

News



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

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The End of an Era

By Corey Helfand

After 37 years of amusement park fun, Astroworld will be closing forever! Due to poor ticket sales, the park is no longer financially stable. The closure will result in 912 permanent job losses and about 1,500 seasonal job losses.

The decision to close this Houston landmark comes as a shock to the thousands of fans who have enjoyed it over the years. Many people are extremely saddened by this recent turn of events. When I asked my teacher, Ms. Debbie what she thought about Astroworld closing she said, "I feel like a part of my childhood is closing with the park. Astroworld was such a big part of growing up in Houston."

October 30th will be the last day people can visit the park and say their goodbyes to a Texas tradition. It's hard to believe the ride's over!

School News

Let the Games Begin

By Joel Peralez

NMS students will begin The School Math Olympics, which will challenge them to master addition, subtraction, multiplication and division skills. By memorizing each set of facts they will be able to jump over a hurdle on their math track. When they have successfully jumped over all the hurdles they will receive a gold medal.

This math game is a real winner!

Culture

Rosh Hashanah A Jewish Tradition

By Christopher Bolt

Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year. It takes place in the fall. It is a time of celebration and a time to reflect on the year gone by. One tradition of this very important holiday is to eat apples dipped in honey; this symbolizes the hope of a sweet new year.

So for everyone who celebrates Rosh Hashanah, have a happy new year!

Young At Art

The first day of fall was September 21st. We are all enjoying the break from the heat, but even more exciting are the wonderful holidays and celebrations that come with this beautiful season. Our youngest students show you their views of autumn.
 Happy Fall!



"Fall is a time when leaves turn red, yellow and brown."
 Corey Jones Age 6



"Fall is when leaves fall off the trees, and the weather gets cooler."
 Brianna Junker Age 6

Features

Astroworld's Man of Mystery

By Corey Helfand

As Houston mourns the loss of its beloved Astroworld, it comes to many as a surprise when its recent ad campaign featuring a mysterious older dancing man has been so popular.

Six Flags which owns 31 theme parks across the country including Astroworld, started its first ad campaign in seven years which features "Mr. Six" the dancing senior. This favorite mystery man remains a mystery since his real age and even gender is unknown by design. Some people wonder how an 80 year old man can perform such incredible dance moves, leading people to believe he or she may be a young person in disguise.

The popular ads have boosted ticket sales at the theme parks and consumers are buying up "Mr. Six" merchandise and can't seem to get enough of him. Sadly, this was not enough to keep the doors of Astroworld open. Maybe if they would have started this ad sooner we would all still be dancing our way towards Astroworld instead of watching our fun loving senior dance his way off the Houston airwaves.



"Mr. Six" danced his way into our hearts.



Girl Talk

By Kathleen Jurgens

Beauty and the Beast

Animal testing is cruel and unnecessary. Approximately two to four million animals are used to test chemicals and products each year. The Animals in Research section promotes alternatives to the use of animals in product testing. They have scientific methods that help accomplish the "Three Rs":
 They **replace** the use of animals in scientific procedures.
 They **reduce** the number of animals used in procedures.
 They **refine** procedures so animals feel less pain.
 To support animals, who do not have a voice, consumers can make a choice not to buy products tested on animals. You can do this by reading the labels on the items you purchase. Products that do not test on animals usually state this on the package.

So the next time you go to get a beauty product, don't forget about our animal friends. Remember, it is just as important to be beautiful on the inside as it is on the outside!

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Houston... We Have Lift Off!

By Joel Peralez & Matthew Axelrad

For the Houston Astros the World Series always seemed just out of their reach, but now Houston is celebrating the Astros' first National League pennant. In the team's 44 year history they have never advanced to the World Series. This victory is especially sweet for Astros' veterans Craig Biggio and Jeff Bagwell, two of the "Bs" in "Killer Bees" who stuck with their team through the tormenting pain of losing year after year. It was a fly ball caught by Jason Lane that finally put the Cardinals back in their cages and secured the Astros' place in the biggest game in baseball. Although the whole team was thrilled, they couldn't help but notice the emotion reflected in the faces of their fellow teammates, Biggio and Bagwell, the foundation of this remarkable team. "It's been a long time, you know. I'm not greedy, I'm not selfish, just wanted to go one time, Craig Biggio said. "I can't tell you how happy I am, it took us a long time and we've got 5 million people in Houston who are very pumped up right now." His teammate of 15 years, Jeff Bagwell, agreed with those thoughts.

Fans celebrated into the wee hours of the morning yelling phrases like, "World Series baby!" and "I'm so happy!" Our own Dr. Farley has been an Astros fan for 44 years and has faithfully supported them through good times and bad. When asked if he had any superstitions, he said, "I have a very interesting hat and when I wear it the Astros win...it's a Cardinal's hat." He added that he would be wearing a White Sox shirt during the World Series to help his favorite team bring home a victory. When asked if he thought the Astros would win the World Series he said, "The White Sox are good enough to beat the Yankees, but not the Astros."

So now the Astros head to Chicago to face the White Sox in the World Series. Many people thought this would never happen but, Houston... we have lift off!



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Rock & "Joel" The Beat Goes On

By Joel Peralez

Rick Allen achieved super stardom, wealth, and success in the 80's with the rock band Def Leppard. His rock and roll dream turned into a nightmare when he lost his left arm in a car accident when he was only 21 years old. Being a drummer, it seemed as if his musical career was over. But a determined Rick Allen chose to overcome his tragedy and persevere. He developed a customized electronic drum kit with footpads that allowed him to produce electronic and acoustic drum sounds. His band members supported him and stood by his side keeping him in the band.

Today Allen is a devoted husband and father. He is active in the non-profit organization, Raven Drum Foundation, which provides "free educational programs in the arts and provides opportunities for personal growth." He was given the Humanitarian Award on August 29, 2001. Rick Allen has encountered many obstacles on the road to success but he has faced them with great dignity and determination and is a real inspiration. He has secured his place in rock and roll history.

Rick Allen...The Thunder



Getting Jiggy with Jamba Juice

By Jacob Helfand

Are you feeling tired? Do you need more energy? Well, head to Jamba Juice and jumpstart your day with a delicious drink made to your order!

Jamba Juice uses a variety of flavors to create a unique liquid experience that is sure to satisfy your taste buds. Don't worry, everything at Jamba Juice is healthy. All drinks are blended with fresh ingredients and sugar substitutes, making this a treat that not only taste good but is good for you!

Jamba Juice has several locations. Stop by the one near you and taste the sensation.



Animal Attractions



Behind the Story The Facts about Bats

By Matthew Axelrad

Bats have been known for being creepy and scary, but they are actually nice and quite helpful creatures. They eat mosquitoes and are very clean. Many people build bat houses in their backyards to attract bats and rid their home of pests without having to use harmful pesticides.

Bats are the only flying mammal. They are nocturnal, which means they are active at night. A common misconception is that bats drink human blood, which is not true. In fact, bats are mostly frightened by people and keep their distance.

When these creatures fly at night, it really is the friendly skies!



Night of the Living Hermit Crab

By Robert Parent

It's late at night and you hear a strange scratching, what could it be? Well, if you own a hermit crab it could be coming out to feed or drink. Hermit crabs are nocturnal, well land ones at least. They like to eat fruits such as pears and pineapple. They don't come out during the day because it is too hot and the sun is too bright. When the sun starts to go down and it's cooler, they like to come out.

Hermit crabs make good pets because they are carefree, cost free, and odor free. They don't take much care, just feeding and water daily. The biggest expense would be the cage, feeding bowl, a sponge for water, and food which is still minimal. For these reasons, you should consider buying a hermit crab as a pet. You can usually find them at a local pet store.

So the next time you want a pet, think about a hermit crab, and remember, be careful where you step at night!

Editorial-Opinion

What is Karma?

By Robert Parent

Karma is good and bad energy. The Hindu Primer describes karma as the law of cause and effect. Karma means action and is used to describe the idea that the actions you take cause a reaction in the future.

If you try to do good things for the sole purpose of satisfying your own needs, it is likely that good karma will not happen to you. However, if you just make good choices and are nice for no reason, it is very likely that good karma will happen to you.

It is believed that bad karma happens by doing things such as, giving people misfortune.

I personally believe in karma. I think that it teaches people lessons and that no matter what, you should be good to others and yourself!