



403 Heights Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77007
713-802-1256
Diane Manning, Ph.D.
Director
Arthur J. Farley, M.D.
Clinical Director
Teaching Staff
Debbie Tate-Coffen
Jeanette Salinas
Kim Wright
Ginger Brown
Erica Appel
Nina Barbieri

The New School in the Heights provides an alternative educational experience and social-emotional support for bright children.

Newspaper Staff

Amanda
Anna-Noel
Christopher
Erin
Jacob
Jared
Joel
John
Jordan P.
Justin
Kyle
Lauren
Mara
Matthew
Noah
Patrick
Rachel
Robert
Yndia

School News

Hanna Perkins

By Matthew

Have you heard of Hanna Perkins? Well, if not you should know that it is the inspiration for The New School in the Heights.

The Hanna Perkins School is located in Cleveland, Ohio and is over 50 years old. One big difference between our schools is that Hanna Perkins only goes up to Kindergarten and of course our school goes through the eighth grade. Something that is similar is that both schools help students to master a variety of academic and social skills.

Every year the family helpers of NSH visit Hanna Perkins to visit the school and meet with the teachers. They just came back from their annual trip and I was able to ask them how it was this year. They said it was a wonderful school with a clean and healthy environment. It has a big gym and it is a safe place to go with loving teachers inspired by the late founder of the school, Hanna Perkins. She was the master in mastery!



On the Trail with Lewis and Clark

By Jacob

Have you ever heard of Lewis and Clark? Well, the NSH kids have. We discovered what an incredible adventure these two American heroes went on so many years ago. Their journey began in Missouri and ended up at the Pacific Ocean, but not without a lot of difficult times along the way.

We learned about the Nez Perce Indians, Sacagawea, who was only about 14 when she joined the expedition with her little baby Pomp. She was a translator and she helped Lewis and Clark when they met with Indians on the trail. We also learned about Seaman who was a dog that went on the journey with them. He was very helpful like when they encountered grizzly bears.

Students made many projects like posters, boats and dioramas. Some students even cooked special food for a school celebration of our studies. The students joined together right before the Thanksgiving break and had a special feast to celebrate all the hard work they did learning about this important part of American history.



Mara shows Dr. Farley the Lewis and Clark Exhibit.



The students enjoy a special Lewis and Clark celebration together.

Students Relate to Kid Nation

By Yndia

NSH students are doing something interesting for social studies this semester. They are watching Kid Nation. They are seeing how hard it is to have 40 kids living together with no adults or parents.

We have learned that it is not as easy and it sounds. It requires a lot of responsibility and self-esteem. Each week one person who has been very responsible and doing a great job gets a gold star that is worth \$20,000. The person who receives the star gets a key to a room with a phone and they get to call their parents.

The students think it is fun to watch and talk about. You may enjoy watching it to see how hard it is. You may even get a little sad when you see the struggles of kids working together to make reality television history!

Elections

By Jordan

Hey, do you want to vote? Well, sorry you can't until you're 18, but we can still learn about it. The upcoming Presidential election is just less than a year away from now on November 4, 2008. The 2008 election is one of the most unique elections in our history with the first African-American and the first woman seeking election.

There are two main political parties called the Republican and the Democratic parties. Every 4 years registered voters make a choice about who they want in charge of their country, a privilege that many countries do not have. Unfortunately, not everyone in American takes advantage of this. In fact, more people vote for the American Idol than they do for the President!

Some other fascinating facts are 80 % of all the votes are counted by only two companies. That's why it takes 3 weeks to count the votes. Those two companies are Diebold and ES85. The owners of these companies are brothers. California banned Diebold voting machines because security was so bad that a chimpanzee was able to hack it.

You may not be able to vote for president right now, but you can make choices that make your life better and maybe one day you may even choose to run for president! So get ready, set, vote!

National News

Fires Blaze Trough California

By Amanda

The forest fires that recently spread through California spread through many acres of land. Many people have been displaced from their homes, especially those near the Santiago and San Diego regions. The August fire near Prescott, Arizona has now burned 620 acres.

This devastating fire was caused by a 10 year old boy playing with matches. Although the boy admits to setting the fire, no charges are going to be filed against him. It does not appear to be intentional. His case will however be handed over to the Department of Children and Family Services.

The choices we make can change our lives and the lives of others dramatically. This is a sad reminder of the dangers of making careless and dangerous decisions.

Features

Teen Millionaire

By Erin

Not so long ago, teen Ashley Qualls lived in a one bedroom apartment with her mom and sister. But with her computer and savvy business sense she made a better life for all of them

Ashley Qualls doesn't sound like a typical high school student. Maybe that's because the 17 year old is the CEO of a million dollar business. She started a website that allows people to personalize their own backgrounds. She started this website when she was only 14 years old! She started the website which is called Whateverlife, with only 8 dollars which she borrowed from her mom who is actually her manager. It all started with capitalism 101, and the law of supply and demand. Ashley became interested in graphic design just as the online social network craze began to catch fire. At the time, Ashley's parents were divorced. She and her little sister, Shelby, were all crammed into their mother's one bedroom apartment. But, with her paycheck she bought her family a 4 bedroom house.

Since Ashley's mom is her manager it was and has been a bittersweet time for them both. "It is hard to be a mom and a manager" says Ashley's mom. The roles clash everyday, she says, but they manage by keeping a sense of humor

Brace Yourself

By Lauren

When you think about braces, you think of the word "ouch." But getting your braces on is painless. All they do is glue on a bracket and thread a wire through it. It's simple, but there is one nasty part...they put some white goop stuff in your mouth and it makes you feel nauseous. The orthodontist holds it there for a while and it makes an implant of your braces.

So if you ever hear that you're going to get braces, don't worry, it's not so bad, and when it's over you will have a beautiful smile. If you are still nervous you can even ask me. If you have any questions or concerns, I've been there, done that...and I'm surviving!



Lauren shows off her smile in progress!

Release of the Butterflies

By Mara

Butterflies are the prettiest insect. I like butterflies. When butterflies land on a flower that means they're not just hungry, it means they're thirsty too. Caterpillars turn into butterflies. Sometimes caterpillars have hair on their back but that does not mean they are poisonous.

Caterpillars don't stop eating after they are born until they are in a cocoon. It takes 8 to 10 days for it to become a full grown butterfly.

The New school in the Heights is filled with butterflies because we have milkweed plants which attract butterflies. We are able to watch them grow and change and send them into the air. It is a beautiful sight.



Mara explores the milkweed plants.

Venture Crew

By Christopher

You might have heard of Boy Scouts, but have you ever heard of Ventures? Ventures is not a part of Boy Scouts, but it is a part of Scouting USA. Unlike Boy Scouts, Ventures plans all of their own activities and trips. Another difference is you don't have to be a boy to join. Girls are welcome too.

Some activities include rock climbing, scuba diving, and white water rafting. So if you are interested in a great adventure you could be a part of Venture. The requirements are that you have to be a boy or girl and at least 14 years old...oh and you must like to have fun!



The Venture Crew in action!

The 7 Ancient wonders of the world part 1

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon

By Robert

Location:

Supposedly on the east bank of the Euphrates River, about 50km south of Baghdad.

History:

The hanging gardens were built by Nebuchadnezzar, son of Nabopolassar who ruled over the Neo-Babylonian dynasty, to please his wife who had a passion for mountain surroundings.

Description:

The Hanging Gardens are a huge palace with plants cultivated above ground level and the roots of trees are in the upper terrace instead of earth. Most of it is supported by stone columns with water pouring down from elevated places keeping the plants watered and the whole area moist which keeps the grass permanently green.



Culture

Thanksgiving

By Jared

Well, everyone just celebrated one of the nicest holidays of the year, Thanksgiving. Most of us celebrate by eating way too much. Foods like mashed potatoes, cranberries, and of course, turkey. Wow, I'm getting hungry all over again!

While you were enjoying your Thanksgiving turkey, one turkey was enjoying Thanksgiving this year because he was pardoned by the President George W. Bush. This year's turkey is May. Not only is her life spared, she is also flown to Disney World and is in A Thanksgiving Parade. You can even visit the turkey in Mickey's Magic Kingdom.

Thanksgiving is celebrated because the Pilgrims and Native Americans came together to give thanks for their good fortune and new life in America.

So, I hope you enjoyed Thanksgiving and I hope you aren't too full from gobbling, gobbling till you dropped!



President George W. Bush offers an official pardon to May, the 2007 Thanksgiving Turkey, 20, 2007.

Turkey Talk

By John

There are many differences between the domesticated and wild turkey. The most obvious difference is that the domesticated turkey is twice as large as the wild turkey.

There have been accounts of them drowning when it rains because they look up with their beak open and get a raindrop stuck in their throat. Another unique difference is that wild turkeys can fly, but the domesticated turkey is so heavy that it can't!



An interesting fact is that Benjamin Franklin was thought to have wanted the turkey to be the national bird instead of the bald eagle.