The 2014 Willpower Game

By Ali Tyma
Staff Writer

What is the best cure for cancer? Laughing,据了解，没有一个能解决这个问题，但是Dr. Eldridge，可能是一个办法。他讲到：“笑声可以改变永远。”

Mr. Vinar strives to score points for RHMS staff during the Willpower Game

But how did breast cancer research, pancreatic cancer research, and childhood brain tumor research become the school’s choices for the proceeds of the Willpower game? Ms. Tippett spoke candidly about the special people we have lost as a result of cancer. “We had a mom at the time, a parent of students who was fighting breast cancer. That was the one kind of jumped on first, and being a woman and having a grandmother pass away from it, it was easy for me to attach to it and associate with it. And then a couple years later we had a dad here, who was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Pancreatic is very quick when they discover it, it’s usually at stage four and at that time you have a year or less to live. They call it the silent killer, because there are no symptoms until that point. It evolves for years and you don’t know it. So we added that one because Captain Will Sang was such a great man, that’s where the name “Will-power” came from. And they started the Willpower Foundation for Pan-Can. So we kind of took that with us and run with it. We’ve had kids with brain tumors in the past, and we’ve done different things for them. Tragedy and trials have sparked our passion for the Willpower Game. A few years ago we lost a very special teacher, Mrs. Holmberg. She had pancreatic cancer. Then, after a brave battle with brain cancer, we lost beloved student Sam Moore, and the Willpower Game took on an even broader purpose. Ms. Tippett explained the significance of adding childhood brain cancer research as one of our missions. “We’ve had kids that have had brain tumors and survived, and now we have Sam who passed away, so we needed to add that as well.” The fact that we as a community can tum tragic events into something positive is what make our school so special. Last week, a very excited Ms. Tippett announced that we raised thirteen thousand dollars at our last game. “We, as a school, have raised over one hundred thousand dollars.” Ms. Tippett has earned admiration from parents, teachers, and everybody who has been involved with this program. “Ms. Tip is amazing. We are very lucky to have her at our school,” said Mrs. Wilkerson. The success of the Willpower Game is a testament to the hard work and planning that went into it. Parents had to take time out of their routines to practice, and it paid off! “The Willpower Game was an awesome night,” said Mrs. Obenland. “To see all the staff and students come together for such great causes was very uplifting. The basketball game was incredible.” Each year there seems to be something new and different. One of the major attraction is witnessing the principal’s challenge. This year, our principal, Dr. Eldridge, had to battle with some chickens. She did a good job catching them and placing them in a cage. We can’t wait to see what is in store for next year!

After months and months of planning the day finally came. Teachers were dunked, parents won the game, and Rocky Hill Middle School, aside from any differences among students, staff, and parents, joins for one common goal—to raise money for an end to cancer. Even though it’s one night out of three-hundred-sixty-five days, it’s one day that can make a change forever.

Parents and teachers meeting and greeting before the game
**Children of War**

By Mann Madzar
Assistant Chief Editor

"Mom, it's too hot out here!"

There are times where we complain about the most basic and trivial things. More often than not, we fail to realize that, throughout the world, there are people age living in positively deplorable conditions. Those people, whether they live in Siberia, India, or Ukraine, live through these brutal conditions, accepting their lives as they come—in many cases, the only lives they have ever known. Young boys and girls have to suffer through squall and unsafe conditions, especially in regions of civil and political unrest. Here in the United States, many of us complain querulously if everything is not to our liking. How is it fair for us to act in this manner when such people are barely living through each day, forced to cope with the total destruction of war?

Children in Ukraine and other war-torn countries live with the burden of many problems. What if I come home to find there is no home to return to? What if my family or friends are taken away or, even worse, killed? What if I don’t live to see tomorrow? What if my only teenage sister was kidnapped at her school? Children, especially young children and babies, can suffer psychological stress, developmental problems and cognitive damage when a parent goes to war, according to recent research by the Boston University School of Social Work. Children directly involved in civil unrest can be devastated by the destruction around them. Perhaps the same applies to children in Ukraine, many of suffer from diseases and extreme poverty. Children will suffer from losing loved ones, carrying the stress that comes with their absence. Through all these conflicts, there are children caught in the middle. In societies like ours, sometimes we forget that.

The Syrian War, like the Ukraine crisis, has affected its young populace. According to a new UNICEF report, March 10, 5.5 million Syrian children now need assistance because of the war, a number that has more than doubled in the past year. Among the hardest hit are one million children living under siege and in hard to reach areas in Syria. Additionally, as of January, violence has killed more than 10,000 children in Syria, who are often not accidental victims of war, but rather deliberately targeted. Witnesses say that children and infants have been killed by snipers, or become victims of summary executions or torture. Schools have been bombed. UNICEF highlighted what it called “deep developmental and emotional scan” left by the fighting. Even the 1.2 million refugee children living in camps and host communities in neighboring countries suffer from the war, with limited access to basic necessities.

What happens when a child, who support and care to grow and develop, is trapped in a world where all odds seem to be against them? In Crimea, this is the world children must face. Russia prevented the adoption of children by Americans from the Ukraine, given up only more discord among relief efforts for the area. Writer Katie Jay states that, “Crimea has reportedly been absorbed by Russia, and is therefore no longer accepting the authority of Ukraine. All in-progress adoptions are being rejected. My heart breaks for the American families there being told to return home, without their children while they still can, as well as all the orphans Russia is depriving of a future.” The cruelty is still—there is truly only in future in sight for these children. Russian authorities have even made it known that they have “special plans” for these children, visions of how they want them to be and how they will be raised. We mustn’t forget that not every child has the freedom to choose, as we do. Their lives, it seems, have been planned for them.

Malala Yousafzai became a victim of violence in Pakistan On October 9, 2012, when a gunman shot her on her way from school. Her story made news headlines around the world because of her courage and determination to speak for the education of girls.

War. Its effects can be thought of as a wave, affecting all parts of society. The most impacted may live in places that seem far away and foreign to us, but they are our comrades, our peers, children our age who are deprived. We need to do everything in our power to help these children—children of war.

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**How Do You Say Goodbye?**

By Mae McDermott
Chief Editor

"Goodbye" is such a vast word. It is a word that requires time, wisdom, and experience. It is a word that is often difficult to form, especially when the loss is great.

Earlier this year we lost my grandfather. He was my mentor, my best editor, my role model, and, most importantly, my friend. His heart was huge and inside of him he carried love that could reach the span of the universe and beyond. I have lost him.

I am not sure exactly how I will face the future without the strength I derive from these familiar surroundings. Like any fear, the fear of change and of future are just as debilitating as they are difficult to cope with. You cannot push it deep down inside because fear surfaces no matter how you try to stifle it. It comes in sudden silences and unexpected waves, or in bouts of applicable apathy. Change is inevitable, so the time or pace at which you face the fear is not your choice. You are at the mercy of the universe. Sometimes I can’t help but feel that, sometimes I feel like the universe is testing me. But then I must remind myself that life is a gift, not a test. Every life is full of trials, but these trials are part of the human journey we are lucky enough to take. Our days at RHMS are part of our journeys—all the memories, the lessons learned, and the conflicts, resolved or not, are worth appreciating.

There are so many memories to hold in. I will always appreciate (and question) Mr. Molley’s fascination with burning and exploding objects. I saw his broadest smile when he freaked a couple girls out with a particularly loud explosion. I will always smile when I think of Mr. Grimes’ brutal honesty and ability to offer the perfect rebuttal. I will not forget Ms. Armas’s English class, her humor, and the time we surfed YouTube, from Martin Luther King to ABBA. I so appreciate Mr. Leck’s very genuine cordiality, and his joking (yet serious) responses to my (unreasonable) questions that force me to admit that I probably worry a little too much. Ms. Belman and Ms. Massey made me love Spanish. I am grateful to Mr. Vinar and Ms. Gonzales, who deal with so many students like me who hate math. Every song sung with my chorus has touched my heart and left its mark; every piece of wisdom and consolation from Ms. Heinemann has shaped my character and means more to me than I can possibly express. I will always cherish this paper, Ms. Odey’s guidance, the opportunity to grow as a writer and a team member, and the remarkable things that can happen through the written word. I am so lucky to have experienced all these wonderful things and crossed paths with so many wonderful people.

People say that everything comes to an end. I guess this is a way of accepting losses and moving on. But it just isn’t true. Nothing ever really dies. Life and all the things within it. Perhaps that is why I don’t ever really say goodbye, because these memories are a part of me and my foundation, placed so deep in my soul that they will never leave me. I know I will always have them there to guide me and lift my spirits, like a good friend.

Thank you, Rocky Hill, and thank you for reading. Until next time. . . .

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Top Female Archer

By Anurima Aron
Staff Writer

Samaneh Ali, a seventh grader at Rocky Hill, has been recognized as the top female archer in the state of Maryland. Rocky Hill placed second in the competition, with a total of 2866 points followed by Smithsburg MS with 2726 points. Samaneh scored 274 points and took a lead of all the female archers.

TWR: Why did you choose to play archery?
Samaneh: I chose to play archery because I'm not really good at any other physical sport, so I thought I would give it a try, since it looked really cool and interesting.

TWR: Is there anyone that inspired you?
Samaneh: Well, when I first went to archery I saw many people who were really good shooters. Especially my coach, Mr. Leck inspired me, so that inspired me to do better and try my hardest.

TWR: What techniques did you choose to stay persistent?
Samaneh: In order to not give up, I had to keep reminding myself that practice makes perfect, since I wasn’t good at archery right from the start. Also I knew that if I wanted to get better, I couldn’t give up even if I got frustrated.

Ah-Mazing Teacher

By Aashfii Mahajan
Staff Writer

Mrs. Maxey is a Spanish teacher. She was nominated because she enjoys sharing her love of Spanish with other students.

TWR: How long have you been teaching?
Mrs. Maxey: This is my eighth year teaching.

TWR: How do you feel about being nominated?
Mrs. Maxey: I am so happy. It really means a lot to me to know that my students are enjoying my class.

TWR: What do you think makes you special?
Mrs. Maxey: I really care about my students’ learning. I want them to be successful and I try to find ways to motivate them in class.

TWR: How would you describe your interaction with your students?
Mrs. Maxey: I think I have a good relationship with my students. We have a lot of fun in class but we also get our work done.

TWR: How much do you like teaching and what would you like your students to know about you?
Mrs. Maxey: I love sharing my love for Spanish with my students. I want my students to know that this is my first year at Rocky Hill and I love working here since the students are so wonderful.
Letters from Rapunzel

Book Review

By Sahiti Tammera

Staff Writer

Cedanne Brown thinks of herself as Rapunzel. Yeah, that’s right. The fairy tale princess with a name that means: a green, leafy, vegetable. Only this Rapunzel isn’t stuck in a tower. Instead, she is stuck at her school’s dreamy homework club with a mean teacher with very strict rules whom she refers to as The Witch. But that’s not all there is to her life. Rapunzel also speaks to her dad until he got clinical depression, or as the creative-minded Rapunzel likes to call it: The Evil Spell. And to make things worse, her IQ proves that she’s a genius and her teachers think that she should go to the gifted and talented program which she does not care about whatsoever especially if it means being in the same class as the nerd/bully, Andrew. She would rather stay at the homework club with The Witch. Speaking of the homework club, what does Rapunzel really do there? Well, after her dad was diagnosis with C.D., she found a letter there? Well, after her dad was diagnosed with C.D., she found a letter from him labeled to Box #5667. The letter explained how the mailbox was nose with C.D., she found a letter from him labeled to Box #5667 because she has just discovered it as the story starts.

As Rapunzel’s story is told through the continuous letters, the plot starts to reveal startling points which adds to the building suspense.

Sara Lewis Holmes, the author, has put thought and emotion into the promising novel. This story won the Ursula Nordstrom First Fiction Fellowship. Holmes has really captured your imagination. This is how the mailbox begins Rapunzel’s quest. This story is written in the form of Rapunzel’s letter to Box #5667 with attachments of her creative responses to homework assignments. Desperate to save her dad, she pours all her attention and attention to detail into the letters. With the intricacy and spotlessness of the letters, she is confident that her dad will be saved in no time, but then she realizes that she isn’t receiving responses, thus upsetting her further.

Having put her emotions so thoroughly into the letters, Rapunzel provides the story with no backdrop necessary. This is also because Rapunzel has not even seen her dad since Box #5667 because she has just discovered it as the story starts.

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Rapunzel is community service. Molly Ayer has been in and out of foster care homes. The only thing keeping her from trouble with the law in community service. Molly is assigned to help an old lady, Vivian, clean out her home. As Molly helps Vivian shift through her belongings and memories, Molly finds that they aren’t as different as she once thought. Vivian was an orphaned, Irish immigrant, placed on a train set to go different places. Each and every one of the kids placed on that train had no clue where they would end up or what would become of them. Vivian has many unsolved mysteries; Molly has the missing puzzle pieces. What Molly doesn’t know is that the answers ultimately set her free, and opens a door to an unlikely friendship. Molly learns that the secrets she carried with her all those years, was the very thing that kept her from true freedom.

Orphan Train

By Christma Baker Kline

In this historical fiction book, Molly Ayer has been in and out of foster care homes. The only thing keeping her from trouble with the law in community service. Molly is assigned to help an old lady, Vivian, clean out her home. As Molly helps Vivian shift through her belongings and memories, Molly finds that they aren’t as different as she once thought. Vivian was an orphaned, Irish immigrant, placed on a train set to go different places. Each and every one of the kids placed on that train had no clue where they would end up or what would become of them. Vivian has many unsolved mysteries; Molly has the missing puzzle pieces. What Molly doesn’t know is that the answers ultimately set her free, and opens a door to an unlikely friendship. Molly learns that the secrets she carried with her all those years, was the very thing that kept her from true freedom.

The Road Not Taken

By Lahari Tammera

Staff Writer

"...and this is our second to last stop for the Syco Records Tour," she paused letting Ashton and I marvel at the beauty of the large recording room. "This is where many of our extremely talented star record their very beautiful music." I had been listening to their songs a few days ago. You know the feeling when you are underwater and at the pool and your hair becomes weightless, but gravity slowly brings you back to earth? That’s the feeling when your toes touch the bottom of the pool, knowing that you cannot stay down as long you go too far away. I was so far away from being a Syco Records artist. Today was our graduation day for college.

The temperature is finally rising. No more snow – just fun in the sun. Ice cream melting down your chin and hanging out with your friends. Hanging out at the pool and relaxing at the beach. It’s about time we had a brake – summer within your reach.

By Shelby Wilson

It’s Summer!

"Please rise for the class of 2014! We thank you for sitting through Rapunzel’s quest. Help him so much. This letter begins from him labeled to Box #5667. The letter explained how the mailbox was nosed with C.D., she found a letter from him labeled to Box #5667 because she has just discovered it as the story starts.

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Writers Corner, Continued

By Sophie Jorgensen
Grade 7

“Father, oh father, what do they want with you?” Charles, my one and only son, questioned anxiously, tagging on my plain brown shirt. It certainly wasn’t every day that an overlooked fellow like me got called to the royal castle by none other than the king himself! Even so, I surely wasn’t jumping out of my seat with pure exuberance and exhilaration at this official request. These things just didn’t happen to people who slumbered around in the fields all day, hopelessly plucking tomatoes from their stems and plowing rich soil only for the satisfaction of the royalties; it was obviously a scheme of some sort. Since I was known as the strongest, mightiest man in town (a title I didn’t deserve but had inherited from my father), I knew the king just wanted me to complete a dangerous task. Apprehensively, Charles thought so, too, as his fair face was plastered with the unmistakable look of anxiety. I shoved my belongings into a worn satchel and headed toward the small door leading out of our tiny house.

“Well, are you coming?” I yelled to my son, not expecting an answer in return. He stumbled through the door and sprinted up the hill, not caring at all about how he was dirtying his clothes. On the farm, he turned tireless days of labor into endless days of imaginative fun. Luckily, I was here to protect him from danger he could, and would, stumble upon due to his thoughtless actions. We hiked up the long dirt road without speaking, passing the vast forest and beautiful, shimmering river. What a shame that such a gorgeous, tranquil body of water had to be located right next to a forest full of dangers, secrets and overfrightening darkness. Later, he heard a rumor that a horrid, legendary, beastly creature had taken shelter in that very cluster of overgrown trees. I shivered and continued the journey to the castle at a significantly faster pace.

We arrived at the huge gold-doors to the mystical castle. Uniformed men standing beside the doors gracefully opened them so we could enter. My son and I strutted forward, making a memorable entrance, and kept going until we were face to face with the king and queen. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw the queen’s mouth sag slightly at the sight of our inappropriate attire. Although, it wasn’t really inappropriate, just not as vibrant, colorful as the robins she was used to. The king cleared his throat, preparing to make a speech.

“I’m sure you all have heard a legend about a mystical creature called the Jabberwock. You probably, along with most everyone else, assumed this creature was solely fictional. Now, it has come to my attention that there have been spotting this creature, realizing that it is alive and real. Not only is it alive, but it is alive within the borders of our town, in the vast, dark forest beside the river.” My son and I both nodded our heads, as we too had heard that. I gulped nervously, as now I understood what he was trying to say; a sacrifice. Well, he probably wanted me to slay the monster, but even he knew that attempt would just result in my death. Sure enough, that was the next thing he asked me. I started picking up my satchel, ready to politely decline, when his gruff voice echoed clearly, “I need you to remember. All I recall is hearing the faint sound of older students, no one was more proud of my entire life, as I had done what was seemingly impossible to ensure safety for the rest of the town. I had impressed my son, who lived a fearless, daring life. Now Charles would no longer have to be ashamed that his father couldn’t live up to his title; he would boast that he exceeded it, and become the mightiest man ever to walk the earth. Although everyone was so proud of my audacious actions, no one was more proud of what I did than myself.

Poems Galore

S.S Embarrass

I try to look so casual
then comes my worst nightmare.
Time slows down as I drop my book
It floats down through the air.

Everyone in class turns and stares
The ship has just set sail.

S.S Embarrass as everyone starts
To scream the word, “FAIL”!

Everyone laughs at what I did
I call it my worst nightmare.

The worst punishment is this of course,
It’s super, duper, lame.

I right glance toward my enemy,
A smile in his eye.

I pick up my book and bury my head,
I feel I’d rather die.

For there’s nothing more humiliating than to look cool,
Only to drop something obvious, and only to look like a fool.

By Zoe Tishaev
Grade 6

Cloudy Game

I watch the trees as they start to shake.
I watch the rain as it fills the lake.

Clouds high above, up in the sky.
Rain starts to fall, leaves start to fly.

The ball whizzes past my ear.
The trees quiver, shake in fear.

The dew-filled field; rain starts to fall.
I think it’s time, to start playing ball.

By Zoe Tishaev
Grade 6

Positive Poem

As the final bell of middle school rings
High school begins.

NOOO!!! You think
High school will be your personal nightmare.

Your friends who go to different schools
You say goodbye For eternity.

As you walk in through the
The doors of your nightmares
The air pulling you into darkness Your first class begins

BAM!
The sound of your first homework assignment
Due the next morning Your feelings
Immediately slump down like a skoi’s

By Kai Hu

Apprehensive Poem

As the final bell of middle school rings
High school begins.

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By Kai Hu
Life on the Hill

Rocky Hill’s Got Talent

By Anita Tharmarajah
Editor
Mae McDermott
Staff Writer

Ah-Mazing Teacher

By Mae McDermott
Chief Editor

Thank You

By Shelby Wilson
Staff Writer

On my first day of school I was scared because I thought I wouldn’t have any friends, and I would be late to all my classes. One of my biggest concerns was how my grades would turn out and I wondered how I would manage all of my classes especially the advanced ones. I could not imagine getting good grades with all of these things going on. It turns out though that this was one of the best school years of my life. I made a lot of new friends and kept getting good grades; but most importantly; Rocky Hill made this a great experience for me and most other 6th graders.

Rocky Hill has done all they can to make this an incredible experience for the newest Wildcats! From the very beginning we learned about Outdoor Ed and what a fabulous experience it was. Mrs. Quinn worked very hard with the whole 6th grade team to prepare us all for Outdoor Ed. This was the ultimate trip of teamwork and independence. By the time November rolled around I was ready for school and was ready to go to Summit Lake! I learned how to navigate the woods and really appreciate nature. Outdoor Ed was awesome for many reasons; I learned about teamwork and learned to be more independent.

P.E. has been another experience that prepared me for success this year. During P.E. we were encouraged to run the mile even though it’s tiring and it’s a lot of work. The teachers were always by our side, encouraging us to do our best and never give up. That’s one of the very important lessons you need for middle school – never give up!

I am also thankful for the many afterschool activities and intramurals that Rocky Hill has to offer. 6th graders have the opportunity to participate in many clubs and intramurals. Participating in these things helps you to feel a part of Rocky Hill and teaches you how to manage your time. Managing your time is key for succeeding in middle school.

One of my favorite places of the week is my classroom at The Hill. Ms. Gramatges and Mrs. Heidary have done an amazing job in the media center. The Mega McBee, Book Bites, and competitions are all wonderful ways to immerse yourself in Rocky Hill’s atmosphere. Ms. Gramatges and Mrs. Heidary have made the media center into a library free- dish, and in this paradise you not only have fun but you learn a lot! How can I thank you all? I thank you for all students, on the last day of school don’t forget to say thank you to our Rocky Hill teachers, our main office, guidance counselors, administrators and security and building service team and especially our principal, the one and only Dr. Eldridge! They have made this year a year we will never forget. We have all learned a lot academically but most importantly we have learned new things about ourselves. So thank you Rocky Hill; you’ve made this one of the best school years of my life. Thank you for providing us an environment, where we can learn and achieve great things with hard work, dedication, and pride.

Ms. Gonzales
Math Teacher

An amazing teacher is level-headed, dedicated, and most importantly, genuinely cares. Ms. Gonzales is all those things and more, and a great gift to all of her students. Teaching sixth and eighth grade is not an easy task, but Ms. Gonzales can always be found helping and guiding her students to success. Her unwavering commitment truly makes her an amazing teacher.

TWR: How long have you been teaching?

Ms. Gonzales: I have been teaching 22 years. I have taught in Texas, Colorado and Maryland. I have taught grades three, four, five, six and eight. I also taught three and four-year-olds for one year... that was the hardest! They have a lot of questions. I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from the University of Maryland and joined Teach for America when I graduated. I earned a Masters degree in educational psychology from the University of Denver and a Graduate Endorsement in Special Education at the University of Colorado.

TWR: How do you feel about being nominated?

Ms. Gonzales: I am very honored to be nominated. I have amazing students who make my job easy.

TWR: What path has brought you to being a teacher?

Ms. Gonzales: I really never thought that I would be a teacher. When I graduated I wanted to give back to the community and I explored other jobs. I heard about a new organization called Teach for America which placed non-teachers in schools in areas of need (there were not enough teachers) for two years. After an interview where they described how difficult it would be, I gave it a try. It was harder than I ever thought but when I left after my two year commitment I couldn’t wait to come back.

TWR: What do you think makes you special as a teacher?

Ms. Gonzales: I think what makes me special is a little different as a social worker than the field because I entered the field because I wanted to help students in need... not to deliver content. I have always felt that I need to continue to learn how to make teaching more effectively because I did not initially have the teacher training that most do. I try to always be open to new ideas for helping students learn and am constantly searching for how to be better at what I do. I love to see how other teachers set up their classrooms and deliver instruction.

TWR: What do you think makes you special as a person?

Ms. Gonzales: If I were to ask those around me what they think makes me special as a person I think they would say that I am almost always very positive and try to find solutions to problems rather than dwell on them.

TWR: What thing would you consider most important as a teacher?

Ms. Gonzales: The most important thing for me as a teacher is to make my classroom an environment where students feel comfortable to take risks and make mistakes. I have learned that this is the best way for students to progress with their understanding of the skills we are learning. I want every student in my class to feel welcome and do their best. I want to encourage all students to be included in each lesson and to feel confident in themselves as a learner and a person.

TWR: How would you describe your interaction with your students?

Ms. Gonzales: I try to set up a classroom with clear expectations but also allow students to be themselves. I want to have a classroom environment that allows all students the freedom to learn the way they do best. I want to encourage all students to be included in each lesson and to feel confident in themselves as a learner and a person.

TWR: What do you think makes you as a person?

Ms. Gonzales: I have worked in several buildings in a few states and I think that being a teacher is one of the most rewarding jobs... to be able to work with and help children grow in a safe environment. To see how much students achieve and how they grow in the space of a year is one of the best things about teaching. Please take a few moments to think about the teachers who have had a hand in your life and let them know how much you appreciate them.
Redskins Free Agency

The Redskins have been busy this offseason acquiring new players and letting go of others. Overall, they spent over 110 million dollars. They added on players including DeSean Jackson, Ryan Clark, and Andre Roberts. But in the process of getting new talent, some original Redskins had to leave, like Fred Davis. The biggest addition made this offseason was the signing of DeSean Jackson who was formerly the wide receiver for the Philadelphia Eagles. He signed a three year, 32 million dollar contract, which means he will get $10.6 million a year. This speedy receiver will be a great addition, with his speed and catching ability. Alongside Pierre Garcon it will give RG3 a bigger arsenal. Many players have spoken openly about their happiness in signing Jackson. Captain and starting nose tackle Barry Cofield said, “A guy I absolutely love.” He added, “I was very excited to get him.” Supposedly Jackson spent countless times, so I was very excited about their happiness in signing Jackson, Ryan Clark, and Andre Roberts. But in the process of getting new players and letting go of others. Overall, they spent over 110 million dollars. They have given fans a reason to hope. Washingtonians have reasons to be proud of The Wizards. The biggest decision The Wizards have had, making it to the playoffs since the 2008-2009 season! How impressive is that! They ended the season 44-38 finishing the season with a win in Boston. The first game of the Bully-Wizards series in the United Center lead to The Wizards win 102-93. It wasn’t impressive because the Bulls lead by six at the half, then they lead by three, and then Washington took over. The Wizards cut a 13-point deficit to win the game. Nene though was red hot this season, plowing through to make points in the basket. He had 24 points, eight boards and three assists. Although, he was fouled out in the fourth quarter, The Wizards had already taken the lead. John Wall did not disappoint! He led his team to victory over The Bulls. After the game, John Wall told reporters, “It’s very intense. I’ve watched it going to a couple of games, but it’s a lot different when you’re on the court. There was one segment when I couldn’t really breathe when I was up and down the court.” Wizards lead the series 1-4. The Wizards kept the Bulls on their toes during Game 2 in the series. Although the Bulls were ahead with 26 – 14, The Wizards rallied to win the game. Bradley led the Wizards scoring 26 points for his team. Nene added 17 points as the Wizards went on to beat The Bulls. Clearly it was a team effort and Wizards fans were energized. “I think we did a great job staying calm and composed,” Wall said.

The Wizards main guys!

Costly Mistakes

As we all know nobody is perfect, especially in media. But even those who know about media best make bad mistakes and blur out uncalled for and sometimes rude things. When this happens it will be recorded, shared, edited, and scrutinized. Recently, a recording of former Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling was leaked onto the internet. In the recording Sterling made racist remarks towards African-Americans. Of course people responded negatively to him, especially since 80% of the NBA is African-American and over 60% of the Clippers players are African-American! The media was all over the story, from ESPN to CNN. President Obama publicly condemned what he said. Hall of Fame player Michael Jordan said, “There is no room in the NBA — or anywhere else — for this kind of racism and hatred.” Several teams retired by wearing black socks while the fans held up sign insulting Sterling. Everyone talked and waited for the new commissioner of the NBA Adam Silver to punish him. A few days after the recording leaked, Silver sentenced Sterling to a lifetime ban of the NBA along with a 2.5 million dollar ban and forced him to sell the team. Because of this comment, not many players or fans think highly of him.

The Wizards have been busy this offseason acquiring new players and letting go of others. Overall, they spent over 110 million dollars. They added on players including DeSean Jackson, Ryan Clark, and Andre Roberts. But in the process of getting new talent, some original Redskins had to leave, like Fred Davis. The biggest addition made this offseason was the signing of DeSean Jackson who was formerly the wide receiver for the Philadelphia Eagles. He signed a three year, 32 million dollar contract, which means he will get $10.6 million a year. This speedy receiver will be a great addition, with his speed and catching ability. Alongside Pierre Garcon it will give RG3 a bigger arsenal. Many players have spoken openly about their happiness in signing Jackson. Captain and starting nose tackle Barry Cofield said, “A guy I absolutely love.” He added, “I was very excited about their happiness in signing Jackson, Ryan Clark, and Andre Roberts. But in the process of getting new players and letting go of others. Overall, they spent over 110 million dollars. They have given fans a reason to hope. Washingtonians have reasons to be proud of The Wizards. The biggest decision The Wizards have had, making it to the playoffs since the 2008-2009 season! How impressive is that! They ended the season 44-38 finishing the season with a win in Boston. The first game of the Bully-Wizards series in the United Center lead to The Wizards win 102-93. It wasn’t impressive because the Bulls lead by six at the half, then they lead by three, and then Washington took over. The Wizards cut a 13-point deficit to win the game. Nene though was red hot this season, plowing through to make points in the basket. He had 24 points, eight boards and three assists. Although, he was fouled out in the fourth quarter, The Wizards had already taken the lead. John Wall did not disappoint! He led his team to victory over The Bulls. After the game, John Wall told reporters, “It’s very intense. I’ve watched it going to a couple of games, but it’s a lot different when you’re on the court. There was one segment when I couldn’t really breathe when I was up and down the court.” Wizards lead the series 1-4. The Wizards kept the Bulls on their toes during Game 2 in the series. Although the Bulls were ahead with 26 – 14, The Wizards rallied to win the game. Bradley led the Wizards scoring 26 points for his team. Nene added 17 points as the Wizards went on to beat The Bulls. Clearly it was a team effort and Wizards fans were energized. “I think we did a great job staying calm and composed,” Wall said.

In spite of their losses, most Wizards fans had a lot to celebrate this season. According to Jonathan Munnah, “Washington has a lot of be proud of heading into the offseason, despite losing their 19 point lead in Game 4 and losing to Indiana.” In retrospect, The Wizards have given fans a reason to hope. Washingtonians have reasons to be proud of The Wizards.
Special Features

Service Learning Hour Opportunities

By Kathryn Fulmer
Staff Writer

There are many ways to earn SSL hours during the sweltering heat of summer. What are SSL hours, and why do you have to read this? SSL hours are hours of community service (you need at least 75 hours to graduate from high school). How do you get SSL hours? You can get service hours by performing work for an approved SSL organization. This article is all about getting these hours during the summer season. You could go see your teacher from the previous grade and help them out with school! Yes, that is an approved opportunity! Many opportunities are listed below directly from the Montgomery County Volunteer Center website.

Summer Camp Counselor in Training
“This is a great opportunity to hone leadership skills while helping young children have a great summer playing, swimming, and making friends. This is a volunteer job requiring commitment, responsibility, teamwork, self-motivation, and a high energy level.” Being a Summer Camp Counselor in training is a great opportunity if you love making friends and swimming.

Kitchen Helper
“Kitchen helpers help make the meals we deliver to homebound neighbors. The work includes packing/serving cold and hot lunches. Students can help on days off from school and over the summer.” Love working with food? Do you enjoy making others happy? Then a kitchen helper will be the right SSL opportunity for you. You could help your neighbors that are too sick to come out of the house by making them food!

Guitar Pal Internship
“Middle and High School students who are currently studying and are proficient in guitar will mentor an elementary or middle school student as part of the after school clubs program. The younger student will be designated by economic needs and interest in music. The older student will have been selected by the school counselor and music teacher as someone who would benefit from, but cannot afford, private music lessons.” Do you play guitar? Do you like kids? Do you consider yourself good? Do you do well with younger children? Then a guitar internship will be perfect for you. You will get SSL hours from your talent at the musical instrument. Here is the contact information:
Address: 18108 Metz Drive Germantown, MD 20874
Phone: 301-916-1439

Tomato-Stringing Volunteer
“This volunteer will help us string our tomato plants so they grow verti- cally instead of dropping onto the ground—a very important task and good for someone seeking a peaceful, repetitive task in the outdoors. This role is needed once or twice per week, for a few hours between 8am-3pm, May through July. We will provide training on how to string tomatoes! Do you love the outdoors? Do you want to know (or already know) how to string tomatoes so they don’t drop? This opportunity is a great opportunity for you! Here is all of the information that you need to contact and come to this opportunity: Address: Red Wiggler Community Farm Clarksburg, MD 20871
Phone: (301)916-2216
Email: info@redwiggler.org

Greenhouse Volunteer
“This volunteer will help our Growers seed and transplant plants in the greenhouse and in our programs building.

Special Features

Coldplay: Ghost Stories
By Anurag Bana
Staff Writer

If you’ve heard Coldplay recently on the news or radio, great! That means you aren’t living under a rock. Coldplay released their new album entitled Ghost Stories on May 19, and excelled far beyond what any of us had expected. Coldplay is claimed to be one of the greatest bands in music, using their incredible ability to link relatable lyrics with catchy melodies to their advantage. So if you’re a Coldplay fan wondering if they still have that magic, Ghost Stories has many rich lyrics with catchy melodies in the backdrop. So yes, Coldplay still possess that magic they will forever have, and hopefully will continue to create incredible, moving albums for years to come.

to the last, Ghost Stories creates an obvious theme of heartbreak and helplessness. Instead of giving an inkling or a hint about his emotion and leaving listeners to make theories, Chris Martin comes out straightforward in his lyrics in rather spectacular fashion. Many of the songs in Ghost Stories have a nice mellow and relaxing tone, but the other ones sound like a literal ghost is singing. Coming off their last album Mylo Xyloto, a much more upbeat album, Coldplay decided to go back to their roots. But the question that everybody has is can they bring back the magic they had in Fix You, The Scientist, and in Paradise? Most think their new album is mainly about the lead singer, Chris Martin, and his troubled relationship with his ex-wife Gwyneth Paltrow. The couple split up in March of 2014. From the first song fans effortlessly, are the topics of many conversations among our age. Even overpriced concert tickets could be the effect of corruptions behind the camera. The soft, pink light that outlines the much respected world of music, law, and even medicine is just an illusion to blind us from the true darkness behind the scenes.

What causes this corruption, and is there a way to stop it? The idea of corruption seems almost too ugly to accept into a world that would be much easier without it. The concept of injustice is something that most people reel back at, without knowing how much of it is around them. “A good lawyer knows the law, but a great lawyer knows the judge,” is an unfortunately very true statement, not only in the world of law but also in every other field. Because of human greed and cowardliness, there really is no realistic way to rid the world of this injustice. The only thing we can do is to hope we don’t get caught in the worst of it.

The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honors the servant and has forgotten the gift.”

—Albert Einstein—
Facts?

Sharks! Can you believe that these are arrested for making ugly faces at a human? For example, in Oklahoma, you can be arrested for making faces at a shark. This is wonderfully strange our world is.

There are facts, facts, and more facts. Is there any way we can have some fun with this information?

By Aleysha Varghese

FREAKY FACTS

Yes, there is one way—FREAKY FACTS. The amazing book of enjoyable facts truly conveys how wonderfully strange our world is.

Freaky Facts definitely shows how captivating information can be. For example, in Oklahoma, you can be arrested for making ugly faces at a dog. In Kentucky, it’s illegal to paint your lawn red. You have a higher chance of getting killed by cows than sharks! Can you believe that these are FACTS? Yes, there is one way—FREAKY FACTS.

There are countless facts in the book, of which are overlooked—like crazy world records, weird laws, and really freaky things. A few you may read this great book, you will see that these facts are linked to the world around you. When you see a caterpillar, you can trace back to the fact that a caterpillar’s first meal is usually its eggshell. Or when you watch Mickey Mouse with your youngsters, see Donald Duck you won’t forget that his middle name is Fauntley.

This book was written by workers from “Pocket Pal.” This book has a world record of weird laws and really freaky facts. The purpose of this book was not only for fun information—it was written to express their opinions through the pictures under each fact. I have to admit, most of the facts are accurate—although I am sure that “in Virginia you must take a bath outside” is not. That’s a bit of a weird, personal opinion!!

I won’t ruin the rest of the book for you, but I highly encourage you to read it. You can take a break off from school or homework and read the book. Enjoy reading!!

Fidelity

By Mae McDermott

FIDELITY AND TENDERNESS

Fortunate people find the right person to share their lives with. She is different—no, we are different. We were made for each other. I cannot remember a moment in my life when we were stripped of each other’s company. There is no reason for us to part here . . . we live a simple life from our hilltop, overlooking the glorious acres below.

Tall, strong and majestic, she stands during the day, glazing onward with a distant smile. Muscles taut, I join her, staying completely alert until the sun ceases to burn above us and the moon has begun to whisper sweet Thames, lulling Earth’s children to sleep. Only then do we creep out of hiding and onto the moonlit grass.

Always filled to the brim with unsaid words, her eyes speak for her rather than her voice. Those beautiful eyes twinkle for a moment’s time before we set off, prowing the grounds like panther stalking their prey. Path after path winds through the endless hills. The turrets of a grand building can still be seen towering above the treetops, their dainty turquoise details turned to a dark navy by the night. The faint rays are a reminder of what is coming over the horizon.

We are connected to such an extent that, if she vanished, she would take a part of my soul with her—I would live a mere half-life. If I were incomplete, I cannot let her go on her own.

As the sun blazes overhead, I am struck by the most horrible visions—I am alone, engulfed in dark, cloudy hues. Crying hollow tears, I lie bleeding on the ground. My heart burns and my mind spins out of control . . . she is my sweetest dream and my worst nightmare all at once.

The sky has shifted to a pale orange. All I can do is wait. I love her. She revitalizes me and reminds me why I live . . . to protect myself and I cannot leave without knowing I have your full support.

I feel as though that part of my soul is trying to escape me and my nightmares are being realized. Tears well in my eyes. I don’t want you to go.

Yet I know that she must. My tight grip on her loosens until my limbs limply fall to the ground. She leans forward and, with a kiss like a warm breeze, disappears.

Here I sit, waiting for her to return to me by daylight, to sit beside me and gaze at the valleys below before venturing into their dark depths by nightfall. There is a dull pain within me, an ache that I cannot relieve.

The battle against uncertainty is a brutal one, but faith will win. For now, I will wait atop my hill—until I see my beautiful girl round the corner once more.

Special Features Cont.
Message in a Bottle: What’s Your Message?

By Mac McDermott
Chief Editor

Imagine a yellowing, worn letter drifting through the ocean in a glass bottle, facing the howling storms and the fiercest of ravenous waters. This message will transcend time; sometimes living a longer life than the person who sent it adrift. Bottled messages are the most seasoned of earth’s travelers and the most dedicated of messengers—they persist through years and countless miles only to wash up on shore and share their owner’s words with the world. These bottles are an extension of their writers’ spirit and passion. These pioneers have a beautiful, enchanting magic that is all their own.

The proof lies in CNN hero Sidonie, who was found in late 2010 when she was only 18 years old. Sidonie has sent a bottle to sea ten years before it was found in late 2012. Reading “Be excellent to yourselves, dude.” A bottled message also read “I’m afraid to make one.” Not yet, I fear. I use this quote, personally, to remind me that I should’t let my insecurities obstruct my path to that wisdom.

Mr. Ohm - Be kind. It takes effort, patience, and understanding but trive to be kind to others. Some people will embrace your actions and, in turn, help to spread kindness. Some will be suspicious of your intent but may eventually succumb to your sincerity. Be kind, I am trying.

Mr. Heinemann - Live each day to the fullest! Leave the world better than you found it. Make your interactions with others genuine. Stand up for what is right and stand up for others who lack the courage or ability to do it themselves. Do what you love and love what you do. Money isn’t everything. Happiness can be found in the satisfaction of a job well done and your impact on others. Those feelings are valuable and they are what really make you rich. Love and cherish your family above all—they are a part of you.

Ms. Sweeney - “We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.” (Franklin D. Roosevelt). I’ve always thought that this was a great way to describe why we teachers do what we do.

Ms. Paul - Short and sweet: it’s easy to forget what’s important in life, so don’t!

Mr. Engstrom - There are no wrong answers in life. Life can seem like a test in school, full of challenging questions and problems. But without challenges, life would be boring. Take any challenge in life as a lesson to be learned. Most importantly, never give up from a challenge, unless of course the challenge is unrealistic (like lifting a car above your head). You don’t have to be competitive – but you need to be strong. Help others solve their challenges, and allow people to help you. Take your own challenge and set a goal for yourself. Never settle for mediocrity, set high expectations for yourself. I learned this when playing soccer. I played field hockey at the Division I level in college and was invited to try-out for the United States National Field Hockey Team.

This became a major life lesson for me that I never thought would impact my life so much. I didn’t make the team. A coach stopped me before leaving the Olympic Village and said, “you know you could have made the team if you took yourself seriously.” I didn’t train hard, never believed in myself, and I let myself unscrew. I redeemed my life plane to Maryland from Chula Vista, California only forced me to reflect and gain more confidence and determination. After a year of training hard and studying the game, I returned to tryouts and earned a spot on the US National Team. It was an honor to represent our country and wear that United States jersey.

So, there are no wrong answers in life, but you must take control of your answers. Find YOUR passion in life. Have NO regrets. Don’t let a challenge get in the way of YOUR dreams.

Save the Children Advocacy Summit

By Apan Bana
Staff Writer

On April 8 and 9, Save the Children Advocacy Summit, in Washington D.C. You might be thinking, What are you talking about? The Save the Children Advocacy Summit is a two day event where people meet up with congressmen and congresswomen to discuss child issues.

The two issues at this event were Early Childhood Education and Newborn Deaths. Early Childhood Education regards kids under the age of five that aren’t getting early childhood education or preschool, thus putting the child up to 18 Months Behind. 90% of the brain is developed by age five, and that is why people are trying to raise their voices about this issue. The other issue was Newborn Deaths. 18,000 newborns die every year from diseases we commonly get, which are preventable. The number of newborns dying every year is between 36,000,000 to 12,000,000 a year, but 12 million is still agrimous number and it could be avoided.

I had the honor of participating in this event, and the representatives that I met were Barbra Lee, Nancy Pelosi, and Jared Huffman. The funny story about meeting with these representatives was that the staff members didn’t really pay attention to many of the adults, but more so to the kids. Because who would know more about child issues than, well you know, kids. Although we are kids and we don’t have as many rights as adults, we still have a major voice—we just have to wield it.

Our members of congress honestly don’t care about what adults have to say these days, but they pay a lot of attention to us. Thus, by doing something small, like writing a letter to your state representative about some issues you might have, you could make a big difference. Hopefully after reading this article, you’re inspired to raise your voice about some issues that are plaguing our society. We really can make a big difference.

#Bring Back our Girls

By Shelly Wilson
Staff Writer

Aren’t you grateful that you live in a country where you are entitled to an education and live where your government supports education for all children? In some countries, girls are not entitled to education. This is especially true in Nigeria. An article that was posted on the USA TODAY website reported that “on April 15th,” more than 300 schoolgirls were abducted from the Chibok Government Girls Secondary School in northeast Nigeria.”

While the girls were at school they heard gunfire and assumed they were military men and went outside. The men were kidnappers. Those kidnappers were from a group called Boko Haram. This is a hateful group of individuals who kidnapped more than 300 girls because they consider education a sin especially for girls. The parents of the girls are scared and worried that the men are using their daughters as slaves. Ms. Odey grew up in the southern part of Nigeria. “I can only imagine the horror these girls have had to endure,” said Ms. Odey. “I continue to pray for their safe return to their parents.”

Here in our country on social media people are asking for our awareness and for our government to help bring Back our Girls in Nigeria.

The #Bring Back Our Girls was tweeted out by our First Lady Michelle Obama, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and Malala Yousafzai, youth activist. Malala tweeted, “Girls in Nigeria are my sister.” Students from Walt Whitman High School in Maryland from Chula Vista, California only forced me to reflect and gain more confidence and determination.

I learned this when playing soccer. I played field hockey at the Division I level in college and was invited to try-out for the United States National Field Hockey Team.

This became a major life lesson for me that I never thought would impact my life so much. I didn’t make the team. A coach stopped me before leaving the Olympic Village and said, “you know you could have made the team if you took yourself seriously.” I didn’t train hard, never believed in myself, and I let myself unscrew. I redeemed my life plane to Maryland from Chula Vista, California only forced me to reflect and gain more confidence and determination. After a year of training hard and studying the game, I returned to tryouts and earned a spot on the US National Team. It was an honor to represent our country and wear that United States jersey.

So, here are no wrong answers in life, but you must take control of your answers. Find YOUR passion in life. Have NO regrets. Don’t let a challenge get in the way of YOUR dreams.
Ms. Katie Odey
Supervising Editor

Social media has redefined friendship for millions of people in The United States and abroad. Popular sites like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram have millions of users who spend considerable amounts of time connecting with “friends” online. Many users have over a hundred friends, whose lives have literally become open books. The knowledge that you have so many friends can be reassuring, but you have to wonder about who your friends really are. More importantly, what about your “friends?” A new University of Oxford study found out that despite the number of friends we have, people still have just a handful of people they consider close friends.

It is important to remember that we are supposed to stay connected with others. Ironically, socially media is isolating us and giving us a false sense of community. Imagine having a classic ice cream social event or a neighborhood meet-and-greet event. Imagine handshakes and hugs that you can lead to lifelong friendships. With a click of the mouse we make friends with people we may never meet. We spend time reading about the lives of others; at the same time we miss out on making real connections with the people meet at school, at work, at church or people with whom we have simple interests. Our techn-gadgets have become our tools of isolation. “The philosophy behind social media (beyond its potential for profit) is that these gadgets are longing for connection and that there has been an obstacle that prevents individuals from connecting with one another,” says Joel Bain, Editor -Chief of Sour Grapes Winery.

Despite of the success of social media and the possibility of connecting with long lost friends and acquaintances, we cannot overlook the fact that people are becoming more connected to their technological devices. “People today are more connected to one another than ever before in history,” thanks to internet-based social networking sites and text messaging. But they are also more lonely and distant from one another in their unplugged lives,” says Massachusetts Institute of Technology social psychologist Sherry Turkle, PhD. This trend clearly explains the idea of being lonely in a crowded. “Our real-life social networks are hugely important and vanishing,” says Joe Robinson, author of Don’t Miss Your Life

Friendship takes commitment and requires a deeper connection than the superficial relationship we get through social media. According to Joe Robinson, “What we fail to see is that social media does not bring us together, but drives us apart by satisfying ourselves with a superficial level of human connection; one that does not last, nor does it build us up.”

Technology has made communications possible and easily accessible, yet we are missing out on life. Our sedentary lifestyle is making us resort to unhealthy habits because of our isolation. Joe Robinson writes, “It’s a little ironic that, as social media

Blue Stacks App Player

By Kai Hu
Tech Editor

Are you the type of person that loves playing iOS and Android apps? But care about your phone, so you want to but can’t play that long? Well this is the perfect thing for you. Blue Stacks App Player is this new software absolutely free for your Windows computer. It’s still in Beta so it might have some bugs. All you have to do is install it into your computer and that’s it. You download your favorite apps like you would on your smartphone.

Now you may ask how do gameplay work. Well usually it’s whatever your tap for your phone you mouse click. And for games that you tilt your phone you use the up down left right buttons on your keyboard. I asked some people after trying it out for themselves and how they felt about it. Kevin Curry says “the best user interface among the rest”! Malek Shedd says “It’s very good, useful with me. thanks very much. I like it. Happy playing” Oniani Banda says “As it is in Beta phase I expected a few problems so was pleasantly surprised that the only flaw were a few crashes when closing apps and the lack of a PC File transfer method.” Overall I see a bright future for BlueStacks, as long as development continues to improve.” I personally love it and I think you might too. If you want to try it out for yourself go to http://www.bluestacks.com!

Nintendo Shutting Down Wi-Fi

By Kai Hu
Tech Editor

Nintendo is ending certain functions offered through the Ninten- do Wi-Fi Connection on May 20, 2014. The discontinued service will affect online play, leaderboards and matchmaking for many Nintendo Wii, DS and DSi games. Users of the consoles can still play the games in offline mode. “Online play for Wii U and Nintendo 3DS games will be unaffected (aside from the Wii mode on Wii U and Nintendo DS games on Nintendo 3DS family systems). Other online functionality, such as access to the Wii Shop Channel, the Nintendo DSi Shop and video-on-demand services, are also not affected at this time,” said Nintendo in a statement.

Beyond the closing date, the services that will keep working on the DS include the DSi Shop, DS Broswer and DSi Browser. Netflix NFLX, Hulu, the Wii Shop Channel, Internet Channel, Pay & Play and YouTube will continue running on the Wii. The Ninten- do Wi-Fi Connection removal affects 20 Nintendo published games like Mario Kart Wii, Pokémon Battle Revolution, Mario Kart DS, Super Smash Bros. Brawl, and pretty much all 15 Pokémon games for DS. Nintendo originally launched the Wi-Fi Connection service in November 2005. On March 31, 2014, Nintendo will also shut down the Nintendo Vid- eo Service in Australia and Japan for the Nintendo 3DS. The Nintendo 3DS Video Service offered free 3D videos for the 3DS since July 2011
By Linette Kingston
Staff Writer

It wasn’t too long ago when we walked through the front door of Rocky Hill, or so it seems. We walked into this enormous building with eyes glued to our schedules, frowns on our faces, and obvious trepidation as we tried to navigate through the confusing school. Now, walking around the school is like a second nature. With familiar faces are all around, it’s amazing how long we’ve known our fellow peers. We remember these events: Outdoor Ed, Suessical, PRIDEaPalooza, the Talent Show, Medieval Times, the Bowling Trip? Below are some of your fellow 8th graders’ favorite memories.

Hannah MacTaggart
My favorite memory at Rocky Hill was when the chorus and band groups [and orchestra] went to Hershey Park. The day started at 4:30 in the morning and ended at midnight. The first thing we had to do was sing in front of the judges. But after that we all got to walk around the park in groups with our friends. Without a teacher! The funniest but most annoying part of the day was when we waited in line for an hour and a half, yet by the time we got to the rides, we had to go on scavenger hunts. The best part of this all was sitting around the campfire, talking to friends, eating s’mores, and relaxing.

Mike Keenan
My best memories at Rocky Hill were made at those three days spent at Outdoor Ed. We sang songs and played so many games. I got to meet new people, to try different things such as going to the river to find bugs, and to go on scavenger hunts. The best part of this was when the boys’ basketball team beat the Neelsville team at Neelsville. The entire team worked together, and it was our first win.

Sam Wellington
My favorite memory from Rocky Hill is when the Boys’ Basketball Team beat the Neelsville team at Neelsville. The entire team worked together, and it was our first win.

Roshini Patel
My favorite memory was during our 7th grade Medieval Times trip. It was towards the end of the year, and it definitely took stress off of students. Being able to go someplace fun with your friends is all a student really needs to make a great memory.

Michelle Sung
My favorite memory was when we went to Medieval Times in 7th grade. It was interesting to see the show and also get to hang out with my friends. I also thought that Outdoor Ed was memorable because I had a broken arm during that time. I was limited in what I could do, but it was still fun.

Chandan Murthy
The teachers here at Rocky Hill have inspired me to do my best. Whenever I don’t understand anything, they help me until I understand the topic completely. They let us have fun, but teach us at the same time. The thing that bothers me is that many students do not respect teachers and do not understand how much teachers do for them. Teachers work hard, but they don’t receive anything in return. My teachers inspire me to do my best, even if it doesn’t seem rewarding.

Zarafsha Uzzaman
My favorite memory was during our winter concert last year. The music was pretty difficult since it was “Hallelujah Chorus,” a world-renowned song. We had worked for months on this piece. Our moment finally came at the concert, when we sang loud and proud. When the song finally ended, the audience rose to their feet and started clapping and applauding for us. It was a standing ovation and we had never gotten such a reaction before. And the feelings I experienced couldn’t even be described. It was a mix of so many emotions. I wanted to laugh and cry at the same time! All that hard work had paid off and we were extremely proud of what we had accomplished.

Ali Tyma
I have learned, while at Rocky Hill, that food is the only way to make it through the day without clawing someone’s eyes out.

Thanks for the Memories
By Linette Kingston
Staff Writer

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Life Hacks
By Mahi Ganatra
Staff Writer

The Internet has been a great resource for us. It has given us many things in the past and one of the most useful things are life hacks. Life hacks are simple “hacks” that can have to do with anything! Here are a few:

If you like sipping your soda with a straw, place your straw in the hole in the tab of the soda can.

You can make a bowl for your chips out of the bag itself by folding the bottom ends inwards, and rolling the bag up from the bottom. Great for parties!

Cut a small piece of cake or cheese or any other soft solid with unscented dental floss. Hold it tightly and horizontally over the slice and pull straight downwards.

Don’t have a Snaggle to keep you warm? Pick up that bathrobe that’s been hiding in your closet all year and wear it backwards.

Are you a neat freak or do you just want to look cool while eating Cheetos? Try eating them with chopsticks. A great way to avoid the orange powder getting all over your hands.

Don’t have a chip clip to seal your bag of chips? No problem! Get a pants hanger and snap off the clips and use them to seal your bag.

You’ve been using ketchup cups wrong your whole life! Unroll the rim to get more than 2x times the ketchup you could usually get.

Do you love making pancakes? Pour your pancake batter into a ketchup bottle for a mess-free experience.

Want to keep your phone up somehow but don’t have a dock? Use a cassette case to hold your phone.

These are just a few of many of the amazing life hacks that you can find from the magical thing we know as: the internet.