

The Bulldog Times



Principal: Mrs. Chamberlain

Advisor: Mr. Barnes

Northern Lehigh Middle School

Winter 2009

Issue 2

Dear Soldiers... Thank you

Army Sgt. visits seventh-graders; care package sent overseas

By Taylor Duplaga
West Team

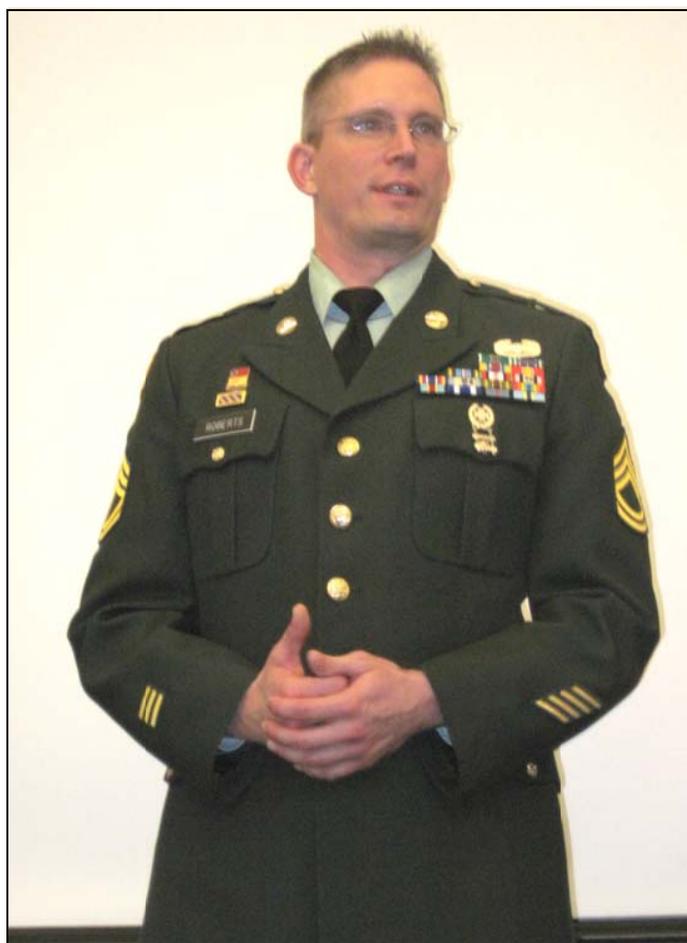
Our seventh-graders are giving back to the troops in more ways than one. They have been busy writing letters to send to the soldiers who fight for our country. And it's just in time for Christmas!

To help us learn more about the military and what they go through on a daily basis. Ms. Binder, English teacher on the West team, asked her friend, Sgt. Tim Roberts, to come and speak to the seventh-grade classes on both the West and SouthEast teams.

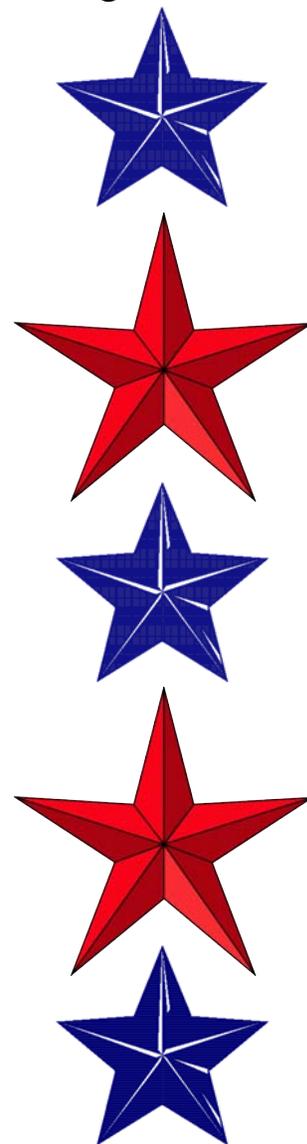
He showed us pictures of the area he lived in when he was in Afghanistan and the camps they made.

His pictures showed that life wasn't easy for anybody

See Sergeant, page 3



Sgt. Tim Roberts spoke to NLMS seventh-grade classes about his real-life experiences serving our country.



**MORE
INSIDE**

The Bulldog Times you are holding is packed to its paws! Inside you'll find student art, news on our marching band's success, information on CPR training, a recap about North team's Colonial Days, improvements on this year's cross country team, a little about football and NLMS's precautions for battling the H1N1 virus, and much more! Learn about your middle school and tell a friend!

'North' heads back to Colonial times

By Rachel Hams
North Team

What is Colonial Days? Well, it is a hands-on learning activity for Mr. Schell's eighth-grade North team students. This four-day event allows students to learn and experience what teenagers from the Colonial period lived like. We get to learn this through different kinds of games, foods and many other activities.

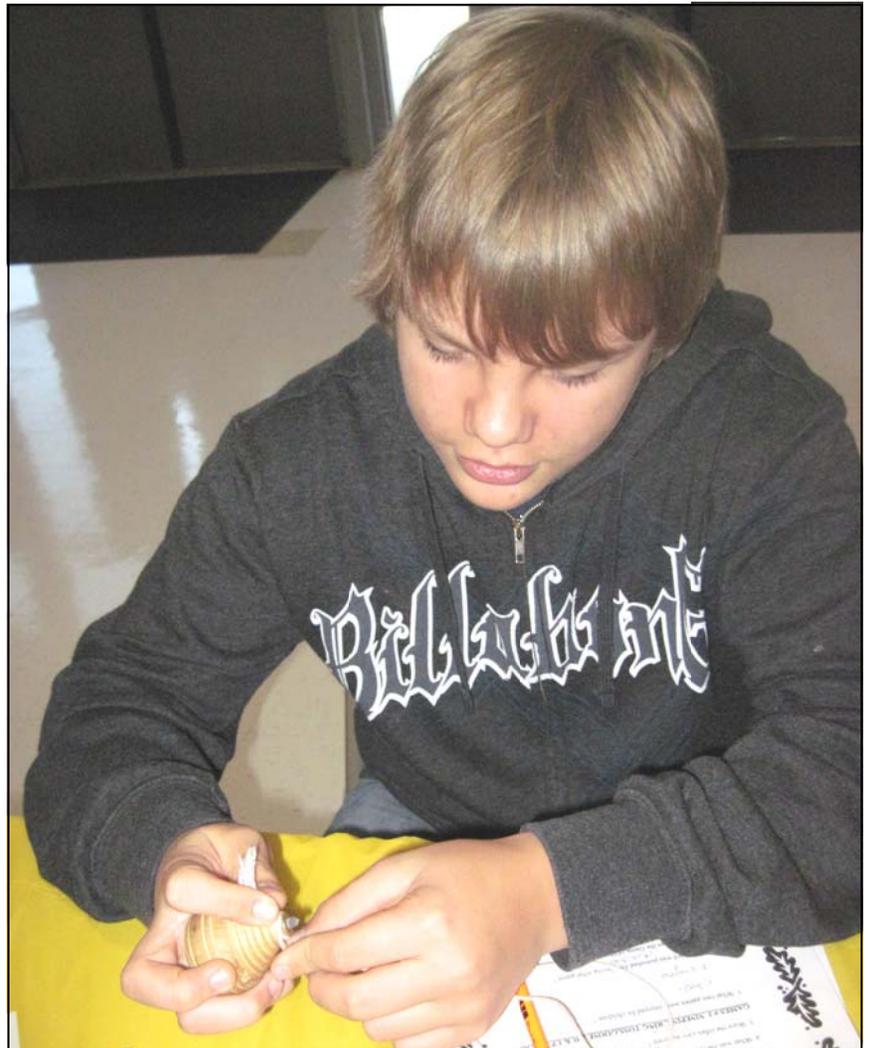
Colonial Days started about 20 years ago when Mr. Schell came up with this brilliant idea. He was inspired by trips with his family to Williamsburg, Virginia. Therefore, he wanted to give some of our middle school students a chance to learn what he and his family have learned through their trips.

A lot of work is put into making this event fun and educational. In fact, it takes at least a month for preparation. Mr. Schell must plan the events, purchase the items and get high school volunteers to help. But after it is set up, everything runs smoothly.

Mr. Schell can't be at three places at once. In order to keep things organized, he gets volunteers from the high school to help out. As most of the North team students have seen, the high school students enjoy showing us younger teens about Colonial times. Colonial Days also gives them a chance to be experts instead of students.

I asked some fellow students about their thoughts and opinions of Colonial Days. Gavin Fricker said, "I enjoy interacting with the high school students. My favorite part was shooting the rubber band guns!" Cella Schleicher said, "I liked the games in the gym where we played the corn throwing game and the Colonial version of baseball."

See more Colonial Days
photos on page 11.



(Top) Theo Young learns how far toys have evolved from Colonial Days until today. (Above) Austin Berger learns the same from high school students who helped during Colonial Days.

Sergeant visits NLMS seventh-graders

Sergeant, from page 1

over there. There were no air conditioners or heating systems. The soldiers had to go weeks, even months, without indoor plumbing, showers and all the stuff we can take for granted.

They rarely ever saw any plants or grass.

Things are even worse for the people who actually live out there permanently. They don't have grills like the soldiers do. They only have campfires to cook their food and keep themselves warm. The soldiers try to do everything they can to help out the people who live there and that just shows how many wonderful things they do for everybody.

One of the things Sgt. Roberts talked about was watching people from the enemy's side setting up missiles to shoot at his base. He said it was a scary thing to watch them setting up the missiles and then having to wait until morning to go check it out.

When they walked over a mile to the missiles, they saw a timer and it was set to go off in 15 minutes. They called in an aircraft that came to try and get rid of the missiles. They got one of them but the other went off and

just barely missed the base by a few yards.

To thank Sgt. Roberts for coming in and to show our appreciation for everything he has done, Ms. Binder made him a card and her students made a poster for their classmates to sign.

Ms. Binder and Mr. Barnes had been busy collecting money to buy Northern Lehigh T-shirts to send over, along with the many letters. They asked their students to see if they could bring in some money – even if only \$1 a student. The grand total collected was \$150! They had enough to buy 30

T-shirts to give to the troops, along with two bags filled with wrestling T-shirts that a coach gave to Ms. Binder. She has also been able to get an American flag that will be sent to the troops to fly at their headquarters.

When you send the troops an American flag and they fly it, they will send it back with a certificate saying where it was flown and the time and date.

By writing letters and buying T-shirts, the seventh-grade has been able to give back to the troops and make sure they have a Merry Christmas.



NLMS shields itself from H1N1 virus

As the Flu spreads, our school takes precautions

By Nathaniel Rex
West Team

As you most likely know, the H1N1 virus (Swine Flu) is spreading. This virus causes someone to have a fever (100 or greater), cough, have headaches, get nasal secretions, and even nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

Swine flu is even said to be contagious to pets and other animals. This is why our school is doing its best to keep the flu away.

Northern Lehigh Middle School has announcements every morning telling students about upcoming events and changes in schedules. However, students also hear announcements on the flu



and how we can stay healthy.

The students can keep these thoughts in their heads throughout the school day.

The school staff also wipes

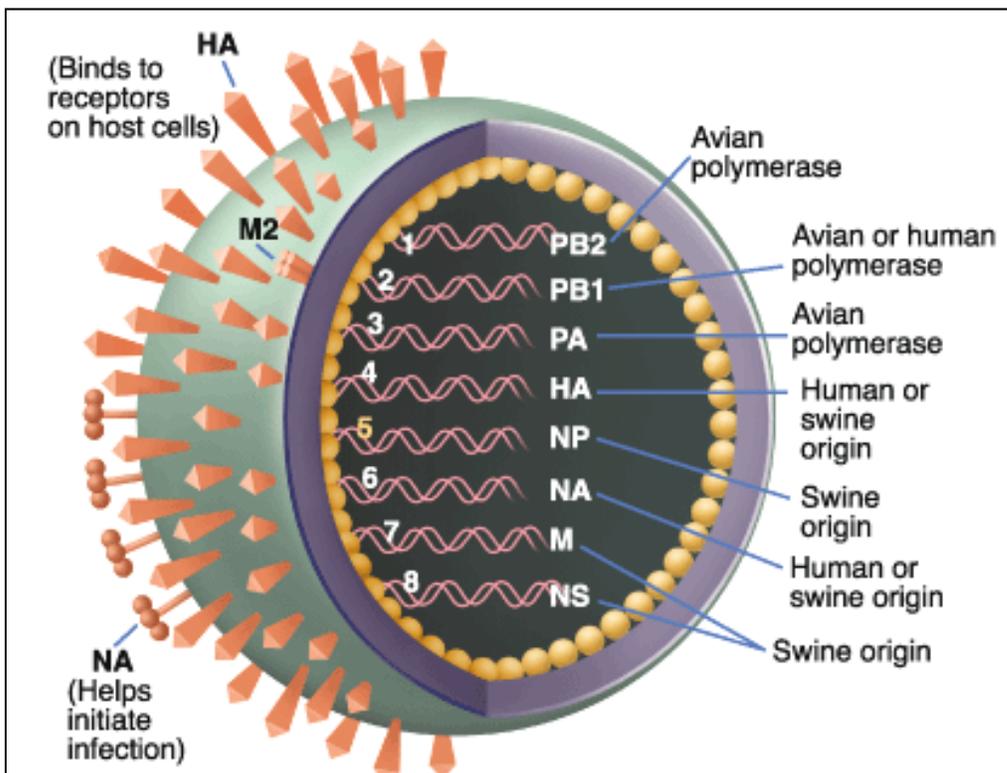
the desks and tables off before every school day. By doing this, students are not picking up new germs.

Lastly, there are tissues in every room (including cafeteria) and hand-sanitizers right beside them. By doing this, we're keeping students from spreading germs.

They're even killing germs and bacteria that they may have had on their hands before blowing their noses.

As you can see, the staff is trying very hard to keep the flu away from our school. They want NLMS to be a safe learning environment and they want to keep the students healthy.

I'd like to thank Mrs. Raber for the information she provided to make this article possible.



Video games, yes! New socks, no

By Nathan Snyder
SouthEast Team



The seventh-grade on SouthEast team took a survey asking what gifts they wanted most for Christmas and asking what they wanted least.

The most-wanted gift was video games or gaming consoles. Coming in second place was cell phones. Coming in third place was iPods or MP3 players. The SouthEast team really likes electronics.

The least favorite gift was socks! Coming in second was underwear and in third place was coal. In my opinion, I think Christmas is more about what you give than what you receive so instead of waiting to receive a gift, trying giving a gift.



Toys for Tots 2009



Student Council held its annual Toys for Tots drive this year. The picture above shows Miss Zeiser collecting some of the toys that the students and teachers have been donating during the weeks of December 3-14. Student Council would like to thank everyone for donating toys, along with Mrs. Wagner for all of her assistance in the Toys for Tots drive 2009.

Heeere Kelsey, Kelsey, Kelsey...



Kelsey Follweiler, of the North team, cannot seem to shake her feline friend in Mr. Eckhart's room.

Students rock on over to Martin Guitar

Northern Lehigh enrichment class visits world-famous factory

By Julie Knerr
SouthEast Team

On Nov. 16, the Enrichment Class of NLMS took a field trip to Martin Guitar in Nazareth. To me, guitars were just another instrument. I didn't realize how much work actually goes into making a guitar.

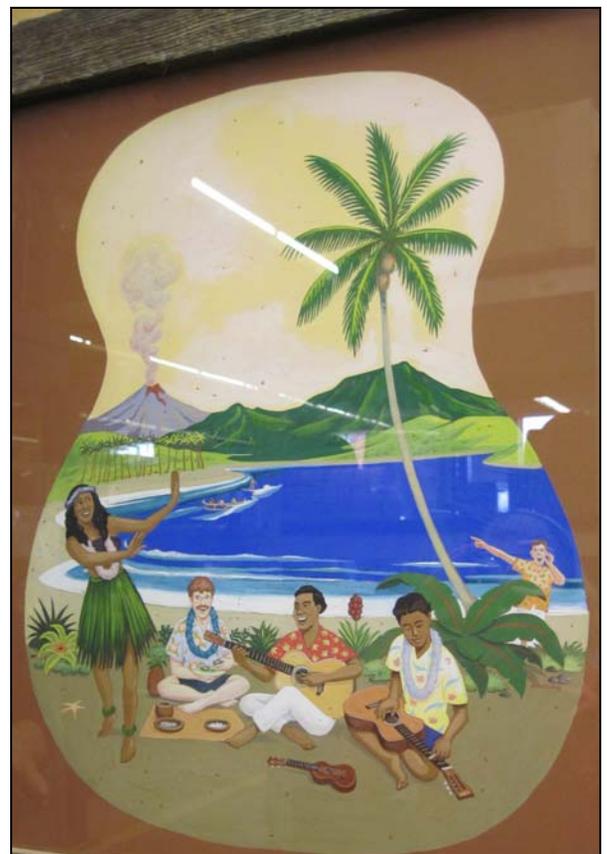
The whole tour of the factory was centered on how guitars are made. There are a lot of different steps in making a guitar. You have to cut the wood, bend it, sand it, paint it, glue it, polish it, engrave it and test it.

In the beginning of the tour, we watched as guitar parts were cut to precise measurements. After guitar parts are cut, they get sent to the next part of the factory. Wood for the bodies gets bent while other pieces get

sanded or have pieces glued to them.

As each separate piece gets finished, they get sanded. When all of the pieces are ready to be glued, they get sanded some more! Next, the pieces get glued and pressed to hold the guitar together. The guitar might get painted and polished; if not, just polished.

Finally, the guitar is tested to make sure it works before sending it to any music store. At the end of the tour, we looked in the guitar museum. Here, they had a model of one of Elvis Presley's guitars, two "Felix the Cat" guitars and many others. Some even had different types of pearls embedded in them. So the next time you strum a guitar, remember this: Making one is not as easy as it may seem.

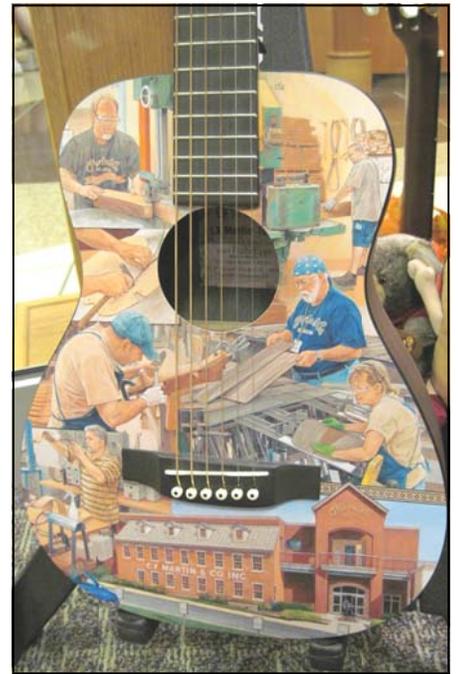


Photos by Julie Knerr. See more from the tour on the next page.

Martin Guitar Factory teaches NLMS students how the music is made



Brooke Ackerknecht, of SouthEast team, strums a Felix the Cat guitar at the Martin Guitar Company.



Photos by Julie Knerr

One day, someone's life might be in your hands

By Aly Lorenz
SouthEast Team

As most of you know, the time for CPR training is coming soon. Mrs. Raber, who will be the CPR instructor, has been teaching it for 34 years. She says, "Some students decide to go into the medical field after learning CPR."

This would make any teacher jump for joy. School is a great place to learn CPR. The Internet isn't always accurate.

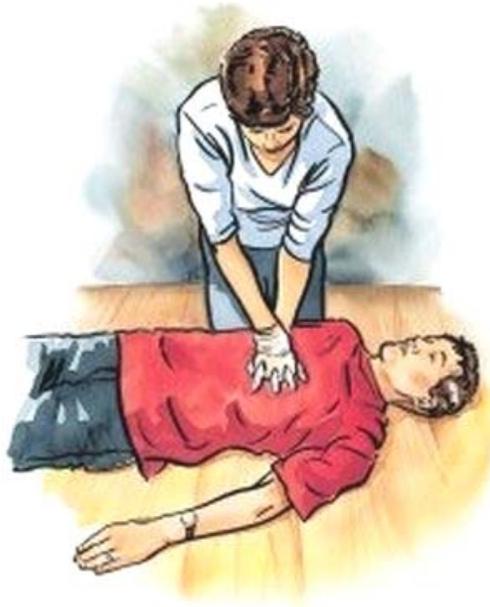
Mrs. Raber is also the fall and spring intramurals teacher. As the winter rolls around, basketball starts. That means no winter intramurals.

Mrs. Raber says, "When I came to Northern Lehigh School District in January of 1991, CPR wasn't offered in our district.

"It is very exciting to teach a new skill to students who never learned the skill that was never accessible before," she said.

Parents are also allowed to sign up, especially if it is needed for a job requirement. The course will include the following: 1. Rescue breathing; 2. What to do for choking on an unconscious and a conscious victim; 3. How to perform CPR, among other things.

The course fee is \$6 to cover the Red Cross certificate and administration fees. The CPR book may be purchased for \$15 or borrowed from the middle school for free. The course is two days long and will



be held after school in the library in the middle school on a Monday and Wednesday from 2:15 to 5 p.m. If it snows on class days, the class will be rescheduled the next day of the week of Jan. 18. Classes will be held Jan. 4 and 6, and Jan. 11 and 13.

This is good because many people may want to learn CPR and be able to save someone's life. For more information, please call Mrs. Raber at 610-767-9812, ext. 1347.

NLMS fuelin'

Fueluptoplay60.com is a national challenge to all U.S. students in grades K-12 and their parents and families to participate in tracking their healthy lifestyle and earning points online. The competition began Oct. 15, 2009, and will end March 15, 2010. Prizes include an iPod Touch, a starring role in a promotion with an NFL player, and a healthy makeover for our school. So get involved and have fun by registering at www.fueluptoplay60.com. Currently, NLMS is in 8th place in Pennsylvania and in the 200's nationally. Mrs. Bowser and Mrs. Raber are co-chairing this activity.

Anticipation

By Kelcie Kramer

Presents all wrapped,
sparkling with bows.

I look at them all,
the rows and rows.

My parents are dreaming,
brothers and sisters asleep.

Would it be so bad
if I just snuck a peep?

But I didn't...

I waited until I couldn't
wait anymore.

I bounded toward them,
ripped a bow off.

I was just about to open the lid,
but little Sally walked in the door.

She screamed for mom,
Mom screamed for dad,

Then all three told me I was bad!

NLMS marching band has some light shine on their 'Shades'

By Abby Messinger
SouthEast Team

Northern Lehigh Marching Band achieved 13th place at ACC's this year. ACC is the Atlantic Coast Championships. Tons of bands from all over Pennsylvania compete to win. ACC's was at Hershey Park on November 1. When we are on the field, the band has to be in step and our shoulders have to be flat to the audience.

According to Mr. Carroll, "Shades, as you are aware, was the title of the NLHS Marching Band's 2009 competitive production. Shades for us had a double meaning. We used the music of American composer Frank Tichelli for our show.

"The selections we chose were entitled 'Cajun Folksongs' and 'Blue Shades.' The first meaning of our title speaks to the fact that we were adapting his work in a new and original way, in effect creating shades of the com-

poser's original intent for the art.

"The other meaning is derived from the fact we performed his contemporary jazz piece 'Blue Shades,' using several motives from the selection throughout the entire show to develop unity and continuity."

The last time we were at ACC's, we achieved 14th place so this year was a good year. Half of the band was rookies. I congratulate all the other marching band members on a great year!

Footballers go far; come up short

By Brigham Minnich
SouthEast Team

I think the Northern Lehigh High School football team did an awesome job this year on the field. They have had many other good years before but this was a really good season.

The players and team have had many injuries and most of them have recovered. Some players have already asked to play for college teams.

They are very well known in school and around the area. After Northern Lehigh's game on Saturday, Nov. 28, their long ride came to an end with North Schuylkill winning 39-26.

They lost the championship but still have had an amazing year. North Schuylkill had lots more players than NL did. And it was a really good game.

Some new green



The Explorer Team had been busy decorating the auditorium for the Band and Choir's Winter Concert, which took place on Dec. 9. The highlight of the new decorations is a 9-foot Christmas tree decked out in Northern Lehigh's colors, blue, white and silver.

Like running into a new family...

Northern Lehigh cross country gains more runners than previous years

By Anna Barnett
SouthEast Team

Cross country is a mental sport. You have to believe that you can take the hurt, pressure and speed. So I'm going to show you how it is done – Northern Lehigh style.

When you join the cross country team, it's like walking (or running) into a new family. We help, care and watch out for each other just like brothers and sisters.

This year, we got lots of new family members. This past season we got 14 new seventh-grade run-

ners to add onto the eighth-grade runners. Unlike past years when we got less than 10 new runners. It was a real fun season.

So yes, we got runners but better yet, we got *good* runners! Our middle school team did a phenomenal job this year. Our runners got in the Top 10. How cool is that? Pretty cool if you ask me.

Everyone is really proud of each other and of themselves. To show credit, I am going to say the names of all the cross country members.

8th-grade boys: Nathaniel

Czarneki, Matt Egan, Alex Hoffner and Andy Oertner. **8th-grade girls:** Carissa Blessing, Abbey Sau-erwine, Brooke Seyler, and Annelise Tarafas. **7th-grade boys:** Cubby George, Josh Hamm, Aaron Hofmann, Bryce Moser, Matt Pender, Nathan Rex, Nathan Snyder, Andrew Tarafas, John Taylor, Jeremie Tomkins and Strato Tripajis. **7th-grade girls:** Emily Bevans and Anna Barnett.

If you enjoy running, need to stay in shape for other sports or just want a new sport to join, cross country is right at your fingertips! Anyone can join and trust me, it is so worth it!

Gettin' Colonial



Lydia Delong, of North team, learns about Colonial Days during the four-day event.



High school students, who once participated in Colonial Days while students at the middle school, assisted in the successful event.

OPINION

Elmo's getting a little too grabby

We are in the holiday season and that means new children's toys are popping out of everywhere! Some of these new toys make me question if the creators are actually looking at what they are selling for little kids.



Makayla Gordon

I have a 4-year-old brother at home and some of the toys that he has boggles my mind. And the toys that are the

scariest out there are Tickle Me Elmo and Elmo Tickle Hands.

First of all, the Tickle Me Elmo is so inappropriate. Haven't we always been told *not* to touch each other? Then they come out with this toy that you pretend to tickle and it laughs. I think this might scare little children by teaching them

that toys have feelings and they feel certain things like tickling!

Next, the toy that would make the creators of Sesame Street roll over in their graves is Elmo Tickle Hands. This toy is so disturbing!

Why in the world would they even think of making it? They are red, over-sized gloves that when you tickle someone, Elmo's voice laughs and says things.

I don't get why someone would make a toy where children are supposed to touch each other.

So you make the call! Is Elmo who we think he is? If you have younger siblings with an Elmo Tickle Hands toy or Tickle Me Elmo, I would keep a watchful eye out!



OPINION

Real hero tells stories we should all respect

Sgt. Roberts visited Ms. Binder's English classes on Nov. 12 to bring first-hand accounts of serving our country to our middle school students. The pictures that Sgt. Roberts took were so cool. He showed one with snow still on the mountain while it was 100 degrees in the valley. Cool, huh? How hot it gets there is so unreal! It can reach 120 degrees!



Melanie Campbell

scary if you ask me.

The little that the soldiers

had, they dealt with. They made their own stoves and showers. Pretty cool. The rocket that blew up a wall! Wow! That's really scary. The other rocket that made a hole in the cliff not too far from the base! Pretty

I have a great respect for the

men and women in the military. It is so hard to see the men and women in the military and realize that they are fighting for our safety. The small countries have smaller militaries and our soldiers are out protecting them as well.

I think that Sgt. Roberts did a fantastic job explaining everything and answering the many questions from students. Ms. Binder should invite him every year because it was amazing. I have no other words to describe it.

I think that the men and women who serve in our military are the true heroes in this world.

Scientifically cool



SouthEasterner Alex Sheridan crushes a "frozen" carnation during Air Products' scientifically-cool assembly.



OPINION

Should seat belts come with an option?

Thousands of people are killed each year by car accidents. The question, though, becomes: Was the person wearing a seat belt? And do seat belts really save lives? If you are wearing a seat belt, could it actually cause more damage?



Stephanie Stein

My mom wore a seat belt and got into an accident and the seat belt hurt her back so bad that she is going to have the damage forever.

Should we really have a seat-belt law? If former NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt would have

worn a certain seat harness in his race-car, his life may have been saved.

I don't think we should have a seat belt law. If motorcyclers don't have to wear helmets, then why do we need to wear seat belts? I asked for some other opinions and here is what

they said. "I think they should change the seat belt design," Abby Messinger.

"The seat belt design we have now should be changed to something safer," Alex Sheridan.

"They should keep the law because it's a lot safer to wear a seat belt than to not wear one and get more damage done," Mrs. Marushak.

I think the law should be changed but they should create some type of safer seat belt on cars. Whatever you feel is safer is what you should believe. But ask how badly will you be injured if you don't wear a seat belt?



NLMS creativity! Student art by SouthEasterner, Jessica Jacobs.



HOLIDAY WISHES FROM YOUR BULLDOG CUSTODIAL STAFF!



OPINION

Touchdown celebrations in the NFL:

Unsportsmanlike conduct or a natural reaction?

In the NFL, there are rules that prohibit players from celebrating too much or doing certain activities while celebrating. If they get flagged for it, the penalty is 15 yards back on the next play. I think this is pretty strict for simply celebrating a success on the field.



What Curdles My Milk

Tyler 'T.T.' Trumbauer

The league is too strict these days on this. Now, I understand some things are excessive and a little over the top but the simple chest-bump and a spike of the ball isn't bad at all, except that referees still throw the penalty flag. These players should be allowed to celebrate.

It's hard to score a touchdown in the NFL so when this does happen they should be able to have the freedom to do so.

The other

weird part with this rule is it is only in the NFL where this is the case. In the MLB, players can do unique handshakes and dog-pile after a win and pound a player at home plate.

In the NHL after a goal is scored, the players get together in a circle and celebrate. In the NBA after wins, the stadiums will some-

times have confetti fall down. So confetti will litter the stands in the NBA but players can't spike the ball in the NFL?! I do not get this at all.

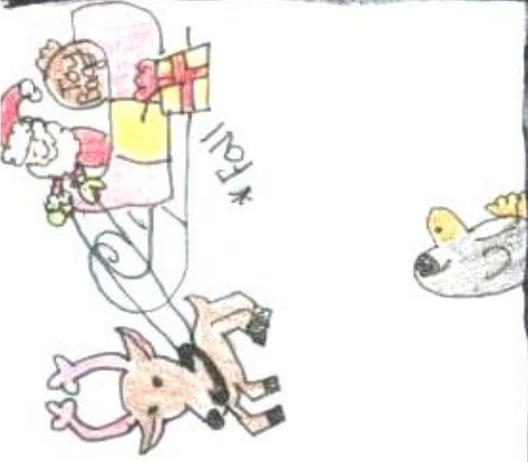
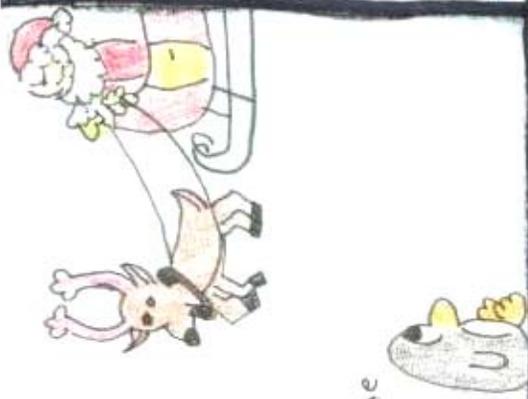
It seems weird to penalize the players because for some of them it is just a reaction. Once they score, it is a reaction to go crazy and party. I know it is for me. It is like getting hit in the knee and not kicking back. It would be different and weird. Well, that is the way it feels for the players.

I would like to know why the league has this rule in place. Is it because they just don't want to have fun in the game? Is it because when they celebrate it hurts the other team's feelings? I have no clue why they have the rule but I do not like the rule at all. I think they need to do away with it.

It ruins the energy and enjoyment of the game. That is what curdles my milk.



The Plunge
a 7th grade
comic strip



Drawn By: Amber Ringler
Story By: Cubby George
"THE END"

It's a
Tee Hee

Dear Person
You've
been
Punished Santa