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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 15<sup>th</sup> 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."

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**Country Says Goodbye to a President**

By Jacob

Gerald R. Ford, the 38<sup>th</sup> 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!

## Chess

By Joel

From Trojan strategists to mathematical experts, Chess has many fascinating stories but its real origin lies in India. Chess was created some 1500 years ago. Chatreney, as it was called, was created by a philosopher. When King Balhais discovered the intriguing game he asked the philosopher what he wanted for creating such a wonderful game. The philosopher replied, "Oh not much, just 2 grains of rice for this square, 4 grains of rice for that one, and so on." What the king didn't realize is that the philosopher asked for 18,446,073,709,551,615 (18 quintillion) grains of rice.

The king was offended when the philosopher didn't ask for jewels, gold, or other valuable things. In reality, the philosopher asked for something with more value than the biggest diamond

## Raising New Dust

By Jacob W.

In 2008 Lamborghini's newest raging machine hits the streets. The Reventon is the fastest car allowed on the street with only twenty being produced. The cost is well over 1 million dollars. This stealth like creature will not prowl the streets silently. It will stand out from every single car on the road. The shape is very independent and made up of polygons.

## Tae Kwon Do

By Rachel

Many people have heard of Karate and Kung Fu. But have you ever heard of Tae Kwan Do? Tae Kwan Do is a form of Korean martial arts. It has 11 belts and sort of follows the same belt system that Karate does. It starts at a white belt and goes up to a black belt. Tae Kwon Do uses a lot of kicks, punches and blocks and is a good form of exercise. It is also a good way to relieve stress!

## Ancient Wonders of the World

By Robert

The lighthouse of Alexandria was built on a small island called Pharos. It is a little ways off in the sea. The lighthouse, like most today, was used as a beacon to ships but what made this lighthouse unique was that it used mirrors to concentrate the light from the lit flame inside it to make a single concentrated beam. The lighthouse was built around 305B.C. when Ptolemy Soter was king. The lighthouse was made of stone with three sections: a lower square section, a middle octagon section, and a top circular section. The lighthouse was badly damaged by two earthquakes in 1303 and 1323 but was ultimately destroyed in 1480 when its stone was used to build a fort.

## Happy Tails

By Jacob H.

Have you ever heard of a standard poodle? You haven't! Well, let me tell you about them. A standard poodle is an elegant, medium to large dog, with curly fur, and doesn't shed. The head is round, and the muzzle is long. They are very protective, and plus they have big floppy ears, and short hair.

The standard poodle can be trained as a guard dog and a hunter. The living conditions are simple. They like to be inside, and must be walked daily. And they love to take baths! There are three types of poodles; standard, toy and miniature. Poodles have been known for 400 years in Western Europe, although Germany has now been officially recognized as its country of origin.



## Careers

By Jordan P.

Do you know what you're going to do for the rest of your life? Well, in order for you to get a good job you have to go to school and get good grades. Remember, if you work hard... the sky's the limit!

I have many good jobs for you to look at. If you like to travel and study the earth, you can be a geographer. If you are interested in what is hidden in the earth, you can be an archeologist. Maybe you are interested in helping animals? Become a veterinarian. Are you into fashion? Try fashion design. Personally, I am interested in becoming a brain surgeon. That will take a great deal of commitment and hard work.

These are all good jobs but you have to make a choice to work hard. Throughout your life you may have many interests and you may choose one career or many. Think now and the rest of your life can be a great adventure!

## Camping

By Jared

When you go camping you need a tent, food, a small stove, toiletries, water, and most of all rope. The rope is for hanging your food up in a tree. If you're in an area where raccoons are, you need a lockable ice chest for your food so the raccoons can't get in or put very heavy rocks on it and. You will need a multi tool to help you cut the wood and you will also need matches and lighter fluid to make a fire and bring plenty of bug spray!

## The "Plane" Truth

By Patrick

The first Boeing 757 rolled off the assembly line on January 13, 1982 in Renton, Washington. The 757 made its maiden flight on February 19, 1982. The 757 can fly 4,500 miles fully loaded with passengers and baggage. It can hold a total of 228 passengers. The 757 can take off and land on runways shorter than 6,000 feet. It also can climb to cruising altitude faster than any other aircraft made by Boeing. The takeoff weight of the 757 can be from 222,000 pounds to 250,000 pounds. Have fun flying the friendly skies!

## Attack of the Squirrel

### Based on a true story...it happened to me

By Anna-Noel

A few years ago I was bitten by a squirrel. While they may seem cute and cuddly, they're actually in my opinion pure evil!

One day I was walking with my dad on Rice University. We were just having a nice, quiet walk and I brought along some nuts to feed to the squirrels that kept following us. Now the campus squirrels aren't afraid of humans, and they're certainly not afraid to eat out of your hand or in my case take a bite out of it! Too bad I didn't know that then.

When I saw a squirrel coming towards us I got out some nuts and walked to it. It saw me and ran up a tree. I tried to lure it down using nuts, and it worked. It worked too well! It finally got close to my hand. I thought it was going to take the nut out of my hand, but instead it came up and sat on it, then ate the nut! I was so shocked that I didn't move. When it finished the nut, it looked at my index finger. I was thinking uh oh. It took one look at it and very quickly sank its razor sharp teeth into my finger. I was lucky that as soon as I felt it, I shook my hand and the squirrel flew off!

My dad saw my hand and we walked all the way back to his office with blood dripping from my finger. Luckily there were band aids at his office.

Never again will I look at the Rice University campus squirrels again. Why? It left a memorable scar on my finger!

## Editorials

### Teenagers Admit to Teasing Tiger

By Mara

Has an animal ever attacked you? Have you heard about the taunted tiger that attacked three boys? Well, one of the boys admitted that they were teasing the tiger. This careless act caused the tiger to jump out of its den and attack the boys. Two of the boys survived with bad injuries, but unfortunately, one boy was killed. Sadly, the tiger had to be killed as well.

Personally, I feel bad for the tiger. She got punished for something that wasn't her fault. I think what the boys did was wrong.

I have to say that you should be kind to animals. When you are at the zoo you should especially be careful so you and the animals can be safe, and nobody gets hurt.

### Homework

By Lauren

Homework, when we hear that word some of us cringe. Most people don't like homework because it takes time away from having fun at home. When I go home and get started on my homework, then I can have some fun.

Homework is supposed to help us, but I wish it could be a little more fun.

Maybe one day homework will be more fun. All we can do for now is wait!

## Caves

By Noah

Caves are very interesting. Sometimes they can have paintings and cool formations. In this report you will learn a great deal about caves. There are some animals in caves. To name a few, there are crickets, fish (they are in the pools of water found in many places throughout the cave.) bats, and many other animals. There are plants at the mouth of the cave.

So if you are interested in caves you can explore than all over the world or right here in Texas. You can even visit some online. So start exploring!

## Mythology

By Kyle

Did you know that in the olden days that mythology was actually part of their modern day lives? Hercules, if he was real would be the strongest man in the world. His strength came in handy because he had to fight the nemon lion, whose hide was so thick that no weapon could kill it. So Hercules had to use his bare hands to beat the beast!

Each hero met a tragic end except Peruses, who was a son of Zeus the thunder God and brother of Hercules.

Hercules was lucky enough to be saved by his father and taken to Mt. Olympus, home of the gods, and became immortal. Lucky Hercules!