

# The Bulldog Bark



Advisor: Mr. Barnes

Principal: Mrs. Chamberlain

*Your Middle School News Unleashed!*

Spring 2015

## Going to bat for the team

*Behind the eyes and cleats of the 'athlete' mentality*

By **Brianna Schuck**

*Team 8*

For many, being on a team is nothing more than a bunch of other people who want to play the same sport. However, there is much more to it than that.

It is my 10 other sisters and I competing for the love of the game. Without them, I don't know where I would be. Being on a team really played a big part and helped shape me today.

Throughout the nine years that I have been playing softball, I have been on many different teams of all ages, including the three I am on now. Each team has taught me many things, but more than just the game. From being on the field playing our hearts out and seeing each other at our worst times, to living the dream and spending time together, being a part of a team, or *family* as we say, is an amazing opportunity.

Over the years, I have faced many fears and problems that I

wouldn't have gotten through without my team. My confidence issue was huge and impacted how I performed on and off the field. I couldn't read a line from a book aloud to my class, nor could I



stand out on the field. I knew I'd have to face my fears eventually, but I couldn't have done it without the help of my team, and a few others, too.

Going up to bat, my teammates would remind me to have confidence in myself, and one girl even had a little chant. Well, it sure did help. After that, I began to be comfortable with batting and being on the field. However,

it didn't just help me on the field, it helped me in class and in the real world, too. Soon, I was OK with reading aloud and in front of my class, and now, I enjoy it. My amazing teammates helped me so

much and taught me that there is much more to life than waiting for the perfect pitch; take what you can get before you can't play at all.

Confidence wasn't my only issue, though. My teammates helped shape my character more than one could imagine. I always thought that I was never going

to get anywhere in life because I was too quiet and shy, so I simply just didn't try.

I let everything get to me, which on the field, it led to mental errors. My coaches would remind me that I am overthinking and lacking confidence; meanwhile, my teammates were there to pick me back up. They taught

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# TEAM — One for all, all for one

## Team, from page 1

me not to be afraid and to have enough courage to do things. They also taught me that anyone can do anything, you just have to get up and do it for yourself, you won't get anywhere letting someone else do it for you.

Being a part of a good, close team is something many will fail to understand until they can relate. It's an irreplaceable bond that we have that is most meaningful.

Each of us has our own unique qualities that bring us close. For example, we all love to fool around and enjoy our time together, but we know we have to train like an athlete to *be* an athlete.

We all know our limits and still enjoy many laughs of our oblivious moments. As for Brooke, our bond is larger. Yes, she is bisexual, and no, it is not "weird" or "different." Being bisexual is completely OK, in fact, it brings us closer. There is no need for anyone to make fun of someone because they like the same sex.

I see it all the time in the halls and online, but why should it matter to you? Just let them be who they want to be as they let you be who you want to be. There is no such thing as one being "different." Maybe they aren't exactly like you, but no one is. That's the beauty in the world. We all have our own personalities

and hobbies, but none of us deserves to be treated like we do not belong here, nor should we be treated like we are not equal. We all have equal opportunities and can choose what we do with them. If one is gay or lesbian, let him or her be. Not agreeing with

you find out who your real friends are. Many times you will feel invisible due to the terrible things said, but with the right support, you will get through it."

No one truly knows what anyone is going through, so don't make fun of anyone and stand by



their decision is one thing, but putting them down and making fun of them is ridiculous. I cannot stand hearing and seeing someone make fun of another for liking the same sex. It is brutal, hurtful, rude, and inconsiderate.

Rest assured I am not the only one who feels this way, as I heard from a few others who are gay. Eliviere Delora once told me that "there are a lot of prejudiced people in the world, some that will hurt you, insult you, and generally go out of their way to make you unhappy if they know you are gay or lesbian, which is when

those struggling. Receiving support from friends and family is one thing, but receiving it from coaches and teammates is even better. I am very close to my teammates and would do anything for them, as they would for me. Although I just met them back in August, it feels as if we have known each other forever.

From having endless conversations late at night, to playing the game we love, my teammates are my family and I wouldn't trade them for the world.

# A.C.E. Team scores four out of eight

By Katherine Custer  
and Catherine Shelly

*Team 8 ACE Ladies*

What is this ACE you speak of? First, it stands for Academic Challenge Eighth. Basically, we are a team of six intelligent students competing against other schools to see who is the smartest. Our Northern Lehigh team consists of our director, Mrs. Lieberman, Cole Cheesbrough, Jason Check, Catherine Shelly, Noah Myers, Madison Hoffman, and myself, Katherine Custer. At the competition and practice, we do our best to answer challenging trivia questions that are geared

toward eighth graders.

On Feb. 22, 23, and 24, we competed against seven other school districts at Northwestern Middle School. Northern Lehigh did its best and earned fourth place out of eight schools. Channel 69 News even had us on camera! All in all, the ACE competition was a great event to participate in for not only myself, but our team. We thank Mrs. Lieberman for everything that she has done for us! (Catherine, especially,



**A.C.E. Team — Katherine Custer, Catherine Shelly, Madison Hoffman, Jason Check, Noah Myers, Cole Cheesbrough.**

thanks you for the snacks.) Also, I want to thank all of my teammates for their hard work and dedication to this. I know the 2015-2016 ACE Team enjoyed this experience and wishes next year's team the best of luck.

# N.L. Food Bank keeps the hungry fed

By Maggie Reitz

*Team 7 Barker*

One of the most incredible people in our community is someone you probably will never meet. His name is Rev. William J. Ritzenthaler. For this article, I decided to interview him. He described to me what he does for our food bank, and many other food banks. This is the information I got from him.

“We’re a collection ministry. Volunteers go pick up food on their own time. We pick it up in large quantities using semi and 26-foot trucks. We get food from places like Wawa, Weis Markets, Giant Food Markets, Olive Gar-

den, Red Lobster, Outback Steakhouse, Chipotle, and Pizza Hut. Those are just a few places and



restaurants we collect from. We also pick up from B&G, Trader Joe’s, Snyder’s of Hanover, Ore-field Cold Storage, Amazon Host, and Bimbo bakeries. We collect from warehouses as well. We collect approximately 700,000 pounds of food per year. Weekly, the ministry receives 40 to 70

trays of bread. Local volunteers pick up the donations on Monday and Wednesday. We supply salad, snacks, chicken, ready-made foods, candy, pizza sauce, cold cuts, and lots more! Donations are kept in three locations.”

It’s incredible to think that all this work is going on without us really knowing it’s happening. The Food Bank helps all those that are in need. So I just wanted to give them a big shout-out! Thanks to everyone in the community who donates their time to others. If you are ever in trouble, I’m sure you can turn to the food bank. If you have some free time I am sure they would be happy for your help or donations.



# They Were Cool About Manufacturing



Congratulations to the Northern Lehigh School District students who won the Outstanding Videography Award in the 3rd annual *What's So Cool About Manufacturing?* student video contest. The team consisted of (from left) Cole Cheesbrough, Madison Amorim, Madison Davis, Dale Wanamaker, Jason Check, Reagan Pender and Mr. Christopher Bennett. Not pictured: Piper Fehr, Madison Hoffman. Teams from Carbon, Lehigh, and Northampton County school districts participated in the contest. The team was assigned Atlas Machining and Welding, Inc. to research, interview and film for a two-minute video that captures "What's So Cool About Manufacturing?"



## Organ Donors Share Stories With Health Classes

Chris and William Hankee were guest speakers to all eighth-grade Health classes to teach our students about organ donation. Mr. and Mrs. Hankee are retired Parkland elementary teachers and William is a graduate of NLSD. Their daughter, Krysta, passed away unexpectedly in her early 20's but saved many lives by having the organ donor designated on her driver's license.

# Lady Dawgs chomped this year's competition

*NLMS girls basketball team shows pride on the court*

By **Kristen Guelcher**

*Team 7 Baller*

I had an amazing time with the girls basketball team this season. We had lots of laughs and we played awesome basketball. All the girls were so nice to each other and we always cheered each other on. There isn't enough time in the world to explain how much I absolutely loved our coaches. Some practices were tough, but it always paid off in the end. I can't wait to play again next season!

On our team we had five eighth-grade players: Jada Mills, Maddie Amorim, Jade-Amber Cool, Tia Horack, and Lauren Hoffman. We also had nine seventh graders: Maddie Seier, Hailey Evans, Riley Griffith, Shaina Mazzocca, Leaira Collins, Bree Hoppes, Natalie Keller, Erica Detweiler, and of course, me. We had a great season with the A team record being 16-3. They played fabulously and I couldn't be prouder of what they accomplished! The B team didn't do as well but in our defense, seven of the nine players played for the first time this season. Our record ended up being 2-17, but I know that we tried our hardest and played our hearts out. We, as a team, improved so much, it's unbelievable.

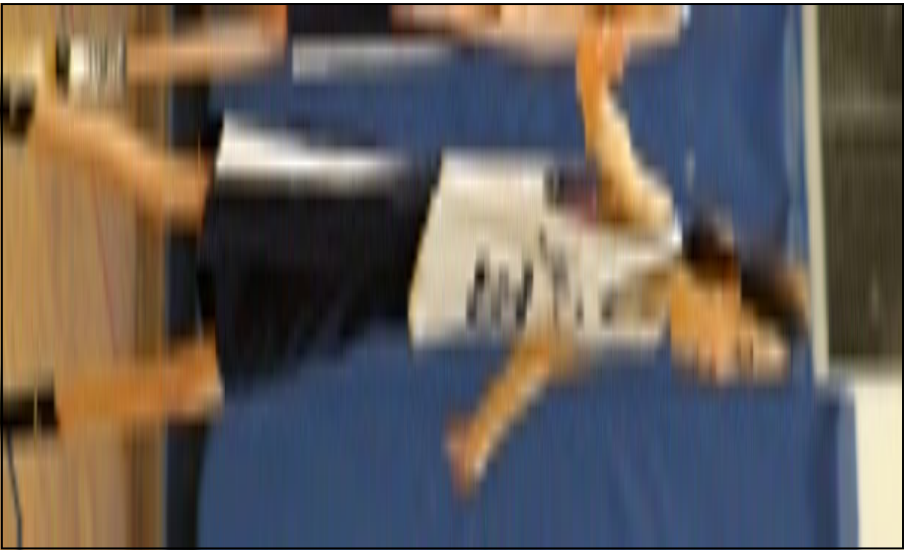
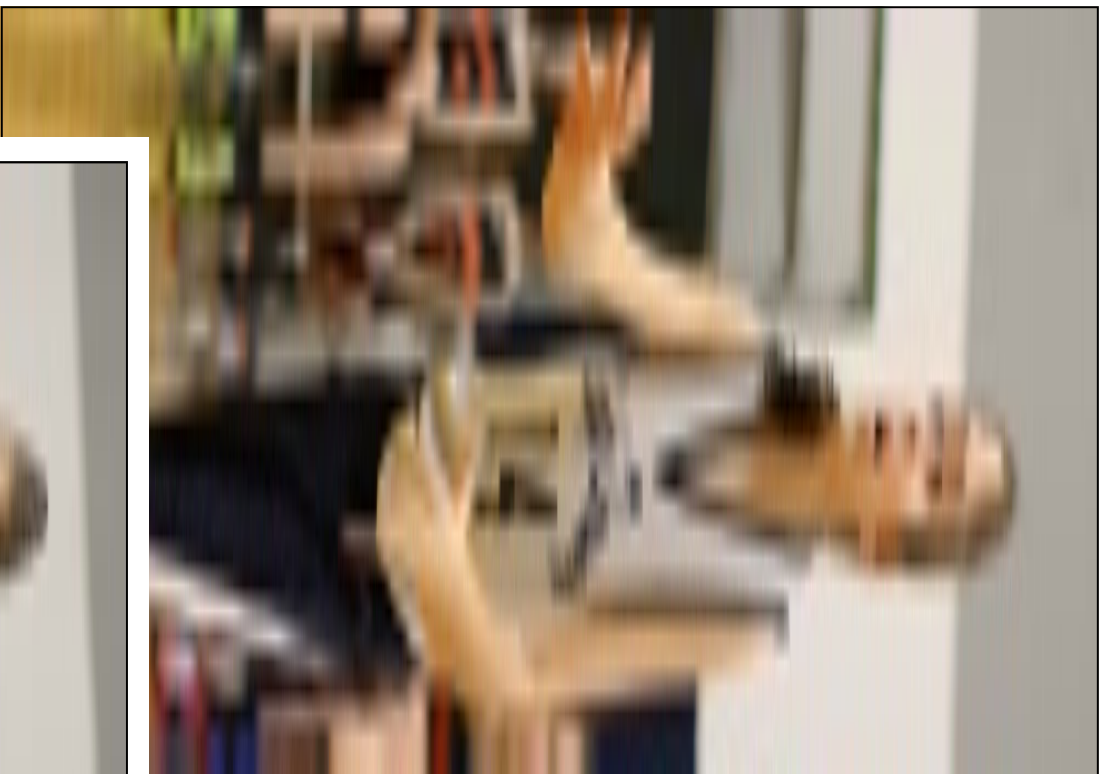
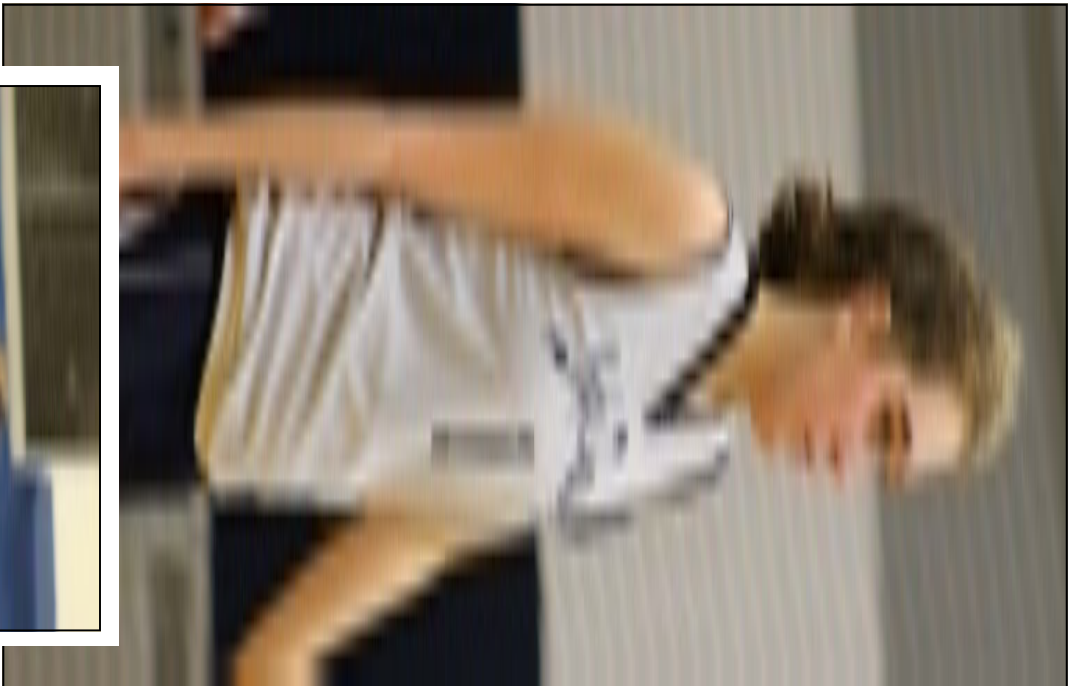
Enough about girls basketball. The boys basketball team has a lot of talent and even though they didn't have the best record, they tried tremendously. The wrestling team also had a very successful season. I don't know much about wrestling but from what I have heard, they all did a great job. Overall, all of the winter sports worked their hearts out and it was exciting for fans to watch all the teams play.

I am so excited to start off the spring soccer season. It'll be so much fun to play back with the team again after playing on a league team in the fall and winter. I would like to say good luck to softball and all the other spring sports this season. I can't wait to see how all the sports do this spring and to see how many victories we get. I'm happy to be able to acknowledge these sports but especially my basketball team. I had so much fun this year and I can't wait to have twice as much fun next year!

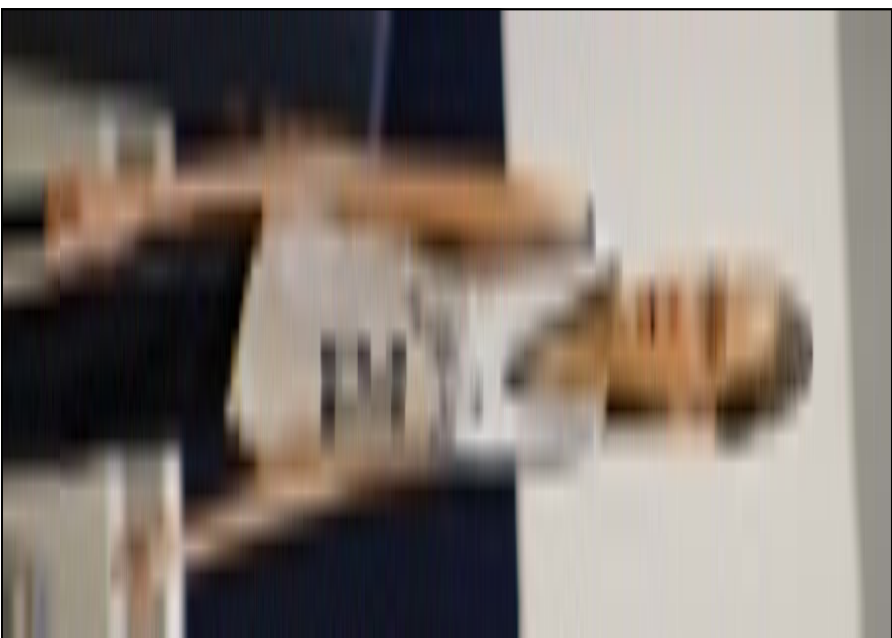


**(Top) Lauren Hoffman and Natalie Keller took their skills to the court this season. Photos courtesy of the Yearbook.**





(Clockwise from top left) Madison Seier, Shaina Mazzocca, Kristen Guelcher and Breanna Hoppes. These Lady Dawgs came to ball. Photos courtesy of The Yearbook.



# Creativity helps our minds come alive

By Sabrina Grabarits  
Team 8 Creative Mind

Do you know how good it feels to have an idea before killing my brain to think of one? Well, it feels great. Anyway, I thought of this in class one day. I was thinking, *'Why is there no creativity here? Why are we told what to do?'* (Well, we're told what to do because the school would be a mess, but that's besides the point. Hush yourself.) *'What happened to all the creativity?'* And I still think that.

What happened to all the creativity?

Besides Mr. Barnes, you don't get much after that. (Cherish him young seventh-graders. Next year, you'll understand why my friends and I freaked when we saw Mr. Barnes at chorus...) So, what happened to

it? You get a very, very small dash here and there, but it's gone. For those of you out there going, *who cares? It's just writing.* Creativity isn't just writing, it's numerous things.

Now before you go insane, most of you, if not all of you, do creativity in some way. Writing music, writing stories (long or short), drawing, painting, dancing, maybe even singing, etc. All of it. So now hush your questions because you know that I am right. Ok? Good.

So why do we need it? Because we do. That's it. End of article.

Not really. I'm sorry. I need

my own fun. So let me answer that now. Why do we need it? Oh my, for so many reasons. I won't list them all, but I'll do a few.

How many of you like music? Any kind. Pop, heavy metal, country, dance, screamo, hip-hop, etc. All of you? Thought so. People had to be creative to write those songs. (Most songs. Some are just plain stupid.) Artists and songwriters had to put their



minds to work and made these songs for you.

Drawing? Yeah, I like to do it every now and again, but I am terrible at it. Bad. But I've seen some of your drawings, seventh and eighth graders, and they're pretty good. I know that when I sit down to draw I have no clue what to draw. So I know that this takes creativity to do. Some of the time, I'd never seen anything like that was on that drawing. I'm impressed.

Maybe painting? Yeah, not my thing, but it could be yours. Sometimes, I think that it's pretty boring to look at paintings, but

when you think about it, it's really not. They had to be creative to use the right colors to make it look good and they had to be creative to come up with something to paint.

Writing stories. (This is me!) You need to be creative for this. You have to be able to think of new ways to end a story. New ways to start one. New character names. You have to be creative to find words that will make it better and you have to be able to keep a reader's attention. (I'm not that good at that...) You need creativity for that.

Plus, creativity allows kids to express themselves in ways that they can't. Maybe people (like me) aren't all that good with their words. They have a hard time saying what they want. Possibly, there could be other reasons. Like they can't relieve stress easily or things like that. Being creative allows them to be themselves.

Obviously, there are more ways that you can be creative. Ways that I haven't listed. So many things had to have creativity or the entire world would be boring. People would even be boring and probably really mean sometimes because all they're doing is being told what to do. Think about that for a moment if you think that creativity isn't important.

# Rocky Balboa— A champion movie character

By Aurora McGovern

Team 8

This is really hard for me. I enjoy watching movies, mostly horror, and the movies I watch have a lot of amazing actors and actresses playing great roles. One Direction made two movies, but I won't count them as actors... this time. Sorry, had to throw something *One Direction* in there.

Anyway, back to movie characters and who is the best. I don't think I can pick a greatest movie character because there are so many. All of the characters are amazing in their own ways, but I got this... I hope.

This is a really hard choice. There are so many movies with so many phenomenal characters with so

many different personalities. While knowing myself, I might pick a horror movie character like Robert Englund, Freddy. Don't judge me. How do you pick the greatest movie character of all time?

OK, so after many days of thinking, I have come to a conclusion. I have, in my own opinion, found the greatest movie character of all time. Are you ready? Are you sure? OK, the greatest movie character of all time is... **Rocky Balboa**.

Rocky, throughout the whole movie, works for what he was asked to do, and he would do anything for it. That's a good message. Work hard for success. Another thing: When he is in the ring,

**See Rocky, page 9**



## NLMS health / community happenings

**The Northern Lehigh Community Center will sponsor a new class for this area... Tai Chi.** Tai Chi, often called, "meditation in motion," is a discipline that integrates mind, body and spirit as you practice a series of slow moving martial arts exercises, called "forms." Tai Chi increases strength and promotes calm and harmony improving the flow of energy in the body. Classes are a combination of group and individual instruction. Perfection and refining techniques is essential in

the study of this art and you will be working at your pace to achieve your personal best. Remember to wear loose-fitting clothing. You can attend just one session or all eight classes. This class will be taught by Mr. William Merkel and will be held on Tuesday evenings 7 to 8 p.m. at the Northern Lehigh Middle School gym. The spring series of eight classes begins on April 5 and ends on May 24. Cost of each class is \$5. Contact the NLCC at 610-760-0300 or

email [nlcommunitycenter@gmail.com](mailto:nlcommunitycenter@gmail.com) to pre-register. You may come to a class and register.

**The NLCC is still collecting "moo caps"** from Turkey Hill milk products as a fundraiser. You can drop them off in the canister at the counter of the Slatington Turkey Hill.

**Students can also sign up to be swim lesson** volunteer assistants this summer. See Mrs. Raber for the information.



# Laughter needed daily to survive

By Reagan Pender

*Team 8 Laughter*

Medicines come in different shapes, sizes, and forms. Some medicine you get in forms of solids, such as pills, others in liquids, and some in gases. Gas?

Yes, a kind of gas known as laughing gas. No, I am not talking about the laughing gas you get at a dentist when they are trying to put you to sleep. I am talking about actual laughing gas that you get when you are talking with your best friend or laughing at a joke a teacher said.

Back to the medicine subject, medicines were made to help people feel better, right? You might take medicine in the morning to

prepare you for the day, such as vitamins and allergy medicine. Sadly, it's that time of the year again for allergy medicine. When you take medicine in the morning, doesn't it make you feel better the rest of the day?



That is what laughter does to you: it strengthens your immune system, boosts your energy, diminishes pain, and protects you from effects of stress. Think

about it: have you ever been really upset about something, then start to talk to a friend or a teacher, laugh, and then felt all better?

Now, granted, depending on your mood, you may have to laugh more than once to feel better, but still, what a difference it makes! Everyone needs laughter in his or her life. Without it, people would be a lot different than they are now, and more than likely, not in a good way. Laughter binds people together with happiness and intimacy. In other words, it brings people together and strengthens the relationships they have. So make sure you get your daily dose of laughter every day, because it will make you feel better inside and out.

## Rocky! Rocky! Rocky! Still standing

**Rocky, from page 8**

he keeps getting knocked down. At some points, Mickey tells Rocky to stop, get out of the ring. He lost, but Rocky kept getting back up, time and time again. Another good message: never back down, especially when you want something.

I'm surprised at myself. I didn't pick a horror movie character, and I didn't pick *One Direction*. I think because we watched *Rocky* in Mr. Barnes's class, and he told us how Rocky would never back down, and we saw he wouldn't back down, it made my mind up. If we wouldn't have watched Rocky in Mr. Barnes's class, I wouldn't have picked him. I most likely would have picked Freddy, and I don't think some people would want a person who murders teens in their sleep as the greatest movie character of all time. So, thank you, Mr. Barnes. OK, so I have to mention them in here at least three times so... One Direction! Okay, bye.



# Is it hard to find our voice as a teen?

*You have the tools to get the best of the world*

By Reagan Pender

Team 8 Teen

Everyone in our school has one thing in common: we are all teenagers. It doesn't matter if you are still 12, you became a teenager the second you walked through Northern Lehigh Middle School's doors on the first day of school. So, since we are all teenagers, we can all understand and relate to this article.

We all have someone at home that takes care of us, may it be a parent, grandparent, or guardian. A lot of people even have siblings too. When you go home, can you freely talk about what you think or believe, or do you get beaten down with insults or the famous saying, "you're wrong"? Or, are you just not even listened to?

We all go to school as well. Some people might think school is the worst seven hours of your day, others think school is a safe haven for you to get away from your home-life. If you feel you can't find your voice at home, can you find it in school? Can you freely talk about what you think or believe to the teachers and your friends? Some might answer no, but some might answer yes. If you answered no, you seem not to be listened by anyone. Not being listened by anyone contributes to

kids bullying other people, self harm, or even suicide.

**Bullying:** In many environments today, such as school and home, kids experience bullying. You mostly hear about people getting bullied at school, not so much at home, but that doesn't mean it doesn't happen. Bullies

burning, bruising, drinking harmful things, and basically anything that would cause damage to your body. Doing things like this are not good; it can lead to more self-harm or even suicide. (If you or someone you know is self-harming themselves, talk to a trusted adult/counselor.)

**Suicide:** Suicide is a very sad but true reality in today's day and age. Suicide occurs when teenagers get so depressed because nobody would listen to them or they feel all alone; they feel like they have to take their own life. (If you ever feel this way or know somebody who does, *please* go and talk to Mrs. Brown so she can help you through it.)

So, again, I propose this question: Is it hard for teens to find their voice? In my opinion, it is. There is so much gunk going on in the world we live in today that it makes it hard for teens to find their voice because they might feel they have nowhere to look for it.

I encourage you, if you feel that way, to help out in an animal shelter, play sports, do whatever you have to do to try to find your voice. Don't give up and let the world win. Don't let the world get the best of you, get the best of the world.

tend to express their anger in ways that are hurtful to other people, such as hurtful words or physical contact, mostly because they have been hurt before and like to make other kids feel the way they do. Bullying can lead to self-harm or even suicide. (If you are being bullied, you need to tell an adult so they can step in and help you with this problem.)

**Self-harm:** Many teens today self-harm themselves because they don't think they feel anything (after being beaten down so many times), so they harm themselves to make sure they can still feel. Forms of self-harm are in cutting,



# How does music sing to our lives?

*Songs across all genres create the human soundtrack*

**By Sabrina Grabarits**  
*Team 8 Music Lover*

So I've been thinking. (Shocking right? Me, think? That's funny.) We have all these different genres of music and all these different music artists. Think about it. I bet you can think of at least five right now, just off the top of your head. Let's see what we have...

In genres, there is Alternative, Christian Rock, Gothic Rock, Electronic Rock, Hard Rock, Indie Rock, Punk, Blues, New Age, Opera, Classical, Jingles, Country, Country Gospel, Electronic, Hardcore, Techno, Swing, Hip-Hop, Rap, Gospel, Christian Rap, Jazz, Indie Pop, Karaoke, Reggae, World Music, R&B, Singer/Songwriter, Dance, etc.



Then you've got all these music artists. One Direction, Fall Out Boy, Sublime, Jeremy Camp, The Beatles, Devour The Day, Queen, Carrie Underwood, Casting Crowns, Michael Jackson, Skillet, John Lennon, Black Veil Brides, Matthew West, Big Time Rush, Frank Sinatra, Paul McCartney, Panic! At The Disco, 5 Seconds Of Summer, John Legend,

Mamas And The Papas, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Coldplay, Guns N Roses, Bon Jovi, Family Force Five, Elvis Presley, AC/DC, The Goo Goo Dolls, Nickelback, Daughtry, Green Day, For King & Country, Boston, Imagine Dragons, Billy Joel, Michael Buble, Shawn Mendes, The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, etc. That's only a few.

Think of all the songs out there. What Makes You Beautiful, Respect, All My Loving, Jailhouse Rock, Beat It, Reckless, BZRK, Sweet Child O' Mine, Band On The Run, She's Kinda Hot, Iris, Savior, Hey Mickey, Riptide, Pompeii, Irresistible, Sweet Home Alabama, Every Rose Has Its Thorn, Livin' On A

**See Music, page 13**

## Becoming friendlier with 'Friends'

**By Trent Herman**  
*Team 7 Friend-natic*

"Friends" premiered on September 22, 1994, and ended on May 6, 2004. That's 10 years of one of the most beloved classics of all time. It was created by David Crane and Marta Kauffman.

Monica Geller Bing, which is my favorite character, is portrayed by Courteney Cox. She's a chef that obsesses over everything and

is a clean freak. Monica struggles with relationships through the first three seasons. However, in season four she and Chandler Bing get together. This leads to a mar-

**See Friends, page 12**





# Inside the relationships of 'Friends'

## Friends, from page 11

riage in season seven. Monica discovers that she can't have children so Chandler and she decide to adopt twins in the last episode named Erica and Jack Bing.

Rachel Green is played by Jennifer Aniston. She leaves her own wedding, because she realizes she doesn't love her soon-to-be husband, Barry. While she's on the run, she runs into her best friend from high school, Monica, who takes her in. Rachel was a spoiled, rich, and naive person at the time. She gets her first job at *Central Perk Café* and has that job until she receives a job as an assistant at a place called *Fortunata Fashions*. This is a clothing store. The next two jobs she works at *Bloomingdale's* and *Ralph Lauren*. These are also clothing shops. Rachel has an off-and-on relationship with Ross Geller, Monica's older brother. She ends up getting pregnant with her first-born daughter Emma. This would be

Ross's second child.

Phoebe Buffay Hannigan is played by Lisa Kudrow. Phoebe is a masseuse and a self-taught musician. She had a rough childhood. Her mother commits suicide in uptown New York. Then Phoebe went to the streets. She seems very ditsy, although street smart. She is creative as can be. She writes her own songs and performs in *Central Perk Café*. Her identical twin sister, Ursula, is selfish and uncaring, unlike Phoebe. Phoebe also has a brother named Frank. She is a surrogate mother to his triplets. Alice is Frank's wife but unfortunately can't have children. But, they turn to Phoebe for help. She then gets married in season 10 to Mike Hannigan. In the last episode they talk about having children to start a family.

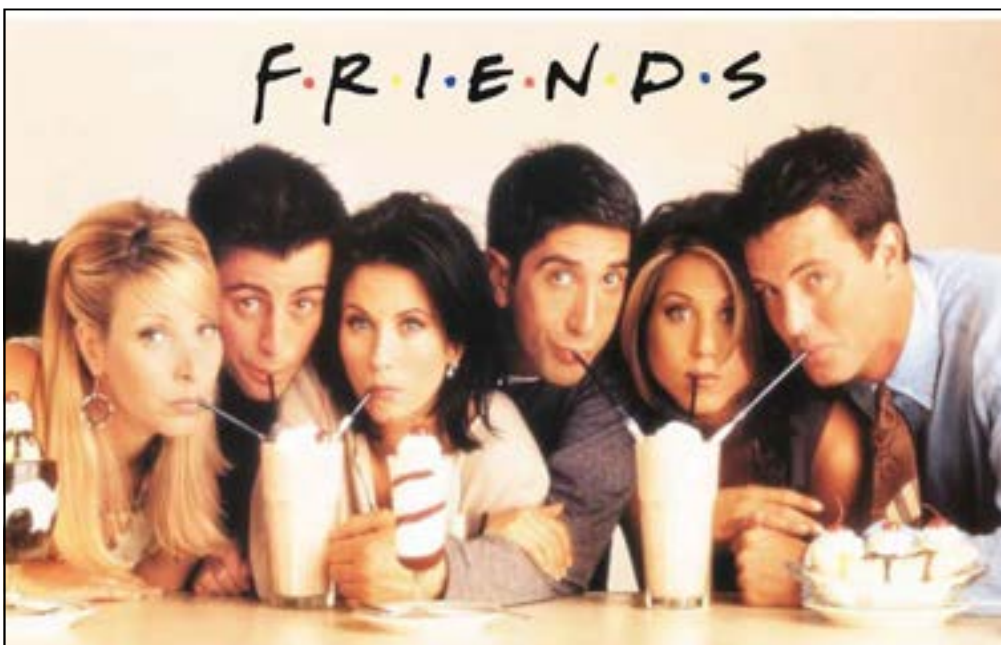
Joey Tribbiani is played by Matt LeBlanc. He's a struggling soap opera actor who plays Dr. Drake Ramoray in a TV show called *Days of Our Lives*. Joey is

well-known for the catch phrase "How You Doin'". He comes from an Italian family. That explains his huge appetite. He is a very caring person who allows Rachel to move in with him when Chandler moves in with Monica. He falls in love with Rachel in season eight. However, this romance doesn't last very long.

Chandler Bing is played by Matthew Perry. He's an executive in statistical analysis and data re-configuration for a large corporation. He then quits his job and becomes an advertiser during season nine. He's known for his sense of humor and tends to make many sarcastic quips. He marries Monica and adopts twins. Before his romance with Monica started, he dated a woman named Janice Hosenstien. She is so annoying but adds comedy to the show.

Finally, Ross Geller is played by David Schwimmer. He's a paleontologist that gets divorced three times and has two kids. His first divorce is with his ex-wife Carol. He has his first born son with her named Ben. His second divorce is with a British girl named Emily. They get a divorce because he says the wrong name at the altar. Instead of Emily he says Rachel. His third divorce is with Rachel. They accidentally get drunk in Vegas and elope. When they get back from the trip they get a divorce. He also is the father to Emma, Rachel's daughter.

In total there have been 236 episodes in 10 seasons. *Friends* is one of the most popular shows today because of its huge success.



# Music is the healer and leader of our emotions

## Music, from page 11

Prayer, Who Am I, Zombie, Superstar, Before He Cheats, Sweet Caroline, Clocks, California Dreaming, All Of Me, Imagine, Uma Thurman, Hello My Name Is, Fix My Eyes, More Than A Feeling, Footloose, Haven't Met You Yet, Mighty To Save, In The End, I Write Sins Not Tragedies, Perfect, C'mon, Demons, It's Still Rock And Roll To Me, Sick Of It, Aftertaste, 99 Red Balloons, etc.

Whew. Look at all of that. You can't say that there's nothing to listen to or whatever. I mean, when you're listening to the radio and all they play is commercials... \*Cough\* B104. \*Cough\* OK, now maybe you're asking yourself, *what is this?* Gimme a minute. I'm explaining. Let's get into it.

When you're upset, what do you do? Most of you probably listen to music. What do you do when you're happy? I listen to music there too. Mostly everyday, I listen to music. Maybe you do too. And definitely the mood we're in *changes* our taste in music. Or maybe it's just me, but when I'm sad, I tend to listen to slower songs. When I'm happy, I listen to upbeat songs. If you're like that, sweet! I'm not alone.

How defensive are we over our music tastes and bands/singers we love? Very. Extremely defensive. I know that when someone makes fun of my fandoms, my mood changes so fast. I get extremely upset with people, but because of the way I am and how people tend to ignore me, it doesn't matter to most. I know

I'm not the only one who does that though. My friends get mad and some of them stay mad on the inside. Plus, one day in English class, we were going over a paper. It said something about how we didn't need color or mu-

do. When we're bored, we usually listen to music. We watch music videos and search for lyrics. Music also starts fandoms and obsessions. It starts with a good song. You look up the lyrics. Then you look up the band/singer. (Or you



sic. Mrs. Flip was saying something about how we didn't need either of those. Most of the class went into a whole uproar about how we couldn't live without music. Then one person got us to quiet down and said '*Listen. There's no music playing. We're still alive. We can live without music.*' They were wrong. If there was no music anymore, I don't think most of us would be any fun to be around or anything. We'd be constantly aggravated at something or another. I mean, if there was no more music, I don't know what I'd do.

Music gives us something to

look up the band/singer then lyrics.) Then you listen to other songs, telling yourself you won't get obsessed. Then you look up funny videos, music videos and BAM. You have a new obsession. And when there are new videos to watch, they keep you occupied. See, it gives us something to do and something to keep us out of trouble. (Warning: Joining a fandom will limit your sleep and the time you spend outside.)

It can even change our day.

**See The Song Goes On,  
page 14**

# The beat goes on and on and on

## The Song Goes On, from page 13

When I listen to music in the morning, it usually makes me happy and my day is pretty good. (Until annoying people ruin it.) Singing throughout the day keeps me smiling, even when I don't feel like it. If I'm having a bad day, I listen to my music to try and make it better. I use music for when I'm cleaning to keep me entertained and doing something. Music is a big part of our lives.

OK...so let's get a little more serious. Music helps us through a lot of things. I know that it has helped me in a lot of ways. Recently, I just lost my best friend. My other friends aren't really friends. There are a few that still are, well...I'm only really close to two of them. I've gotten closer to a friend that I made a little over two and a half months ago. He's gone through things like that. We're almost polar opposites but we're still really close. We can relate to a few things and music is one of them. Music helped and is helping me a lot through this. I've turned to bands and singers like One Direction, Casting Crowns, and Jeremy Camp. These bands/singers have helped me a lot. I haven't really been myself for about twoish, threeish months now. (You might not have noticed, but that's fine. I don't tend to show it.) I've tried to keep everything to myself, tried not to bother people. It's worked for them, not for me. So I told one or two of my still close friends. I also

used these bands/singers. When I've gone through other hard times, I'd use these songs. I remember days I'd be laying in my bed with my headphones in, music blasting as I was crying. The music distracted me for a little while and made me feel better.

Still on the serious topic (I promise it won't stay much longer) I'd like to say how else music has helped me and possibly others. I saw this one picture that said something like *"The world tried to mess up teenagers and bands were like, what the heck? No."* It's a great picture because it's true. Maybe I've listed one of your favorite bands/singer and you know exactly what I'm talking about. For the people that self-harm, please get help other than using music. It'll only help so much. But, for people that do self-harm and feel really depressed, they throw themselves into their music.

That leads us into this, that I really want to say before I end this article. Guys, seriously. Please don't make fun of anyone's fandom. *Well, their fandom really is stupid!* No, it's not. Not to them. Maybe it might be to us. Maybe we don't like that they listen to Zayn Malik or 5 Seconds Of Summer. But did you think that that band or singer has 'been there' for them? Maybe their life was falling

apart and that singer or band member or band was the only thing keeping them here? Personally, I've felt like that myself. So please, please don't hate a fandom at all, even if it isn't music related. (Which I won't get into as this is a music article.)

A quick side note: if you have a favorite band or singer and peo-



ple make fun of you because you weren't there from the beginning, ignore them. People have told me that too and I learned that being a fan doesn't mean you've been there since the beginning, it means you'll be there until the end. You're just as important in that fandom as that other girl (or guy) that was there since the beginning.

So that's it for this article. I don't know if you can relate to most or any of it. But if you can, that's really great! Now you know why some of us are the way we are a little more.



# doghouse fiction



## Taking a Terrible Turn: Pt. 3

By Sabrina Grabarits  
Team 8

“Mom's not coming home...” “Why?” He looked down. “She's at the hospital...in critical condition.” My heart stopped. No, not my mom. Not her. “What the heck happened?!” Tears rolled down Derek's cheeks. “She just wanted to run to the corner store to get milk...” He wiped his eyes. “And some idiot hit her with his car.” I'd almost never seen my older brother cry. I got up and hugged him tightly. Mom was his rock when Dad left us for some younger stupid, blonde girl. Derek used to be super close to Dad. I, on the other hand, was closer to Mom, but I loved my father. Derek's arms wrapped around my small

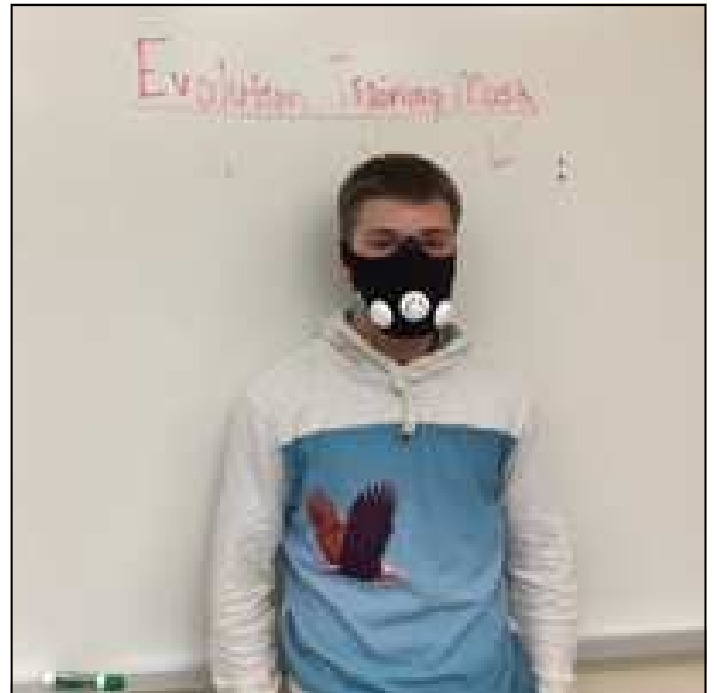
figure tightly as he cried against my hair. I didn't cry. I couldn't. I was too shocked. He was making it hard for me to breathe, but when it would finally slap me in the face, I would be a complete mess. “Let's go!” I felt bad for yelling because Derek immediately pulled away. “We're going to see her. Now.” He sniffled and nodded. “I'll drive,” I said and took his arm, taking him downstairs.

In the car, I was going way over the speed limit. I was only 17, barely able to drive. Derek was 19, but couldn't right now even if he tried. (He failed a year and was graduating this year.) When we made it to the hospital, I was shocked that a police officer didn't pull me over. I flung open my door and basically dragged Derek out of

the car. He wasn't really doing anything by himself. We (I) burst into the emergency room and rushed to the desk. “Elizabeth Ruby Star. Is she here?” The girl at the desk looked up at me, chewing her gum slowly. “Is she here?!” She blinked. “I need a name,” she said with a Southern drawl. “I gave you a name, is she here?” Her name-tag read 'Courtney.' “Elizabeth Ruby Star, is she here?!” She blinked and scrolled through names on her computer. I leaned over the counter. “This is my mother,” I whispered only to her. “My mother is possibly dying and I need to know right now.” I was basically growling. “Elizabeth. Ruby. Star. Is she here?” Fear was visible on her

**See Turn, page 16**

### Student Art by Lillian Fine



**Dale Wanamaker presented his new mask trainer in Mrs. Raber's health class to improve his oxygen levels for his sports.**

# doghouse fiction



## The Terrible Turn Continues...

### Turn, from page 15

face as she looked at her computer. "Y-yeah. Room 47. Down the hallway to the left..."

Derek was first into the room to see Mom laying in bed. A nurse looked up at us. She seemed to have just come from schooling. Tears were in her eyes. "She won't make it..." Her voice was soft and she looked away. I walked up to the nurse and she looked back at me. I was taller than her, but she was obviously older. "What?" I glanced at her name. Marissa. "Your mom won't live, sweetheart..." A tear ran down her cheek and she quickly left. This time, my own eyes glistened with tears. She didn't look the best. I walked over to her. Her eyes were open, but she wasn't looking at anything. Her once bright blue eyes were dull and dark. Her black hair that was always neat was now a tangled mess. Tears were now rolling down my cheeks. Derek was behind me. "I love you Mom..." That was all he managed to say before he turned away. "Mom?" Her eyes never moved, never blinked. "I love you Mommy...I tried to be what you wanted. But I-" A long, continuous beep filled my ears. Doctors and nurses got Derek out, but I forced my way to stay. The doctors were yelling all these terms that I didn't know. A nurse grabbed my arm. "No!" Tears streamed down my cheeks. Another nurse grabbed my arm. "NO!" They pulled me back. "NO! MOM! NO! NO NO NO NO!! MOMMY!!" They finally got me out and I was still struggling as I cried. I felt Derek's arms around my waist, turning me to face him. "SHE'S GONE LACY!" He yelled at me as tears streamed down his own cheeks. "She's...gone..." I shake my head. "No..." I collapsed into his chest and cried.

The next day, I felt hands shaking



me. I bolted up. "Mom?" Deep brown eyes that were red from crying met mine. "No..." Derek looked down. "I don't know if you're going to school, but I am. I think Mom would want that..." I nod and wiped my cheeks, getting ready for school.

At my locker, Kayla came up to me. "Hey! I ju-" She froze when I looked at her. "What's wrong..." I burst into tears. "My mom died." She hugged me tightly. James came up too, giving me a hug. I wish I could care more about it. Soon, it was just me and James in the hall. I wiped my eyes. "Sorry...you're late." He shrugged it off. "I was gonna ask you something...but..." I shake my head and force myself to attempt a smile. "Ask away." James bit his lip. "I was gonna ask if you wanted to be my girlfriend." "Even now?" "Even now." I said yes, but I should have said no. I should have run then. He hugged me and kissed my head. "Come on, I'll give a brief reason to the teacher." I was lost the entire day because I couldn't pay attention to anything. I wasn't even excited that James, my crush of four years, and I were a couple.

At the end of the day, Kayla came to my locker and hugged me again. "I'm so sorry." I nodded a little. I wish it weren't true. The nerd boy walked by my locker as I was leaving it, so we ended walking out together. His shaggy black hair was covering his blue eyes. They weren't like James's bright, piercing green eyes. His were a dull, dark blue. But they were so pretty, even though I'd only seen them two or three times. Derek was already outside. He turned to me and gave me a smile, or what tried to be one. He started walking up to me when I heard a few of the popular girls scream and a loud bang went off. Derek's face twisted in pain and he fell to his knees. "DEREK!" I ran up to him and knelt in front of him with the black haired boy on my heels. "Not today Derek...please," I mumbled. My voice was so soft, barely audible. His reactions were slow and his eyes trailed up to mine. "L-Lacy..."

**TO BE CONTINUED...**



# N.L.M.S. Wrestling



Photos Courtesy of the Yearbook



Tyler Lindsey gets ready to grapple.



(Clockwise from above-left) Jaqiem Graham goes for the take-down. Joey Abidelli fights for a submission.

(Left) Friendly banter from the bench... (we assume).

Thanks to the Yearbook for Picture Sharings



# Mr. Meixsell's Science World Erupts



(Left) Barry Hausman returns for the volcanic experience. (Above) Zach Moyer's experiment explodes!



(Left) Matt Peters, Zach Moyer and Hunter Evans play "Mad Scientist." (Above) Brice Dye waits in anticipation of Tyler Sherman's lava-flowing masterpiece.