



The New Middle School
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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 CharDel

Project America is about all the kids at NMS getting assigned a state and doing a report and project on that state. The students do research in class and put together a presentation that is due in December.

Right before the winter break students will put their project together complete with state facts, pictures and food! Parents will be invited to enjoy the students' hard work.

We will keep you posted on upcoming information.

Loofah Anyone? By Corey

Many people have noticed a large vine covering the fence in between the new building and the old building. The name of this vine is loofah. Sound familiar? You know the sponge thing. Well, that's where they come from.

The actual name is Sponge gourd. It is an annual plant in bloom one season only. It has a rapid growth rate and is a climbing vine. It can climb 30 feet and it produces yellow flowers. It grows well in a moist environment. It originated in India and is grown commercially in China, Korea, Japan and Central America.

Our school plans to sell them in decorated pots for the holiday season. Proceeds will go to the school to buy something everyone can enjoy.

Arts in the Afternoon Celebrates the Fabulous Fifties By Amanda

In Arts in the Afternoon, Mondays mean music! We went back in time learning about the "Fabulous Fifties." Drive-Ins, poodle skirts, milkshakes, and rock and roll! That was just part of the 50s.

Students threw themselves into the era by researching, reading, and experiencing the music. They even practiced and performed the song "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" as a group.

At the end of the month all the students' hard work paid off. They all dressed up like they were in the 50s, ate French fries and drank root beer floats. They even made a video of their singing performance.

Now the students will be heading towards a new decade...the 60s!



Laura, CharDel. Matthew A. & Amanda show of their 50's style!

Culture

Day of Forgiveness By Rachel

Yom Kippur, which means "Day of Forgiveness" in Hebrew, is one of the most important times of the Jewish year because all the Jews forgive each other for all their sins.

On Yom Kippur, if you are over 12 and a female, or you are a male over the age of 13, you have to fast, which means that you can not eat or drink for a certain period of time. You also go to Synagogue for a long period of time.

Yom Kippur starts at sundown on October 1 and ends at sunset of the following day.

Get Up and Go To The Heights Today By Taylor

Did you know that the first Saturday of every month in the Heights they have shopping, art and fun? All you need to do is get up and go to the Heights.

So come experience the rich history and interesting culture of the Heights.

Newspaper Staff

Alexandra
 Amanda
 Char Del
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 Clara
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 Grant
 Jacob
 Jared
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 John
 Katie
 Laura
 Lauren
 Matthew A.
 Matthew C
 Noah
 Rachel
 Robert
 Taylor
 Yndia

News

The World Bids Farewell to The Crocodile Hunter By Matthew A.

Steve Irwin, The Crocodile Hunter was a good man. I loved his show and movies. Unfortunately, he died a horrible death, but he died doing what he loved and I respect that. He was a great man, father and friend. When I heard the news that he had died I felt bad for his friends and family. God bless you Steve.

I asked my classmates how they felt about Steve Irwin and this is what they had to say...
 "He was a good man who inspired people to love animals. I liked his show, he had a big heart."

"He was nice. He inspired people. He had a good life and lots of adventures." Jacob

"He liked doing dangerous things. He loved crocs the most I think." Taylor



If It's Green Think Before You Eat It By Robert

Your parents are always telling you to eat your green veggies. There's nothing wrong with that except there's one veggie you might want to avoid...SPINACH!

Lately spinach has been found to contain E.coli, a deadly bacteria which causes vomiting, diarrhea, and cramps. People usually recover from the infection in five to ten days but for some people like the elderly and very young children the bug can cause a severe complication. Three people have died from eating spinach so far.

E.coli is usually found in the intestines of healthy cattle and regularly infects about 73,000 people a year. If you are thinking about washing spinach under a faucet then eating it, DON'T! Simply washing it will not wipe out E.coli. It is best just to totally avoid spinach.

So for all you people who don't like spinach and wish it was off the face of the earth, congratulations; you got your wish!

Biggest Pumpkin By Christopher

It's a new world record! Frefichs Farm of Rhode Island has grown a HUGE pumpkin. Ron Wallace has grown a 1,502 pound pumpkin.



Features

Sports

Giant Octopus
By Matthew A.

The Giant Pacific Octopus is one of the largest species of octopus. Some can grow up to 15 feet and 600 lbs. There was one found to be 20 feet. It was washed up on the shore of Southern California,

They can be found in depths of 1,650 feet. Males live up to 12 years and females 3.5 years. These creatures are becoming extinct because of fish nets and oil spills and global warming. So please help the giants of the deep!

“Panda-monium”
By Katie

There is a new addition to the Atlanta Zoo, it’s a baby panda. The mother is 9 year old Lun Lun. This is the first baby panda in the zoo’s history.

Panda’s are rare and found in China. The birth of a baby panda gives hope to the world that these adorable creatures will live on.



Cats
By Laura

Did you know that cats can get along great with dogs? Many people say it’s because of their kind and gentle nature, but others say it’s because sometimes a dog can long for a puppy so much, that it will go and adopt a cat of their own.

Many animals can become like this, even horses, birds, ducks and cows. In my opinion there is a good lesson to be learned by this. You can still be friends with someone even if they are different than you.

CAPS Animal Shelter
By Taylor

In 1989, when Deborah Howard noticed the awful conditions at a Docktor Pet Center she became enraged! The company had more than 300 franchises at that time. So Ms. Howard teamed with an expert puppy mill investigator in the country to find out more about the horrible way animals were being treated.

She then became president of the Campaign Animal Protection Society (CAP’s.) This is a place where people can adopt animals and know the animals have been treated well. Also, you can bring mistreated or abandoned animals to them to be cared for.

My teacher Ms. Jeanette has a cat and a dog from CAPS. When she got the cat it was just a baby and very scared. Her dog was hyper yet friendly.

I got my dog Precious from CAPS! I think people should adopt cats and dogs from CAPS because they always have what you need.



Hang Ten
By Jacob

Surfing is the hardest sport to do. It requires balance and complete focus or you will fall. The best place in the world to go surfing is in Hawaii because it has the biggest waves, and by the way it was invented there too!

Captain Cook, a British Sea Captain and explorer was the first European to witness surfing in Hawaii in the late 1770s.

Today Hawaii has several surfing competitions and surfers can win large cash prizes for successfully riding the waves.



Editorial

Science

Tickle Me Elmo
By Noah

People are going wild over the Tickle Me Elmo Doll! I mean it’s just a doll for Pete’s Sake! The news has reported one man threatening to shoot someone over this toy. I don’t know why such stupidity has fallen over the world.

They are selling out very quickly and shop keepers are struggling to keep them in stock. There is clearly not enough of these toys for consumers and that is making them nuts!!!



Pollution...It Effects Us All!!!!
By Jared

Near my creek, on my farm in Sunnyside, Waller ,Texas at the mouth of the creek is the mighty Brazos River. This river runs right into the ocean. At the other end of Iron’s Creek is a big opening where someone uses as a landfill by dumping trash! This trash flows right to where we take our cows and horses to drink. Before we can let them drink we have to clean out the trash so the animals don’t have trash in their drinking water

The same people who are dumping the trash are stealing cows too. They try to steal our cows, too, but they have another thing coming when they see my bull Mark Anthony who weighs so much he even scares my dad and me when we try to feed him!

So, even though this happens on my farm, dumping trash in creeks leads to pollution in the oceans which effect sea life and drinking water for many others. So it is important to take responsibility for the environment wherever you are!



Switchblade
By Matthew C.

The Switchblade is a plane that is supposed to have movable wings. These wings can be kept unswept, which slows down the aircraft for bombings and landings, swept partially forward to destabilize it, thereby making it more maneuverable (this is suicide without a computer to control the minute details, but makes it useful as a fighter if it has one) or can be swept fully forward so that the trailing edge becomes the leading edge and makes the aircraft faster.

The only thing that can even remotely be called evidence for its existence is a patent made by a government agency which mostly says the same things that were just mentioned. If it does exist though, it would be very useful as a fighter, bomber, and reconnaissance aircraft, and if it’s stealthy it could even replace the F-117 and B-2. However, making movable wings wouldn’t be cheap.

Bats
By John

Did you know that there are over 1,100 different types of bats in the world? Out of those types only 31 live in Texas and 11 types in the Houston area. The types in Houston are: the Mexican free-tailed bat, Eastern Red Bat, Northern Yellow Bat, Eastern Pipistrelle Horay Bat, Seminole Bat, Southeastern Myotis, Silver-Haired Bat, and the Rafinesque’s Big-Eared Bat. All of the bats in Houston are insect-eaters. Bats find their food by using echolocation which means that they send out sound-waves which bounce off objects in front of them telling the bat where something is in front of them.

If you would like to see bats in Houston you can go to the Waugh Street Bridge at Allen Parkway at sunset. The bats living under the bridge are Mexican free-tailed bats. There are an estimated 250,000 bats living under the bridge! The Mexican Free-Tailed Bat is a medium sized bat that has a wingspan of 11 to 13 inches.

Watching bats can be really cool, but you have to be careful around them. Most bats are insect eaters and won’t bother you if you don’t bother them. So if you go to watch them, make sure you keep your distance, don’t make a lot of noise and never throw anything at them. If you see a bat on the ground, don’t try to touch it or pick it up. A bat is usually only on the ground if it is sick. Bats are good creatures that help control the insect population but are often misunderstood and feared by many people.

