

**News**

**Houstonians Lend a Helping Hand**

By Corey Helfand & Joel Peralez

Hurricane Katrina has ravaged Louisiana leaving the city of New Orleans under water and uninhabitable. People have been left without money, food, shelter and jobs, forcing them to leave the life they once knew in search of a new beginning. Not since the Civil War have this many United States citizens been displaced. Many evacuees loaded onto buses and headed to Houston, Texas, the Houston Astrodome to be exact! A stadium that once housed the Astros and the Oilers is now home to thousands of homeless Louisianans.

Houstonians have opened up their hearts and their wallets to help their neighbors from the east. Volunteers have gathered throughout Houston to provide food, clothing and medical help to the evacuees. Houston schools will open their doors to children so they can continue their education and feel somewhat normal again.

Even Rice University is doing its part by letting Tulane students from Houston attend classes. Former Tulane Professor Dr. Diane Manning says, "I think it's ingenious. I also think it would be good to let faculty and staff work at Rice if they need more staff because that's a lot of kids." When asked if she thought this could happen to New Orleans, Dr. Manning said, "I thought it could happen, but you don't expect it to."

Crews are working hard to drain flood waters and restore the city of New Orleans, but the future of the city is unknown. Religious organizations, politicians, local businesses, and celebrities are all pitching in to try to save a city that is such an important part of American culture. Although the victims of this tragedy have been left with so little, many have expressed their gratitude for the kindness they have been shown by the wonderful people of Houston, proving that home is where the heart is!



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



**Students Design a School Flag!**

By Joel Peralez

The New Middle School opened its doors for the first time in June and August 22<sup>nd</sup> marked the first day of the academic school year.

NMS students were given a very special assignment to design a school flag that represents the students and the school. Each student turned in a design with an explanation of what it meant.

A combination of everyone's ideas was chosen to create one school flag. The flag design will be transformed into a real flag that can be put in a place of honor in the school.

This flag represents all the diversity and creativity of the great kids that call NMS their school. Yes, our school spirit is flying high!

**Newspaper Staff**

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**Features**



**Trash Talking**

By Corey Helfand

If you happen to be in the Zoologischer Garten in Western Berlin and you have trash burning a hole in your pocket...go to the nearest trash can and it's liable to welcome you in several languages or even sing!

In an effort to improve environmental awareness, Berlin authorities are installing talking trash cans in some of the German capitals most popular squares. These receptacles look normal except they have a solar panel on the lid with a sound mechanism. The panel works in rain or shine, snow or hail.

At night the bin is lit up by a neon light pointing the way to the opening so people are not alarmed by sounds in the night.

The trash bins have been well received by the people, but the true test is if the bins receive trash well!



**Pet Cockroaches**

By Robert Parent

Australians are forgetting the dog and cat and looking for a more unique and cost efficient pet. Answer, the cockroach! Australians are thinking this pesky creature would be a good pet because it is fun to play with and cheap! The only thing wrong is the name cockroach, which tends to turn people off. Local stores are trying to come up with names like the rain beetle to entice the public.

So the next time you're looking for a pet it could be as close as your garbage!



**Girl Talk**

By Kathleen Jurgens

Have you ever wondered where chocolate chip cookies came from? Well, it was an accident! In 1930 Ruth Wakefield owner off the Toll House Inn was making chocolate-butter drop cookies which required her to melt chocolate squares and pour them into the batter. She was in a hurry so she just broke the chocolate into small pieces and threw them into the mix hoping they would melt as they baked. When she saw her cookies they looked strange to her, but when she tasted them she decided they were great, so did her customers.

Ruth's Toll House cookies became famous. Nestle bought the rights to the Toll House name and with Ruth's permission published her recipe on the back of their chocolate chip package. Ruth was given a lifetime's worth of free chocolate.

Today, there are countless chocolate chip cookie recipes. The multimillion dollar chocolate chip industry is a direct result of Ruth Wakefield's mistake. But there is no mistake that this woman was one smart cookie!

**Young at Art**

An artistic point of view from our youngest NMS students.



"Go downtown until you see a huge sign that says, Downtown Aquarium. When you get inside you will see a big waterfall that you can touch! I like the shrimp and fries and I think people should try it, they will like it too." Corey Jones Age 6



"Grandparents are special because they play with you." Brianna McCartney Age 6

**Sports**

**The Rise of the Women**

By Matthew Axelrad

For years the world of sports has been dominated by men, but over the years women's sports has gained popularity and women are beginning to get the respect they deserve for their endurance, skills and talents.

Women are now playing ice hockey. Manon Rheame was the first girl to start a game in one of North America's four major professional sports.

In 1998 women started winning ice hockey medals in the Olympics.

Many colleges and universities offer women's ice hockey.

The National Women's Hockey League currently has seven teams playing throughout Canada.

In addition to ice hockey women are mastering another sport that has traditionally been a man's sport: boxing. In 1876, Nell Saunders beat Rose Harland in the first United States boxing match. Saunders received a silver butter dish as a prize.

Championship fighter Muhammad Ali's daughter Laila became a prize fighter, proving that sports runs in the family for boys and girls!



Laila Ali's Belts



**The Science of Baseball**

By Joel Peralez

Have you ever wondered about the secret of great homeruns? A group led by Mont Hubbard has cracked the case. Instead of heading to the batting cages, they hit the computers. They uncovered the science of baseball by using advanced computer science. They discovered that after a batter whacks a ball, the ball starts spinning backwards. This is called backspin. The spin creates a push that keeps the ball flying. The best way to strike a ball is to swing fast. Then hit the ball below and with a slight upward swing which produces a lot of backspin, which helps the ball go farther.

This technological finding can greatly improve baseball players' ability to get more hits and become better players.

So the next time you want to hit one out of the park, make sure you hit your "hard drive" first!

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**Celebrating Grandparents**

By Christopher Bolt

Grandparents Day was Sunday, September 11, 2005! President Carter officially proclaimed Grandparents Day in 1978.

This special day recognizes and honors our elders. Grandparents are special because they have lived a long life and have so much wisdom to share.

Grandparents are important all year long, so remember their special day, but remember they are special everyday!

You can show your love and respect for them by spending time with them and enjoying the many gifts they have to offer.

**Editorial-Opinion**



**Kid Monitoring Cell Phones**

By Robert Parent

Motorola is developing cell phones that have trackers in them so that parents can know where their children are at all times. To attract teenagers they're putting iTunes on cell phones. The deadline for these phones has not yet been determined.

I think this phone should not come out because it is an invasion of privacy, and teenagers especially need their privacy! It might also damage the relationship between parents and teens. Whatever happened to honesty and respect?



**Vegetable Flavored Ice Cream**

By Christopher Bolt

In an effort to help children eat healthy, a new ice cream has been developed made of vegetables.

Flavors are available in broccoli, carrot, pea, yellow pepper and tomato.

I like this idea because it is good for you and children need healthy choices.

My choice would be carrot! What would you choose?

**Lasher**

**A Comic Strip by Jacob Helfand**

