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

School News

Project America

By Corey

Most of you have heard of Project America. The students worked all year on this project. Each student was assigned a state and researched it, compiled a poster, and some even prepared power point presentations as well as created a dish that was representative of their assigned state.

The students presented their projects on December 15th for friends and family. Each student had a time to present. During their presentations the students would tell about their state and offer samples of their dish. Optionally, when they were done with their presentations they and their guests could stroll around and look at other projects and try food from all over the country.

After everyone had seen everything, they could leave and start their winter break. Most students enjoyed starting their break with a good feeling of accomplishment that they could share with others.



Matthew proudly displays his work on Wyoming.

Partners in Time

By Corey

Ms. Debbie's Class and Ms. Jeanette's Class are going back in time. They are working together compiling a research project on the American Revolution. The students are in teams researching topics such as; The Boston Tea Party, The Sons and Daughters of Liberty, and King George III.

The requisite will be a written report on the assigned topic as well as a creative project. The creative project can be anything from a poster, play or skit, power point presentation or sculpture.

All of these things are important criteria, but the main goal is teamwork and creativity. Additionally, studies have shown that having younger students and older students work together can be very helpful. The older student refines his/her skills by practicing, and the younger student is helped by watching the older student.

So together we are going back in time which can make our future together much brighter.



Corey and Yndia discover two heads can be better than one.

Funhouse Days

By Jacob

In the summer we had "Fun House Fridays" every week! You would get to talk to friends, eat hot dogs, popcorn, drink lemonade or diet root beer, play games and get a special surprise!

This is happening again, but now it is "Fun House Days." It is the same except it can happen any day at any time! It could happen right when you get to school! But, the only way you can do all this is if you finish your homework, bring it to school, finish your school work and be in charge of your own behavior.



Noah and Jared prepare a hot dog during "Fun House Day."

Newspaper Staff

- Alexandra
- Amanda
- Christopher
- Clara
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- Justin
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NEWS

Country Says Goodbye to a President

By Jacob

Gerald R. Ford, the 38th President of the United States died at the age of 93. Ford was the longest living former President living about a month longer than former President Ronald Reagan.

Ford was born in 1913. He played football at the University of Michigan and chose to go to law school rather than becoming a professional football player.

Ford served only 896 days as President and he was the only President not elected to office.

Thousands of Americans said goodbye to Ford in the Capital Rotunda. He was remembered as a President who helped heal the nation. So we say a last farewell to a great man and a great leader.

Ice Age 2

By Joel

Wednesday, January 17, 2007 something weird happened, Houston froze over. The last time this happened was 10 years ago in 1997.

Students across the city woke up on this chilly morning to discover that they had the day off. Schools and businesses around town closed or opened later than normal because of the icy conditions.

All in all, it turned out to be a very "cool" day for the people of Houston.

Houston Ballet Dancer Takes a Final Bow

By Elysse

Longtime Houston Ballet Dancer Lauren Anderson danced her last dance in The Nutcracker this past December, ending an incredible 41 year career. She had been dancing in the Nutcracker since she was seven years old. Lauren Anderson a native Houstonian made history when she became the first African-American principal ballerina in the country.

She could make any role seem so much larger. She was not like most ballerinas. Others had prettier arches and longer extensions. It was her unique style that made audiences love her.



New Yorker Saves the Day

By Christopher

So you think New Yorkers are not friendly, well read this. On January 2, 2007, Wesley Autrey saw Cameron Hopper, a 19 year-old film student suffering a seizure while waiting for a subway and fall onto the rails as a train was approaching. Autrey, traveling with his children, jumped down to the tracks and rolled with the young man into a drainage trough. The train went right over the two of them with just inches to spare.

Due to his selfless heroics, Autrey received a year's worth of free subway rides and a meeting with Donald Trump who presented him with \$10,000. His children who watched the whole thing received \$2,500 from New York Film Academy, where Hopper is a student to start a scholarship fund.

So, remember next time you're trouble it might be a New Yorker who saves your life!

Features

Ugly Betty

By Amanda

Ugly Betty is a “pretty” good show with a “pretty” valuable message! Which is, you don’t have to be picture perfect to be a successful, confident business woman! In a nutshell, that’s what Ugly Betty is all about.

America Ferrera, the actress who portrays Ugly Betty is not your typical actress. She’s not pencil thin, and she’s not overly glamorous. She is happy with herself and enjoys playing roles that are appealing to “real” girls.

As Ugly Betty she sports frizzy hair, braces and has her own interesting sense of fashion. Despite all of these challenges, she works at a top fashion magazine surrounded by perfect looking people whose values are less than perfect. Everyone judges her on the way she looks and they try to embarrass her into quitting, but she is determined on pursuing her dream of working at a fashion magazine. Gradually, people start to realize that she is a really good person with great ideas.

This groundbreaking show tells people that it doesn’t matter what you look like. What matters is if you are a good person on the inside.

Ferrera recently kicked off *CosmoGirl’s* “Be Ugly ‘07” campaign. This asks America to resolve “to be real, be smart, be passionate, be true to yourself and be ugly,” just like “Ugly Betty.”



The two sides of America Ferrera

Bill Gates

By Justin

Bill Gates was born on October 28, 1955. He was raised in Seattle, Washington. He is co-founder, and chairman of Microsoft. Microsoft is the world’s largest software company. Bill Gates has been the richest man on earth for the last 13 years. His net worth is \$53 billion. In the last 13 years he has been donating large amounts of money to charity. He has even created his own charity with his wife. It is called The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Bill Gates is really cool. Not only is he rich, but he gives tons of his money to charity, and he is a big supporter of education.



Video Game Ratings

By Rachel

You see ratings everywhere from movies to the shows you watch on TV. But did you know that the video games you play are rated too? If you look on a video game box, in either the lower left or right hand corner, you will see a box with a letter in it. That letter is the game rating given by the Entertainment Software Ratings Board or the ESRB.

The job of the ESRB is to rate the games so parents know what games are right for their children. The ratings range from E, which is okay for everyone, to AO, which is a rare rating given to games which are not acceptable for kids at all! Also included with the rating is a little description on why the game got that particular rating.

Here is a guide for parents if you can’t understand the rating system:
EC=Early Childhood: These games are usually educational
E= Everyone: These games usually have a little bit of animated violence
E10+=Everyone 10 and up. These games usually contain a tiny bit more violence than the E rated games
M=Mature: This rating is given for games that are appropriate for people 17 and up. These games contain a lot of violence and many have suggestive themes.
AO=This is a rating that the ESRB rarely gives. This rating suggests that these games contain things that are not suitable for children.

The reason that there are ratings is so people can figure out what games are right for children. The ratings help the video game manufacturers so they won’t get in trouble with parents for selling a 10 year old a M rated game. I think the ratings are important because they help keep young kids from playing violent video

Culture

Science

Chinese New Year

By Katie

Chinese New Year begins February 18th this year. The legend has it that in ancient times, Buddha asked all the animals to meet him on Chinese New Year, but only twelve came and Buddha named a year after each one.

People born in each animal’s year would have that animal’s personality.

On Chinese New Year people celebrate by wearing red clothes, and decorating red paper with poems since red is considered good luck. They also give children “lucky money” in red envelopes. Red symbolizes fire which according to the legend, red drives bad luck away.

Chinese New Year is the most important celebration in the Asian culture. It is also a fun time to spend with family.

He Had a Dream

By John

Martin Luther King Jr. was a very famous leader, political activist, and minister. In 1964 he became the youngest person to earn the Nobel Peace Prize. Unfortunately, on April 4, 1968 he was assassinated. After his death, Dr. King was honored with even more medals and honors including having a holiday named after him: January 15th the day of his birth.

Dr. King’s famous “I Have a Dream” speech is an inspiration to people of all races today. People try to keep Dr. King’s dream alive through good deeds and peaceful acts. For the first time Dr. King’s handwritten rough drafts of his famous speech became public.

Martin Luther King Jr. was and still is an inspiration to people around the world. We can all honor his memory by keeping his dream of peace alive.



Life on Mars-Does it Exist?

By Matthew C.

30 years ago, NASA’s Viking 1 and 2 Mars Landers dropped onto the Martian surface to look for life. It was thought that they failed. However, Dirk Schulze-Mackuch, an astronomer at Washington State University who studies the interplay of microbes, water, and geology, says that we may have found life on Mars-and killed it!

Back then, the definition of life assumed that any form of life would be based in water. “Life does need solvent, because otherwise you would just be a rock.” Schulze-Makuch said January 7, 2007. “But there is no reason the solvent has to be water.”

The Mars Landers did all their chemical analyses by mixing samples with water--a step that would have killed any microbe full of hydrogen peroxide--a probable solvent.

I Think We’re Getting Warmer...

By Robert

Global warming is becoming an increasingly big problem in the world. About the biggest problem is the fact that polar ice is melting. Temperatures in the Arctic are rising. Most global warming is caused when fossil fuels are burned such as coal or oil. Because of this temperatures in the Arctic could rise 5 to 8 degrees within the next 100 years. If this happens polar ice would melt and cause sea levels to rise one to three feet in the next 100 to 150 years.

To help stop global warming, you could turn off lights when you’re not using them or plant a tree. In doing this everyone helps a little with a big problem.

