



Northern Light



Six Graders Have Fun at Frost Valley

Journalist Audree Chen shares some fun activities that the sixth graders participated in during the annual Frost Valley trip from December 4-6

Roasting marshmallows

The second day at Frost Valley, after lunch, every table was provided with a small bowl of chocolate chips, and two graham crackers for each person. We went in the order of our tables' numbers; the counselors would call out numbers, and if it was our table number, we would go to the fireplace, pick out a metal stick, and roast our marshmallows. There was a guy next to the fireplace who put the marshmallows on the metal sticks and helped kids roast marshmallows. After roasting them, we went back to our table and ate our s'mores. Words can't express how savory they were! I'm glad I got a hold of a tablespoonful of chocolate chips before the other people in my table finished them off. After that, staff collected the metal sticks and the next table was called.



Candle making

There was a small house at the top of a snowy hill. We trudged to the top of it and our counselors gave us instructions, explaining what we were doing. Inside, it smelled of wax. We hung our coats and gloves on small black hooks that hung on the walls of the house. There were small white shelves on the walls as well. On top of them lay three mesmerizing candles that were conspicuously done by professionals. We were provided with thin white threads that we dipped in bowls of wax that sat on a wide table in the middle of the house. Each bowl of wax was a different color. There were soft "knives" to shred our candles if they were too fat. We got to keep our candles.



In this issue....

School News.....1-3

Entertainment...4-9

Comic Strip.....10

Creator's Corner....11

School News

Frost Valley article continued from page 1...

Rock climbing

We were required to wear helmets and harnesses for safety. Staff were there to help if you were unsure. There were two rock climbing walls: one very easy, and the other very hard to get a grip on. I went on both. The first one I easily completed. The fake rocks were large and the wall was bumpy like small craters on the moon. The second one, on the other hand, was very flat. I barely got past half of it before jumping down. The gym was huge! Plastic chairs were there if you were tired, and the windowsills had shelves with heaters.



DNA Trip

By Dylan Chen

On November 20-22nd, the students in the seventh grade went on a field trip to Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory one SWIS at a time. During the field trip, they got to solve a mystery, got to look at the exhibits and have a scavenger hunt on them, and even got to extract DNA themselves. The students rotated activities such that they experienced each once, with lunch between the second and third.

One activity was using a specific method to extract DNA from wheat. The next activity was a scavenger hunt where students could go around the exhibits to look for answers to questions, and the final activity was solving a mystery about a Russian tsar's death, partially using DNA testing. The mystery activity was an interactive slideshow which started by showing the setting: Russia around 1917, and then followed by stating everything about it. It was about how one of the Tsar's daughters might not have been killed, as there was a woman who claimed to be her, but she passed away before she could try to prove she really was that daughter.



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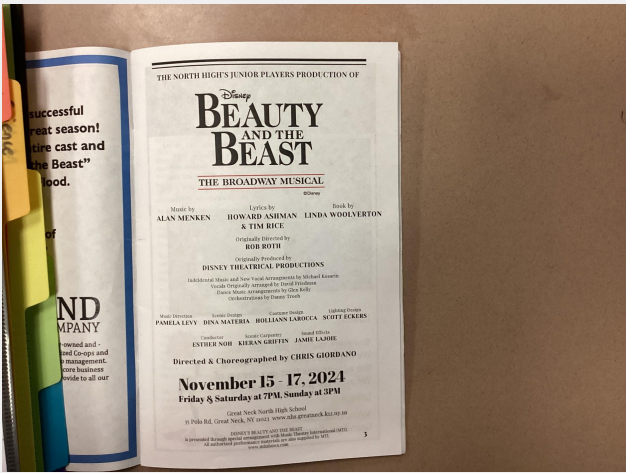
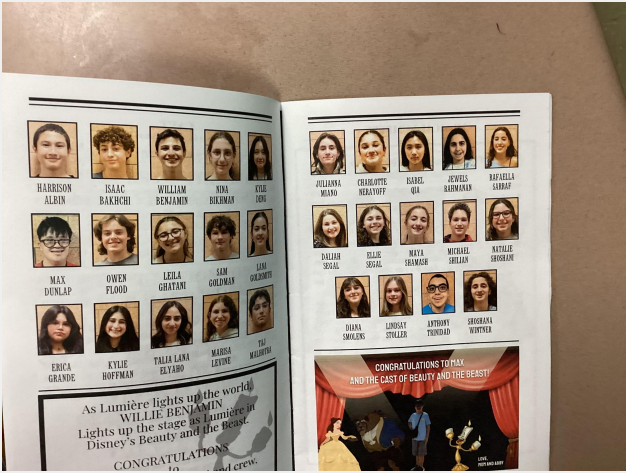
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Beauty and the Beast: North High Musical

By Eric Lu

On November 15-17, 2024, North High School held a musical! Its name is *Beauty and the Beast*. As you all might know, *Beauty and the Beast* is a Disney musical. The film was originally released on November 22, 1991 by Walt Disney Feature Animations. The musical at North High was directed and choreographed by Chris Giordano. The musical was great, complete with real lights and a misty forest scene that actually looked real. It was about two and a half hours long complete with one intermission and a 50-50 raffle. The winner decided to donate his winnings to North High! I would rate this musical a 9.5/10 and I recommend seeing other North High /North Middle musicals.



Relay for Life!

By Isabella J. Velasquez

Do you want to make a difference? The Relay for Life club was a place where students could help to fundraise for the American Cancer Society.

When the school store is having a fundraising sale for Relay for Life, all the profits that the school store makes goes to the American Cancer Society. The club uses that money to raise awareness for big causes like different types of cancer and deadly sicknesses by making events such as October's breast cancer awareness month. During this event, a volunteer professional hair stylist came to put in pink hair tinsel in our hair to show our support! Many people paid money to get the hair done and everyone says it's worth it. The event raised \$1,800!

We didn't just stop there. We continued, such as with our event in November, by hosting the event of "Slice of Hope." Students could join a raffle to win a pizza party lunch with a teacher, staff member, or administrator of their choice! This event was held on 11/6 - 11/8. This event was to show North Middle School's support for pancreatic cancer!

We also did the Do-Not Worry (donut sales)! With all the money we raised in our past couple of months, we will be donating \$2,505 to the American Cancer Society!

If you want to help make a difference, just go to ask Ms. Weissman or Ms. Blasi! We always love to help other people and we could always use some extra hands! As you can see, Relay for Life was a wonderful club to help raise awareness to important causes and make a difference!

Editor's note: While all funds that were raised were donated to the American Cancer Society, NMS is now embarking on a new endeavor. Please see Ms. Weissman and Ms. Blasi to see how you can get involved to Rally for NMS!

Five-Star Luxury Travel Destinations

By Jacob Brown

There have been many five-star luxury travel destinations added to peoples' vacation calendars. There are many to check out. For this review I'll be using the top 3 ranked sites on the internet and provide a brief summary! I will put an image for each one and say what the places are! Enjoy!

Bora Bora

This place is ranked one of the most beautiful places on the planet. It is located in the Society Islands of Indonesia. It also has many places to stay. A quote from Tahititourism.com is "There is a vast range of [accommodations](#) on the island: all categories of hotel, resort complexes, overwater bungalows, luxury villa rentals and Tahitian Guesthouses." "It is referred to as the "Pearl of the Pacific" because of its island paradise. It has a crystal clear lagoon, superb coral reefs, vast stretches of beach, and lush forest with green tropic vegetation. It also is an ideal honeymoon destination for marriages because of the mountains like Otemanu and clear coral reefs. There is also a very unique culture there by the natives, including tattooing and dance. It feels like there are spirits all around you. I hope you will go here!



Maldives

With over 1000 islands, this archipelago is one of the most favored by tourists, especially for honeymoons. The white sandy beaches, beautiful sunsets, and sparkling blue water are the main favorites of tourists. It attracts people who want a relaxing holiday and people that want adrenaline rushes. Malé is the capital and has many attractions and culture for you. One thing that tourists love are the cool water activities. Kayaking, surfing, and swimming with animals underwater are some of the most favorite. You can even swim with sharks. The local food there is also supposed to be amazing. Their combinations of flavors, spices, and aromas make people fascinated. Its dynamic nightlife also makes people vibrant and excited. There is crab racing and many clubs for you to go to. There are also undersea restaurants that are unique to the area. Finally, there is a rich history to the island dating back to the early 1500s. I hope you can go here for vacation!



Maui

Maui is known for its breathtaking beaches, hiking, culture, and biology. First, I will talk about the beaches. Maui has the world famous Kaanapali beach where you can swim in crystal clear waters. It's also a great place for snorkeling and seeing colorful tropical beaches. Honolua beach is also well known for its natural beauty.

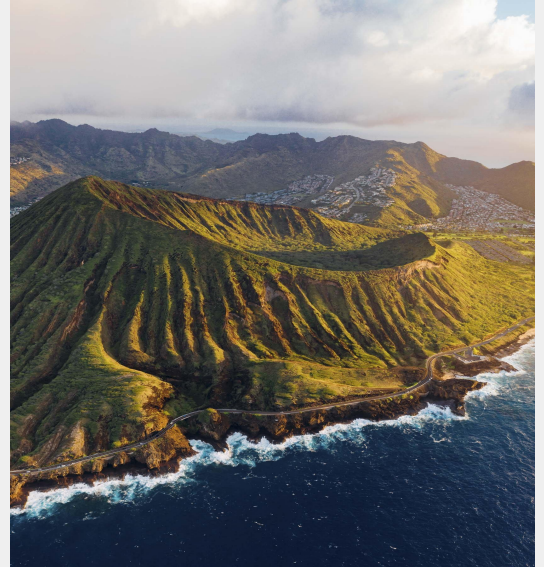
Next, is hiking. Maui has trails that allow you to see diverse landscapes including lush rainforests, volcanic craters, and cascading waterfalls. The most popular hike is the Haleakalā crater hike located in eastern Maui. It has incredible views of the volcanic landscape.

Entertainment Pages

Reviews, Fashion, Trends & MORE (cont'd)

Then, there's the culture. Maui has a unique cultural experience that sets it away from other islands. It is the birthplace of the Hawaiian god Maui and has important cultural landmarks. Places like Iao valley and the historical town of Lahaina are some of the most popular cultural attractions.

Finally, Maui's conservation efforts of biology make it a truly special place. "Valley Isle" is home to the most unique ecosystems. There are many rainforests, dry forests, coastal dunes, wetlands, and coral reefs. These ecosystems have animals that you can't see anywhere else in the world. An example is the Maui parrotbill. Maui is dedicated to reducing single use plastics, water usage, and carbon emissions. I hope you want to go here on vacation!



All these places are very unique and natural. If you are planning a vacation, you should take these as options. Hope you all have a great vacation planning!

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Movie Review: *Sonic 3*

By: Ella Shapiro

My article will be about the new and amazing movie *Sonic 3*. There is so much I can say about this movie but first I will talk about the plot. There was so much potential that they used to make the storyline that was amazing, and they turned a good idea into a reality.

Another good idea that they had was the flashbacks. It really added to how much pain Shadow was feeling. We got to see so much more of the old him. If we didn't get those flashbacks we would have a harder time understanding Shadow, and what he was going through.

The second part I would like to talk about is the animation and CGI. There was so much work that went into this movie and without all that work the CGI and animation would not be as good. As it is now, the creators of this movie have spent so much time and effort on this movie just so we as an audience can watch it with little to no complaints. Also, all this work extremely impacted the fight scenes in such a good way.

The last topic I would like to cover is complaints. I just have two complaints. First, it is the fact that even though the fight scenes were amazing, they were always just a little too short. My second and final complaint is that we didn't get to see that much of Tom and Maddy even though they are extremely important characters.

In conclusion you should try out the movie and see for yourself if it is a good movie, but I hope with all this information you understand and enjoy *Sonic 3*.



Entertainment Pages

Reviews, Fashion, Trends & MORE (cont'd)

Holiday Gift Trends

By: Becky Aguirre

If you're still thinking of what to give your friends or your family for their birthday, well think no further. If you keep reading you'll get soooo many ideas from reading this.

The first gift that your sister could probably like is the makeup of Sol De Janeiro (if she likes to smell good or likes perfume like me!) This gift is like one of a kind to any girl. They love smelling good and mostly right now this gift has been the top gift trend for teen girls right now. They sell these at Sephora and Ulta!

Other gifts are toys, like Barbie dolls for little girls. They love dolls and every time they come out with new ones they keep getting better every time! For little boys, definitely monster trucks or toy cars with a remote control, it's like a gift that every little boy would like. They could use it outside in the summer or indoors during fall or winter, but it's an amazing toy!

Gifts for older people, like your parents or grandparents or anybody else, you could always get a little gift like a necklace for mom, or for your aunt or grandma. For your dad, you can get a coffee cup/mug, since they are always drinking coffee! Another idea is you could give any of your family members matching sweaters or socks that you can customize..

These are all the ideas you can get anybody. I hope you love my ideas and have a wonderful day!



Television Review: The Flash

By Jojo Ohebshalom

The Flash is an action-packed, entertaining show.

The Flash is a show about a man named Barry Allen. Barry was just a normal forensic scientist working for the Police before one night- the night when a company named STAR Labs had a particle accelerator explosion. Many died, many were harmed, but many survived- with certain powers. Barry Allen was one of those survivors.

After 9 months in a coma, he woke up. He woke up being the fastest man alive. He has to work with STAR Labs and his friends to take down other evil people, some even more powerful than him. Some that control weather, some that could freeze time.

This show is packed with action, mystery, drama, amazing storytelling, and more. I rate it a 5/5 stars and if you could watch it, you should.



Entertainment Pages

Reviews, Fashion, Trends & MORE (cont'd)

Book Review: The Westing Game

by Maya Halpert

Murder. There are so many little intricacies involved: how did it happen, what was the time of death, and, arguably, the most important one — who did it? In Ellen Raskin's classic mystery, *The Westing Game*, she delves into those very questions regarding the murder of Sam Westing. Who was Sam Westing, anyway? Most would tell you he was an extremely successful businessman. But was he something more?

During his lifetime, Mr. Westing always had a fondness for puzzles and a love for mysteries. Upon his death, he left a giant puzzle for sixteen possible heirs to solve. Westing's will is read aloud by his lawyer to the room full of shocked and seemingly disconnected heirs. The will states that his enormous fortune and control of his business will go to the person who solves the clues and wins Westing's game. The sixteen heirs are paired up and given clues to solve Mr. Westing's final mystery — who killed him? Westing offers one initial intriguing clue: it was one of the sixteen heirs.

The overall structure of the chapters of *The Westing Game* is truly as complex as the plot itself. Each chapter is in a different character's point of view, which can reveal the character's motivations and backstory, along with more hushed-up details. The sixteen perspectives are filled with misdirection and untruths, though. Some of the narratives may prove to be unreliable, leaving the reader more baffled than they were before.

The whole atmosphere sets an eerie tone through the course of the novel, with the heirs unclear on who they can trust, and who is telling the truth. The reader may also find themselves tangled up in this web of lies, unsure of which characters are hiding things. This certainly doesn't cease when several characters are revealed to not be who they say they are, including Mr. Westing himself. Every single heir is connected somehow; the only question is how.

Throughout the story, Raskin maintains a foggy path for the reader to tread upon, encouraging you to watch your step, while interweaving a refreshing sense of humor and personality. Although written many years ago, her style of writing is still engaging for readers. She gives each character a lively persona, including elements of her entertaining sense of humor and spunk with each and every character, chapter and paragraph.

I would rate *The Westing Game* 9 out of 10, since I loved its clever ploys to distract the reader from what is actually happening, and all the little clues and details along the way that really make it a wonderful classic. Including so many different, intricate characters, with detailed backstories, goals, and secrets, isn't an easy thing to do when writing a novel, but make *The Westing Game* all the better of a read. Raskin pulls this off deftly and effortlessly, making it flow with the rest of the carefully formulated novel. Throughout the book, Raskin alludes to chess, which adds to the air of mystery. On a chessboard, each side has sixteen pieces, and there are sixteen heirs in the book. This evokes the sense of a giant game of chess, each heir being their own chess piece. They all make complex moves on the board, setting out with different intentions and secrets. Sixteen heirs versus one unseen opponent, hidden among them - the murderer.

As much as I loved *The Westing Game*, I'd be lying if I said I loved the epilogue as much as the rest of it. Unlike some other mystery novels I've read in the past, it felt like it was missing some details and explanations that I would have appreciated as a reader. After all, the purpose of an epilogue is to tie up all the loose ends, and *The Westing Game's* epilogue just didn't do that for me. There were events that had seemed to occur in between the epilogue and ending, which the epilogue did not explain, or even elaborate on. Thankfully, this doesn't negate the rest of the story, but it does make the end feel a little less satisfying. In my efforts to keep this article spoiler-free, I won't elaborate on this, but if you are still curious, read *The Westing Game* and decide for yourself.

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin is a beloved novel, and with good reason. If you are someone who enjoys mysteries, puzzles or interesting narrative structures, then this is *the* book for you. Take *The Westing Game* out from our local library and settle in for a wild ride of twists, turns and intrigue.

Entertainment Pages

Reviews, Fashion, Trends & MORE (cont'd)

Winter Recipe: Egg Noodles

By Catherine Nikodem

The winter season is frigid, and sometimes sad. To me, cooking makes me content and busy! If you're interested in cooking, then this is the right article for you! This four ingredient recipe makes egg noodles.

This recipe is pretty simple. If you mess up, you only need to add an ingredient or so to redeem it.

The recipe calls for:

- 2 eggs
- 1 ½ to 2 cups of flour
- ⅓ cup of milk
- And a pinch of salt!

I recommend you wash your hands thoroughly and have a bowl, a spoon, a whisk, a cutting board, and a rolling pin prior to making this dish.

First, crack two eggs into a bowl, along with milk and salt. Stir until looking creamy with a whisk.

Then, slowly mix in a cup of flour until it becomes a sticky flour-like dough with a spoon, because the whisk eventually is too weak.

Next, try your best to pour all the dough onto a floured surface with ½ a cup of flour, preferably a clean cutting board (to be safe) and knead the flour into the dough. Add more flour if desired.

After that, let the dough rest for 10 minutes. When 10 minutes is up, make sure your dough is in a ball shape and roll it out until paper thin.

Next, take a sharp knife and slice the dough into thin, noodle-like strips. For me, I put flour on the dough and rolled it up (so the dough wouldn't stick to itself) and cut pieces from the rolled up dough, but either way is fine.

When you have all your noodles, take them about five at a time and put them into boiling water. (It's fine if they have flour on them.) Let them boil until chewy. It'll take about 2-3 minutes, but taste one before you take them all out.

Finally, strain your noodles and enjoy them with sauce, soup, or anything else you can think of.

I guarantee you that you shouldn't put the uncooked noodles in soup right away because when I finished boiling my noodles, the water that I boiled them with was really foggy because of the flour. I had the noodles with tofu and miso soup and it was really tasty. They could pair well with anything, really.

Wacky Food Combos

Chips and Chocolate 

By Owen Zar

Chips and chocolate? Ever heard of it? How 'bout we try classic Lays potato chips, and a sweet milk chocolate bar. Ok, when and where did someone try this? According to Tasteatlas in 1985, "Chicago's Executive Sweets" introduced chocolate-covered potato chips to the public, which sparked the popularity of the sweet and salty combo.

Ok. Now is where it gets interesting. We actually *taste* it. I had a chocolate potato chip sandwich. My partner had one after the other. "Very sweet, but a small kick of salt." "Salty followed by sweet, and chased by salt was perfect," says my partner.

I think this is a nice combination, and maybe I could've used a little less chocolate in the ratio. Overall, 10 for the taste, but it's clearly unhealthy. Probably a 9 out of 10.

Entertainment Pages

Reviews, Fashion, Trends & MORE (cont'd)

Then and Now Winter Fashion!

By Karin Norber

Do you have any idea what fashion was like in the past? I'm sure you know what fashion looks like now. In this article, you will find out what fashion looked like then! Just make sure you are wearing something warm enough so that you can enjoy this frosty winter we are having!

Back in the 90's: The 90s was the period that was characterized most with the end of the Cold War. For example, there was a feeling of freedom coming especially from Eastern European countries and they were working fast to culturally imitate the western countries. Some things that people wore in the 90's were baggy jeans, slip dresses, bucket hats, and overalls. For men, it could also be baggy jeans, leather jackets, flannel shirts, bomber jackets, oversized baseball jackets, also overalls, and maybe even cargo pants.

Back in the 80's: In the 80s it was the height of pop culture, and there were so many types of fashion going on that any person could find any type of fashion that he or she could connect with. For example, people who admired and were fans of Madonna would imitate her by buying colorful bracelets and meshed shirts.

Back in the 70's: In the 70's, there were a lot of people with matching pants and shirts/ tank tops. Certain types of clothing were bell bottoms, platform shoes, wrap dresses, jumpsuits, aviator glasses, crop tops, over-the-knee boots, boho dresses, waistcoats, and flares.

What do you wear for winter? I hope you're wearing something warm because it is FREEZING! Some sites or shops where you could find some cute clothes for the winter are Edikted, Amazon, ASOS, Nordstrom, H&M, LuluLemon, American Eagle, Old Navy, Abercrombie, and Target.



Comic Strips



Interesting News

This Man Saved Humanity With One Word

By Richard Yi

The reason that you are still alive to read this article is because of one man, and his name was Vasily Arkhipov. During the Cold War, superpowers like the US and Russia went into an arms race, basically trying to build as many nukes as possible. There were many close calls of nuclear war, like when a commander in Russia received reports of America sending missiles, but he decided that it was a false call. However, this was arguably the closest humanity has ever gone to nuclear war. So here is how the story went:

In October of 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis in the Cold War, a US ship off of Cuba had started sending depth charges (explosives that deliver a powerful hydraulic shock that can break a submarine) at the submarine (called the B-59) that Vasily was located in. The US wanted the submarine to rise and show its identification, despite it being in international waters. With no communication with anyone since it was so deep underwater, the crew believed that war had already started. The other two leaders on board wanted to launch the 10 thousand pound nuclear torpedo at the fleet of US warships in Cuba. However, on this submarine, three officers needed to be in complete agreement to launch a nuclear weapon.

It all came down to this, whether nuclear war was going to break out. So he said simply, "No." Vasily refused to use a nuclear weapon in retaliation and decided that they should surface, because the submarine's batteries were low. Upon surfacing, US planes gave the submarine warning shots. Despite all of that, Vasily guided the submarine to a US Destroyer to negotiate and recharge. They were then ordered by the Soviet Union to return back home. Upon revival, the Soviet Union were furious at them for surfacing and for not keeping their secrecy. They told Vasily it would have been better if the submarine just got destroyed and he went down with it. He and the rest of his crew got shamed for life.

This story was not heard until 40 years later, when a crew member on Vasily's ship finally shared the story with the US naval archive. In 2017, after his death, his family was given the first "Future Of Life Award", given by the Future Of Life Institute, which recognizes the actions taken to save the future of humanity, despite the loss of the individual as the result of that action.

Creator's Corner

Winter Themed Poetry

Winter

by Isabella Kashani

Frosty beads of water
crystalize
and form graceful, delicate shapes
falling from the sky.

Children's smiles broaden
to a mile wide.
Joy!

In this frosty world,
Anything is possible.



Winter

By Lily Weinberg

W inter time is the best time of the year

I hear everyone's laughter and cheers

N o one is crying or sad

T hey all are so excited and glad

E veryone is getting their gifts

R udolph, the red nose, reindeer is on his
shifts

S eeing snow fall from the trees

E veryone feeling that cool winter breeze

A song we can all sing together

S eeing the menorah we will gather

O utdoors it's really cold

N ever too late to get a kinara sold

