

The Bulldog Bark



Advisor: Mr. Barnes

Principal: Mrs. Chamberlain

Your Middle School News Unleashed!

Spring/Summer 2015

Relay for Life 2015



Eighth-grader Jamie Knerr was joined by Miss Zeiser (high school teacher) and Ms. Case at this year's Relay for Life, May 2, held at Bulldog Stadium.

Time flies, thanks to a great year

By Quinton Mack
Team 8

To my fellow classmates...

For starters, thank you. Thank you to all the faculty and students for making my middle school years ones I shall never forget. It was a wild ride from the first day to where I am now. Throughout this whole journey, I've made friends, lost friends, had my

See Quinton, page 8

Civil Rights movement shines for Team 7

By Katherine Custer
Team 7

On Thursday, March 12, Team 7 got to see a play by the Bright Star Touring Theatre Group.

I liked it and learned some things from watching it. This was a really neat play because you can *see* the history, not just read it. I hope everyone else thought it was good too! The play was about the

American Civil Rights Movement and how African-Americans fought for it. They called this performance "Let It Shine!" This is from an old song that the two actors said African Americans would sing: "This Little Light of Mine." People today still sing it, usually in church or Sunday school, as a little kid (Like me when I was smaller!)

Two actors portrayed many famous African-Americans who

stood up for what they believe. Today, we take our freedom for granted: we can drink from any water fountain, attend any church, school or restaurant, and we have the freedom of speech. Back when people with colored skin couldn't vote, say what they wanted to, or even sit in a seat with a white person, they were very thankful for the things they had. We should be, too.

They Got Team Spirit!



Congratulations to the Northern Lehigh School District students who won the Outstanding Team Spirit Award in the 2nd annual *What's So Cool About Manufacturing?* student video contest. The team consisted of high school teacher/coach Chris Bennett, and 8th grade students, Cheyanne Yandle, Dylan Derkits, Lexi Meckes, and Katie Yesik. The team was assigned the AmcorPet Packaging company to research, interview and film for a two-minute video that captures "What's So Cool About Manufacturing?"

Bulldogs are there for those in-need

Annual 'Homeless' campaign receives ample donations for local families

Danyel Rex

Team 7

In February, Northern Lehigh Middle School completed its annual "Have a Heart for the Homeless" campaign where donations are given of school supplies and bathroom products for homeless Lehigh Valley teens and their families.

"The many, many boxes collected are already in use," said Mr. "Rooster" Valentini, who works with the Allentown School District to distribute all items to teens and their families. "It's amazing how generous, caring and giving people can be."

I asked where he got the idea to do this job. His answer was, "About 25 years ago when I realized how many people and children needed homes.

"My favorite part of the job is being able to get them to go to school the next day and to encourage them to get a job or work even harder."

Although Mr. Valentini loves helping people and loves his job, there are parts about it that he dislikes. For example, while helping a client and they disappear and he has no communication with them. He also dislikes the fact that clients he helps may get bullied, judged harshly and that a

lot of the younger kids think their lives are the way they are because of themselves.

On a positive side, Mr. Valentini likes to know that he encouraged people to get out of bed and do something for the day and to feel "normal." He also enjoys seeing people's faces when he gives them donations and when he tells them that "the donations are from real people that care about you."

"I'm not doing anything special," Mr. Valentini said. "I just do the right thing. Everyone deserves a chance. Everyone deserves a chance to be treated with kindness and respect."



Hooray for Hausman, recipient of award

Congratulations to Barry Hausman! Barry was the recipient of an educational award for students with intellectual disabilities. He was honored at a celebration luncheon and accepted his award at the Best Western Hotel and Conference Center in Bethlehem on March 26, 2015. Barry's mom and dad, his grandparents, his aunt and uncle, Mrs. Farole (pictured), Mrs. Chamberlain, Mr. Michaels, and Mrs. Dotta also attended the awards ceremony to support Barry's accomplishments. As a special treat, FeFe, the Iron Pigs' mascot also attended the banquet. Northern Lehigh is proud to have Barry Hausman as a student!

What lives behind all our make-up?

By Madison Hoffman
Team 7

One thing that has been bothering me for a while is why women wear make-up. One of my friends once asked me if I wore make-up and I answered "Sometimes," and his response was "Why? You don't need it. Girls don't need any make-up."

Ever since then I have been asking myself that question. The truth is that girls don't need make-up. It is just a mask that hides your true identity. It just covers up who you are.

Most people – mostly men –

don't know the real reason we wear make-up. Well boys, you are about to find out. Some of us wear make-up for ourselves because we think that it makes us look good and it makes us feel confident. On the other hand, there are the other girls who wear make-up for other people.

We think that we're ugly and need make-up to look pretty. We do it so other people will like us so that we don't get bullied or made fun of. If you are



See Make-Up, page 4



Brandon Moll and Jaclyn Hollenbach erupted with smiles during Mr. Meixsell's recent volcano experiment. Each student is assigned a volcano to research and required to fill out a data sheet and map, do a packet, and make a poster. For extra credit they can build their volcano.



Trying the make-up-free challenge

Make-Up, from page 3

wearing make-up for other people and to be liked, that's preposterous. Just don't wear make-up and let people accept who you really are.

Another reason is because of society, which tells girls that in order to look pretty, it means that you have to wear make-up. Not only does society tell us that we have to wear make-up to look pretty but society also tells us that

a beautiful woman is a skinny woman, that you need plastic surgery to enhance your features or that you need to be born with those features to be accepted.

Society, in most girls' eyes, is like a rule book to them. We think that we need to follow those rules until every last detail to fit what society's image of beauty is. And really, beauty means nothing. Sure, it's nice to be beautiful but what should matter is your personality. So instead

of judging someone on their looks, judge them on their personality.

Because of this, I would like to propose a challenge. For the remainder of the school year, try coming to school without make-up on your beautiful faces.

And realize just how awesome, beautiful and amazing all of you are. And remember, girls, you are beautiful and don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

Just like the pros do it

NLMS 7th-grade softball player hits homeruns on Phillies' field

By Brianna Schuck

Team 7

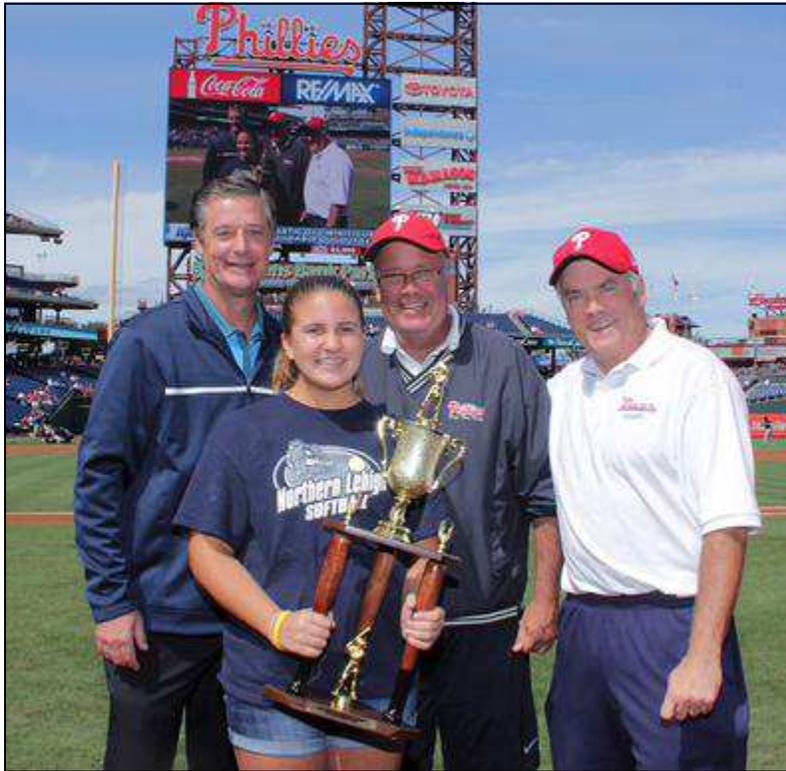
The Home Run Derby is an event that the Phillies hold every year. The age groups range from 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12 year olds.

The first round begins at the beginning of May. Jon Jaquin, the manager of the event, travels to 10 different fields for 10 weeks. (The first round ends at the end of June, and it takes two months to get to every field.)

The event is held at your local field. If you're interested in competing and you're between the ages of 7-12, you're welcome to go to your local field the morning of the event and sign up. During the event, if you get a fair ball, it's 1 point. If it was a far, fair ball, it was worth 2 points. If your ball passed 130 feet, it was a homerun.

You get 10 pitches off the pitching machine. This past year I decided to participate in it for my second and last time. I attended the fields along with a majority of my team. We waited until it was our turn to compete, along with the rest of our age group. After most of the girls went, it was finally my turn. There were only about four others after me.

Once I was done, I heard the announcer say that I had a total of 28 points and I was in 1st place by a long shot. That took a lot off my shoulders, considering the fact that a lot of people were there. A lot of my friends who weren't in it came to watch me. That made me really nervous because I didn't



want to do really bad and embarrass myself. Once everyone was done, they announced 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

I came in 1st with 28 points, 2nd place had 16 points and 3rd place had 15 points. We all gathered in the outfield of the other field to listen to what they had to say. The people who didn't place had an opportunity to win free tickets to a game, a t-shirt, a bob-

ble head, a signed ball, etc. The people who placed got their plaques last. The younger age groups went first, so we had to wait longer. Finally, it was 11-12 year-olds' turn.

First to receive their award was 3rd place, then 2nd place, then, finally, 1st place. I was so happy and proud of myself, a lot of other people were too. The Home Run Derby Regional Finals was only for the three who placed in each age group. It was held on August 2nd, 2014.

Anyone in the area that couldn't make it to their own was allowed to attend ours. There were five of us in the ages 11-12, and I went last. The pressure was building up because the girls were really good. As they announced my name to go up, everyone on the bench started wishing me luck because they knew I could do it.

That prepped me a lot and took a lot off my shoulders because it made me realize that I really could do it, especially if others thought I could too.

When I was done, they announced that I had a total of 25 points. Then, they announced the other scores. Finally, they told us who was in 3rd, 2nd and 1st

See Home runs, page 6

Home run derby on a professional field

Home runs, from page 5

place. Third place had 12 points, 2nd place had 18 points and 1st place had 25 points. I then figured out I came in first place. That meant I was moving on to Philly.

We all went out on the line and received our plaques, plus papers indicating we participated in it. I was really happy and nervous for what I had ahead of myself. Jon, himself, came up to me and told me I'm a really good softball player and he can't wait to see me down in Philly. As it was time to go, a lot of people came up to me and congratulated me.

But I truthfully don't think it hit me that I won until I got home. The Home Run Derby Finals were only for the 1st place winners. Out of the 10 places he visited and 10 girls who won, seven of them showed up. The finals were held in Philadelphia at the Phillies' stadium (Citizens Bank Park) on September 14, 2014. We had to be registered by 8:00 in the morning.

It was super cold in their dugout, but I made a lot of new friends, we stretched, stayed warm, and we had a good time together until it was our turn to compete. The little girls went first, then the middle-aged girls, then

finally our group. I went second, which was different for me because I went toward the end for the other two.

I ended up with only 14 points. Two other girls got a higher score than I did, and one tied



me. That meant we had to go again to see who could beat each other. This time, I ended up with 21 points. That put me in a better mood because knowing I only had 14 points wasn't the best. Then, the girl who went after me had 24 points.

Then after her, she had 22 points. Therefore, 1st place had 24 points, 2nd place had 22 points, and 3rd place had 21 points. We played on the field at home plate and everything. Not

to mention, it was so cool! We went out to take a picture with our trophies on the field immediately after we were done competing. I came in 3rd place in the finals, and if you ask me, that's not bad considering that nearly 25,000 people participated in it from the start.

There were three Northern Lehigh students that placed down in Philly, 4 total that made it to Philly. Five that participated at Walnutport. Jordyn Hemingway, Brianna Schuck, Luke Wanamaker, Cole Serfass, and Blake (I don't know his last name.)

Jordyn, Luke, Cole and I all came in 3rd place. Blake, sadly, didn't place. Since we four placed, at the beginning of the game, we went down on the field in front of everyone that was there and

we were presented our trophies.

Jon Jaquin, his brother, and a retired Phillie are the three who presented them to us. We were on the field as they were warming up on the field, while some remained in the dugout. We were right in front of the dugout, so we got to see everything; the fans, the coaches, the players, our parents, etc.

One of my favorite parts

See Schuck, page 7



My BFF, since 5th grade

Every day you see Mrs. DeBias hanging out with me. Here are some things about her: Mrs. DeBias lives in Washington Township with her husband, Ronnie. Her favorite baseball team is the Yankees. She loves orangutans because they are cute and silly, just like me. When Mrs. DeBias isn't working she likes to go on vacation to Ocean City, Maryland. She likes to walk on the beach and spend time with her grandchildren: Molly, Mason, Lucy, Trapp, and Mia. Mrs. DeBias has been my BFF since fifth grade.

By Barry Hausman

Hitting on MLB field helped build confidence

Schuck, from page 6

about this experience was that I got Carlos Ruiz's signature. I'm a catcher when I play and so is he. He's my favorite player, and I always wanted to meet him. I saw him warming up on the field in person and got his autograph, so that was close enough for me. I also got to talk to Grady Sizemore, and Dominic Brown waved to me.

I was on the big screen multiple times and my name was announced over the loudspeaker multiple times. After all of that, I even got to watch the game for free. I'll never experience anything like that again, but I'm glad I got to end it like that. The next day when I came home, I found out the Phillies posted my pictures on their Facebook page, Twitter page and their main team page.

Over break, my mom received an email from Jon. Sure enough, it was a holiday card with even more pictures of me from the Home Run Derby. I'm definitely never going to forget this wonderful experience. My coach-at-the-time's wife came along with my mom, brother and dad to cheer me on. Knowing I had people all the way down in Philly to cheer me on helped me a lot. I knew I had some fans back in Slatington, too. One of my best friends, Alicia Horn, was down there to watch both Luke and me, and knowing she was there and was super proud of me helped me so much.

A lot of people ask me if I was nervous, and truthfully, if one isn't nervous during an experience like that, then they shouldn't even be there. Before every game, or standing in the batter's box my

second time up to bat that game, puts a hole in my stomach. If you aren't anxious and nervous to play, why even bother? It's not the same feeling I once felt when I was younger, but of course there's always that little feeling that everyone should get. It's just part of the game.

This was a great experience for me, and it really helped me realize that anyone can do anything that they really put their mind to. A big thanks to everyone who has put their time into helping me excel in softball. All of my coaches, teammates, friends, my parents, friends' parents, etc. It means so much to me.

Quick shoutout to my best friends, teammates, teachers, family, coaches, and classmates for helping me build my self-esteem and for being there for me. Without any of them, I couldn't have

Reflecting on 8th grade, prepped for 9th

Quinton, from page 1

highs, and, of course, had my lows. In the end, it was all worth it though. I'm proud to say that 7th and 8th grade have had the biggest impact on me.

These two years built my character more than all the others combined. In all honesty, I've changed a lot from my exposition to middle school to the home stretch of 8th grade. Some of the friends I have now I'll remember for years and years to come. Some of the memories I made in this very building will be taken to my grave with me.

It seems like yesterday I was stumbling through the hallways trying to find my next class only to be helped by other students or the teachers themselves. (The lockers weren't exactly easy at first either!) With time I learned to be more patient with my surroundings. I strived to form a stable aptitude for as many subjects as I could.

Some classes weren't easy, yet I grew to just live and cope with it. Northern Lehigh Middle School taught me many things, one of them being responsibility. It was my task to keep up with my busy schedule and keep my locker clean. It wasn't always easy, but somehow I scraped by. Another thing I learned was pride.

In my opinion, the best aspect of our school was sports. I

took it upon myself to try my best at any extra-curricular activities. From intramurals, to NJHS, to soccer, even to this very newspaper program, I gave it my all every step of the way. One last thing I took from this experience was academic achievement. The classes that I went through were very involving and vivid. I always learned something new that I didn't know the day before. The teachers were always adapting to every specific class of students and, by far, they did a great job.



Let's take Mr. Herzog for example. If there's one thing he taught me, it was respect. He was always honest and fair with us. He made us work and try to get the right answer. He told us just how the world works. He always made the point to us that life isn't always fair. He gave me a basis on how life would always have its ups and downs. Mr. Herzog made it his job to make respectful, prideful, and all-around-responsible students out of all of us. And not just him.

All of my teachers did an extraordinary job putting my life in the right direction. Shout-outs to all my teachers who guided me on this incredible journey. I admit, some of the students I encountered were just plain knuckleheads, but I would never let them drag me down with them. I always thought to myself that they

just haven't found their way yet and they would soon turn their lives around.

Some of the people I met really had a big impact on my current outlook on the world. Although some questioned my ethics (like the "DernSure" scandal), I worked together with those people to achieve one common goal...to survive. Thanks to them, my character overall has improved substantially. I'll be the first to admit it, but I wasn't always such a good guy. Some of the decisions I was forced to make, I regret still today. Sometimes I even questioned myself if I could do *good* in the world, but because of the guidance from all the people here at Northern Lehigh Middle School, I knew I could make a good impact on this very big planet.

Because of all you good people, I am who I want to be right now. I put my education in your hands and you did the best that you possibly could. All of you have put me on the path to greatness. I am proud to say that I am a Northern Lehigh Middle Schooler. High school will be a totally new challenge, but I have confidence that I will be able to conquer this intimidating feat thanks to all your support and guidance.

So once again, thank you Northern Lehigh. Thank you for all that you've done for me. I look forward to my future, thanks to you.

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

Seventh-grade swimmer qualifies at Junior Olympics

Ben Lehman, on Team 7, has been a U.S.A. swimmer for about two years and seems to be naturally comfortable in the sprint events and his two best strokes are freestyle and breast stroke. He has competed at many places including Penn State, Bucknell and the University of Delaware. He currently swims for the Northampton Swim Booster Club. He swims with Northampton as much as he can – usually five days a week, all year long. When he was 7, his competitive swimming began at Victory Park Pool summer swim team (Northern Lehigh Lightning). The Junior Olympics were held at G.C.I.T. in Sewell, New Jersey, on March 12-15. He would have qualified for the District XI championships held a few months ago and would have finished about 16th in four events against the best high school kids in District XI.



Volunteer Fire Company promotes involvement

By Kristian Carwell

Team 8

Emerald Fire Company has had one truck for 16 years. The truck's number is 621. It is our tanker. Emerald got an engine truck in 2011 but might be considering selling it.

Our company is growing so fast that we need to get a bigger rescue pumper. Our tanker holds 2,500 gallons of water and the engine holds 500 gallons of water.

The station's number is 6. Emerald had an old tanker along with 621 – it was 612. The engine's tools are spreaders, cutters, brush tools, hoses, air packs and a chain saw. The tanker's tools are a deck gun, generators, K-saw, axe, high-rise air pack, halogen light, foam tanks. Another truck we have is Squad 7, unit 651, which holds barricades, cones, hoses, lights, flares.

Being an Emerald firefighter, I risk my life to keep others safe.

Emerald's four-wheeler is mostly used for mountain brush fires. The tanker is mostly for housefires or commercial fires.

The 651 truck is used for fire police, pumping water out of basements and barricading roads. I have volunteered with Emerald for four years. Emerald also has back-boards for patients in car accidents. Emerald covers most of Washington Township. Emerald had the tanker longer than one of our old trucks that was 612 – used mostly for fires or car accidents.

Emerald does fireworks to raise money and for the community. Emerald also does coin tosses that help to fund the fireworks. Some of the money goes to upgrade the trucks, too.



When you first start out with the fire department, you are considered a Junior or Probe. Emerald is one of the smallest fire companies around but it keeps growing.

Emerald has more guys than we need but it helps on a big call like a house fire. Most of our guys don't show up for any calls once in a while.

Fire practice is every Wednesday.

See Emerald, page 10

Did You Know? My year-end version

By Sabrina Grabarits

Team 7

Ok. So you know I love to write and my articles can get pretty long. But Mr. Barnes said I could write about anything my little heart desired.

Well, within limits, but still. I didn't want to get killed writing another One Direction article and I didn't really want to write about other famous people. I wasn't really in the mood to write about smoking again, even though it's still an issue. So I've been thinking about what I wanted to do.

Which was kind of hard because all I'm really thinking about

is writing my Mystery Project paper, but I always have time for the Bulldog Bark. Anyway, so here I am, sitting at my computer thinking of a topic.

Since I was stuck on writing, I thought about writing a topic on writing but how far would that get me? I thought maybe self-image, but I don't know how good that would be. I'd be on that since I'm having a really hard time on my own. (Maybe I'll do that one later...) And that topic lead me to bullies but I don't know how to help on *that* topic either. So what now? Me. The one who is *always* writing...is out of ideas. I'd put one of my own stories in here, but

no one wants to read those things.

I'm serious. I have absolutely no ideas. (Crazy, right?) I thought about not writing one but pshh. I'll get past my writer's block for this!

As I went through all my ideas that I couldn't write because I didn't know how much or good I'd be on it, I came up with this one. I thought to myself 'Why don't I write a topic about weird questions?' So I looked up some questions. These first few....they don't really have answers. They are just funny questions to think about.

See Sabrina, page 11

Protecting and serving Emerald and beyond

Emerald, from page 9

day night from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Most of the time we train on pumping and rescue. Other times we use the back-board for training. Emerald also has a Speedy Dry on 611, 621 and 651. That is used to clean up oil from car accidents. Emerald also uses cat litter for oil spills.

The deck gun is controlled from inside the cab of the truck. If Emerald needs to, we take all three trucks out at one time. Emerald's chief is Keith Kibler and the captain is William Kibler. One of them controls the call or both can control the call at the same time.

I "baby" Truck 621 because I basically grew up with that truck from the time it arrived until now. I still baby that more than ever.

So Emerald is basically one very good company. That is why I will not leave Emerald to go anywhere else. You can join when you turn 14.



3rd for Poster



Andrea Compolo, of Team 8, placed third for her poster in the annual Organ Donor Coalition Contest. She received her award on April 16 at the Banana Factory. Andrea made the poster for a health class project.

Allow me to make you think

Sabrina, from page 12

But I will have questions that have answers to them. Enjoy!!

If money doesn't grow on trees, then why do banks have branches? Why does quicksand work slowly? If vampires can't see their reflections, then why is their hair always so neat? In the song Yankee Doodle, is he calling the horse or the feather 'macaroni'? When does it stop being partly cloudy and start being partly sunny?

At a movie theater, which arm rest is yours? Are eyebrows considered facial hair? These questions are kind of funny and make you think a little, right? Now, I will give a question with an answer and see if you knew it. Alright?

Why does gum get all mushy and soft? Don't you hate when that happens? Because then it's all gross and nasty. But there is really no way to stop it. According to an old wives' tale, gum is fully digestible. Some types of gum are more easy to digest, especially sugar-free types. And you have digestive enzymes in your saliva. Some people's spit is more acidic than others, so, putting everything together, certain types of gum mixed with more acidic saliva means nasty and disintegrating gum.

Why are Hershey's Kisses called Hershey's Kisses? Have you ever wondered that, or is it just me? Well...I wanted to know. Actually, no one really knows how they got their name. But a popular theory is that the candy was named for the motion on the chocolate being but on the conveyor belt.

The machine that places them looks like it's kissing the conveyor belt.

What did people use before toilet paper was invented? Hm. You cannot tell me I am the only one who has wondered this. Well, the ancient Greeks used stones and pieces of clay. The ancient Romans used a sponge on the end of a stick, but everyone used that. Ew. Great Britain used the best thing they could find. Corncobs. Then people realized they could use magazines and then it just evolved.

What makes gum blow bubbles? Yes, other than you blowing it. Originally, most bubblegum used chicle, the sap of a cousin to the rubber tree. Today, modern gum makers use a synthetic gum base. The gum base is what gives the gum the soft and chewable texture but it also prevents it from breaking down completely when it's chewed. It's also extremely stretchy which allows you to flatten it out and inflate it into the bubble.

Why is 'abbreviated' such a long word? I'm pretty sure all of you have asked this question before. Well, did you know that it actually started off with a short word? *Brevio* is Latin for 'short.' Then the prefix *ab-* was added, meaning 'motion towards.' And the suffix *-ated* was added to indicate the verb in the past tense. So why didn't they keep it short? Beats me.

Well, thanks for reading this! Maybe I answered some questions for you or gave you some to think about. Or maybe you didn't care at all, but this was the only thing that you had to read. Either way, thanks

NEXT YEAR!



**FICTION
IN THE
BARK?**



**CAN IT BE?
STAY TUNED.**

The loud history of the \m/etal genre

By Anthony Bardelli

Team 8

In the wonderful world of music, there are stereotypes. Many of you know this fact and unfortunately it mainly falls on the genre known as metal. I am going to be analyzing this type of music in detail and though you may or may not read this, may or may not care, or even change your thoughts on metal (if any), but I hope it will help.

The origins of metal music originate in three already popular music genres. They are blues/jazz, rock, and classical in their birth. Let's start with the classical side.

For those of you who did not



know the metal genre was born over in Europe's own UK. However, with Europe comes a heavy classical force, which we all know.

The whole complexity and drive that the songs created were

so impactful that it seemed to be an actual person's emotions incarnate that can tell a story. That conviction has bled into the emotions of a metal song.

It takes a very strong person to write that type of music. A great complexity goes into a classic song from the days of Beethoven, to which if one part goes awry then the whole composition goes dead because it becomes hard to pick back up. A great deal also requires speed to perform or the song will sound dull and terrible.

When breaking down metal, the flow of classical music goes

See Metal, page 13

Health News — Phys. Ed. happenings

Students in 8th-grade Health class this semester had presenters from these three agencies: Miller Blood Bank, Lehigh Valley Organ Donation Coalition, and Turning Point; 7th-grade Health class had a presentation from Turning Point on healthy relationships.

Congratulations to the following students who got the American Red Cross CPR certification during January and for helping make our school a safer place: Alison Lorah, Benjamin Lehman, Jason Check, Piper Fehr.

Any student who loves to swim and would like to volunteer this July in the mornings at the swim lesson program at the NL community pool should see Mrs.

Raber for a registration form.

Top 7th grade Boys Mile Runners: 1st – Zach Moyer 6:15, 2nd – Alec Berger, 3rd – Ben Lehman – 7:48. **Top 7th grade Girls Mile Runners:** 1st – Reagan Pender 6:17, 2nd – Ali Lorah 7:19, 3rd – Shelby Brazes 7:26.

Top 8th Grade Boys Mile Runners: 1st – Preston Kemery 5:53, 2nd – Cameron Kline 5:54, 3rd – Nathan Keller 6:14. **Top 8th Grade Girls Mile Runners:** 1st – Katie Guelcher 6:46, 2nd – Molly Wilk 6:56, 3rd – Lexi Meckes 6:57.

Intramurals Awards: President: Daulton Lorrah, Vice-President: Cory Hammond, Fall Treasurer: Kyle Duplaga, Spring Treasurer: Quinton Mack, Equip-

ment Managers: Devin Slack and Miryam Garnett-Wyche.

The winning volleyball teams this spring in PE class were: 7th grade - Darantulas and Poopey Diapers; 8th grade - Dorito Crunchers and Zombies.

Thanks to Archery Addictions for teaching our students the fundamentals of archery in PE class.

Swimming lessons are held for middle school students during the mornings from July 6-31. If you would like more information - download the registration form at www.nlcommunitycenter.com.

Loud soldiers, all part of the metal community

Metal, from page 12

down into the composing of a metal song. No greater is this than in power and neo-classical metal to where all sorts of instruments from violins to clarinets to cellos to even giant trumpets are used.

To arrange them all in unison can be a challenge, especially when you have three guitar players blasting their electric chords and a vocalist(s) screaming his/her lungs out.

You will often hear in a metal song very subtle hints of olden music, for example famous guitarist Yngwie Malmsteen is in a sense a classical metal musician.

The connection between the emotions that a musician wants to convey is pretty much what metal is defined by.

The emotions. Just to name a song that comes to mind is "Gates of Babylon" by the late Ronnie James Dio to which the guitars and drums conjure up a mysterious atmosphere that intensifies like fire rising up and then fading away.

That whole image the lyrics create and the instrumentals make a psychedelic feeling to the whole song. Even certain provocative feelings that you have can be arisen. The mixtures that are infused with emotion define what the metal genre is.

If the previous paragraph tells us that classic music's emotion and complexity define metal, then blues and jazz is the voice. During the Harlem Renaissance, many a blues and jazz band arose with catchy and uplifting or mellowing tones. Examining certain singers from those eras you can obviously see a connection between modern and past metal vocalists with the Harlem singers.



The gruffness is what made that genre a very popular style in my opinion because the human voice invokes something in us first, then instruments now adays with the power it can contain. The lyrics can then make a song. All throughout history we have seen that the hu-

man voice accompanied by virtuous words can do anything imaginable. That is what happened with blues and jazz because of the singers having so many ways of verbal tones.

Finally, rock's influence on the metal genre was, of course, the way of playing. The discordant music and style of how the song is played is obviously *heavy* in metal. It can be described as a loose way of playing that has no other equal in the way of its style.

Very uplifting, this almost heavenly unison just makes any-

thing feel rebellious and at peace with themselves, and can then snap to a loud form that makes you feel like fire is in your soul that beckons to be released. You can also read in the lyrics very serious tones and stories. Without rock, metal would never be.

However, though in a small summary that could take days upon weeks upon months to explain, those little articles don't make metal "metal." It is the closeness that creates the near hundred genre music that we have today. Huge festivals lasting weeks occur with people all over the world going to these to enjoy music and freedom. The stereotype you may know is that all metal is satanic screaming with horrible guitar noises. No, the stories told are that of sorrow, love, hatred, happiness, history, the future, and fantasy that only our imaginations can replicate.

To tell you the truth though many songs are about Satan and war and death. The people writing those songs aren't evil or mean or just all-around bad people. We enjoy our music like others enjoy video games but we're not going to pick up a sword and slash someone's head off.

History plays a major role in songs from "Alexander the Great" in an Iron Maiden song to 99.9% of Sabaton's songs, as well as mythology in Aman Amarth's Norse-ness (if that's a word). They honor great people and weave tales of mystical fantasy. The true metal is that of a close and unimaginable properties that is worthy of the gods.

Beyond the Green: The real St. Patrick

By **Quinton Mack**

Team 8

Let me ask you a question. Do you really know St. Patrick? If you don't know, let me tell you. If you do, I'll tell you anyway.

St. Patrick went to Ireland and turned thousands of people to Christianity and drove out all the snakes, right? That's all true but the legend left out one detail. St. Patrick *never* died.

That's right, folks. He never died. St. Patrick, as you know, drove out all the snakes from Ireland, but some wouldn't go without a fight. It just so happens some of the snakes were genetically mutated by a higher power. Our hero had to fight seven of

these as the prophecy foretold. If these seven snakes were defeated, the one to do so would receive mystical powers and eternal life. St. Patrick used his battle shillelagh blessed by the gods of clovers to smite these vile creatures of destruction.

St. Patrick achieved the tremendous feat of triumphing over the snakes. In return he received his promised mystical powers and eternal life.

To this day he walks the Earth awe-struck of the accomplishments made by modern-day humans. So when the time comes when another prophet of chaos comes to bring humanity to its

knees, our hero, St. Patrick, will rise up and defend our planet. Now you may be thinking, "How do the clovers, parades, and green tie in with the story?" The gods who witnessed the action knew this event had to be kept secret. They mixed up the story a little bit, put in clovers, and added a pretty color (green) to sweeten the whole picture.

So hopefully after this you will see St. Patrick as an entirely different man. Instead of a missionary, you'll see him as a courageous, brave, and all-around epic dude who kills snakes. What's not to like about that?



Graceffa, YouTuber, helps others with struggles

By **Eliviere Delora**

Team 7

Joey Graceffa is a YouTube personality from Marlborough, Massachusetts. He runs the YouTube channels Joey Graceffa and Joey Graceffa Games with 4.3 million and 1 million subscribers. Joey Graceffa was born on May 16, 1991, to Debbie and Joe Graceffa.

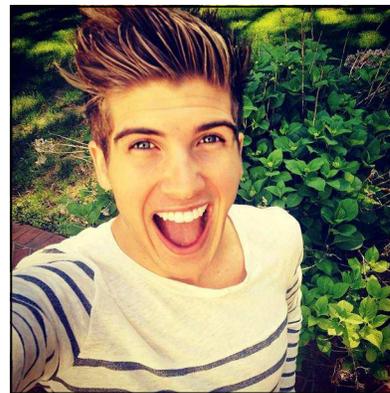
Joey Graceffa first began uploading videos to YouTube on a channel known as Winter-SpringPro, with his high school classmate and friend Brittany. Graceffa started posting videos

on his own channel, called JoeyGraceffa.

Joey Graceffa posts daily video blogs on his channel, known as vlogs.

Joey Graceffa and fellow YouTube personality Meghan Camarena were contestants on The Amazing Race 22.

In late 2013 and early 2014, Joey Graceffa starred in his own web series titled Storytellers. Also in late 2013, Graceffa joined the StyleHaul YouTube network. In



2014, Graceffa starred in his own short film titled "Eon."

Graceffa was nominated for two awards at the 2014 Teen Choice Awards. He was also nominated for and won "Best Actor in a Drama" at the 2014 Streamy Awards, for his portrayal of Hunter Crowley and Storytellers. Graceffa was named by Common Sense Media as one of "10

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Can we feel too self-conscious?

By Sabrina Grabarits

Team 7

To start off with, I'm going to describe a few of my friends' personalities. Yes, I've asked for their permission so it works out OK. Trust me, there is a reason for this.

Reagan P. She's my best friend. Actually, I secretly think she's my sister and we just got separated at birth. (Just ignore the fact that I'm also a year older than her.) She's funny and can always get me to smile, no matter how bad my day was. She's so sweet. She's really sarcastic. She's loud and very talkative. She usually cuts me off in the middle of my stories

(you get used to it) but she's always there if you really need someone to talk to. She's a really good writer. We wrote a story together. She's on the shorter side, yes, but that makes her even more adorable! You can hug her and pick her up and twirl her around like I do. But she doesn't seem to care about her height. (She's amazing at hide-and-seek, let me tell ya that!) She's skinnier than a toothpick. She's so cute and adorable. And she is not what I'd call normal.

(But that makes her even better.) She can pull off any outfit from a purple-flowered African skirt to jean shorts and a tank top. She's just an all-around amazing

girl.

Piper F. She's my second best friend. She makes me laugh too. She's not that loud, but definitely not someone who I'd call quiet. She's kind of violent and it's kind of fun to watch, to be honest because she's not doing any damage. She's good at writing. She's so skinny and she's really pretty. She's a really good friend to talk to as well.

She doesn't cut me off as much, but she still does. But I'm cool with it. And she's totally not normal. She enjoys using her sarcasm. She usually wears jeans and a tee shirt but she'll dress up when

See Self, page 16

Using YouTube to inspire others' pride

Graceffa, page 14

YouTube Stars." Joey Graceffa has inspired me to start YouTube with his passion to have fun and explore the world and enjoy life. Joey Graceffa made me have the courage to come out and inspire myself to everyone and not hold everything in me.

Me, Eliviere Delora, I've been watching it for a long time now and I'm a great fan of Joey. He has shown me a lot of stuff and made me laugh when I was sad. Joey Graceffa has been a great help to my life.

So I would want to say Thank You, Joey Graceffa. Joey Graceffa

is an openly gay YouTuber but hasn't come out to his subscribers, but there is a hidden link to his coming-out video on his channel. Most people are very judgmental about him but as an openly gay person myself, I would love to have friends like him. Honestly I can say Joey is a very outgoing person and that is a good reason to be a YouTuber.

Recently Joey Graceffa has gone through problems in his life; all of his subscribers have been there for him through everything. Ever since WinterSpringPro to the Joey Graceffa channel. Joey Graceffa is one of my favorite YouTubers, maybe my number 1.

Joey might not be known by everyone because his subscribers, others only know the YouTuber Glozell or Zoella, etc.

Joey Graceffa is very awesome and exciting to watch. Joey Graceffa is one YouTuber that people have their eyes on all the time, even though he came from harsh places he also collaborated with everyone around him to get to where he is. He has actually "Started from the bottom," you could get that information at his {Draw My Life Video}. So I think I should wrap this up now. I hope Joey Graceffa gets to where he wants to be.

kfkklasdkdndnnknsdnskldnsds

Self, from page 15

she needs to. (Or has made a bet.) But she looks good in every single thing that she wears. I'm jealous. She's awesome.

Seamus O. Oh boy. Well, he's definitely, without a doubt, someone I would call extremely loud. In no way, shape or form could I call him quiet. He's super funny and always gets me to laugh. He usually can take a bad situation and turn it funny or to a light-mood. He knows how easily scared I am and finds joy in scaring me. I jump but then I end up laughing with him. He doesn't seem to care what he wears as long as it's not jeans. He's extremely sarcastic. He's really nice though. He's so weird and I'd never call him normal. He's skinny and pretty good looking. (That's not meant to be weird.) He's an all-around amazing guy.

Maddie H. She's my band buddy. She's funny and gets me to laugh. Yep, she's also a bit shorter than most but to me, it honestly doesn't look like she cares. She's so pretty and is skinny. She's always rocking something fashionable that I could never wear. She's kind of loud, not someone that I'd call quiet. She's a bit inappropriate sometimes. She's funny and so, of course, I laugh with her. Oh, sometimes she gives me this

cutest death stare, even though it's not meant for that. I always say it's cute and then she laughs. And she likes hugs like I do. She does listen too and she's an awesome girl to talk to.

Allie S. I know her as Allie but you may know her as Alex. Either way, she's still the same person. She's pretty quiet. Except



at lunch. She's fun at lunch. She's pretty funny too. And a bit inappropriate like Maddie. She's so pretty and she really is skinny. She's kind of shy but is ready to admit when she messed up. That's cool. She pretty much wears jeans and whatever kind of shirt and rocks. She's a great person to talk to if you ever want help. She understands herself. She is an amazing friend.

Austin R. Another one of my band buddies. (Well, kinda. I

never really get to talk to him.) He's loud. And funny. He enjoys to freak me out some days. He's a very sensitive guy. And I think that's really cool. He's (not being weird!) one of the better-looking guys in school. And he's not, as he says, "fat."

Actually, he's pretty skinny. He doesn't even look his weight! Anyway, he usually can get me to laugh by doing anything. He's pretty out-going as he doesn't mind Piper putting him in a dress or painting his nails. He usually wears a sweatshirt and shorts but that's just him. Nothing fancy. He's a good person to talk to and a great friend.

Jaclyn H. Not many of us 7th graders may know her because she is one outstanding 8th grader. She's another one of my band buddies. Now she... she I can call quiet. When she talks to me, it's so soft. She's very shy and in lots of ways, she reminds me of myself. She is funny and so, so sweet. And she's an amazing listener. Actually, she doesn't talk that much. She's so beautiful and skinny. She doesn't want to admit it though. But I know I'm not the only one who thinks she's pretty. She's pretty funny too and guess what, I always laugh. Even though she's not as loud, she's a great friend.

Aurora M. My Directioner buddy!! (Love you girl!!) She is totally my Directioner sister. Any-

See More friends, page 17

Self-conscious feelings are everywhere

More friends, from page 16

way, she's loud. Sometimes quiet...if she really wants to be. She's really good at writing. We're writing a story together. She is so pretty. Beautiful, but she won't believe me. And she's skinny but nope, that she doesn't believe me on either. Grrr. But she is a great person to talk to. She is really funny. And it's great to talk about One Direction pictures or 1D jokes we heard. (Harry's knock-knock jokes...) She gets me to laugh. She's pretty outgoing and a people person but if I tell her that, she just gives me a 'really' look. But she's awesome to talk to and she's extraordenharry! (Sorry, she gets it though!)

Well, as you can see...it doesn't take much to get me to laugh. I love every single one of my friends and I think that my friends are amazing, great, etc. I'm glad to call these people my friends. So. Why am I telling you what I think their personalities are? Because, if you haven't read the title, I'm talking about being self-conscious. Yep, my last article of 7th grade is kind of depressing. Oh well, let's make the most of it?

Let's start from the beginning, shall we? Ok, so I was born... no. (Sorry, I need my fun, too.) For as long as I can remember fully, (which is back to like, 4th grade) I have been self-conscious. I honestly and truly cannot remember a time where I haven't felt the way I am. I've been called things (fat, ugly, stupid and words that I am not allowed to put in

this article). I tried to make it look like I didn't care. Like I'll shoot back at them with a good comeback or just laugh it off. But really, I don't know if I'm capable of doing that. I mean, I'm a very emotional person. I've cried in stupid things like Disney movies like "Tarzan" and "Toy Story 3," my books and actually some of the things I've written. I've also cried over sensible things like fights I've had with my best friend. I've cried over deaths, too. Crying, I believe, doesn't mean that you're weak. To me, it shows that you don't have a heart of steel. Ok, maybe I'm too emotional with my books and movies and writings. But I can just put myself into that person's shoes and feel what they're feeling. I'm just able to do that.

So, what do I think about me? My lips are too small. My teeth aren't straight. My nose is too big. My eyes are a weird shape. The color of my eyes isn't interesting. My hair's boring and straight. My eyebrows are too thick. My cheeks are too big. My ears stick out too far. My forehead's too wide. My hands are too small. My feet are too narrow. My ankles are messed up since they turn in. My thighs are too big. My hips are too small. My stomach is too big. My shoulders are too scrawny. My neck is too small. I'm ugly. I'm fat. I'm stupid. I'm not tall enough. I'm not pretty enough. I'm not skinny enough. I'm certainly not good enough. I'm not talented. I'm not creative. I'm not skilled enough to do any-

thing. I can't sing. I can't draw. I can't dance. I'm just plain horrible. I'm never going to be good enough. There's not much about me that I actually like. I kind of like my eyes. I like how long my legs are. I still know that something is wrong with them though.

Yet I go through my day, trying to pretend that I'm OK. My close friends try and tell me otherwise, but I can't bring myself to believe them. They don't understand. Or maybe they do, but still. Some people I look at and I don't understand why they are self-conscious. Like...like Mr. Barnes.

Really? What does he have to be self-conscious about?? He's not the tallest, but that makes him perfect to teach 7th grade. That's pretty much it. He's funny. He's sarcastic. He's so positive. Everyone loves him. (Not literally.) He's not bad-looking and he's a great teacher. He has great jokes and stories. He's capable of making a bad day turn good, well for me anyway. When he said that he was self-conscious, I was completely and thoroughly confused. I could not think of one thing that he could be self-conscious about. I guess it's just the way he sees it. I wish that he didn't though.

Honestly, I think I'm a bit self-conscious because of the things I like. Like the fact that I like One Direction. Everyone tells me that 'oh, they're so gay.' I'll respect your opinion that you don't like them but why do you have to tell me they're gay? Like I

See Finale, page 18

Finally — Spring is here to stay

By Aurora McGovern

Team 7

Friday, March 20th, 2015 — 34 degrees, snow, 100% chance snow! Friday is the first day of spring. We're getting snow the first day of spring. Why?

Mother Nature has been crazy this winter. I think we had about a foot and a half of snow. Don't say, "This is going to be boring! Who cares about the weather?!" Uh, me. I don't like snow or the cold.

The coldest it has been this winter, I think, was -20 degrees. Yes, I know, sometimes in Russia it's -30 degrees, but this is *not* Russia. It snowed about 15 times. That

also means, we have to make up school days at the end of the year. Plus, because of all the snow days, the marking period got pushed back!

I know about zero people who like the snow or the cold. I am one of those people who, one, don't go outside a lot, and two, don't like snow.

Everyone loved snow when we were younger, I think. Mother Nature has been weird these past three or four months. One day, it'll be 1 degree out. The next day, 39 degrees. The day after that 54 degrees. What?! How does that make sense? Mother Nature, you're weird.



All these friends could help the author's issues

Finale, from page 17

don't like football. But I don't go around to every football player or whenever a football is brought, I don't say 'oh, football's so gay. It's so stupid.' I don't like football, yes, but I keep the opinion to myself. It frustrates me but no one's going to stop. So why does that make me self-conscious? Because I feel that people will look down on me just because of what I like. It's not right. But I have no control over what others think. I think that's wrong but what can I do? I'm not changing the fact that I love One Direction because people don't like them.

It's pretty bad with how much I am self-conscious about.

I'm even self-conscious about being self-conscious. I kind of wish I wasn't like the way I am. It's ruining my relationships. Like with my friends. And some people think that I'm just looking for attention when I say what I do. But I'm not. This is honestly and truly what I believe. But it's not going to matter. Someone finds out that I'm self-conscious, it's like I'm automatically looking for attention. I know that some people say flaws make you beautiful but I can't see how any of my flaws can do that to me. It feels like this is the story of my life: It's like I dug this hole and I'm stuck in it.

When I talk to Aurora, she says that she's kind of self-conscious herself. (Still don't see

how!) I'm just like *girl, you and I are like sisters*. I feel you. It seems to go one way or another. You're either self-conscious or not. And the ones that are, they're kind of shunned a little because no one wants to spend the time to try and convince them that they're wrong. And that takes a lot to do that. So...yeah.

Is it possible to be too self-conscious? Maybe. But I don't know how to *not* be anymore. So...yep. That's it. And that is my article for 7th grade. The last one I will do while I'm still in 7th grade. (I really have to say this. Did anybody notice how many One Direction songs and/or puns I used? Hahaha! Sorry, I just had to lighten the mood a bit.)

A glimpse into the 8th-grade rear-view mirror

By Anthony Bardelli

Team 8

As I have gone through my life, many events have shaped me the way that I am, as for all. None as more prevalent than my indoctrination into the seventh and eighth grade of Northern Lehigh. Now read it you may, or read it thou may not, but if thou does, please, I salute you for reading this. Thank you.

My seventh and eighth grade years have been the best of my life. It's where I have made new friends, discovered who I fully was, and most of all have forged an identity for myself *in the forges of valhalla next to the gods of old!*

That is what I shall reflect on in this once 100-page essay, now a two-page paper. When I first started here in the middle school I was nervous, and had no real ambitions for myself in the writing department. I was always more of an actor in a sense.

I had the collection of authors to back me, but at the time I was more attuned to *reading* them, not *writing* like them. That lasted for six periods until I arrived in the one of the best classrooms I have ever entered: the classroom of sir Christopher Barnes.

That is where I discovered

who I am. From the start of his class I knew I was in for a wonderful time as he began to what sounded like a schizophrenic episode like I have sometimes, but it turns out he was just doing as he does. He must have told 30 corny jokes that day and I respected that already.

Then, we started something that I remembered Mr. Herzog

which guided me to my destiny as a lover of the written word crafted by my own hands.

It was as if Odin and the gods of creativity, poetry, and literature descended from up on high to bless me with written scriptures carved in paper of a long forgotten world. My time arrived when the infamous scary story project arose from the setting sun, and set the world ablaze waiting for us to subdue it. We all loved doing it because there were basically zero limits to what we could do. For me it was a stroll in the garden of vile flora.

That assignment brought out the Bardelli that you people all know as the creepy, demonic, terrifying, breaking-the-sound-barrier loud, and flamboyant person that never shuts

up, and obsesses about a lot of things.

For those of you in Mrs. Becker's period seven Life Science class last year, you might remember how she left the classroom, and simply found me reading. Or if you were in the same class I was, you may remember how much screaming there was, and I hoped that you enjoyed that because I did.

My two sides — the speaking and the writing side — joined to become a warrior that causes fear and wonder in hearts of all.



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tell us about....a Starter (now called *Figments*). Tell you all the truth I was not really inspired so I just wrote like I was talking about my book even though no human except I, and a few of my friends, as well as my family, knew about. It wasn't the best thing, but hey it was something.

My Starters eventually began to become better and better the more and more they became....demonic. I felt pride in work now that I never felt before with such a great fire in my soul that engulfed my mind and heart,

'See ya' to crazy teachers and crazy drama

By Adrianna Boyett &
August Stinson

Team 8

Overall, eighth grade has been an interesting year. From crazy teachers to crazy drama. On account of I do not want to offend anyone I will just say that the teachers are a part of our experience in eighth grade.

Everyone has their favorite and not-so-favorite, so trust me when I say newcomers will too. From crazy games to mysterious drawings, my friends and I have had our share of trouble.

We can tell you from first-hand experience that the principal's office is not a place you want to get comfortable in.

We have been through it a couple of times and have thankfully lived to tell the tale. Let's just say we would recommend that you try your best to stay out of trouble.

On to a very important subject: grades. I can't really brag about the grades I have gotten through the eighth grade. I definitely could have tried harder but when it's all over I can say I survived through eighth grade.

As any good school system, the higher the grade level, the tougher it gets. You have to work hard and try your best. I am the world's worst procrastinator for pretty much everything. I happen to have a personally bad track record with projects.

Ask any teacher in eighth grade. No, ask any teacher I've ever had. Projects can help your grade or pull it down.

I suggest actually trying them and you might be surprised to find out that you actually enjoy doing it. There are a lot of sports and afterschool activities you can join. It's not too late to join. I just joined chorus this year and it has been really fun.

I get to hangout with my friends and I get to sing a lot too. August is in color guard and band. She says it looks good on your resume and college application. Color guard gives you exercise and band shows you how to

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A mini-rant about 'appearances'

By Alissa Melendez

Team 7

Okay, so since incredibly-shy Alissa was being incredibly-shy Alissa, she didn't speak up about her opinion as usual.

She was... *why am I talking in third person?* *eh hem* I was clutching my fists in anger during today's current event because I, being the little feminist I am, had a huge problem with people thinking that Barbie is "just a toy" and people are "blowing it out of proportion."

I was walking home with my friend and we had a conversation about how sexist toys are. Then, I

went home and had a mini rant to myself and decided to write this because I don't think the air is benefiting anything from my anger. Might as well put it to good use.

Pop culture influences people way more than they know. Images bombard them with ideas and they aren't even aware of it.

As girls walk past Victoria's Secret, they're met with models that have a "perfect" body and as guys walk through the mall they see Abercrombie and see the iconic shirtless male that girls love so much. They look at their scrawny bodies and sigh because

there's no way they could ever achieve that body.

Toys are a way to influence children with this because I'd be worried if kids looked at Victoria's Secret models as role models. Look at the girls section. What do you see? Pink. And lots of it.

It's to simply divide the two genders and show boys and girls their certain section. Because obviously guys can't like pink. (That was sarcasm by the way). The toys?

Well, we have baby dolls. So that little girls can train to nurture their future children because

See Appearances, page 21



Barry Hausman, 8th grade, cheered on Mr. Meixsell and Ms. Case when the Harlem Wizards played an exhibition basketball game against the Northern Lehigh staff and faculty.

Photo courtesy of Miss Perkowski

Looking back on our 8th-grade year

Reflect, page 20

play different instruments. It's something new and fun to try. Trust me when I say hard work pays off. My friends say to go to every school-sanctioned activity. The only example I can think of is the dances.

There are about two to three when you are in eighth grade. The

dances are always really fun and there is free food.

Girls get to dress up and guys get to look at the girls all dressed up. How can you go wrong? I can't think of any others but whatever there is if you are with your friends everything is fun. Eighth grade, although killer, is your last year before high school.

Have as much ridiculous fun

with your friends as possible. Try a new club or just try something you've never done before. Make new friends and of course keep the old.

I think I've definitely done some memorable things and I intend to keep making memories in high school.

Continuing the rant on 'appearances'

Appearances, from page 20

boys can't raise children. (Again sarcasm). Then, easy bake ovens so that girls can learn to cook. Guys obviously can't do that either. (I find this one especially funny because I find my dad a better cook than my mom, but don't tell her I said that). And then, Barbie. Oh, the glorious toy

with more drama than the Kardashians. I kid, I kid... that's impossible to achieve.

Barbie teaches kids to idolize a perfect sculpture of the perfect person. She's rich, beautiful, and everyone loves her. Children aspire to be like her. Remember earlier when I opened your eyes to how awful society is?

Kids are a lot more impressionable. When they see this "perfect" person they grow up thinking, "I have to be like that. And if I don't, I'm a failure." It basically trains kids to be self-conscious.

But, then again, when does society not want to make us self-conscious. Trust me, you don't want to get me started on makeup.

You need to learn about this Directioner

By Aurora McGovern

Team 7

Zayn Javvaad Malik, yes that is how you spell it. Zayn was born January 12th, 1993. He was born a little brother, to his big sister, Doniya. Later, he would become a big brother with his two sisters, Safaa and Waliyha.

When he was 17, his mother dragged him out of bed at four in the morning to audition for the X-Factor. He sang 'Let Me Love You' by Mario. No, not the guy from the video games. He made it to boot camp but refused to dance which almost got him kicked out.

He danced, and blah, blah, blah, he didn't make it. Then, Simon Cowell brought back Zayn Malik, Harry Styles, Liam Payne, Niall Horan, and Louis Tomlinson. They were put together as a band and started to get to work. In the end, they came in third place, and the X-Factor's most talked-about and wealthy losers.

In 2011, they went on the X-Factor tour and after, they started to work on their first album, *Up All Night*. Many people thought that Zayn or Harry was the lead singer because they had the most time singing, but it was actually Liam.

They went on their *Up All Night* tour that lasted seven months. After the tour they made another album called *Take Me Home*, along with *Midnight Memories*, and *Four*.

A lot of people think, including me, that Zayn took *Four* a little too seriously. Ha, ha, ha, get it. The new album is called *Four* and now there are four members. Ugh, I am so sorry. Anyway, there's this guy, his stage name is Naughty Boy, even though he looks to be in his 30s.

He is like the 'manager' of

Zayn and everyone hates him. Like Louis, he really does not like him. Plus, I thought Zayn quit because he wanted to be a normal 22-year-old? How is he being normal with a 'manger'?

Pretty much everyone was probably thinking 'Wow. Why am I not surprised she did something that has to do with One Direction.' HA! I didn't do something that has to do with One Direction. Do you know why? Because Zayn isn't in One Direction anymore! I'm

sorry, Sabrina. If you really wanted to read this, good. If not, *learn about One Direction!*

Do you know those pictures that say, 'Read this or your mom will die' or something like that? Those are annoying. I don't know what that had to do with One Direction and Zayn, but oh well. Yea... Okay, bye!



Does Twitter ruin lives, or...?

By Ricky LaBarre

Team 7

I think Twitter ruins lives. It does because if someone is mad at someone else and posts an inappropriate picture of them, that could ruin the life of the person in the picture. As well as the person who posted the picture. It will

completely ruin their attention span.

It has already happened. There was a girl who sent inappropriate (or private) pictures to her boyfriend. Three months later they broke up.

The boyfriend posted those pictures on Twitter, which is one reason Twitter is bad.

Another reason Twitter is bad is it ruins your attention span. Just like a video game can, today's youth is sitting on a recliner staring at the computer screen.

Don't get me wrong, I have a Facebook account, which is very similar, and it's fine as long as you use it in moderation.

