

THE BULLDOG BARK



Principal: Mrs. Chamberlain

Advisor: Mr. Barnes

Northern Lehigh Middle School

Summer 2011

Issue Four

Class of '15 sets the bar sky-high

In a changing world, our 8th-graders need to remain consistent with themselves

What a changing world we have witnessed the past few months. The most notorious terrorist known to mankind was finally

captured and killed; destructive weather patterns are rip-roaring through our planet at frightening rates that would make one wonder if the end of the world is,



Mr. Barnes

in fact, on the horizon; and I bought an MP3 player 20 years after they were invented.

Oh yes, these times, they are changin'.

See Barnes, page 3

NJHS, seniors say 'Aloha'



Julie Knerr, Ryan Rubio, Nathan Snyder, Laura Beltz, and the rest of National Junior Honor Society, worked tirelessly to throw a Hawaiian bash for this year's Senior Prom. More photos, page 10. (Photo courtesy of Mr. Troy Schnyder)

The best thing about being an eighth-grader was...

By Devan Pepe
North Team

In my opinion, the best thing about 8th grade was the Senior Prom put on by National Junior Honor Society. The Senior Prom not only meant a lot to the senior citizens but to everyone who par-

ticipated as well.

All of the senior citizens enjoyed dancing, a cake walk, and, of course, the wonderful food cooked by Mrs. Bowser and her food committee.

They even had the opportunity to see professional hula

See 8th grade, page 3

SouthEast team finds its heritage, Liberty on N.Y. trip

By Amy Hinkle
SouthEast Team

On April 28th, the SouthEast team went to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island for the fourth year. Everybody had to wake up super early to be at the school by 6 a.m. The buses departed at around 6:20 in the morning. We were on the buses for a little over two hours. It was fun but barely anybody slept on the way there. We were all excited to see New York. In the distance, we saw the New York skyline. Everybody started to take pictures then.

When we got off our buses, we went into a building where we went through security so we could go on our first ferry (and for the upcoming ones). After waiting for about a half an hour, we got to go on our first ferry! Everyone went upstairs on the ferry to take pictures and see the New York skyline up close. Downstairs, there was a food stand and also you could buy souvenirs.

After we were on our ferry, we went onto Ellis Island. We could pretty much do whatever we wanted here with our chaperones. In my group, we went outside to see



Veronica Green, Beth Kern, Taylor Herman and Lexie Merkle pose with the famous lady.

the Wall of Names. At the Wall of Names, you could see if any of your past relatives came through Ellis Island when they were immigrating. If we found somebody we knew, we got to make a pencil rubbing of their name. Other



Gavin Kemery, Noah Hankee, Jaleel Graham and Brenton Baker were psyched for a field trip to New York.

groups just toured the museum and saw the different stuff. When we were done exploring the different and exciting parts of Ellis Island, we got to sit down and eat lunch. We sat in the back of the museum where there is beautiful scenery and many tables. You sat with your group to eat. You had as much time as you needed here before our ferry came.

We were then on our way to Liberty Island! That's where the Statue of Liberty is located. The Statue of Liberty looks small when you are on the ferry. When we get off the ferry, we all go to the Statue of Liberty. We go to the lockers to put our stuff that we don't want to bring with us. After that, we have to go through security. This takes about five minutes (not even) and then we have to walk up the stairs to get to the pedestal. After all 192 steps, we are on the pedestal! When you look up, it looks so far up to the top of the Statue of

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The best thing about being an eighth-grader was...

8th grade, from page 1

dancers and take part in learning how to do some of the dances themselves.

The senior citizens also got to relive their prom through the crowning of the prom king and queen. Although it was a lot of work for all of the National Junior Honor Society members and their advisors, I think I can speak for all of us when I say it was worth it.

So what was the best thing about 8th grade in other students' minds?

Zeb Shiffert: "All of the amazing teachers." **Brian Neff:**

"Our amazing homeroom 10." **Julie Knerr:** "A great night at farewell." **Justin Obenski:** "Period 5 with Mr. Battista." **Jared Brozowski:** "Homeroom with Mr. Battista and the senior prom." **Nina Schnyder:** "Our Philadelphia field trip." **Taylor Duplaga:** "Being on North team. It's the best!" **Cubby George:** "8th period with Mr. Battista and chilling in 4th period with Lieutenant Grega." **Tyler Reimer:** "1st period science; Mr. Battista is the best teacher ever!" **Katelyn Hugo:** "The teachers." **Brigham Minnich:** "Being with our friends." **Jessica Olewine:** "Field hockey Moravian bus ride."

John Taylor: "Walking around 8th periods with Student Council." **Andrew Tarafas:** "Health class with Kyle and 8th period with Mrs. Grega." **Anna Barnett:** "The best thing about 8th grade was having food fights with the guys' table at lunch." (*Advisor's note: The Bulldog Bark does not condone food-fighting in the NLMS cafeteria.*) **Bryce Brinker:** "The best thing about 8th grade was Colonial Days. It was really fun." **Bo Miller:** "Period 2 science class." **Dan Fine:** "8th grade farewell." **Nathan Snyder:** "The best thing about 8th grade was hanging out with friends."

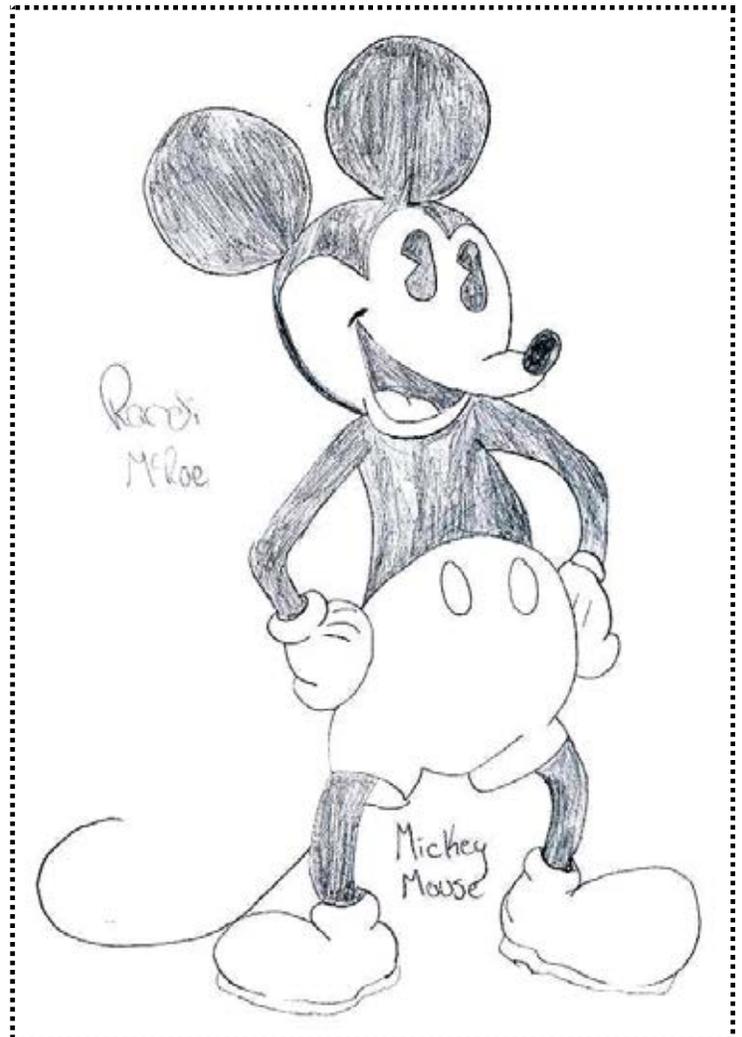
Staying the same

Barnes, from page 1

What I hope remains the same, however, are the attitudes, personalities, and overall good vibes of this year's unique eighth-grade class. You good people have set the bar *very* high for next year's incoming eighth-graders and many more after them.

The abundance of maturity, responsibility and likeability made teaching a sincere pleasure in 2011. It is my hope that you carry this on when you make the move across the parking lot to the almighty (and sometimes scary) high school. I *hope* you remain confident in yourself; I *trust* you will continue to be a good person; and I *know* you will put forth the quality effort you showed this year when it comes to school work.

You made this place fun and you reminded us, as educators, why we chose this profession. Keep up what you already have going and know that as you walk out of these hallways and classrooms for good, your foot prints (or paw prints, I suppose) will remain for future generations to follow.



North team heads down south to visit historic Philadelphia

By Taylor Duplaga
North Team

On June 2, the North team took a field trip to historic Philadelphia. It was so much fun and one of the best field trips ever!

Before we went to Philadelphia, we had to learn all about it. It wasn't very boring work like most kids would think of; it was fun!

In English class, we had to make a brochure. I liked this because we didn't need to have formal writing and we were allowed to be funny! All in all, the field trip itself is where the excitement lies.

We were split into groups and then went to go sight-seeing. We were able to see amazing attractions like the Betsy Ross House, Congress Hall and even the Liberty Bell.

If we had extra time, we were even able to get souvenirs and food. Yummy! Philly cheese-steaks anyone? Here is what some of my friends thought of the trip.

Taylor Kipp: I thought Philly was awesome! I loved going to see the things like the Liberty Bell.

Cheyenne Troxell: It was OK. It would have been cool to also see the Edgar Allan Poe house.

Nina Schnyder: The Philly field trip was so much fun. I loved seeing all the sights! I would go back in a heartbeat!

It seems I am not the only one who thought this was an awesome trip. Next time you're free, go visit historic Philadelphia. You won't regret it!



The Liberty Bell was on the North team's agenda.



Taylor Kipp, Nina Schnyder, Taylor Duplaga and Alessia Pollani enjoyed their field trip to historic Philadelphia.

A high-speed life outside the classroom

Mr. Graver takes off his teacher's tie for a biking helmet

By Nathan Snyder

North Team

Do you like biking? Did you ever want to race a bike? One teacher you can ask is Mr. Graver; he races bikes at the Velodrome in Trexlertown, officially called the Valley Preferred Cycling Center. I got to interview him about racing and he said his racing season starts in March and ends in October. He started biking in 8th grade and has been racing for 27 years. He told me his dad was the one who got him started by taking him to the Velodrome to see a race.

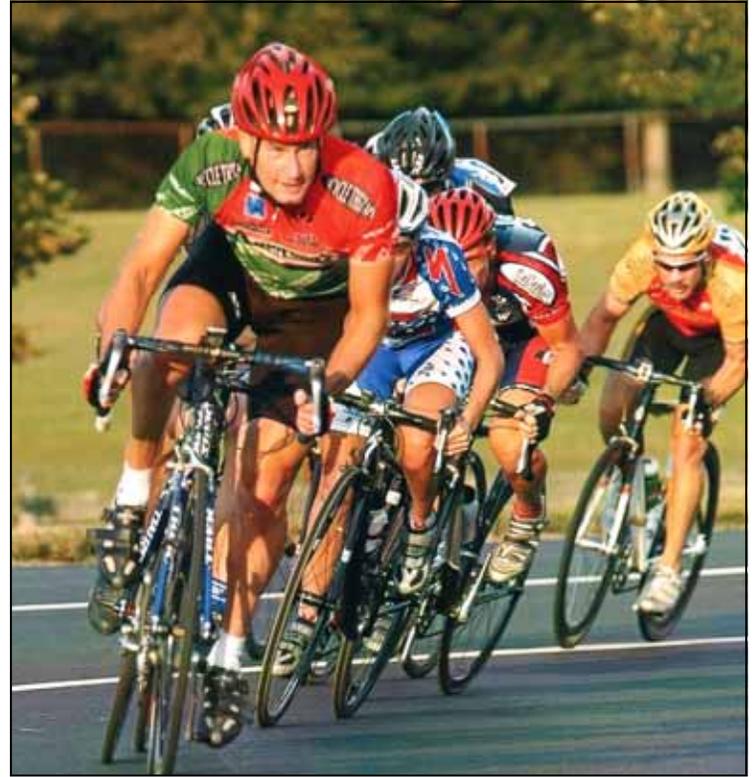
There are five categories. The top racers are a "category one" and then you can start getting applications for the Olympics. Mr. Graver is a category two. He said the bikes he races are no normal bikes; they don't have brakes and if you stop peddling, the bike stops and you go over the handle bars. He has seen it happen.

There are 24 Velo-

dromes in the country and the one in Trexlertown is the best. There are many different kinds of bike racing. There is Velodrome racing, road racing and *everywhere* racing. Mr. Graver's favorite kind is road racing, which he likes because he is good at riding really fast up the hill.

Something that is really cool about the Velodrome is that the riders come from all over the world. Another cool thing he said he did was the galaxy race. This is a race that starts with you racing out of the front of a huge cargo plane and 10 miles around Dover Air Force Base.

The most famous person he has ever met at the Velodrome was Marty Nothstein, who won Olympic gold medals. Mr. Graver said that if you want to race, you can start in 8th grade and you get a coach who then teaches you all about racing on banked tracks. Eventually, you can also race and if you're good enough, head to the Olympics.



If Mr. Graver is not in the classroom, chances are he is on his bicycle.



West team classroom receives special packages from overseas Afghanistan

By Kasey Wayda

West Team

This year, along with many previous years, 7th graders in Miss Binder's English class have written letters to send over to Afghanistan in time for the holidays.

Some people, myself included, got letters and even more back!

Here is what Erika Algard said: "Along with getting a letter back, I got much more. The person who received my letter was Col. Richard Brown. He sent me three scarves and 30 bracelets for my whole English class. I thought it was awesome that Col. Brown sent me these wonderful things, especially the bracelets for my class."

Along with the scarves and



bracelets, many people received trinkets and postcards. We were all very lucky that the letters made it over and we were even more excited when Miss Binder came in with a big smile on her face to say that something had arrived from Afghanistan.

It's hard to imagine, but these people are just like us and they're spending their lives trying their best to protect us.

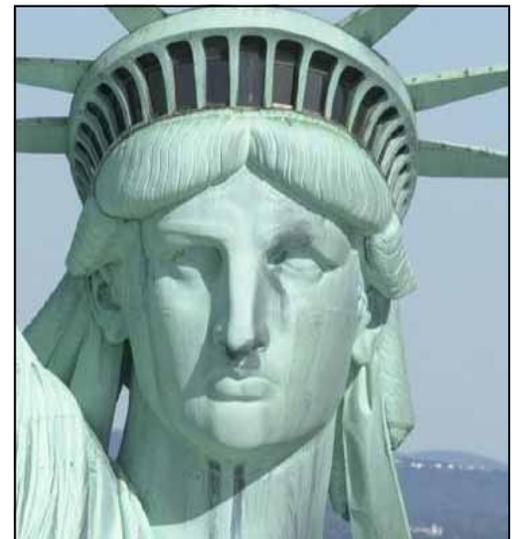
This truly was a great experience and it made me feel really good to hear that I put a smile on a soldier's face.

SouthEast team ♥'s N.Y.

Liberty, from page 2

Liberty. After you are done being on the Statue of Liberty, you can go to the gift shop to buy souvenirs. There was also a restaurant where you can get food. It started to rain when we got to the gift shop. The bad weather held off for the South-East team! We were very fortunate.

When we got onto our last ferry, we went back to where our buses are. It was an exhausting ride home. It was a very fun and special experience to get to go to New York and see all these amazing tourist locations. Also, a lot of caring parents volunteered to be chaperones for this exciting day. Our team would like to thank them for being there!



In memory of our beloved reptile, Spike

In case you haven't heard, our beloved Spike died. He died Monday, May 22, 2011. We heard that he died over the weekend. I interviewed Mr. Eckhart on the cause of Spike's death and he said "Unknown Causes."

I asked him a numerous amount of questions involving "When did you get spike?" He asked, "Four years ago." I also asked Mr. Eckhart how he felt about Spike's death. Mr. Eckhart replied, "I think he had a really good environment and life. He had a better home than those out



in the wild. I can't really say I feel sorry for him, but he is an animal. I asked my fellow classmates how they felt about the death of Spike, so here are some of their responses.

Olivia Burke said, "I feel so bad for Mr. Eckhart."

Kianna Marlatt replied, "I think it was 'cute' that he put out

flowers for Spike."

Scarlet Ojeda said, "I feel so bad. Spike was my best friend."

Amy Hinkle replied, "I'm sad for Mr. Eckhart and everyone who loved Spike."

Cat Maniscalco said, "I'm sad. Spike was like our school pet."

I believe that Spike will always know us and remember us, even if he was a lizard. I think that Spike knows who took care of him and he'll always be thankful.

Having a heart for those in-need

The following people were generous enough to offer school supplies and bathroom products to February's "Have a Heart for the Homeless." Their generosity is greatly appreciated.

Austin Arnold, Mr. Barnes, Olivia Burke, Paige Bachman, Mrs. Becker, Jared Brozowski, Samantha Brown, Kassandra Beller, Race Barry, Rebecca Blocker, Jarret Berger, Dave Cool, Jacob Corwin, Taylor Duplaga, T.J. Dooley, Becca Evans, Mr. Eckhart, Erin Fleischmann, Alyssa Fritzingler, Mrs. Farole, Alley Freed, Nate Farber, Cubby George, Alex Garcia, Veronica Green, Jonathan Gares, Tyler Gruber, Jacob Heintzleman, Abby Hillegas, Mrs. Hubbs, Taylor Her-

man, Shane Hoppes, Niko Hoffman, Justin Johannsmeier, Mrs. Kuntz, Julie Knerr, Taryn Kemmerer, Haleigh Kistler,



Gavin Kemery, Brett Kern, Alexis Kalamaris, Brendon Kresge, Dale Kern, Mrs. Lieberman, Brian Lutz, Alexis Middaugh, Erika McKay, Mr. Meixsell, Cheyenne Mazzocca,

Braxton Minnich, Benalise Matos, Mrs. Marushak, Lexie Merkle, Evan Meixsell, Jordan Moser, Israel Moore, Devan Pepe, Danny Patterson, Matt Pender, Trevor Pelaez, Alexis Papay, Britani Pristash, Nate Rex, Zach Rex, Tyler Shellhammer, Brittany Spaar, Dakota Schweitzer, Nina Schnyder, Nathan Snyder, Haley Schlegel, Frau Schmidt, Tyler Serfass, Parker Smith, Cheyenne Smith, Tyler Smith, Mrs. Treant, John Taylor, Traca family, Mrs. Trantham, Yanni Tripajis, Jalisa Thomas, Phoebe Thomasco, Tyler Varilek, Sean Weierbach, Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. Waylen, Kasey Wayda.

Do our youth appreciate soldiers?

By **Melanie Campbell**

SouthEast Team

I have this question I want to ask to all the adults and maybe even kids. So I ask these questions: **Do you think that today's youth appreciates our soldiers?** Do you think that today's youth cares about our soldiers and them dying for our country?

I ask this question because I don't think today's youth cares enough about what our soldiers do for everyone, and for our country. I was raised to respect and love all of our soldiers. Many adults had an opinion on this. **Bob Carkhuff** thinks this: "Yes, I think students of today do care about our soldiers as we are focusing on them a lot at the present time and think the students of today know and are working toward becoming tomorrow's soldiers. The defense of our freedoms rides on the backs of our soldiers and without them we are truly defenseless and would not be able to prevent a takeover from other countries. Love the laws of the country or not, it is our country and we have many more freedoms than most other countries out there but we do spread our troops too thin and into areas we should not be."

Well said. I believe that today's youth cares about our soldiers depending on how they are raised and what family they were

brought into. With my family, all the men in my family were in the Army.

My aunt said, "In my opinion there are many people my age and younger who do not value what our service men and women do and have done in the past. Part of



it has to do with the general ease of living today. Threats, despite 9/11, seem distant and not real. I blame this in part to the media but in a larger part to how over-saturated with information we are. We are bombarded from all angles by 'information' all hyped up to the millionth degree. Also, we are so over-loaded with images in the movies that the very real tragedies experienced by our soldiers doesn't seem real."

Lisa Lea had a similar opinion but a different one: "I think on some level, today's youth is

very aware of what our soldiers are going through. More and more are being affected by someone they love going into a war zone. I do think they understand just what a soldier sacrifices for our country."

Now I'm going to answer my own questions.

I think some of our youth appreciates our soldiers. I also think that our youth might not understand, but yet, they do. I think it all depends on what family they are raised into — if their parents were raised as Army kids; if their parents were/are in the Army. I believe, also, that it depends on the child. I do think that today's youth cares about our soldiers. I think our youth knows how many lives are lost everyday. I don't think they understand it though. When you're younger, you don't understand but when you're born into it, you do.

That's what I believe.

Joan Campbell says, "I believe it depends whether or not a child shows respect to our armed forces and it depends on how the child is raised."

As you can see, everyone thinks different, but everyone agrees in some way. Without our soldiers fighting for us, there wouldn't be a United States of America. I thank them each and every day for their sacrifices. I thank them for the freedom we have.

Thank a soldier today.

Not only man's best friend but a trustworthy partner, too

By Alexis Papay

West Team

On April 8, 2011, Ms. Binder's English classes got a special visit from two officers out of the Forks Township Police Department. Officer Mills and his trusty German shepherd, Sonny,

gave the classes an excellent presentation on what they do.

They had a very evident bond; after all, this is their sixth year working together.

Sonny, a patrol and drug dog, and Officer Mills, a three-year military veteran had many dangerous but successful missions but one made them stand out and even made the local newspaper.

lucky enough to see a few demonstrations when fifth period's Danny Patterson was hidden in a closet. Sonny was able to find Danny even with all the other scents from the bystanding students.

In the case of passive/aggressive personality, Sonny is aggressive, meaning he will scratch at the area he thinks a person or illegal substance may be hiding.

When Sonny finds drugs or a person, he is rewarded by a toy, which makes him work harder.

Sonny and Officer Mills lent a huge "paw" in catching a bank robber on the run. We were also

An officer will speak to his dog in Hungarian for security reasons. Sonny and Officer Mills closed out the presentation by showing us a few simple commands. I guess a dog really can be man's best friend.



Officer Mills and Sonny gave the West team some information during a salute to "heroes."



Mrs. Wagner wanted Sonny's toy. Sonny disagreed.

2011's Senior Prom was a tropical success



Members of National Junior Honor Society (above) had as good a time as the senior citizens (below) did at this year's Senior Prom. Photo courtesy of Mr. Troy Schnyder



Trivia lovers fight through ACE competi-

By Nick Young
SouthEast Team

What is A.C.E.? When you think of A.C.E., you think of an ace in a deck of cards but really it is much more. A.C.E. really stands for Academic Challenge Eight and it is only for eighth graders. Maybe this year's seventh-graders will be able to participate in next year's challenge when they move up a grade.

Our advisor is Mr. Battista. Sadly, he is moving to the elementary school and I don't know who is going to be taking over his spot for A.C.E.

A.C.E. is mainly general knowledge questions from every subject in school and beyond. It is like trivia questions from the TV shows "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?", "Family Feud," and

"Jeopardy." In this competition, you play against other schools. The schools for this year are Panther Valley, Lehigh, Tamaqua, Northwestern Lehigh, Palmerton, Catasauqua, Northern Lehigh and Jim Thorpe.

We competed in Tamaqua School District but lost both competitions. The students in our competition were Aaron Hofmann, Amber Thomas, Floyd Snyder, Makayla Gordon and me, Nick Young. It was very fun competing in A.C.E.



Makayla Gordon, Nathaniel Rex, Aaron Hofmann, Floyd Snyder and Nick Young. (Missing from photo: Amber Thomas).

School uniforms would remove my identity

By Dakota Miller
West Team

No! Get that uniform away from me! Do you like dress codes? Do students behave better when they are wearing uniforms to school every day? I believe that not having dress codes helps students go to school every day and not get in trouble. So I say, "No!" to school uniforms!

There are many reasons to not have school uniforms. One reason there should be no dress codes is students can't express their feelings. When students choose their clothing they can dress happily and

have a good time at school. This helps students to want to come to school and learn. Also, according to Scholastic's Action magazine "There's little evidence to show that dress codes cause students to behave better."

Some people believe we should have dress codes. One reason they say we should have dress codes is to help kids pay better attention. There is little evidence to show that students pay better attention when wearing uniforms. In fact, Extra magazine says, "dress codes don't make students pay attention to their studies." Do dress codes stop teasing and bullying?

Some people think so, but Extra magazine says, "That kids who tease are going to tease over and over, whether uniforms are worn or not." So, I believe we should not have dress codes.

So, as you can see, school uniforms do not change students or their actions. Students do not want to wear the same thing as everyone else, and they do not focus better or get better grades because of dress codes.

So, in the end, I believe that we should not have dress codes at Northern Lehigh Middle School!

West team visits local senior home

By Meghan Miller-Brown
West Team

As homeroom 30 entered the buses to go to the retirement home, we all looked over our questions one more time, eager to see what was in store for us. When we got there, we were welcomed by a few residents of the home. They took us inside and it was beautiful.

The citizens of the home that greeted us took us into the room where we would be interviewing our people. We paired up and we

sat down with our resident. Abby Obenski described it as, "It was really fun and a great experience." Abby and I talked to a man named Barry. We learned so much about how people lived in his time. He grew up in Slatington and lived here all his life.

He walked us through his life and it was very interesting to hear about. We learned about how he lived, what his jobs were, how much life was different, and so much more! I loved hearing every moment of it. I've never learned so much in about an hour. I be-

lieve I speak for everyone else, too! Everyone else also said they had a great time and a wonderful experience.

When I looked around, everyone looked as though they would never want to leave! I would definitely love to go back and talk to more people and get more information. As I mentioned before, we all thought this to be a great experience and a great time. I am very grateful for this trip, and I wish everyone else had a chance to experience what I got to!



Shyanne Koch, Kendal Park and Kayla Belles gather information during a West team trip to a local senior home.

More reflections from senior home trip

By **Matt Romig**
West Team

Mr. Herzog's 7th grade class took a field trip to the George Dillard Senior Citizens home. I thought it was going to be a boring trip but it was actually a pretty cool experience. I interviewed a nice lady; her name was Leeann Osmond.

I asked her a lot of questions to get to know her. Mrs. Osmond was born on June 21, 1950 in the U.S.A. She admitted that she got in serious trouble for smoking in the girls bathroom when she was in high school.

Growing up, she liked detective shows and Howdy Doody. She likes Pink Floyd and the Rolling Stones. She was a really nice lady and I'm glad I got to talk to her.

By **Travis Stalnecker**
West Team

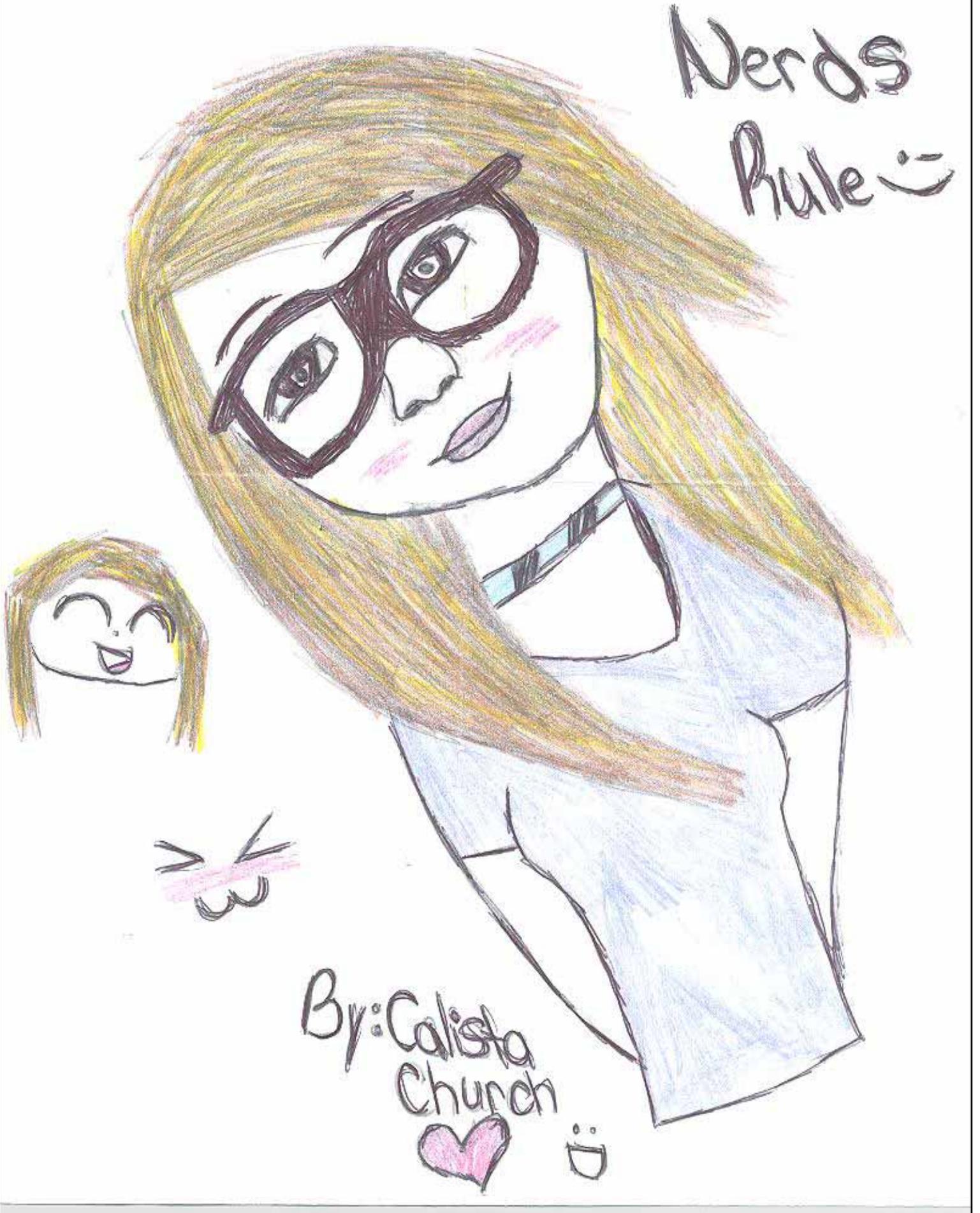
Everyone said it was a good opportunity to make new friends and learn stuff about their lives. I interviewed a nice lady, Betty Gerrickson, who has been all over the world. She never got in trouble in school or at home. Her family lived through the Great Depression and her family managed through it. It was a fun and enjoyable trip for all of us.



Cameron Kates and Travis Stalnecker learn about life from a new friend.



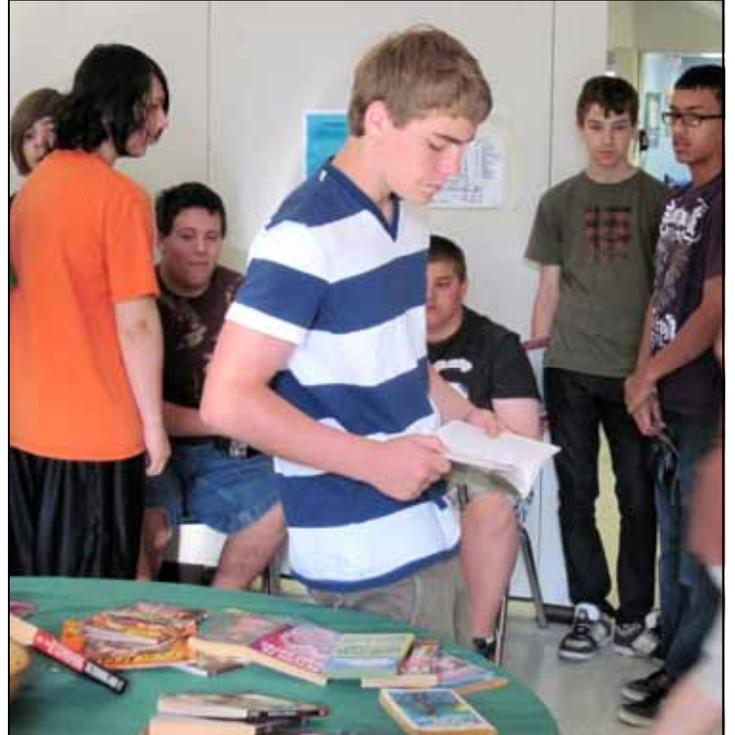
Mr. Herzog even got some questions in during the West team trip.



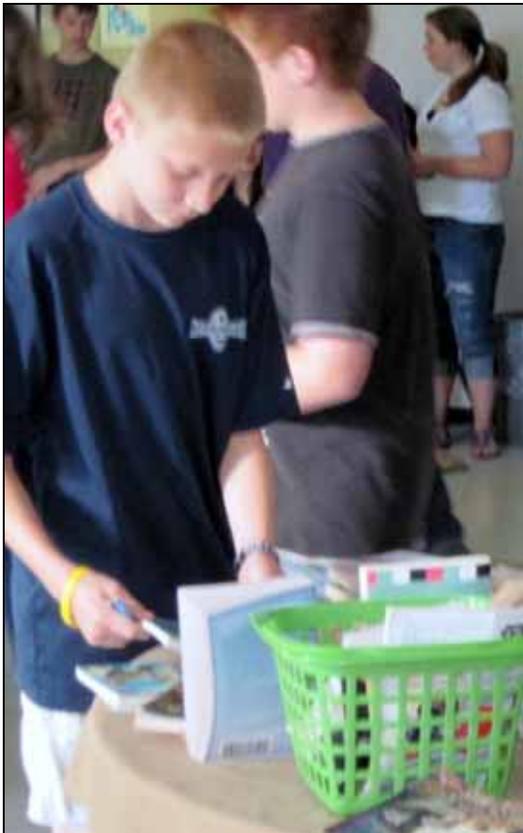
The 7th Annual Great American SouthEast Book Swap



Mrs. Marushak moments before the mad rush of 'shopping' for books begins.



Nate Farber can't wait to start reading his book.



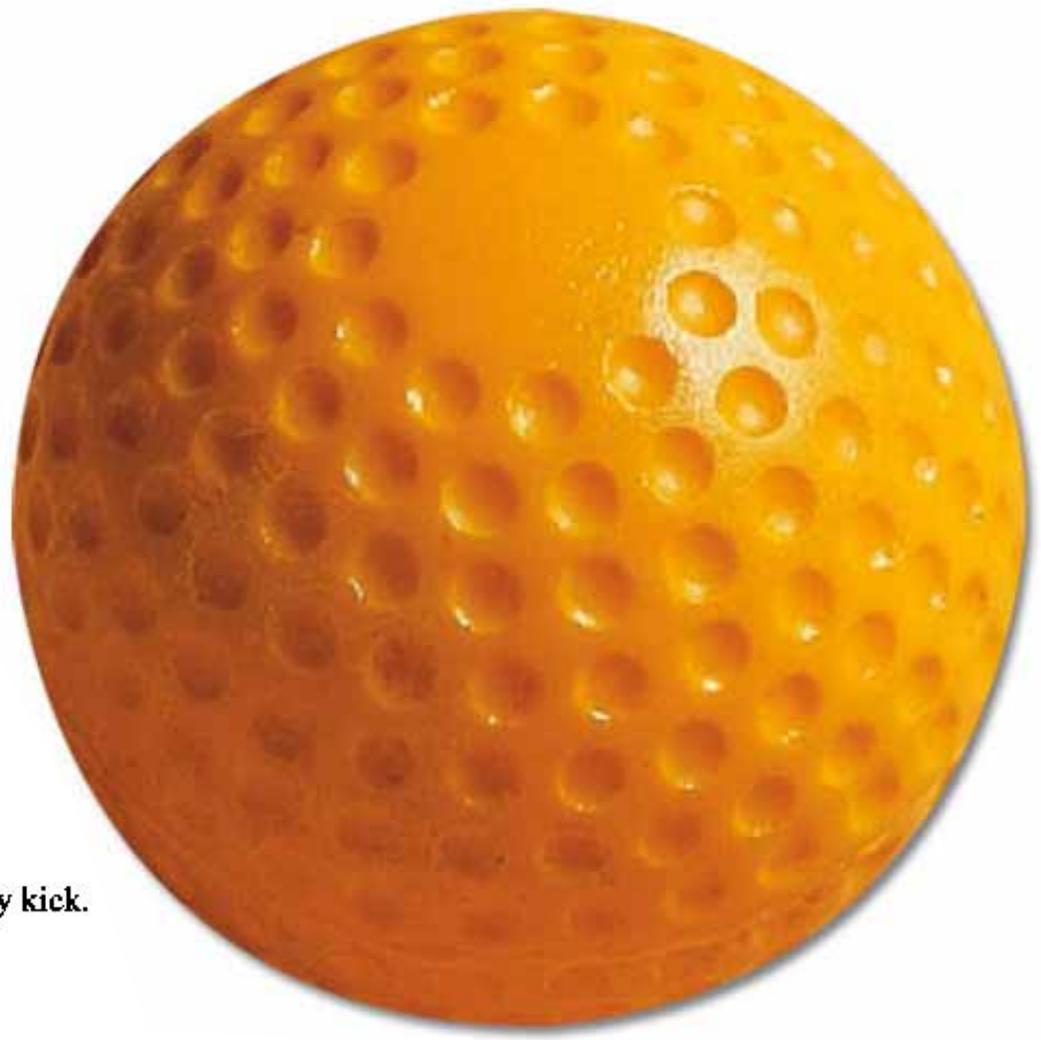
T.J. Dooley selects some books for summer reading.



Give a Book . . . Get a Book! A great way to add books to your personal collection. Students searched their book shelves and brought in over 650 books!
Photos by Isiah Ortiz

The Big Game- By Erika McKay

Uniforms on,
 Mouth guards in.
 Anxiously waiting
 For the game to begin.
 Players huddle up.
 The whistle blows.
 Now it's time to play
 The game we know.
 We cheer our hearts out.
 We're ready for this game.
 Unbearable excitement
 That is hard to tame.
 The teams take position.
 The ball is hit.
 It travels to me.
 I go and commit.
 Dodge one girl,
 Dodge the next.
 I shoot the ball
 And it reflects.
 Right off the goalie,
 Back to my stick.
 I shoot again
 But the goalie gives it a mighty kick.
 I kept trying.
 But before I knew,
 The half ended quickly
 The whistle blew.
 "Keep your heads up,
 It's not over yet
 We can win this"
 Said our coach with no fret.
 So we get back out there
 And play our hardest.
 And make them the smartest.
 Between both teams.
 For it's our dream.
 As sisters we unite.
 The last minute of play,
 We need to fight
 We dribble downfield
 I shoot the ball
 To see if the ball will go in,
 Did I make a good shot?
 I hear the ball; hit the goal with a loud BANG!
 The whistle blew. We had won the game



 Make good decisions
 The game's been close
 We must win
 We've come too far to lose it all.
 We must stand tall.
 We're quick on our feet.
 And not let them defeat.
 And the pass comes to me.
 And wait to see.
 Which will win the game.
 How was my aim?



OPINION

8th Grade Reflections: Hard to believe the time is up

For me, it's hard to believe that my time in middle school is almost up. I have so many great memories from this school, and I know I will definitely miss being here.

But, of course, I have something to look forward to: moving on to high school. Even though I have a few of those "fears," I know that high school will be a great experience.

When I think about it, I realize how many friends I have made, how many things I learned, and how much I have grown up since starting seventh grade. Middle school is the one place where a lot of growing up happens. Teens are beginning to learn who they truly are, and who they want to be, and I know this has affected me in a big way.

When I started seventh grade, I remember being so nervous...Will I be able to open my locker? What if the teachers aren't nice? Will all of my friends be in my classes? What if the things I'm going to learn are too hard?... it was so much worrying.

Then I got to school that morning, and I met all of the teachers, and saw all of my friends, and all of the worries went away. I knew that if I tried my best, I would have a great time in middle



Julie Knerr

school. And I did, and now I know the years in middle school have been my best so far. I learned a lot of new academic material, but I also learned a lot of different

“Although my friends helped to change me, I think I’ve changed on my own, too.”

things. I learned how to have a great time, while still being responsible and achieving good grades in school. I learned how to talk to everyone, not just a few of my friends. I learned how much fun it

is to be a part of a lot of the activities in school; to be a part of a group making our school a better place.

Doing things like the fundraiser for St. Jude's last year in math, and raising money for a cancer walk in reading gave me the chance to help people who don't have the things that I take for granted.

But being a part of groups like Student Council, and Yearbook let me make my school a better place. I had a great time putting together the yearbook for the school, and arranging memorable events like the Farewell for Student Council.

But the one thing I've noticed about myself is how much I have changed since the beginning of seventh grade: I have different friends, a few different interests, and even my personality has changed a little bit.

The people I have been around have definitely influenced me and changed me, but I think it made me a better person, and I'm really happy to have friends like that. Although my friends helped to change me, I think I've changed on my own, too.

Just learning and growing up made me a more mature person.

See Julie, page 18

8th Grade Reflections:

One of the best years of my life

This year was one of the best years of my life. I had my awesome friends and amazing teachers to get me through this year. It seems like it was just yesterday that I started eighth grade. This year has and still is flowing by so fast, it's sometimes hard to keep up.



Alex García

I've grown so much from seventh grade; I recognized what I can do with a breeze and what takes a little more time. I now feel confident on going to the high school because I know I can handle a lot of things at once and I

know the subjects I am good at and the ones that take a little bit more time. I am also a lot more mature than last year. I don't usually do immature things and I have a lot more respect for everyone, especially my family. I have also grown in relationships. And I don't just mean with my friends; I also mean with teachers and my family. I have gotten a lot closer to my friends because we have been through so much these past two years in middle school. I plan to get even closer with them and I

hope we are friends forever. And now with teachers; teachers have helped me so much and some teachers know the real *me*. I feel confident when I am around my teachers because I know that I can trust them and count on them for anything.

Now family; my family has been with me from the start and since I am getting older I now realize that they are there for you whenever you need them, no matter the situation. So I have grown in many ways than just one.

I am going to miss a lot about these past two school years. I am going to miss my friends that I

See Alex, page 19

A few nerves are normal for high school

Julie, from page 17

Some people might not like too much change, and I'm one of those people. But right now, I'm really happy with the person I've become, and I'm happy to be leaving middle school the person I am.

Of course, just like before middle school, I'm pretty nervous to start high school. I know that school will get harder, and that the teachers are more strict. It's going to take more learning to be able to balance schoolwork, a sport, and

time for fun with my friends and family.

I'm a little worried for the classes, and just how hard high school will get. I worry things may not go as well as they did in middle school. I'm hoping that the teachers at the high school are just as great and helpful as the ones at the middle school, and that I'll still be able to see my friends a lot in school, and we won't get too separated. I'm even a little nervous about being around kids that are three and four years older than I am. But after learning how great

something can be even if you're nervous for it to happen, I think I'm ready for high school. Despite a few high school fears, I'm going to go to high school with a positive attitude and work hard, and I'm going to make it as great as middle school was.

Now, with my days in the middle school winding down, I realize all of the great friends I've made, and all of the great memories I will always have with me after my time here. And, now, I'm ready to go make more great memories in the high school.



OPINION

8th Grade Reflections: The end of this road, and a post-elementary wake-up



Makayla Gordon

It is the end of the road for the 8th grade class. In just a few short months, we will no longer be members of the Northern Lehigh Middle School but freshmen at the high school.

It is a big change to move from a school of two grades to the big high school with four.

Other than that, I am pretty excited about the big change. A new school can mean a new start; a clean slate.

This is the time to change and improve yourself as a person. This new start is the time for you to set better and higher goals for yourself.

Things might be rough to fall back to the bottom of the totem pole. I've heard stories about what some people do and how they treat freshmen but I think it will be OK.

It's only one year and everyone goes through it one time or another. I think if we keep our heads up and spirits high, we can make it a great year.

These past two years have gone by at Northern Lehigh Middle School and I can't believe my time here is almost up! I have done a lot of fun things at this school like clubs, projects, classes, lunches, rewards, field trips and much more. My favorite moment has to be the mornings I have spent on DNN. I have gotten close with both crews and they were both fun and cooperative. I loved going to school early each day. My managers and I have had a good time. There have been some ups and downs though, but that's life, right? I personally feel that this school was a wake-up from elementary school and showed me what high school and beyond is going to be like.

Not everyone is going to get along with each other. Working through these situations really did prepare me for high school. Also, thank you to all of my teachers; you have made my time memorable. Finally, I just want to wish the seventh-graders good luck next year. And to all the eighth-graders, see you in high school!



Nina Schnyder

Never been as motivated as I am now

Alex, from page 18

probably won't talk to as much, I am going to miss the school in general, but mostly I am going to miss the teachers. The teachers are the ones students have to rely on to make school fun, and the teachers did a great job at doing so.

I've never been as motivated

as I am now to go to each class everyday. The teachers aren't boring and they don't just teach and make us sit and do work; the teachers make us laugh and make us feel confident everyday. We really got to know the teachers throughout these last two years. I don't know how I am going to make it though high school without them.

As you can see these past two years at the middle school were some of the greatest years of my life. It is going to be hard leaving this all behind and starting all over again at a bigger school but I was taught well on what to expect so I can be prepared for the next four years.



OPINION

8th Grade Reflections: Colonial Days, Pi contests, Philly trips are all lasting memories



Jessica Olewine

My eighth grade year was one of the best years. There were so many memories with all my friends. Sports seasons were big ones. On the buses, we would sing and laugh and drive our coaches insane! Field hockey was so much fun this year.

We had a great season and along the way, we became a better team as a whole. On North team, we had Colonial Days where all we did was go around to different activities that people in Colonial times would have done.

As long as you want to have fun with Colonial Days, you will.

Lunch was also a big memory! Eighth grade was a memory every day, as long as you made it one.

Eighth grade: When I think of my 8th grade year, I think about how amazing it was and how I will miss it. I was on North team, which is the best team in the entire school!

It has wonderful teachers and awesome activities like Colonial Days, Pi drawings and our field trip to Philadelphia. I love the North team!

During my 8th grade year, I grew a lot. I learned how to be more responsible and that others are just as important as myself. With all that I have learned, I am ready to go across the street to the wonderful world of high school.

Eighth grade was one of the best times I've had in my life! I will miss it so much.



Taylor Duplaga

Middle school intramurals a success in '11

Spring intramurals 2011 for the middle school. There were more than 50 students registered. An average of 40 students daily participated in tennis, volleyball, ping pong, and badminton. A pizza party concluded this activity on April 18. A big thank-you to Mrs. Rex and Mrs. Berger who helped with intramurals.

Intramural officers for 2010-2011. President: Matt Pender; vice-president: Jared Brozowski; Treasurer: Nathan Rex; Secretary: Taylor Duplaga; Equipment Manager:

Zachary Heffelfinger.

The following students participated in Spring 2011 intramurals: Shawn Reese, Tyler Serfass, Noah Freudenberger, C.J. Young, Cubby George, Nick Uebele, Colton Rex, Evan Meixsell, Kaitlyn Harding, Nichole Henritz, Kasey Wayda, Rebecca Blocker, Taylor Gallimore, Haley Schlegel, Chelsea Snyder, Jasmine Grant, Briana Andrews, Samantha Brown, Taylor Duplaga, T.J. Dooley, Randi McRae, Rhiannon Rhodes, Alyssa Crespo, Kayla Belles, Alexandra

Krotzer, Jordan Long, Jake Sipos, Matthew Pender, Zach Ohlson, Jarret Berger, Jacob Brunt, Matt Romig, Gage Christ, William Andino, Jordan Moser, Shane Hoppes, Zachary Heffelfinger, Conrad Bevans, Joseph Mackaravitz, Daniel Patterson, Collin Bush, Cheyenne Shannon, Nathan Rex, Justin Johannsmeier, Jaleel Graham, Jamal Graham, Ambur Ringler, Andrew Tarafas, Jeremie Tomkins, Jacob Corwin, Zachary Rex, Travis Stalnecker, Niko Hoffman, Hunter Witczak, Gary Reph.



OPINION

Photographs can capture the moment

You know all the pictures you have taken throughout your lifetime? Well, all those pictures are a form of photography. Every picture has its own meaning and that is exactly why we take all the pictures we do.

We all take pictures for a reason, right? Well, of course!

We want to be able to remember things from all different times in our life. It's fun to look back and check out all the things you have done.

You can see how much we have changed over time. That can



Kianna Marlatt

vary from style to age, and even to your personality sometimes.

Pictures can be looked at in so many different ways. Most people just look at some pictures and say they're dumb. They never take a few moments of time to just look at it. If you look at it long enough, sometimes it brings back memories or

makes you excited for something. I love that moment when you can just look at a picture and feel so many different emotions.

Photography is beautiful. Not

only does photography help bring back memories but it also helpful when you need to "relax." I absolutely love spending all my free time taking pictures. I have so many pictures and they all mean something special to me.

If you're into photography like me, don't ever let anyone bring you down about it. Remember, every picture has its own meaning and if someone has to criticize you about it, they're obviously just jealous that they don't have the kind of talent that you do. Stand up and be proud of your work!

Just keep taking pictures everywhere you go in life. You'll be thankful for it later.





OPINION

This is the year of true-friend discovery

This was the year to find out who your *real* friends are.

Eighth-graders, we're on to high school next year. Be prepared for more lame drama you're going to get caught up in. Middle school drama is pointless. Most of it just starts because of rumors.

Out of nowhere, the person you thought was your best friend will just up and leave you.



Cat Maniscalco

It may have been because of something they heard or they may not like the fact that you have changed.

People need to understand that everyone is changing. No one is turning bad; we're all just trying to find ourselves. In the meantime,

we lose a few friends and gain some others.

Honestly, if the person you thought was your best friend can

just leave you, you're better off without them.

Sometimes, changing friends is a good thing. That way, when you change, your friends will change and relate to you more.

But see, your friends are supposed to stick by you no matter what. Even if you become a different person. No one can face this world alone.

Everyone needs someone to stand by them – someone to help them fight their battles.

Six original poems by West teamer, Crystal Greiss

The fairy kings and secret things.

Hello to the night,
goodbye to the day.
The candle light helps me
see this way.
Comes the dark and candle flame
Gives life to dream again the same
of misty lives
and sealed "shut eyes."

Blue! Release my body repent my mind.

The night and me
were one of a kind.
And all the shades
I see them in my sleep.
Shadows in the woods and
windows to the deep.
Wearing truth like a branch
hanging from a tree.

Words on notes strewn in red,

ghosts from the past fill my head.

Following intuition
deep in my heart,
Flames of betray a
flicker in the dark.

Escaping the pain of one less
friend, yet knowing the
nightmares may never end.

Lights out, eyes closed, Toss and turn, hands cold.

Frightening shadows,
tears that stream;
Whispering voices
a hollow scream.
From this horror,
set me free; so I say,
So let it be.

In that place between dreaming and me,

Where the walls
spread out silver and gray.

Hello to the night,
goodbye to the day;
The candle light
helps me see this way;
The children in my head,
the monster under my bed.

Blue is for nightmares that hide in the night;

a sure guarantee to
give me a fright.
White is for magic
that's blissful and true,
But you better watch out,
he's coming for you.
Silver is for secrets that
taint a pure heel,
But when they are out,
you wish I was here.
And red is for remembrance that
runs through our veins,
The most beautiful color, which
begets the most pain.



OPINION

Why can't fictional characters be real?

HELP! We're in love with a fictional character!!! Paige Slack, Chey Troxell and I are all in love with fictional characters! I hate, no wait, *we* hate that when you can't have the guy in the book because either they're gay or they will never exist. They are just described so hot that it's impossible to ever have them! I just don't understand why the authors do this to us teen readers. For example, The House of Night series. P.C. Cast is *always* making the guys incredibly hot.

Just that simple. Like the guys Damien, Jack, and Stark and Erik. Erik is like the dream guy. He's like the perfect male. He's the boyfriend every girl would want but can't have (because he's **fictional!**) Then there are the couple Damien and Jack, who are gay. The way P.C. Cast describes them is... amazing.

Paige, Chey and I all agree that gay people are incredibly amazing. Stark is one of those bad boys that... grrr, you can't have



Mel Campbell

either because they are in a book. The book cannot talk either.

We believe that all of those fictional characters need to be alive and real. If they are alive and real, I call dibs on Stark!

My whole point with this is, don't you hate it when you are reading a book and it's really good and then you go to the next book and then if there's any more in the next book and you know you can't have the characters because they aren't real?

Have you ever cried when a character in your book died? Have you ever thrown your book at a wall because you got mad and then you picked it up again and kept reading it? Well, I'm pretty sure the three of us have, because I have. I have left tears in my book before.

Paige and I are still fighting over who gets Damien or Jack; I say I get them...because I always win. Chey and I will

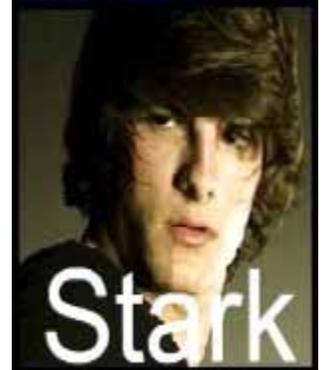
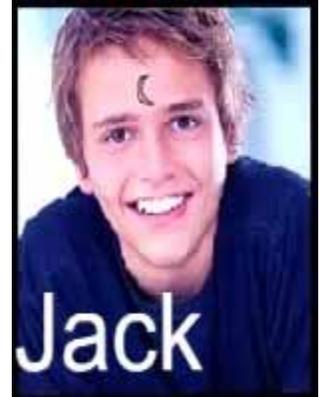
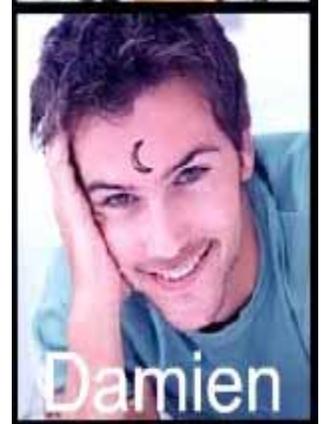
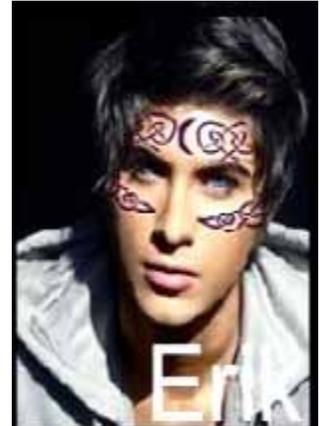
fight over Stark and she will win because she scares me.

My other question. Have you ever wondered what it would be like if they were really alive? If they were alive, that would maybe change the whole world. Think about it. How many different states or countries do the books we read take place in? A lot.

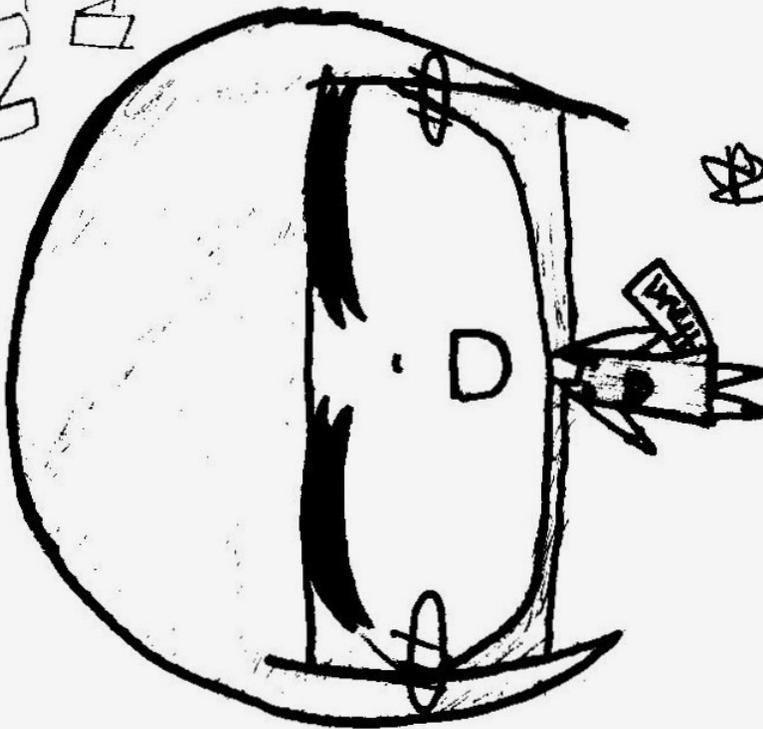
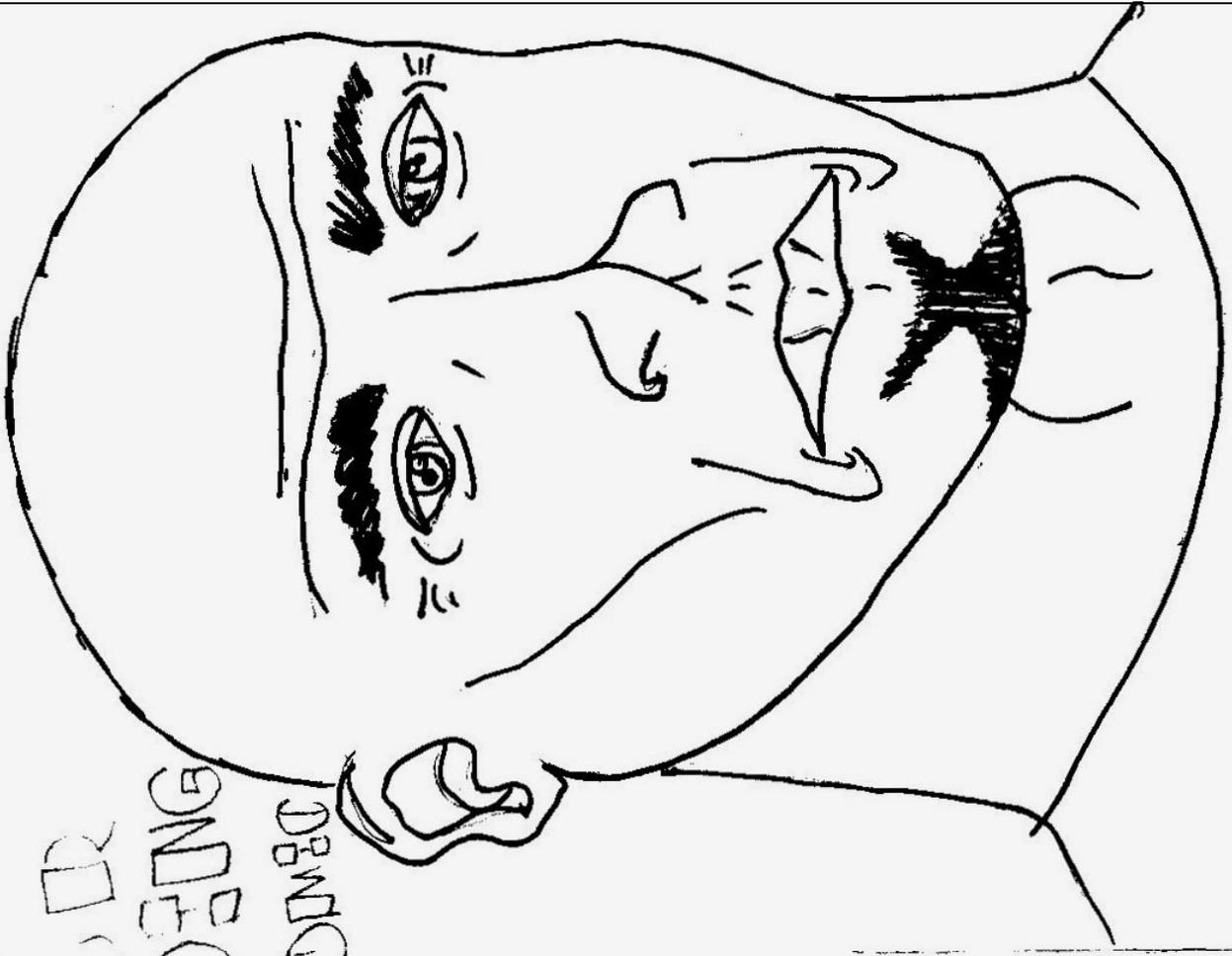
I've wondered about how that would change our society. If vampires and werewolves existed. For example, in the House of Night. P.C. Cast has it set up if you are marked by a vampire that comes to your school, you have to go to the House of Night or else you will die.

The change that you go through either kills you in your fourth or fifth year. (I forgot). How different would that be if we all knew vampires existed? We'd have a different look on society (maybe). I believe that fictional characters should be real and that if they aren't, they need to be.

What do you think?



PHOTOS
FOR
READING
ACCOMMOD





OPINION

The fedora isn't a hat; it's an identity

A fedora is not just a piece of clothing, it is a way of life explained just by looks. A fedora explains your personality and who you are.

Even the way you wear a fedora explains your personality. For example, a tilted-back fedora means you are a laid-back person, but a tilted-forward fedora



Cubby George

explains how serious you are.

Have you ever seen a nice person wearing a tilted-forward fedora? I didn't think so.

Even some people wear their fedora tilted to the side on the top of their head, meaning they just want to party. But then again, who doesn't?

There are many kinds of fedoras but there are many different varieties to go with it. Most people think "a fedora is a fedora" but they don't realize how many choices there really are.

You can change the brim to keep the sun out of your eyes. You can change the size of the band to hold things. And you can even adjust the height for oversized heads.

Even the great Michael Jackson wore one.

So you see a fedora isn't just a hat. It is an identification.

A beautiful summer is on the horizon

By Randi McRae
SouthEast Team

Can you actually believe it, people? We're only a few weeks away from having an awesome summer! Hanging out with your buds, family and just chillin' by the pool. Say goodbye to whatever grade you are in now and say hello to new opportunities.

It also means you might have more homework but if you got through this year, you can get through the next one.

It seems like yesterday that it was the first day of school and now we're close to no worries, like how you forgot to do your project and it's due the next day!

Hope you planned something



big because this summer is going to be short. I know it stinks to have a short summer this year but next year, we get out earlier than expected!

Just a reminder that school starts Aug. 29 and ends June 4. Have a great remainder of the school year and try not to have a lazy day during the summer!



Crystal Schaller, Carlee Hunsicker and Hayley Pavolko had a tropical time at the Farewell.

Photos courtesy of Mrs. Kemery



To Judge

By Makayla Gordon

Who are you?
 Who am I?
 Who are we?
 To gaze upon surface deep?
 To spit words so others weep?
 To look with such unseeing eyes.
 To ignore someone else's cries.
 To steal away self-esteem
 like thieves.
 To shun someone for
 what one believes.
 Black or white,
 Gay or straight,
 Let no one else decide your fate.
 Who are you?
 Who am I?

Trapped

By Gavin Kemery

Lonely, lost, scared and trapped.
 He's fed then has to take a nap.
 It dreams; dreams of happy things.
 Then awakens in metal fastenings.

THE BULLDOG BARK

THANKS YOU!

To anyone who picked up a copy of this student newspaper and checked out any or all four of the amazing issues, *thank you so much!* We write for your eyes! Please share these stories with the family so people in the community can see what great writers this middle school has!

To all the dedicated reporters who break the school district's paper supply budget, thank you for writing for free. You get no grade for this work or credit of any kind other than my pride and the recognition of being published for all to see. The fact that you write *simply to write* makes me prouder than ever.

~ Mr. Barnes, 2011

Health Happenings

All 7th graders learned and practiced the American Red Cross First Aid program, made a first aid kit, took a written test, and earned the First Aid certification card which is good for three years. In high school, students will be able to renew this valuable certification. In Mrs. Raber's 8th grade

Health classes, students presented their chosen body system after researching and creating a PowerPoint on laptops with a cooperative group. This project included two great websites called www.brainpop.com and www.kidshealth.org. After doing this project some students want to become future teachers.

Spring Mile Run results for 2011

Spring Mile Run – 2011 — Top 10, Seventh Grade....Boys: Gavin Kemery 5:45; T.J. Dooley 6:22; Carlos Figueroa 6:52; Gage Christ 6:52; Jarryd Traca 6:54; C.J. Young 6:59; Husan Mujovic 7:05; Daniel Patterson 7:09; Jarett Honea 7:10; Colton Rex 7:15. **Girls:** Paige Bachman 7:23; Ashley Conklin 7:54; Taylor Herman 8:33; Ashley

Handwerk 8:43; Lexie Merkle 9:04; Meghan Miller-Brown 9:14; Cheyenne Mazzocca 9:18; Brittani Pristash 9:19; Nicole Jacoby 9:38; Sage Hargreaves 9:38.

Spring Mile Run – 2011 — Top 10, Eighth Grade....Boys: Isiah Ortiz 5:37; Jeremie Tomkins 5:40; Bryce Moser 5:54; Zeb Shiffert 5:59; Matthew Pender 6:10; Jamil

Alejandro 6:15; Drake Pristash 6:21; Aaron Hofmann 6:37; William Andino 6:50; Andrew Tarafas 6:50. **Girls:** Jess Olewine 6:54; Erika McKay 6:58; Alexis Mid-daugh 7:01; Alex Garcia 7:02; Devan Pepe 7:19; Scarlet Ojeda 7:35; Emily Bevans 7:50; Nina Schnyder 8:07; Amber Marlow 8:15; Taryn Kemmerer 8:17.

