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*The New Middle School provides an alternative educational experience and social-emotional support for bright children.*

## School News

## News

### NMS Wins a National Award

By Corey H.

The New Middle School has been honored by the American Psychoanalytic Association with the first annual Interdisciplinary Psychoanalysis and Pre-K-12 Education Award. In addition to the prestigious award, the school was given a gift of \$500.00.

The New Middle School was honored for being the best example of psychoanalysts, and teachers working together. They especially liked the way NMS reaches out to other schools and educators in the community like the Lunch Bunch, which brings school principals from the Heights neighborhood together to share experiences and get help for their teachers and schools. They were also impressed by the way the school reached out to Hurricane Katrina victims through *NOAH*.

Applications were accepted from across the country and the winner was chosen by the Liaison to the School's Committee.

### The 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School

All year students have been counting the days of school and on February 7, 2006 we will be there! Students have been participating in interesting activities centered around the number 100! Here are some pictures of their hard work.



Corey J. counts by tens to 100.



Robert shows off books about 100.



Matthew C. works on a 100 piece puzzle.



Matthew A. & Jacob demonstrate teamwork!



Jake writes numbers to 100.



Kathleen guesses which jar contains 100 items.



Taylor completes the 100 board.

### The Winter Olympics Begin

By Corey H.

The opening ceremonies of the 2006 Winter Olympics begins February 10, 2006 in Torino, Italy. The Olympics features the best athletes in the world competing in several sports, each athlete going for a gold medal and the honor of being named the best in the world.

The Olympic ceremonies are considered the greatest shows on earth. They will be viewed by 2 billion television spectators and 35 thousand people will see it live.

The closing ceremony will be on February 26, 2006 and will include athletes and spectators.

It will certainly be a show worth watching, not to mention experiencing the thrilling athletes as they go for the gold. So, let the games begin!

## Culture

### Gung Hay Fat Choy

By Corey J. & Brianna

Gung Hay Fat Choy means Happy New Year. The Chinese New Year is a grand celebration that takes place each winter. Each year is given the name of an animal. This is the year of the dog!

The celebration includes parades, firecrackers and the Dragon Dance. To prepare for this important time of year, families clean their houses, pay off old debts, buy new clothes and cook great meals. Children are a big part of the tradition. They receive red envelopes full of money. The children also get to stay up as long as possible on New Year's Eve. The longer the children stay awake the better luck the family will have in the New Year.

This is an important holiday full of fun, interesting traditions. We had fun learning about our birth year animal and making Chinese crafts. The best part was trying new foods, especially fortune cookies!

### Hail To The Chief

By Christopher

Being the president is a big responsibility. You have to run the country, make difficult decisions and meet with world leaders. That is why we honor the president with a special holiday each year called Presidents' Day.

The original version of the holiday was in commemoration of George Washington's birthday in 1796, the last full year of his presidency. It became an official federal holiday in 1971. It is a day to honor all presidents past and present.

So this February take a moment to recognize the hard work and leadership that makes our country so great. Happy Presidents' Day!

### A Day of Kindness

By Taylor

Valentine's Day is a time to show kindness to the people in our life. This is often expressed through candy, flowers, and cards, lots and lots of cards! Ester Howland produced the first commercial American valentine in the 1804.

In her first year of business, she made \$5000 selling cards. The valentine industry has been growing ever since. Today, over 1 billion valentine cards are sent each year in the United States.

Who receives these cards? Parents mostly, but let's not forget teachers, children, wives and sweethearts. The one's buying the cards... well, mostly women.

Regardless of how it started, Valentines Day is the perfect time to practice acts of kindness. Something we can try to do every day of the year.

So Happy Valentine's Day...pass it on.



## Newspaper

### Staff

Matthew A.  
Christopher  
Matthew  
Corey H.  
Jacob  
Corey J.  
Brianna  
Kathleen  
Robert  
Joel  
Jake  
Ace  
Taylor

**Sports**

**From Texas to Torino**

By Jacob

Texan Chad Hedrick is heading to the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy. Hedrick grew up in Spring, Texas where his dad owns one of five roller rinks in the Houston area called Champions Roller World. His whole family helps him with his career. His mother Wanda, is his financial advisor. His younger sister Natalie is her older brother's biggest fan. His father Paul, once his coach, is now his mentor.

A skater since he was two, Hedrick is a natural on skates, and is very driven to win. He is taking that determination and drive with him as he goes for the gold. This Olympics is going to get a sweet taste of Texas!



**SUPER BOWL XL**

By Joel

Want something to do in February besides Valentines Day? Well, come on down and watch the Super Bowl on ESPN! The match is between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Seattle Seahawks. "They're awfully good" says head coach of Seattle, Mike Holmgren. The Seahawks are going for their first Super Bowl and are the underdogs of the match. "Were not done yet" said Seattle quarterback Matt Hasselback. The Steelers have been to the Super Bowl 4 times and are expected to win. Pittsburgh sacked the Denver Broncos 34-17. The Seahawks defeated the Carolina Panthers 34-14. One thing is for sure, it's going to be a good match. So instead of just doing nothing, bring your friends over and watch SUPER BOWL XL!

**Spud Webb**

By Jake

To become a professional basketball player, you need to have skill, talent, and it helps to be tall. Most NBA players are at least 6' tall. That is what makes Anthony "Spud" Webb's story so amazing. Officially listed at 5'7", he is one of the shortest players in NBA history, but he has a reported vertical jump of 42". Even more remarkable is that he won the NBA Slam Dunk competition in 1986. He made history for winning due to his small size.

When Spud finished high school, most colleges did not want him due to his size. He attended Midland Junior College where his team won the Junior National Title in 1982. This got him a scholarship to North Carolina State. He went on to play in the NBA, spending most of his career with the Atlanta Hawks, but also played with the Sacramento Kings, Minnesota Timberwolves, and the Orlando Magic before retiring in 1998.

Spud Webb overcame many obstacles to make his place in NBA history. I guess it's true, good things come in small packages.



**Arts & Entertainment**



**Rodeo Time**

By Taylor

Hey Houston, it's rodeo time again. This Texas tradition is fun for the whole family. The Houston Rodeo attracts top contestants for each competition. You can enjoy the Live Stock Show which features interesting animals, great food, and fun shopping.

Best of all the rodeo features top entertainers and you can experience this entertainment for as little as \$16.00. So grab your hat and put on your boots and head to Reliant Stadium Feb. 28- March 19, 2006 and go Texas!

**Rock & "Joel" Aerosmith Dreams On**

By Joel

Aerosmith got its beginning oddly enough in an ice cream parlor in 1970 when vocalist Steven Tyler met guitarist Joe Perry. They started a band named Aerosmith, and landed their first recording contract in 1972. Aerosmith has been together ever since. Although they have taken breaks from each other the band remains intact, and they continue to tour. In fact they hit the Toyota Center in Houston on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Aerosmith has endured through the years surpassing many who have broken up after only a few years. This band continues to rock out and roll on!!

**Science**

**Travelocity's Worst Nightmare**

By Ace and Matthew C.

A wormhole is a method of overcoming the light-speed barrier imposed by Relativity Theory. It is formed when two singularities (points where gravity's pull becomes infinite) merge, forming a tunnel from one to the other, also known as an Einstein-Rosen Bridge.

The problem with such "superluminal tunnels" is that they collapse, or pinch off, before anything, even light, has time to travel from one end of the tunnel to the other. Certain configurations, such as those including "exotic matter" and/or a rotating singularity, have the potential for rapid travel through the universe (or, in some geometries, with another universe).

Of course, "exotic matter," while theoretically possible, has yet to be seen, even in a telescope or particle accelerator, and rotating singularities pose problems that are far harder to ignore. Theoretically, if one were to "thread the needle" through a ring-shaped singularity (which would begin to expand due to centrifugal force), one would have traveled backward in time. And time travel poses problems of its own. For example, as Stephen Hawking said, "If time travel were possible, we'd be flooded with a sea of tourists from the future."

So, stable wormholes that allow for matter and energy to traverse them remain firmly in the realm of theory, and will likely not see practical use until *YOU* are a smidgen of dust somewhere in China. (If China is still around in a few thousand years, which, I suspect, is true. Hey, they're working, and you're sitting here reading this. Who's smarter?)

**Features**

**Have You Hugged Your Groundhog Today?**

By Corey H.

I like groundhogs, especially ones that give weather predictions. Let's take Punxsutawney Phil, the most famous groundhog ever to give a weather prediction. Every year in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, the rodent gives a forecast for the future of winter.

He comes out of his electrically heated burrow, utters his prediction to a representative in "groundhogneese." Then the representative tells the general public what kind of weather they can expect in the next six weeks. Then he goes back in his hole.

Those who come to observe this event, contend that Phil has never been wrong. He started making predictions in 1887. That's one old groundhog!



**The Amazing World of Plants Flytrap**

By Robert

Flytrap or the Venus flytrap is one of many carnivorous plants that thrive on insects, mostly such as spiders, flies, slugs caterpillars, and crickets. The exotic plant makes sweet nectar that attracts the unsuspecting insects. When in the plant's mouth it quickly closes its trap and to make sure it's closed, it uses pointy bristles called cilia on the outside of the trap and interlaces them over the mouth to make sure it stays shut and that the insect cannot escape it. Then it swallows and digests the insect and the Venus flytrap is left content with its meal. In addition to just food, it also needs some minerals and gases to stay alive such as nitrogen, phosphorus, magnesium, sulfur, calcium, and potassium.

The Venus flytrap lives in a swampy habitat that's warm and sunny. The Venus flytrap lives mostly on the coasts of North and South Carolina and that's the Venus flytrap for you.

