-Form players, which are cards with a boosted overall because they did well in their match in real life. There are also limited time cards, like Team of the Year/Season, (TOTY/TOTS) Futties, and cards that are seasonal. (e.g. Around Halloween, FIFA released special Halloween cards that get such a big overall boost on Halloween, it's scary.

In conclusion, I believe FIFA 17 is a game not to be forgotten until FIFA 18 comes out. But in all seriousness, FIFA 17 is a really fun game and can be played for hours straight without getting bored.

Movie Review

By Eddie Wong

On September 30th a movie that would make \$74,326,778 came out. The movie was called *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*. The movie was based on a book by Ransom Riggs. The movie was directed by famous film director Tim Burton. It was rated 7.1 out 10 on IMDB and was rated 64% on Rotten Tomatoes. The movie is PG-13 and is 2 hours and 7 minutes long. The movie does have some scenes containing violence, but if you are someone who loves fantasy and adventure, then this movie is perfect for you. *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* is a fantastic movie filled with mystery, fantasy, and adventure.



iPhone 7 vs Samsung Galaxy S7

By Michelle Zeng

Two new phones have arrived this year: the iPhone 7 and the Samsung Galaxy S7. Many people are torn on which one to buy, so here are some of the pros and cons of both, and you can make your decision.

In terms of display, the iPhone 7 and the Samsung are similar. The Samsung has more pixels on its display, and is better in displaying higher quality images. Both screens have the same features, except the iPhone 7 is pressure sensitive. Both phones have relatively the same dimensions and weight, except for slight differences. In terms of camera quality, it seems that the iPhone 7 has better lense quality, which is, again, not a huge difference between both cameras. The iPhone 7 has improved on its front camera quality since the last model. The Samsung has a bigger battery and a better memory than the iPhone 7. However, the iPhone 7 wins in terms of storage, with storage almost eight times the capacity of the Samsung.

One of the biggest stories that made the headlines this year was the Samsung S7 exploding. This Samsung phone has been randomly exploding due to the battery paired with chargers. However, it is unclear what is the definite reason for random explosions. The phones have been banned from airplanes, an order by the FAA and the Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). Samsung has stated that their phone explosion may cause a loss of 3.1 billion dollars or more due to ceasing of production of the phones, and the

predicted loss in business and trust in future Samsung products.

The iPhone 7 has also made headlines for its lack of headphones. Some call it progress, while some call it inconvenient. The iPhone jack had taken up lots of valuable space that could've been available for more important uses like storage or battery (the current iPhone has the biggest battery life out of all of the iPhones). It is clear that the sound quality is better when it is plugged into the lightning port, and truth to be told, the iPhone jack is an extremely old piece of technology that can be subject to changes. However, some people are attached to their headphone jacks, being easy to use and common to find, and not requiring charging. You can decide which one to purchase, but if neither sounds like a good choice, there is also a new phone from Google: the Pixel phone.

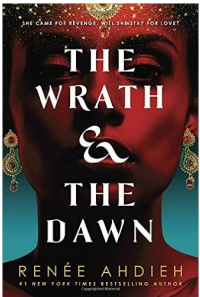


Book Reviews

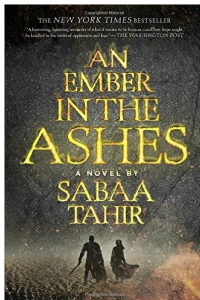
By Lynna Tsai

Have you just finished a book or series that you have loved and now have nothing to satisfy your inner bookworm? Here are some books or series that are absolutely wonderful, but are not as known.

Fantasy

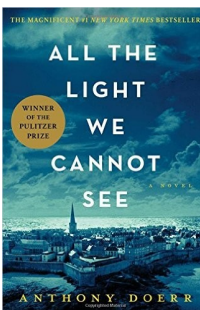


The Wrath & the Dawn by Renee Ahdieh- *The Wrath & the Dawn* is not quite known to some readers as *The Hunger Games* or *Divergent*. However, this book certainly deserves recognition. This book is about a boy-king, Khalid, who takes a new bride everyday only to have that bride executed at sunrise. Shahrzad volunteers to marry Khalid to get revenge for murdering her best friend. She soon realizes there is more to meet the eye in Khalid and the murders and is determined to find out.

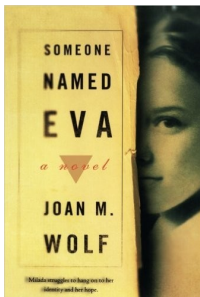


An Ember in the Ashes by Sabaa Tahir- *Lovers of Legend* and *The Mortal Instruments* series would love this book. This book is about a faraway land where the kingdom is made up of Scholars, usually the low class and the poor, and Martials, the leaders of the kingdom. Laia is a scholar and when her brother is arrested for treason, she will do anything to save her brother. Including spying on one of the Empire's greatest military academy for the Rebellion.

Historical Fiction



All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr- Historical fiction books are usually underrated and this one certainly is. This book takes place in World War II and is about a blind French girl and a German boy. Marie-Laure lives with her father in France where he works in The Museum of Natural History. When Germany invades France, Marie and her dad flees, carrying one of the most valuable jewel in the museum. Werner is a German boy and is an expert at building new instruments. This earns him a spot at tracking down the resistance. Marie's and Werner's lives collide leaving them to figure out which side to choose.



Someone Named Eva by Joan M. Wolf- This is around a 200 page book and if you are a fast reader, you could finish this in less than a week. If you are a lover of historical fiction books, this is a must read. Milada is a regular 11 year-old girl in Czechoslovakia living with her family. One day, Nazi soldiers come into their house and take away Milada from her family. She then find herself in the middle of Poland, trying to hold onto her true identity before the Nazis take away all Milada has known.

Heroes at NMS

By Rebecca Bernstein

On October 11, in the NMS cafeteria, a 6th grader started choking and two quick thinking staff members promptly assisted in saving this student's life. After being informed by a tablemate of the choking student, Ms. Halvatzis responded to the situation by immediately performing the Heimlich Maneuver. After that attempt wasn't successful, Mr. Crowley tried it again and this time it had worked.

Mr. Crowley said that he learned how to do the Heimlich Maneuver in an AED/CPR certification course and it is important to learn because teachers should be prepared for a situation like this. He also said that it is reviewed in middle and high school health classes and that signs with instructions on how to perform the Heimlich Maneuver are displayed in a lot of public areas. "I felt a huge sense of relief that the student was okay," said Mr. Crowley. Thanks to Ms. Halvatzis and Mr. Crowley, the student was saved!

NMS Welcomes Ms. Block!

6

By Chelsea Cohen

This year, we have had a few new teachers join the Great Neck North Middle team. I met with one of the new teachers in the language department, Ms. Block. She teaches 6th and 8th grade Spanish, and I asked her a few questions to get to know her a little better.

Ms. Block is a new language teacher at North who previously taught at Commack



Middle School. She's been teaching for one year, and she used to be an opera singer. As a singer, she has traveled to places around the world like Austria, Hawaii, Germany, and Switzerland. She also speaks Italian, German, French, Hebrew, and Greek. Culturally, the Spanish language is im-

portant to her because her grandmother is Cuban. Her high school Spanish teacher, whom she is still close with, is the one we have to thank for influencing Ms. Block to become a teacher. When asked why she became a teacher, she said that she wanted "to help [her] students to become good people."

Fun Facts About Ms. Block

Growing up, Ms. Block had a turtle, two lizards, and two dogs.

Her favorite color is yellow, the color of happiness.

Her favorite place she has visited is Barcelona.

Her birthday is on June 9th.

Her spirit animal is a fish.

She majored in voice and Spanish at Indiana University.

She has an older brother.

Her favorite moment so far has been her first day at school.

Ms. Block hopes to teach students about cultures and Spanish-speaking communities around the world.

What's New in the News Room?

Reporter Leila Bakhshi talks to Mr. Crowley about Blazer's Live Second Year on Air

What makes this year's Blazer Live better than last year's?

What makes it better is that practice makes perfect. So since last year was the first year of Blazer's Live there was a lot to learn for me and the crew. This year is a little bit easier because we have a built in crew and I don't have to recruit so many kids to create a team. I have seventh and sixth graders that returned as eighth and seventh graders from day one. This had made this year easier and better.

What do you like about being the producer of Blazer's Live?

I like seeing where student interest lies, so I find it interesting that right away the kids gravitate towards the control room or they want to be on camera, which happens really quickly.

What don't you like about being the producer of Blazer's Live?

There is a certain amount of pressure because we do have to produce the show every single morning. So sometimes that could be difficult if there are lots of students absent on a particular day, if there are a lot of students late, if there is a field trip and a lot of students can't make it early. So, part of being producer that I don't like is when I'm light on crew and more of the responsibility is on me and it won't be as much of a student-run show.

Is there anything you would still want to make better in Blazer's Live?

Everyday we could be a little bit better. As far as the segments, I'm not really sure we could make it better, but we could make it different. It all really comes down to the fact that we only have ten minutes from 8:20-8:30, so there are many cool ideas but it is a matter of if we really have time to execute them in our ten minutes. So, one thing I would really like to do to make it better is adding more video content to the stories that are being presented. For instance, if we are talking about a sports result I would love to be able to show a video of that game, match, or meet. Same for weather, anything we could add a video to I think will make it better.

Do you have a bigger crew for Blazer's Live this year?

I think last year compared to this year might have been a little bit bigger, at first. But then I saw those numbers drop towards the end of the year, whereas this year it's been really consistent. Day to day we had the same crew showing up. Also, what I would say though is there is a higher percentage of sixth graders in our crew this year compared to last year.

Now that you have more experience, do you think the show is running smoother than last year?

I would say at this point

compared to last year we are definitely running much smoother. There are some bumps in the road, some technical stuff we need to overcome and there is certainly always room for improvement. But comparatively to last year we are doing very well.

What does Blazer's Live teach your crew?

Blazer's Live teaches the crew specific technical skills, as far as operating the camera, the sound board, how to use the Tele-Prompter. But I think the bigger picture is to learn as a team, communicate, collaborate, and come together to work on one goal. So, the bigger picture is to learn the skills to work together with communication and collaboration.

Is Blazer's Live still open for people to join?

Blazers Live is open to all students to join throughout the whole year in room 205 and is an open door policy. I think the biggest hurdle is that you are required to be there by seven thirty in the morning, so if you are able to get there early then you are able to join!

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By Ethan Chiu with Alice Liu

Our school supports the American Cancer Society by participating in Relay for Life. On October 21, NMS students handed out pink ribbons to support Breast Cancer Awareness month. Teachers and students also wore the color pink to bring awareness to the important cause.

Handing out the ribbons is just one of the many ways NMS is raising awareness to the important cause. Cancer is a term used for diseases in which abnormal cells divide without control and can invade other tissues. Cancer is not just one disease, but many diseases.

Eight grade students have also been learning about breast cancer in their health classes. Recently, a speaker came to inform them about the disease and explained the importance of doing self-checks.



SPORTS

The Comeback Kids: 8th Grade Girls Soccer

By Avery Park

Last year, the 7th grade girls’ soccer team conceded most of their games, but what a difference a year has made! Scoreboard for the Blazers 8th Grade Girls Soccer:

Blazers vs Clarke: 0-1

- Blazers vs Roslyn: 4-0 (goals from Lauren with two, Avery, and Madison)
- Blazers vs Carle Place: 5-0 (goals from Madison with two, Avery, self-goal, Lauren)
- Blazers vs Finley: 1-1 (goal from Lauren)
- Blazers vs Wheatley: 2-0 (goals from Vicky and Lauren)
- Blazers vs Mineola: 1-2 (goal from Vicky)

Most of the girls noticed the big improvement over last year and were very encouraged by the outcome of this season’s games. Coaching this season’s team was Coach Cheng who came from Baker and set up the player positions as follows:

Lauren Tehrani/Liora Tamarin (striker)	Madison Yousefzadeh/Danielle Hassid (striker)		
Charlotte Kamali/Sara Elyassian (left mid)	Lenora Sharif/Charlotte Asher (center mid)	Avery Park (center mid)	Ariela Hakimi/Dani Cohen (right mid)
Chelsea Cohen (left defense)	Melody Yazdan (center defense)	Vicky Varkonyi (center defense)	Liel Ezroni/Kailey Nasrolai (right defense)
Danielle Itzhak (goalie)			

Some of the girls attributed the team’s success to the tough but rewarding daily practice which consisted of running three laps around the soccer field, line stretches, stretches in the circle, running drills, and scrimmages. Kailey Nasrolai commented: “Some days might have been really hard but we still made memories.” Ariela Hakimi echoed similar sentiments: “We push ourselves but at the end of the day we have fun.”

Some of the girls attributed the turnaround to teamwork and pushing each other to improve. Charlotte Kamali commented, “We would work together as a team and our coaches would always give us constructive criticism on what to improve.”

Sadly, the fall season is coming to an end. Liel Ezroni expressed this sentiment: “It was a really fun experience getting to play soccer everyday after school with all of my friends.” Though the whole team enjoyed the winning season, there’s always next fall for more soccer wins. Congratulations Blazers on an amazing season!

The Curse is Broken!

By Harrison Rich

Would the Chicago Cubs win their first World Series since 1908 and break their curse, or would the Cleveland Indians win the baseball championship after their Cavaliers just won the NBA finals? Some people, like myself, predicted the Cubs might have the upper hand because of their stronger hitting and we were right.

The Chicago Cubs beat the Cleveland Indians in 7 games to win their first World Series in 108 years. In an epic game 7, the winning hit came from Cubs second baseman Ben Zobrist to give the Cubs the lead. The game ended in the bottom of the inning, when the Cubs third baseman Kris Bryant threw the ball to first base for the final out on a ground ball. This game was only one of five to go into extra innings in game 7 of the World Series and will forever be known as one of the greatest baseball games of all time.

What had to happen for the Cubs and Indians to get this far? The Cubs were victorious over the San Francisco Giants, 3-1, in the National League Division Series before beating the L.A. Dodgers 4-2 in the National League Championship Series. Meanwhile, the Indians swept the Boston Red Sox, 3-0, before knocking out the Toronto Blue Jays in 5 games.



Changes Abroad for the New York Rangers and Islanders

By Oscar Wostenholme

After a thrilling season and postseason the New York Rangers and Islanders got ready for the upcoming season. Over the summer the teams replaced the old players and brought in new guys with more speed, skill, and strength.

The New York Rangers had a strong season but were no match for the Pittsburgh Penguins in the playoffs. During the offseason they traded F (forward) Derek Brassard to the Ottawa Senators in exchange for F Mika Zibanejad. They also picked up Harvard prospect and Hobbey Baker award winner Jimmy Vesey. They also acquired F Brandon Pirri and F Michael Grabner from free agency.

The Islanders had an impressive season and an even more impressive postseason. They battled to make the playoffs and managed to make the second round. Despite their efforts they lost to the Tampa bay lightning in five games. During their time off they released many core players including F Kyle Okposo, F Matt Martin, and F Frans Nielsen. However, they also picked up new players like Andrew Ladd and Jason Chimera from free agency.

With these new additions both teams hope to have a successful season and an opportunity to be Stanley cup contenders.



NBA: Is the preseason a predictor of regular season success?

By Brenner Yellis

The NBA is a time for teams to get to know each other and adjust to new playing styles. It is also a time for fans to finally watch their favorite teams again.

During the preseason, there were some surprises in terms of the Standings, and how well each team played. The top 5 teams in the standings were the Golden State Warriors, at 6-1, Atlanta Hawks, Boston Celtics, Houston Rockets, and Minnesota Timberwolves. The second through fifth place teams all tied with a record of 5-2. One of the big surprises was the Timberwolves’ record, since they were only predicted to win around 40 games. If they had a winning percentage of .714 in the regular season, they would win around 58 or 59 games, which would guarantee them a playoff spot. The top 3 scorers were Raptors Shooting Guard DeMar DeRozan with 21.2 points per game, Warriors Small Forward Kevin Durant with 20.9 points per game, and James Harden with 20.2 points per game. The Top passers in the NBA Preseason were Rockets Guard James Harden with 10.7 assists per game, Clippers Point Guard Chris Paul with 7.8 assists per game, and Pelicans Point Guard Tim Frazier with exactly 7.0 assists per game. The top rebounders were Pistons Center Andre Drummond with 14.6 rebounds per game, Nuggets Center Jusuf Nurkic with 10.7 rebounds per game, and Heat Center Hassan Whiteside with 10.3 rebounds per game. Heat Center Hassan Whiteside and former Knick and current Bulls Center Robin Lopez tied with 2.3 blocks per game, and Pacers Center Myles Turner and Jazz Center Rudy Gobert tied with 2.2 blocks per game. In steals, Wizards Point Guard John Wall, Clippers Point Guard Chris Paul, and Heat Point Guard who was later released Briante Weber tied with 2.4 steals per game.

The more local teams such as the Brooklyn Nets, finished with a 1-5 record. Point Guard Jeremy Lin lead in Points, Assists, and Steals with 17.2, 5.6, and 1.4. Power Forward Trevor Booker lead the team in rebounds with 6.8. Combo Guard Isaiah Whitehead lead the team with 0.7 blocks. For the Knicks, Forward Carmelo Anthony lead with 16.2 points per game. He also, unsurprisingly finished 9th on the team with 1.6 assists per game. Center Joakim Noah lead with 6.0 rebounds per game, and Brandon Jennings lead with 4.0 assists per game. Kristaps Porzingis/Porzingod had 1.8 blocks per game, and J.P. Tokoto had 2.0 steals per game.

So far the Nets are off to a bad start and the Knicks are winning about half of their games.