

Middleview

Volume 60

Number 2

Great Neck South Middle School, Great Neck, NY 11020

Winter 2024

Great Neck South Middle School Team Takes First!

by Mr. Wong

On January 17, Mr. Wong and Mr. Giannone took two teams to the MoMath Tournament of Champions at the National Museum of Mathematics. The top 5 teams from regional competitions came together to compete in the tournament. Schools from all over Long Island, Manhattan, and the Bronx came to compete. Out of all the teams, Great Neck South Middle School Team A took first place! Students

on the A team included Andy Zhuang (Grade 7), Ethan Han (Grade 7), Eric Zhuang (Grade 8), Nathan Yu (Grade 6), and Zale Zhang (Grade 6). We are so proud of our amazing students!



Math Counts Chapter Competition

by Mr. Wong

On February 3, 2024, Mr. Wong and Mr. Giannone took a group of 12 students from the math team to the Math-Counts Chapter Competition. South Middle took 3rd in the team round against other schools on Long Island! The team included Andy Zhuang, Eric Zhuang, Ethan Han, and Zale Zhang. In the Individual Round, Kelvin Xu came in 4th! During the Countdown Round, Kelvin took 4th! We are so proud of our students! We're excited to take the team to states in March!



Goooo, Rebels!
Good luck in States. SMS is cheering for you!

Cultural Heritage: January 30

South Middle celebrated the beauty of its diverse community through a sold out Cultural Heritage Night, cultural trivia, a schoolwide assembly featuring a Chinese acrobat, and student speakers on HTV. We are stronger when we celebrate each other!



A huge THANK YOU to our Great Neck district photographer, Ms. Colleen Bowler, for allowing us to use some of her pictures. All of the above pictures are courtesy of Ms. Bowler.



WRITERS

Elle Chiu
Madeleine Chin
Stuti Dutta
Grace Fang
Sahil Gupta
Lawrence Ho
Lillian Li
Nashitha Mayan
Abigail Moll
Michael Sun
Kylee Wolf
Emily Yu
Olivia Zheng

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Ms. Colleen Bowler
Ms. Lauren Conlon
Ms. Rhiannon DiSilvio
Ms. Mariuca Ganz
Ms. Mackenzie Griffin
Ms. Kristin Klein
Ms. Patty Sandrowicz
Dr. Theresa Walter

FACULTY

Katie Dervin, Faculty Advisor
Kristin Klein, Faculty Advisor
Kristin Klein, Composer
Patty Sandrowicz, Composer

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Rebecca Sassouni, President
Grant Toch, Vice President
Joanne Chan, Trustee
Steve Chen, Trustee
Donna Peirez, Trustee

SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Kenneth Bossert

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Kenneth R. Bossert, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
John O'Keefe, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Dr. Stephen C. Lando, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education
Diana Haanraads, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education
Dr. Joseph Hickey, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Services

SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dr. Gina Cartolano – Principal
Mr. Leonard DiBiase – Assistant Principal
Mr. Ryan Nadherny – Assistant Principal
Ms. Kristin Duckworth- Dean
Ms. Karla Krupala – Dean

CosMc's: The New McDonalds?

By Emily Yu, Lilian Li, and Abigail Moll

The popular fast-food brand McDonalds just launched a new chain, CosMc's, which is a spinoff of McDonald's and is their new beverage-focused chain. But is it really worth your money and time? Let's check the differences and similarities between McDonald's and its spin-off, CosMc's.

CosMc's launched on December 7, 2023 in Bolingbrook, Illinois, and, as of now, no other CosMc's have launched yet. However in 2024, ten more are planned to launch in Texas. The restaurant name "CosMc's" originated from a McDonaldland mascot who appeared in advertisements in the late 1980s and early 1990s. It was an alien from outer space who always craves McDonald's food. The company has started to market its mascots more after the runaway success of the Grimace Birthday Meal earlier this year.

Many new drink and food options will be added to the new

bag of all three. At first glance, you can see that CosMc's menu already has a larger selection of food.

Ashok Selvam, a journalist from 'Eater Chicago', reviewed some items from the menu. For the Chai Frappe Burst, he said: "Cinnamon, brown sugar, and caramel flavors come out the strongest, absolutely trampling any sign of masala chai...That doesn't make this an awful creation. It's sweet and creamy, but it's an ice cream confection, not tea. The boba at the bottom had the texture of overripe grapes." For the Sour Cherry Energy Burst drink, he determined that "[t]his drink is too sweet to endure any of those theatrics. This feels like a grown-up red Wyler's and will take kids of a certain age back to days of summer camp. CosMc's should give out an award to anyone who actually finishes this drink."

According to CNBC, "McDonald's CosMc's is gunning for afternoon coffee sales. Starbucks shouldn't worry." CosMc's drinks aren't much cheaper

than those at Starbucks, and the McDonald's spinoff "lacks the same human touch and scale as the coffee giant," according to Sharon Zackfia. CosMc's menu is largely pulled from items that McDonald's serves around

the world and McDonald's executives said that it would be unlikely to drink CosMc's drinks and food options to the burger chain's existing restaurants. Customizing drinks takes time, and this would then slow down McDonald's service.

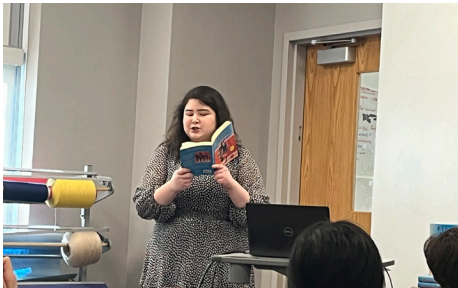
CosMc's is really just a space-themed McDonalds with a few new items and mascots. But in the end, it all comes down to your tastes and opinions. Would you try it?

Erin Yun Visits SMS

by Ms. D'Onofrio

On Wednesday, February 7, author Erin Yun visited SMS to work with aspiring writers during periods 4 and 5. Erin Yun is the author of the bestselling Asian American Pacific Islander middle grade series, Pippa Park.

Students got to hear about developing their own stories and characters using personal experiences, using classic stories as inspiration and structure, and how to develop a point of view for their stories and characters. They had a great time talking about working through writing blocks using music, using online quizzes to determine their optimal writing genres, and writing their own collaborative retelling.



English Self Select

This year, students in Self Select English have been participating in WordMasters vocabulary challenges. Do YOU know what these words mean? Answers on page 8.

1. DEPRECATE

- a) to appreciate or value highly
- b) to criticize or express disapproval of
- c) to create or invent something new
- d) to predict future events accurately

2. CATAclysm

- a) a small and insignificant event
- b) a sudden and violent upheaval or disaster
- c) a long period of peace and tranquility
- d) an organized and planned gathering

3. GRANDILOQUENT

- a) humble and understated
- b) excessively complex or difficult to understand
- c) using lofty or extravagant language, often to impress
- d) silent and reserved in communication

Starbucks Drink Suggestions

by Stuti Dutta and Abigail Moll

Do you ever get caught looking at the menu confused by what to get when at Starbucks? Well, we have a few drink suggestions that you can get the next time you go!

Are you the type of person who enjoys coffee but also wants a little sweetness? Then you should definitely try the Caramel Frappe. This frappe has a rich caramel flavor mixed into a coffee slushie. It is creamy and has a hint of coffee. It is sweet and so delicious. It is definitely an indulgent coffee treat that you can enjoy anytime during the day when you need a little something sweet or need a little kick and energy.

What about if you don't drink coffee? And it's a hot day outside? Then the Mango Dragonfruit Lemonade is for you! This tropical-inspired pick-me-up—crafted with sweet mango and dragon fruit flavors and hand-shaken with creamy coconut milk, ice, and a scoop of real diced dragon fruit—creates a refreshing and

surprising delight in the summer and fall.

What if you are a healthy person and you don't want a lot of sugar? The flavor profile of a Matcha Latte can be described as having a combination of earthy and grassy notes. These flavors come from the powdered green tea leaves used to make matcha. Matcha also possesses a unique umami richness, which adds depth and complexity to its taste. And it's packed with antioxidants and other health benefits.

There are many other drinks at Starbucks you can try as well! Not just drinks; there are cake pops, sandwiches, eggs, and even more than you could imagine!

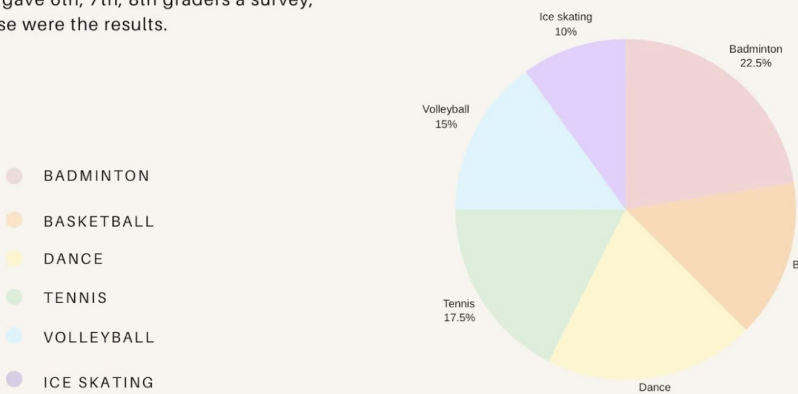


SMS Life: How Do You Spend Your Time?

by Lawrence Ho and Olivia Zheng

WHAT SPORTS EXTRACURRICULAR DO YOU TAKE?

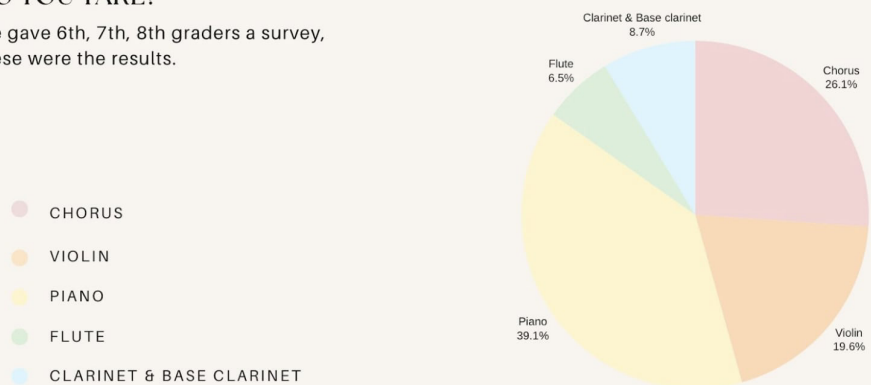
We gave 6th, 7th, 8th graders a survey, these were the results.



We also got numbers for the amount of students who engage in additional studying outside of school. Of the students surveyed, 20% receive extra classes in English, 56.7% of students receive extra learning opportunities in math, and 23.3% of students participate in extracurriculars in science.

WHAT MUSICAL EXTRACURRICULAR DO YOU TAKE?

We gave 6th, 7th, 8th graders a survey, these were the results.



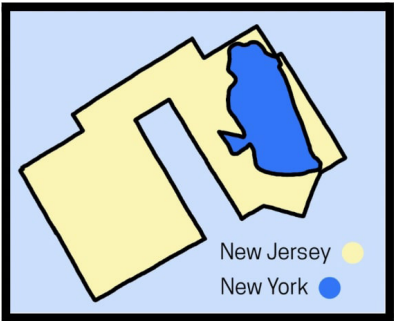
Strange Borders Explained

by Michael Sun

In this vast world composed of 197 countries (the number varies depending on what countries are considered countries), there have been conflicts debating on where and what the border between two countries should be. After reading this article, the goal is to make you intrigued in the vast world of geography, and everything that branches off of it. (All maps were drawn by me.)

Ellis Island

Ellis island was debatably a very important place in New York during the time when many Europeans immigrated into the United States. It was a major checkpoint, a strict one, to check every person who went inside the country. Now, it is a major attraction, with around 2 million people going to New York and visiting the island every year. However, is this island

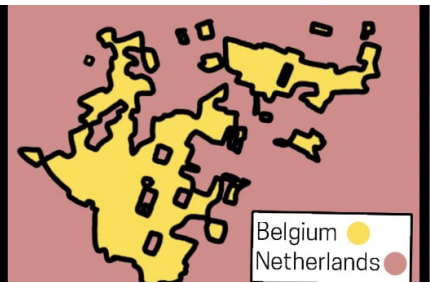


really controlled by our home state?

The answer to this question is very interesting. Between 1890 and 1934, the government expanded the island, adding around 25 acres of land to the small landmass. Later on, New Jersey and New York both claimed that Ellis Island belonged to them. In a Supreme Court case in 1998, it was decided that New York would claim the original island land, and New Jersey would claim the newly created land. When you look at the border in the picture above (which I happily drew), it sure makes it look weird on a map.

Baarle-Nassau

Belgium: the land where french fries were invented, the place that Germany in WW2 absolutely decimated, yeah - Belgium is known for a lot of things. One less notable thing is a part of its border with the Netherlands. There is a town on the border, named Baarle-Nassau, and its borders are, well, interesting. The reason behind these weird



borders is found during the medieval ages. There were numerous treaties, agreements, sales, and land-swaps between different landlords, such as the Lords of Breda and the Dukes of Brabant. In 1843, the borders were confirmed and clarified in the Treaty of Maastricht. As you may know, this part of the world has designs on the road that show exactly where the border is, sometimes running through a house!

Island of Märket

Right between the two Nordic countries of Finland and Sweden, it isn't surprising that they would fight over yet another island. With no inhabitants, the island of Märket has a very interesting border. Both Finland and Sweden have been fighting over islands for a very long history, such as the Aland Islands, but to fight over an island that is so tiny - absolutely crazy.

The reason why the border is like this is because of a lighthouse that was built in 1885, when Finland was still part of the Russian Empire! At that time, the island was not owned by anyone yet, and so the Grand Duchy of Finland decided to just build a lighthouse at the island's highest point, which, unfortunately, was in Sweden's area, defined by the border created by the Treaty of Fredrikshamn. However, luckily for the Fins, Sweden didn't want anything



to do with the lighthouse, and so they adjusted the border in a certain way so that there was no net exchange between lands, and the coastal area stayed the same. This resulted in an S-shaped border, which actually looks pretty cool.

And those are just some of the strange borders explained.

Middleview Interviews South Middle’s Own Author: Madeleine Chin

Middleview got the opportunity to sit down with 6th grader Madeleine Chin to learn more about her and the path she took to become a published author!

1. Where did you get the inspiration to write Protector Stones, your novel about Leine Kung?

I got the inspiration from a writing prompt book my mom bought me in fourth grade. One of the prompts piqued my interest. It read, “I thought fairy godmothers were supposed to be to be nice and caring, but whenever I see my fairy godmother, I plan on running away as fast as I can.” That sort of seemed like a unique, different way to look at fairy godmothers, and for nine-year old me, it was like having my mind blown. I decided to change the prompt up a bit, and switched fairy godmother to a grandmother. At once I knew, the villain in my book was going to be a grandmother. After months of planning, the rest of my plot just fell right into place.

2. What was the most challenging part of writing a full-length novel?

The most challenging part of writing a full-length novel would be the drive to keep writing. I actually have been writing stories since first grade, and all of them have been tossed into the trash. It’s way harder than it seems, to consistently write and write and not give up. There were many times where I just leaned back in my chair and thought, ‘I’m ready to move on to another idea’. But support from my parents helped me find my way to finishing a 54,000 word 247 page novel.

3. What was the most enjoyable part of novel writing?

The most enjoyable part would be when I write 1,000 words (or more) in a day. It feels very productive, and the excitement of being closer to my word count goal makes me feel one step closer to finishing my story.

4. The Patch, the local news reporting source, reported that, at age 7, you knew you wanted to be an author. What drew you to writing at such a young age?

I always loved reading books ever since I was 5. My love for writing mostly stemmed from the captivating stories in the books I was reading. I was intrigued by the world the author created and I could feel the emotions the characters experienced. This was so awe-inspiring for me. Therefore I always had the dream of becoming an author myself.

5. Are you currently working on a piece of writing now? If so, what is it about? If not, do you have plans to tackle any future stories?

I am! It’s a realistic fiction novel, which is based on my competitive dance experiences!



It’s actually a bit of a challenge for me, because this story is written in a different genre and point of view that I have never done before.

6. What is your writing process?

My writing process starts from my idea. Once I get enough details on my idea, I start to plot out my chapters with bullet points. An example is the below:

- Chapter #:
- 1.
 - 2.

- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

The numberings will include scenes that will be 1-2 pages long, such as meeting a mentor/friend. Once I finish plotting out all of my chapters, I start to write my novel. After (roughly) a year of writing, I take the last step, which is editing from the first to the last page.

7. What do you enjoy reading?

I enjoy reading powerful realistic fiction novels and fantasy. I like realistic fiction novels because they are incredibly moving, and have important themes that can be used in life. It’s so interesting seeing into the lives of other characters, and how they move past their obstacles. I also like fantasy novels because it allows my

creativity to grow and I can immerse myself in the author’s imagination.

8. What is the best time of day for you to write? Why?

There really is no best time of day for me to write

because I only write when I can. However, as I get settled into writing, I go on YouTube and play some music I have in my writing playlist. I listen to a video in Abbie Emmons’s (a YouTube channel dedicated to writing) playlist, which is a combination of beach waves and piano music. This helps me concentrate and not get awkward with the tense silence.

9. Did you self-publish or did you follow a more traditional publishing route?

I self-published my book on

Amazon using Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP). The process is actually very simple. First, you upload your manuscript. Second, you upload your cover art. Third, you set your price. And fourth, you hit publish!

10. What is some advice you would give to a first-time author?

These are my top 3 tips: **Dedication.** I could never, ever have finished my novel without dedication. It took a lot of time, a year, in fact, for me to plan, write, give up, and get back up again. Dedication is the most important thing any author needs to finish a piece of work. Without it, nobody would have ever finished a book. Dedication is your drive to finish, it’s what stopping you from dumping your idea.

Plan first. You want to plan the majority of your book as a decently detailed outline. That way, you don’t have to worry about a certain scene in your book not making sense, because you already thought of it earlier, and fixed it. To be honest, I did write a few scenes that I did not include in my outline for my first novel, and that’s perfectly okay!

Ask for Help. Don’t be afraid to ask for help. Every author, even the really famous ones, like J.K Rowling and Shannon Messenger, need a team to back them up. Of course, young authors like you and me, we don’t have a fancy team of agents and editors. But, we have something even more amazing. Family and friends. Ask a family member or a friend to read your book! They may have advice about it afterwards that may end up being very useful! It’s surprisingly helpful to hear some input from another perspective.

11. What else would you like to share about yourself with the SMS community?

When I’m not writing or reading, I’m playing basketball, snuggling with my cat, or dancing to whatever catchy song is playing.

Thank you, Madeleine!!

Ever Heard of The Outsiders?

by Nashitha Mayan

All around the U.S., many 7th and 8th grade students are given the chance to read the groundbreaking novel **The Outsiders** by S.E Hinton, a coming-of-age story about friendship and change that takes place all the way back in 1965 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Many of you might have heard of the Broadway musical “Grease!” or you might have even seen it at the South High school, performed back in 2021. These two stories both take place in the 1960s, and they share a common culture between them. Greasers are known for their greased slicked back hair, their black leather and denim jackets, and their tough army boots. Greasers are known to be dangerous, ignorant, selfish, and not so smart.



This story follows the complicated life of an orphaned 14 year-old Greaser named Ponyboy Curtis who lives with three of his brothers and a group of all their close friends. Compared to the rest of the Greasers, Ponyboy is more sensitive and thoughtful, and he’s considered to be more

of a dreamer and deep thinker. When the other Greasers get enjoyment from fights and drugs, Ponyboy finds his from reading and writing.

Today this novel is considered historical fiction, but when author Susan Eloise Hinton wrote it in 1964, it was considered contemporary. Just at the age of 15 Hinton wrote the first draft of “The Outsiders,” and later it was published in 1967 under the name of S. E. Hinton. Despite it being the 1960s, female writers weren’t looked at seriously due to the heavily male-dominated industry, and they didn’t get enough recognition. Hinton’s idea of using only her initials to hide herself had worked wonders, and the book had quickly risen to its popularity right after being published.

It became so popular that in 1983, a movie adaption of the book was released, directed by Francis Ford Coppola and in which featured well known actors like Tom Cruise, Patrick Swayze, and Rob Lowe. This helped to further popularize the book. during, and the authors admitted that they did more research on this book than any other book. They “attended conferences, and conducted interviews with people who had made the journey as well as aid workers.” They worked with charities such as the Women for Refugee Women and Migrant Voices. Getting stories directly from survivors gave the authors the authentic experience they needed to write the story. What this makes me wonder is the millions of stories that are lost from lost survivors that we don’t know, and the fact that each of these stories are as fascinating as others. There might be a huge chunk of history left out, because no one wrote about it. All of our knowledge came from stories, and writing. This makes me realize that we won’t ever know 100% of our own history. However, these stories and books are a step to really remember certain things that people might’ve forgotten, such as the dangerous journeys people make to get to Europe.

Well-Loved Books by SMS Students and Staff

To kick off February, a month known for love, we asked students and staff what books they loved. The responses were used to decorate the upper 600s bulleting board. They are included here as well so everyone can enjoy a well-loved book!

BOOK: Race to the Sun by Rebecca Roanhorse
WHY: This is my favorite book, because it’s filled with action and humor inside. My favorite character is Nizhoni Begay because she’s just like me, and she’s also very cool because she gets to ride on a crow and go on adventures. I think you’ll like this book and you should read it. I really recommend it to people who likes mythology and action.
~Christina Pan

BOOK: Protector Stones by Madeleine Chin
WHY: I enjoyed this book because it had adventure and adrenaline just like my favorite series Percy Jackson. It was fun to read because it was a good story and my friend wrote it. There were themes such as friendship, and hard work weaved through the subplots.
~Micha Han



BOOK: Diary of a Wimpy Kid, No Brainer by Jeff Kinney
WHY: It kind of expresses my life and how families go. Many things are not part of my life though, and I want to know what it is like to experience that.
~Suhaan Virani

BOOK: Mazerunner by James Dashner
WHY: Maze Runner is a dystopian novel. I loved how it was a mix of thrill and mystery. It begins when you are stuck in what is almost like a snow globe with over fifty other people. If you think about it, it’s only one world- it’s an unknown world and no one knows what it’s like outside. The people who live in the “snow globe” (The Glade) have jobs, and they do those jobs to live. They are constantly endangered at night and try to live in order to solve the mystery of The Glade and the

BOOK: The Monster at the End of This Book by Jon Stone
WHY: This was my favorite book as a child! I read it over and over again, and somehow it was still funny every time. There was something about the conflict between the necessity of turning the pages in order to read the story and Grover’s playful insistence that the reader STOP turning pages that was irresistibly funny to me.
~Ms. Willis

BOOK: Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr.
WHY: The rhythm of the book was very interesting. I liked it because it was about coconuts.
~Ethan Han

BOOK: The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer
WHY: I enjoyed House of the Scorpion for its intense genre between dystopian and science fiction. The protagonist, Matt, was from a clone made for organ harvesting to a powerful drug lord. I feel like that Nancy Farmer’s storytelling blended science fiction with reflections on morality and identity. The character’s developments and the dystopian setting kept me engaged, wanting to read more. Overall, it was an amazing reading experience that left a lasting impression on me.
~Emily Yu

BOOK: Truly Devious by Maureen Johnson
WHY: This book is a murder mystery in the past and the present. Readers explore prestigious Ellingham Academy in present-day alongside teen detective Stevie Bell to solve the tragic disappearance of beloved characters decades earlier. If you love teen humor, clever planning, and intricate worlds, this is the book for you.

Illegal

by Michael Sun

Learning about Eoin Colfer’s and Andrew Donkin’s graphic novel Illegal makes me realize the small bubble that we are living in, and the huge world that is happening around us that we don’t even know. The authors have always wondered about the real stories from the survivors, not the news channels that only give numbers instead of individual tales. The purpose of Illegal was to “take one of those numbers and tell their story.” Colfer and Donkin wanted to make it clear that the numbers aren’t the only information that should be known; the number should be imagined like a human being, “with a favorite color and a favorite football team just like them.” The process of getting the real information was long and en-

Tracing Technological Advancements in Warfare

by Sahil Gupta

Throughout history, technological advancements have played a significant role in shaping the nature and effectiveness of weapons. The development of new materials, manufacturing techniques, and engineering capabilities has led to the creation of more sophisticated and powerful weapons.

Prehistoric Weapons:

In prehistoric times people used a small variety of basic weapons such as clubs, spears, axes, and even bows. In Australia, people even used large boomerangs that were hurled at enemies. Swords would not come around until humans were more skilled in metal working.

Ancient Weapons:

By this time many civilizations such as the Greeks, Romans, and Egyptians had popped up. However most of the civilizations used similar weapons. They used bows, spears, clubs, axes, and daggers. Also, many civilizations even used bronze and brass and leather for armor and shields. Some even used chariots pulled by horses or donkeys. By this point some basic siege weapons also came around, such as battering rams, siege towers, and catapults.

Middle Ages:

Saxon and Viking warriors used similar weapons and tactics. Both used swords, spears, and battle-axes, employed shield walls, and some even wore chainmail. Later, armored knights on horseback were the heart of armies. The Normans started building castles. At first they were weak to fire as they were made of wood but later were made of stone and were sometimes surrounded by a moat. The fortresses had numerous

defenses such as windows for archers to shoot arrows through. A few new siege weapons even came around such as the trebuchet (a type of powerful catapult). Also, the crossbow and longbow came around, giving people long range handheld weapons.

16th Century:

In this century, warfare was transformed because of early guns which were fired and reloaded very slowly. Later, a more efficient way of doing this called the wheellock was invented and cavalry stopped carrying lances but rather guns and sabers. There was also the invention of the cannon and shrapnel-spraying cannon balls.

17th Century:

During this century there was not a lot of advancement except the invention of the cartridge, flintlock (allowed for faster firing), and the bayonet (a sharp weapon that was strapped to a musket to replace pikemen).

19th Century:

In the 19th century, there was a great improvement to guns with the magazine. This allowed for a highly increased firing rate. During this time the first machine guns were also made and experimented with such as the Maxim and Hiram Guns. War at sea was also changed through steam engines, turrets on deck, and torpedoes.

20th Century:

As we all know, during the 20th century, both world wars took place. These wars encourage massive weapons development from toxic gasses, flamethrowers, machine guns, aircraft carriers, and even the atomic bomb.

As technology advances, so do our ways to defend ourselves.

or Shree Panchami. People place books and reading materials near the Saraswati statue or picture and worship the goddess. Many people also choose the day as a symbolic start of learning the alphabet by children.

Worship Goddess Saraswati with

6th Grade: Frost Valley and The Stay-at-Home Program!

FROST VALLEY



STAY-AT-HOME



Saraswati Puja

bt Stuti Dutta

There are many holidays celebrated in February. Saraswati Puja is celebrated in the Magha month (January-February) and coincides with Vasant Panchami

Magnolia (Champa) or Flame of the Forest (Yellow Payesh) for her to bestow you with eternal knowledge. Since yellow is her favorite color, you can also offer flowers like sunflowers, rose, marigolds, and allamanda to Maa Saraswati- the deity of learning, music and art.

As per Hindu beliefs, Maa Saraswati was born on this day, so, to achieve wisdom and art from her, people celebrate Basant Panchami as Saraswati Puja. This day is very auspicious; people start new work, get married or start anything new on this day.

Baking with Jonathan Philip:

Three Sweet Treats for You to Try

Edible No-Cook Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough

Step 1
Take a microwave-safe bowl and add 1 cup of flour. Then microwave the flour: take it out of the microwave every 15 seconds. Each time whisk lightly. Do this six times in total.

Step 2
In a separate bowl add 3/4 cup of brown sugar and half a cup of butter. Melt butter and brown sugar in your bowl by microwaving for 15 seconds just one time. This ensures you have creamy cookie dough, not chunky cookie dough.

Step 3
With an electric mixer, you mix up the brown sugar and



butter. While you are mixing the ingredients together, pause and add 2 tablespoons of milk and 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract and a pinch of salt. Also add the flour from your other bowl. Mix all these ingredients with an electric mixer until nice and creamy.

Step 4
My favorite step! Add either the Nestle semi-sweet chocolate chips (or if you want to get fancy, add the Callebaut dark chips). Then you fold it in with a spatula. Lastly, allow your treat to rest for about an hour to let all the flavors get absorbed.

picture from Cooking Classy

Peanut Butter Cups

Step 1
Combine ½ cup of powdered sugar with 1 and ½ cups peanut butter in a bowl. Mix together with a whisk.

Step 2
Melt either a block of 75% dark chocolate or chop up Nestle 60% dark chocolate chips.

Step 3
Set up cupcake papers. Spread 1 to 2 tablespoons of chocolate in the bottom of each cupcake

liner.

Step 4
Spoon 1 to 2 teaspoons of the peanut butter mixture on top of the chocolate.



Step 5
Cover the peanut butter with more chocolate. Smooth out the top.

Step 6
Put your peanut butter cups in the freezer for 30 minute.

picture from 15 Spatulas

Have ideas for delicious recipes for the spring or for the summer? Share them with Middleview! Email Mrs. Dervin or Mrs. Klein to get featured in the next edition!

Brookies: A Blend of Brownies AND Cookies

Part 1: Cookie Dough

Step 1
With an electric mixer (mix) together 1 stick of butter and ¾ cup of brown sugar. While you're mixing, add 2 tbsp of milk, a pinch of salt, and 1 tbsp of vanilla extract.

Step 2
Take 1 cup of flour and microwave it in a glass bowl for 1 minute and 15 seconds. Let it rest for 3 minutes. After flour is cooled, add it to your mixer bowl. Mix everything in one bowl until all of the flour has been absorbed.

Step 3
Add 1 cup of chocolate chips.

Part 4: Brownie

Step 4
In a microwave-safe bowl, add 2 cups of sugar, 1 1/2 cup of all purpose flour, 4 eggs, 1/2 cup of cocoa powder, 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract,

1/2 a teaspoon baking powder and half a teaspoon of salt.

Step 5
In a microwave-safe bowl, microwave 2 sticks of butter until there are no more clumps left in the bowl. After you're done microwaving the butter, add the butter to your mixture.

Step 6
In a 9x13 baking dish, add your cookie dough on the bottom and tap it down nice and evenly. Then add your brownie batter on top. Make sure you layer the cookie dough and brownie batter evenly.

Step 7
Bake it in the oven for 350 degrees for 20 minutes.



Popular Desserts in Other Countries

by Stuti Dutta and Hali Jiang

Canada - Nanaimo Bars
United States - Chocolate chip cookies
Mexico - Churros
Greenland - Greenlandic ice cream
Brazil - Feijoada
Australia - Pavola
Germany - Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte
France - Crème Brûlée
China - Egg tart
United Kingdom - Banoffee Pie
India - Gulab Jamun
Italy - Tiramisu
Japan - Daifuku
Greece - Galaktoboureko
Spain - Spanish flan
Finland - Tippaleipä
Bangladesh - Sandesh
Israel - Bourekas or burekas

Want to make the American dessert? Here's an easy recipe:
1. Combine 3 cups flour, 1 teaspoon baking soda, and 1 teaspoon fine sea salt.
When doing this, make sure to measure the flour correctly. Be sure to use a measuring cup made for dry ingredients (NOT a pyrex liquid measuring cup). Then, measure

flour by scooping it into a measuring cup and leveling it with a knife.
2. Next, cream together 2 softened sticks of butter, 1/2 cup granulated sugar, and 1 and 1/4 cups brown sugar.
3. Once butter/sugar mixture is beaten well, add 2 eggs and 2 teaspoons of vanilla and beat to combine.
4. Gradually beat in the dry ingredients and stir until just combined. Then add 2 cups of semi-sweet chocolate chips and beat until they are evenly distributed throughout the dough.
5. Refrigerate dough up to 72 hours to let the flavors mingle together.
6. When you are ready to bake, set out the dough so it comes to room temperature.
7. Use a largw cookie scoop to divide the dough. A cookie scoop ensures that all the cookies are uniform in size so that they bake evenly.
8. Preheat oven to 350 degrees and cook for 11-13 minutes.
The most important piece of advice I can give you is – DO NOT over-bake these chocolate chip cookies! Enjoy!

Recipe adapted from Handletheheat.com.

Winter I Sports Reflections

by Elle Chiu, Grace Fang, & Kylee Wolf

The boys' swim team won their first meet at Uniondale and looked forward to more. They report that practice is good, and that they get good amounts of break time followed by more tiring exercises afterward. They say swimming is a form of "tough love." The boys' fswim team had a great season!

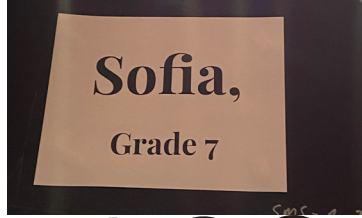
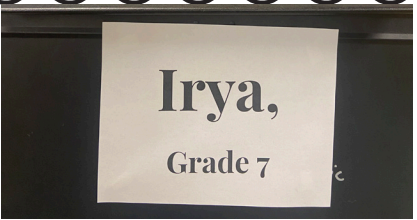
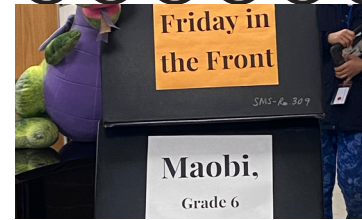
According to the team, they thought this season was fun and interesting. Their favorite strokes were freestyle, followed by backstroke, butterfly, and breaststroke. They also really liked the coach, Mr. Pernice.

Coach Pernice was nice and encouraged them to improve and work their way to the top.

Mr. Pernice said about his team that "they're equally strong" with "lots of good 8th grade leaders who are setting a good example for the younger kids." Swimmers this year showed "lots of improvement. We have a good swim team compared to some schools."

A member of the team said, "It is better this year and you can swim in more events, which is very fun and expressive." This demonstrates that the team is closer this year and really working towards success and growth.

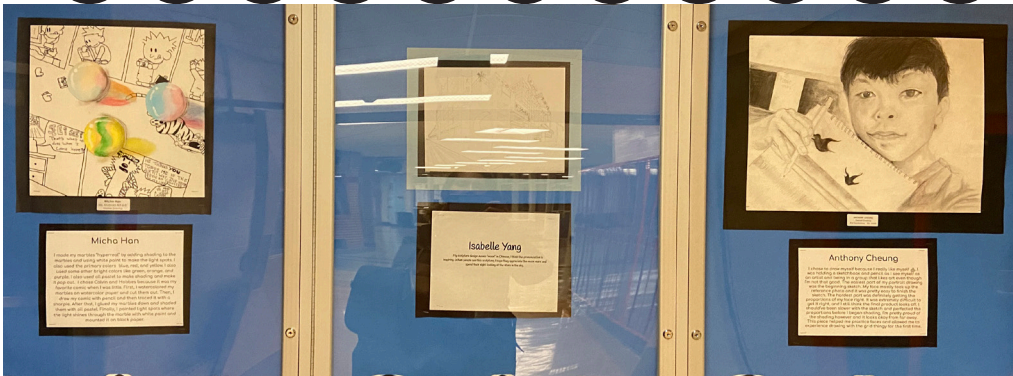
Friday in the Front



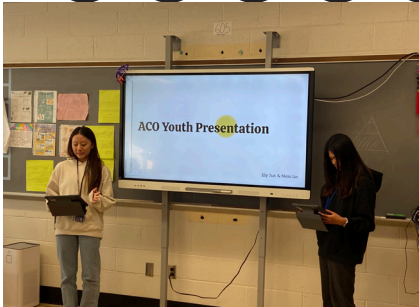
Team Wonder shares its Micro Logo projects!



Artists of the Month



Inspirational Students



SMS 6th grader Elly Sun and SHS 9th grader Meixi Lin, in conjunction with the Community Action Committee, are collecting toiletries for Africa Cries Out. They will deliver all of the donations IN PERSON when they go to Senegal in March. SMS and SHS students do amazing things!

Advisory Creations



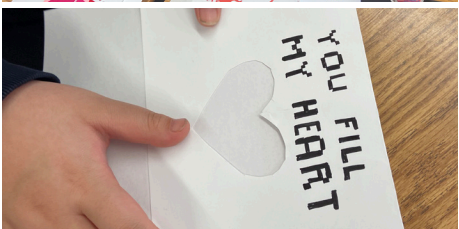
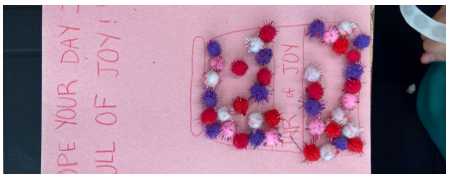
In honor of Valentine's Day, students were asked to look for quotes about love to help celebrate the day and to let love shine from the inside out. Here are some great quotes students found:

- * "And when you smile, the whole world stops and stares for a while..." -- Bruno Mars
- * "There is only one happiness in this life, to love and be loved." -- George Sand
- * "Love looks not with eyes, but with the mind." -- William Shakespeare
- * "Be yourself; everyone else is already taken." -- Oscar Wilde
- * The more one judges, the less one loves." -- Honore de Balzac



CAC Spreads the Love

Community Action students took part in Assemblywoman Gina L. Sil-litti's 16th annual Valentine's for Vets initiative. They also made Valentine's Day signs for the hallways of SMS!



Congratulations to our 8th grade Self Select students who took on yet another WordMasters Challenge on February 15! Answers from page 2: 1. B, 2. B, 3. C.