

THE BULLDOG BARK



Principal: Mrs. Chamberlain

Advisor: Mr. Barnes

Northern Lehigh Middle School

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Issue Three

How private is your privacy?

My Mobile Watchdog' aims to keep parents in the loop on teens' texts

By Julie Knerr

North Team

Cell phones: a lot of children and teens have them. When you want to talk to a friend, you just text them and you can start a whole conversation.

And for those of us who have cell phones, I'm sure that some of us have been concerned with our privacy. I mean, who wants mom or dad taking your phone and looking through your texts? But that's just what a service called My Mobile Watchdog (MMWD) is allowing parents to do.

MMWD sends your texts to your parents' phone, which allows them to read everything. It also sends them an alert when you get a call or text from someone new.

Parents claim this is their way of stopping things like cyberbullying and they say that they can use it to keep their kids from sending inappropriate messages and pictures. However, other people point out that if teens really wanted to send a message to someone privately, they could just use a friend's phone. So, is



NLMS eighth-grader Julie Knerr, like many teens, sends many text messages to friends. But should more people receive them than she had intended?

MMWD an invasion of privacy, or a way to protect children and teens?

There could be a lot of different opinions on this contro-

versial topic, but personally, I think this is an unnecessary invasion of a teenager's privacy. I can

See MMWD, page 2

Does the mobile watchdog promote safety or cross a privacy line?

MMWD, from page 1

understand a parent checking your phone if there is a reason for concern, but other than that, a teen deserves privacy. When you text your friends, you want it to stay between the two of you. You don't want your mom hearing all

Also, when a parent reads a teen's private conversation, they are breaking trust. As kids, we should be able to trust our parents, but if they are willing to have our texts sent to their phone, what else would they do?

That simple idea could make

teens less open with their parents, which, of course, is not good. If teens feel that they are unable to trust their own parents, they may begin to feel isolated. And as if it isn't bad enough that MMWD is an invasion of privacy, it might not even work. A teenager can borrow a friend's phone and

send texts without their parents' awareness.

However, there are still parents who support and use MMWD. According to them, MMWD is the best way to keep their kids safe from cyber bullies and strangers.

After all, police use MMWD and it has helped them to arrest more than 100 people who

wanted to hurt kids and teens. Not only that, but if parents discover threatening or intimidating texts, they can do something to stop it. If a stranger gets your cell phone number, they can send you a text message and trick you into meeting them face-to-face.

When a parent gets the alert that tells them you have a message from someone new, they can stop you from meeting the stranger and keep you safe. So, there are a few advantages to this service.

Here are what some of the students at NLMS think about a teenager's privacy and the MMWD service:

Jessie Olewine: No, because MMWD is an invasion of privacy. Your parents should trust you. However, if they think something is wrong, MMWD would be a good idea.

Laura Beltz: No, because we should have privacy. Our parents need to trust us.

Nina Schnyder: No, because this is your personal life, not theirs. They should be able to trust you no matter what. Also, parents reading your texts can cause major fights in your household.

So, it's up to you. Is it OK for your parents to have all of your text messages sent to their phone, or is it an invasion of your privacy?



about the things you and your friends talk about.

Not only that, but why are teens the only ones who need to be watched? There are some immature adults who send inappropriate messages more than teens, so why are we the ones to worry about? Just because we are younger doesn't mean we are always immature.

NLMS cares for local students in-need

'Have a Heart for the Homeless' gathers materials for Lehigh Valley families

By Abigail Hillegas
SouthEast Team

The SouthEast team conducted a school-wide service-learning project throughout February called "Have a Heart for the Homeless." The theme of homelessness and the ability for a young boy to survive on the streets on New York City are in the novel "Monkey Island," which all Northern Lehigh Middle School students read.

A goal of this project is to demonstrate every individual's role in affecting a positive change for the less fortunate.

"We want our students to embrace the feeling of helping our fellow people," said Mr. Barnes, SouthEast team English teacher. "In my English classes, one of my journal questions was 'What is something for which you could be more thankful?' The majority of my students said they could be more thankful for what they have in their lives, including family and an education. 'Have a Heart for the Homeless' is the perfect way for our kids to reach a hand out to someone else. Strangers helping strangers is a beautiful thing."

Mr. "Rooster" Valentini, Site Coordinator for Pennsylvania's

Homeless Children Initiative, spoke to our team about the plight of the homeless – especially children locally. Valentini has had 20 years of first-hand experience working with the homeless. As a school, we helped homeless kids by donating school supplies and bathroom products.

"The best part of this campaign is being able to help local people, throughout the Lehigh Valley and in our very own district. Our students might forget just how lucky they are to have notebooks, paper, and even pen-

See Heart, page 4



Kassandra Beller, 7th grade, brought donations from home to help local students. Also, T.J. Dooley did his part to help kids just like him, who don't have quite as much.

SouthEast Team shoots for the stars during Astronomy Days

By Nick Young
SouthEast Team

The last week before Christmas break the SouthEast team did their annual Astronomy Days. These set of days for the SouthEast team is like Civil War Days for the North Team.



Jon Gares, Randi McRae and Kate Harding work on their PowerPoint. See more photos on the next page!

During Astronomy Days, we were appointed to groups that have to deal with the universe. There are many groups and some of us are with people we don't know.

The whole three days we had to stay with our group the whole time.

In those groups, we were

instructed to make a mural with our group theme, our names and some homemade pictures of the theme.

We had to make a PowerPoint with information about our group's theme. Lastly, we had to make a speech with more information that highlighted our PowerPoint.

For some more inspiration, we watched the movie "October Sky." The movie is about how Homer Hickam was inspired by the satellite Sputnik into building a rocket with his friends and the local "sci-fi nerd" in town. Most of the town and his father thinks that he is wasting his time but he does not think so.

In the beginning of Astronomy Days, Mrs. Marushak asks all of the students if they would like to volunteer in plays for Astronomy Days. There were two eighth-grade plays and one seventh-grade play.

During Astronomy Days, we had to present our homemade projects to the entire SouthEast team, plus the teachers. All the teams had to pick people to present our homemade PowerPoint. After the teachers were done grading our PowerPoints and our murals, we got to shoot off the rockets outside.

For our rockets, we either

got to make the simpler rockets or we could make the harder rockets in the kit. For the simpler rockets, we made them out of a film canister and paper. For the film canister rockets, we would put water and Alka-Seltzer and close the lid and wait a few seconds and BOOM! They would go off.

For the more complex rockets, we would have to make them out of a kit. To launch them, we would put them on the launch pad and put an engine in the tail-end and ignite them. We also made pudding as astronaut food. It was made out of pudding mix, milk and some shaking. The final result was pudding or some sort of astronaut food.

Some of the groups got prizes for the best mural. All of the speakers for the PowerPoint got some astronaut food. It was the best three days!

Having a heart for those in-need

Heart, from page 3

cils in each class," Mr. Barnes said. "Too many people in our world, even on a local level, would give anything to have something as simple as that."

Donations were collected each day in February. Thanks to everyone who gave products for this drive.



Lexie Merkle was proud of her homemade rocket during the SouthEast team's Astronomy Days.



Ryan Rubio loves the stage.



Shane Hoppes and Cheyenne Smith work on their mural.



Nick Young was excited.



John Taylor shot his rocket into the Slatington sky.



Tanner Lenskold had his own way of eating 'astronaut pudding.'



Josh Connor, known to the world as "Toast," wasn't jealous of Rubio's earmuffs.



Mrs. Hubbs helps T.J. Dooley mix a scientific potion.

Playin' around with astronomy

SouthEasterners hit the stage to entertain, educate



Kyle Jenne and Alley Freed worry about a martian's visit during the team's play.



Alley Freed, Kianna Marlatt and Amy Hinkle add some unibrows and mustaches to their faces after the plays. No one is sure why.

By Scarlet Ojeda
SouthEast Team

The Astronomy Days for the SouthEast Team were spectacular! Rockets, presentations and space food. But the best part? The Astronomy Days plays! (There were three.) They were called “Visitors from Mars,” “Rocket Planet Weather Report,” and “We are the Planets.”

“Visitors from Mars” was an ideal play held by all the SouthEast eighth-graders. It was about how back in the early 1900s, people were fooled by a radio play, talking and acting out how Earth was attacked by martians.

The play “Rocket Planet Weather Report” was about a report on how Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Venus and many more planets interact in space.

The play was held by 7th and 8th graders on the SouthEast team.

The final play was “We Are the Planets.” This play was about planets’ origins, how they developed their names, which origin named them, and what they mean.

The 7th and 8th graders took pride in this play. But none of those excellent performances would have been in action without Mrs. Marushak! She gave out scripts, props, got actors and actresses and also gave her time. We, on the SouthEast Team, are proud of Astronomy Days!

Making the pig skins pretty

Mr. Eckhart continues tradition of creating 'football trophies'



By Makayla Gordon
North Team

We all know that our own art teacher, Mr. Eckhart, is very talented. What you probably don't know is that Mr. Eckhart paints awesome footballs, too!

He has been making them for about 15 years now, ever since Coach Tkach came up with the

idea.

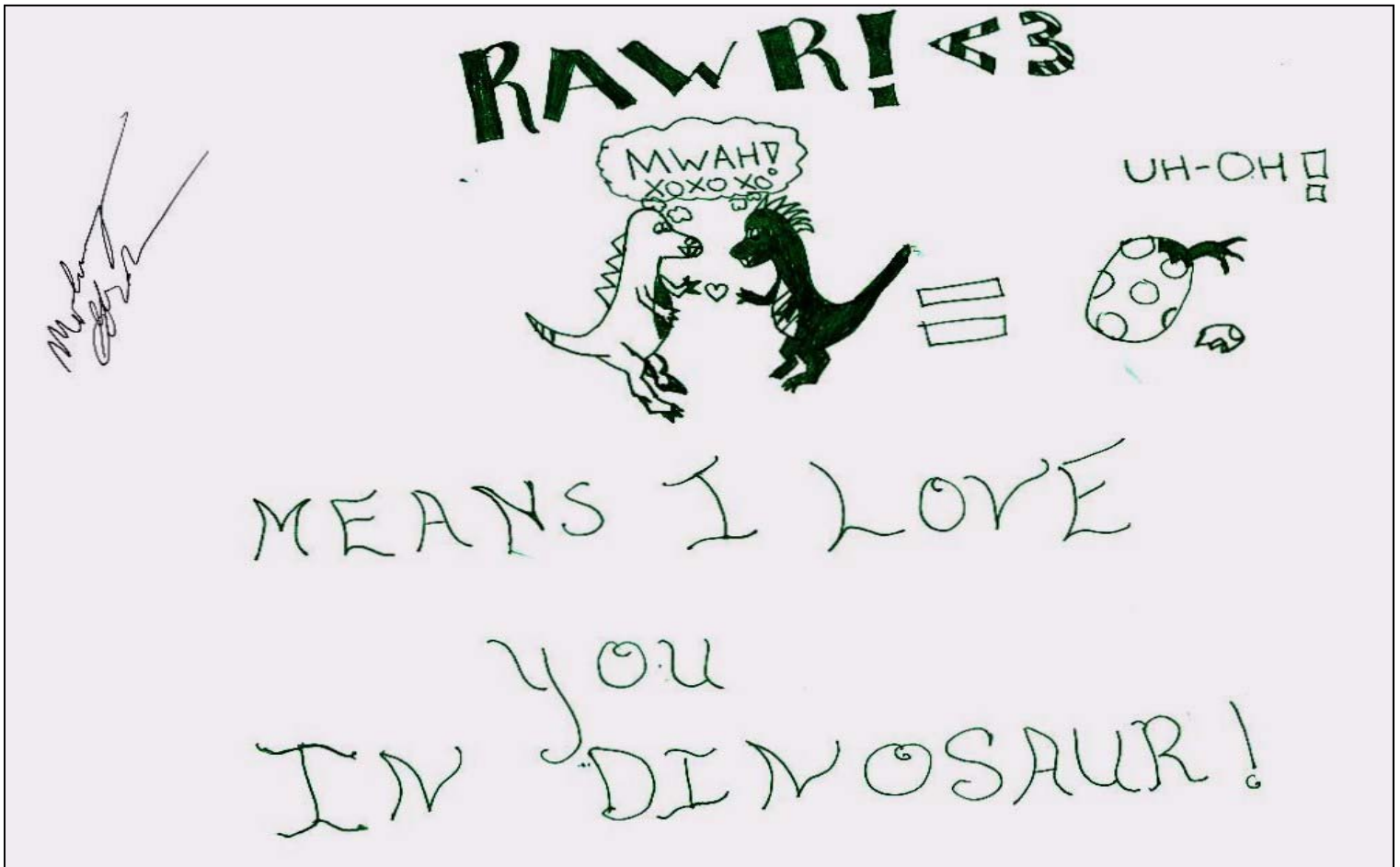
Mr. Eckhart paints four footballs each year. Four of the high school football players are voted to win the Captain's Award. The four players receive the hand-painted footballs. It takes Mr. Eckhart about two months to complete the work on the footballs. He works on them "here and there," Mr. Eckhart said. He

does get paid some money for these footballs. Mr. Eckhart has made an astonishing 60 footballs over the last 15 years.

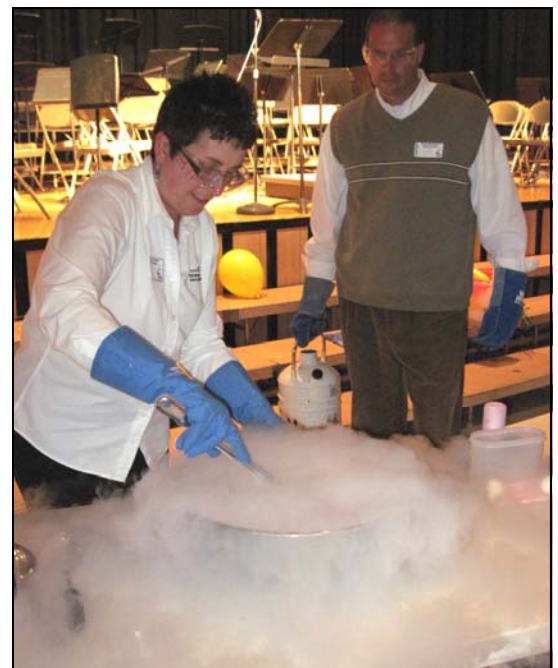
When asked if he will be making more, he said, "Yes, as long as I work here."

These footballs are truly amazing and we are so lucky to have such a talented art teacher working in our school.

Homemade Student Art by Makayla Gordon



Cassidy Barrett and Isiah Ortiz helped crush scientifically-frozen flowers during Air Products' assembly.



A favorite part of the assembly is homemade ice cream.

Middle school girls basketball does well, despite ups and downs

By Jessica Olewine
North Team

Right now, the Northern Le-high Middle School girls basketball team is doing exceptionally well, although we have our ups and downs with each other.

We usually fight over girls telling other girls what to do, picking out another girl's flaws, and saying we have no chance of winning, instead of encouraging the team.

Captains do have a privilege to some of these, but they are not supposed to say it in a mean way.

Our captains are Amber Thomas, Emily Bevans, Dakota Schweitzer and me, Jessica Olewine. Right now, our starting five on the A Team are: Me, Jess, as point-guard; Taryn Kemmerer and Alexis Merkle as the wings; and Emily Bevans and Amber Thomas as the "big girls."

We don't have a lot of players though because some are injured,

so everyone plays on "A." (Some more than others).

Starting on B Team: either Brittney Pristash or Alexis Merkle on point; Taryn Kemmerer or Alexis Middaugh and Taylor Herman on wing, and Rebecca Evans and Alyssa Fritzinger as "big girls." Right now though, Alyssa has a broken thumb so Amber Thomas plays for her. We hope to end with a great season!



Emily Bevans, 8th grade, goes for the free-throw.

Boys B-ball, poetically

By John Taylor

SouthEast Team

We, Bulldogs, had a
heck of a season.

Wins, losses but
no excuses or reasons.

We started out
with a record of 4-1,
and ended with a record of 5-10.

We work hard at practice
with many, many sweats.

Lots of bruises, lots of bumps
with many, many steps.

The Tigers were good
but we were better.

We beat them in our gym,
we lost in their gym.

Bangor was our first game
far, far away.

Even though we lost,
we had a heck of a game.

We lost to

Pocono Mountain West
but came out with our 'A' game
and tried our best.

We beat Notre Dame once,
We beat Notre Dame twice.

That is when we said,
these guys are too nice.

Lots of threes, lots of twos.

Lots of foul-outs,
lots of fouls taken.

That is when we said,
we're stepping to the line
and not missing a shot.

Our 'A' team was impressive,
we tried to be successive.

We ran, we stumbled, but all in all
we made it through
with a majestic season.



Off-season moves make MLB's upcoming season unpredictable

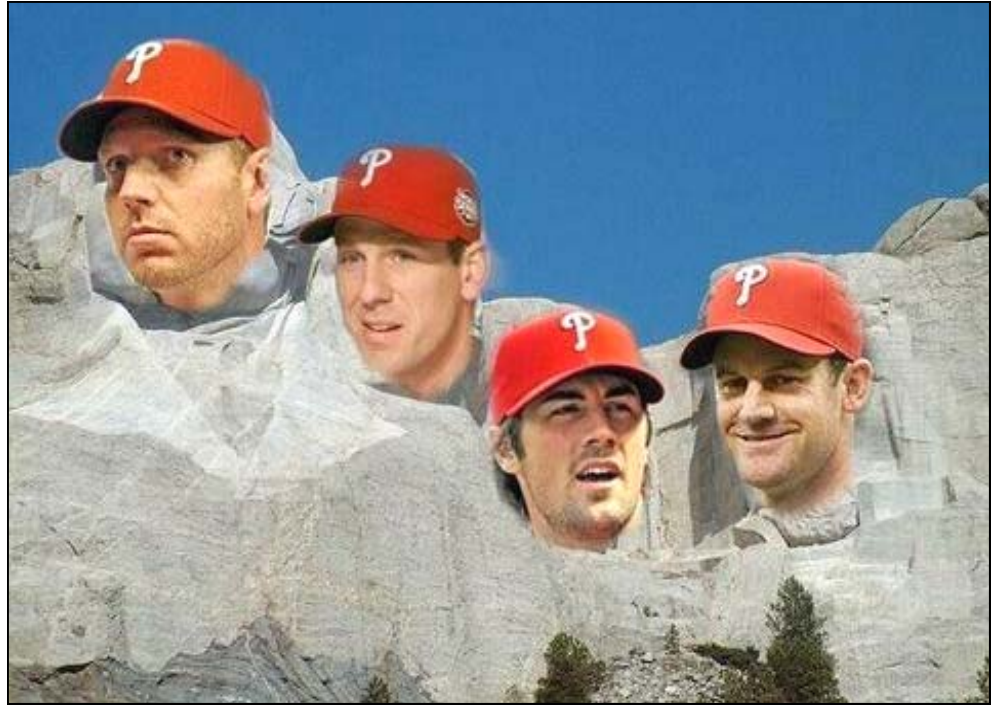
By Zach Moll
SouthEast Team

Many bold moves and surprising deals were made this off-season in Major League Baseball. Cliff Lee signed a five-year, \$120-million contract with the Phillies in an undercover deal. Jayson Werth signed a seven-year, \$126 million contract with the Nationals. The Yankees resigned Derek Jeter to a three-year, \$51 million contract and the Boston Red Sox signed Adrian Gonzalez and Carl Crawford.

For this upcoming season, the Phillies have what is undoubtedly the best pitching lineup in baseball, but will their offense be able to produce well enough to make it to October?

The Red Sox look to dominate the American League East this year.

The Orioles have hopes of not finishing last by Vladimir Guer-



Pitching may be the Phillies' best weapon: Roy Halliday, Cliff Lee, Cole Hamels and Roy Oswalt.

rero. With spring training having just started, the season is just on the horizon. Who will be the best and who will go home with their

heads hung low?

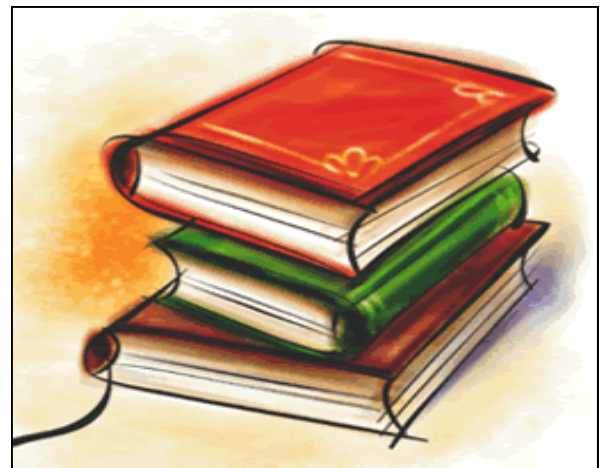
Who will emerge to be the best in all of baseball?

Only time will tell.

After the Bell proves successful again

It has been a pleasure to help some students work on their reading and comprehension skills in NLMS's After the Bell program. After 40 sessions, we have experienced an impressive increase in test scores: 78% of our students improved on the SRI tests. More importantly, each student gained confidence as a reader and life-long learner.

Incentives for participation were provided by **Subway, Nestle Water, Valley Pizza, Burger King, Pathmark and Weis Markets**. We appreciate all these businesses for helping the program. We would also like to thank Mrs. Beltz, Mrs. Chamberlain, Mrs. Nicholas and the dedicated teachers who make it all work.





Mr. Reinhard shows Julie Knerr how a real man bakes.



Ryan Lunderman and Taryn Kemmerer help Cookies for Cancer.



Brian Lutz is careful with his measurements.



Tyler Smith will hate that I put this in the newspaper. Sorry, bud.



Cat Maniscalco and Jordan Long did their part for the cause.



Alyssa Crespo was a big help!



Nina Schnyder and Taylor Duplaga love their ribbons.



Emily Bevans was in charge of the chocolate chips.



Nathan Snyder was all smiles during Cookies for Cancer.

Homemade Student Art



Brenton Baker



Angelica Yandell



Abigail Hillegas

There's no day like a snow day

By Nathan Snyder
North Team

Even though we are probably done having snow, some of the eighth-graders and teachers on the North team told me what they do on snow days.

Tyler Reimer said he wakes up early because there is no point in wasting the day. He plays video games and goes sledding on rails to trails and at West End Park.

Cubby George said that he wakes up at 8 a.m. and plays X-Box until noon, then he eats breakfast.

He usually has a friend come over and they have a party. After his friends leave, he eats dinner, takes a shower, then watches Tosh.O.

Dan Fine says that he sleeps in and goes snowboarding with friends.

Mrs. Filipovits says that she sleeps in and watches the news and then goes out sledding with her kids. Mrs. Flip says that she doesn't like snow days.

Mr. Battista said that he sleeps in and then goes out and shovels. Then he either goes sledding with his kids or goes to play video games with his kids. Mr. Battista said he likes to have snow days as long as there isn't a ton of them. Hopefully, we are done with snow for this year.



West team helps feed the community

By Jose Avila

West Team

This year for the first time, the West Team did a community service project. Mrs. Walter's and Mrs. Becker's homerooms were chosen to help with community service first.

We went to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. Before we went to the food bank, everybody thought it would be boring, but when we got there, we all had a great time!

While we were there, we grouped cans and organized books into boxes.

Also, we had an assembly line and were passing down 5-pound bags of potatoes.



(Left) Jasmine Morales and Nichole Henritz help carry food on the West team's trip to the local food bank. (Right) Dawson Zadzora was happy to help carry items.



No one expected that helping others could be so much fun! We are happy to say we made a

change in the world by helping to feed families.

Student teacher helps SouthEast team

By Kianna Marlatt

SouthEast Team

As many of you know, there was a student teacher in town. Her name is Mrs. Treant. Mrs. Treant was in Mr. Barnes' room as she student-taught for English. She will be graduating from Kutztown University this year and has high hopes to become an English teacher.

She specializes in secondary education English. She loves the subject and really wishes to teach it. She always used to tell our class about how she would stay up until 5 a.m. just to finish a book.

That shows true dedication right there! Her two favorite book series are the Twilight series and the Harry Potter series.

Mrs. Treant said she really enjoyed teaching both the 7th and 8th graders on the SouthEast team. She said, "I felt like I had a really good relationship with the kids."

Since she had such a good relationship with all the kids, she shared some interesting things about herself with us as we did



with her.

Her favorite color is hot pink, her favorite food is chicken fingers, she is married, she snowboards, she was a ballerina, she is a video gamer and a movie fan.

Her favorite movies are Dr.

Parnasseus Imaginarium and the Nightmare Before Christmas. Mrs. Treant left us on March 4, 2011.

We all wish her the best of luck and hopefully we will see her sometime in the near future.

We the People

Introverted, pale and
disconnected.

Ostracized, and wonderfully
rejected.

Place your lies upon my feet;
there is no way to be discreet.

Only anger at the face,
that mirrors back
with dark disgrace.

A symbol to see,
the dead die free,
in the hungry
“Land of Liberty.”

Augmented promises,
and hollow screams.

Say goodbye to all your dreams.

We'll rock your body
and free your mind,
offer sight to the
perpetually blind.

Give a seat to the legless one,
spit a speech,
and grab your gun.

Through your mind,
unto the wall,
the shapeless figure
soon will crawl.

So scrape your skulls, and
purge your hold.
A non-stop party
we can't control.

Forever selling your broken
souls, forgiveness bought,
is never sold.

Soon to be
your new best friend,
shadow of doubt until the end.

So stain your eyes, and
sell your lies, and bring this
world to its demise.

Honestly, I wouldn't care.
Push the button
and say a prayer.

~ Eric A. Maki ~

West student walks for the March of Dimes

By Kasey Wayda

West Team

For five years, I have been participating in something called the March of Dimes Walk-a-Thon.

You might have heard of this before but for those of you who have not, it is a foundation that researches why children are born

smallest thing, you can help save a baby's life. If anyone is interested in walking with my team in the Walk-a-Thon, here are the details: It is at Dorney Park and about 5 miles long. You get a lot of free handouts (so bring a bag). Afterwards, you get to have lunch for free. The walk is on Sunday, April 17 (Palm Sunday) and it starts around 10 a.m.



premature and tries to get donations for further research.

Although I was not born premature, I still like to walk and collect sponsors for the people that aren't as lucky as I was to be born healthy. Some of the stories you hear when you have a team in the Walk-a-Thon and you have to go to the team kick-off and actually see the people tell their stories like I had to.

It is a very emotional thing to witness. Every year I walked, it was very successful and by doing the

If you are interested, you can let me know anytime with any questions and if you are interested but cannot walk because of other plans, you can still see me for a sponsor paper.

If you want a way to help but don't think you can walk or get sponsors, you can buy purple bracelets from me for \$2 a piece and the proceeds will all go to the March of Dimes. This is something that is really important to me and I hope that you can now see why. Thank you for reading.

Sinking our fangs into the 21st century Vampire Revolution

By **Melanie Campbell**
SouthEast Team

Vampires are everywhere, right? That's the 21st century "thing" today. It's all about vampires and werewolves. Mostly the vampires. How are vampires now changing the effect on people on what vampires were thought to be like a while ago? Let's take a trip down memory lane.

"Les Vampires" was the very first vampire movie that hit off in 1915. It was originally released in France. *That* started the hit on Vampires. "Nosferatu" was the second vampire movie to come out. This was the huge hit for vampires. This movie came out in 1922. The original language of the movie was German and was released in Germany. Now we go to a little bit more familiar territory.

"Dracula" was released in 1931. It was originally released in the USA. The vampires were forgotten for nine years until *Dracula* was released. "Vampyr" was released a year after *Dracula*. It was released in France and Germany. "Condemned To Live" was released in 1935. It was originally released in the USA. "Mark of the Vampire" was released the same year as "Condemned To Live." "Dracula's

Daughter" was released in 1936. "The Return of Doctor X" was released in 1939.

More vampire movies were

how everyone looked on vampires. But in all seriousness, it started off one of the major takes on the vampires.

Now, let's come back to the present. The movies you have are "True Blood," "The Vampire Diaries," "The Twilight Saga," "Underworld," "The Vampire's Assistant," "Vampires Suck," etc. There are so many movies that take a different role on vampires. Vampires are supposed to be blood-sucking demons, but while they are in some of the movies and TV series, they aren't. Why are vampires so big in the 21st century?

My guess it is because they make the vampires seem so harmless and so, not...hurtful? They make them caring and loving. "True Blood" does take a role like that, but you actually have the vampires who have fangs and drink blood, human blood. But yet, vampires aren't suppose to fall in love with humans, but with those of their own kind. I guess people think it's better if vampires do. In "True Blood" they do.

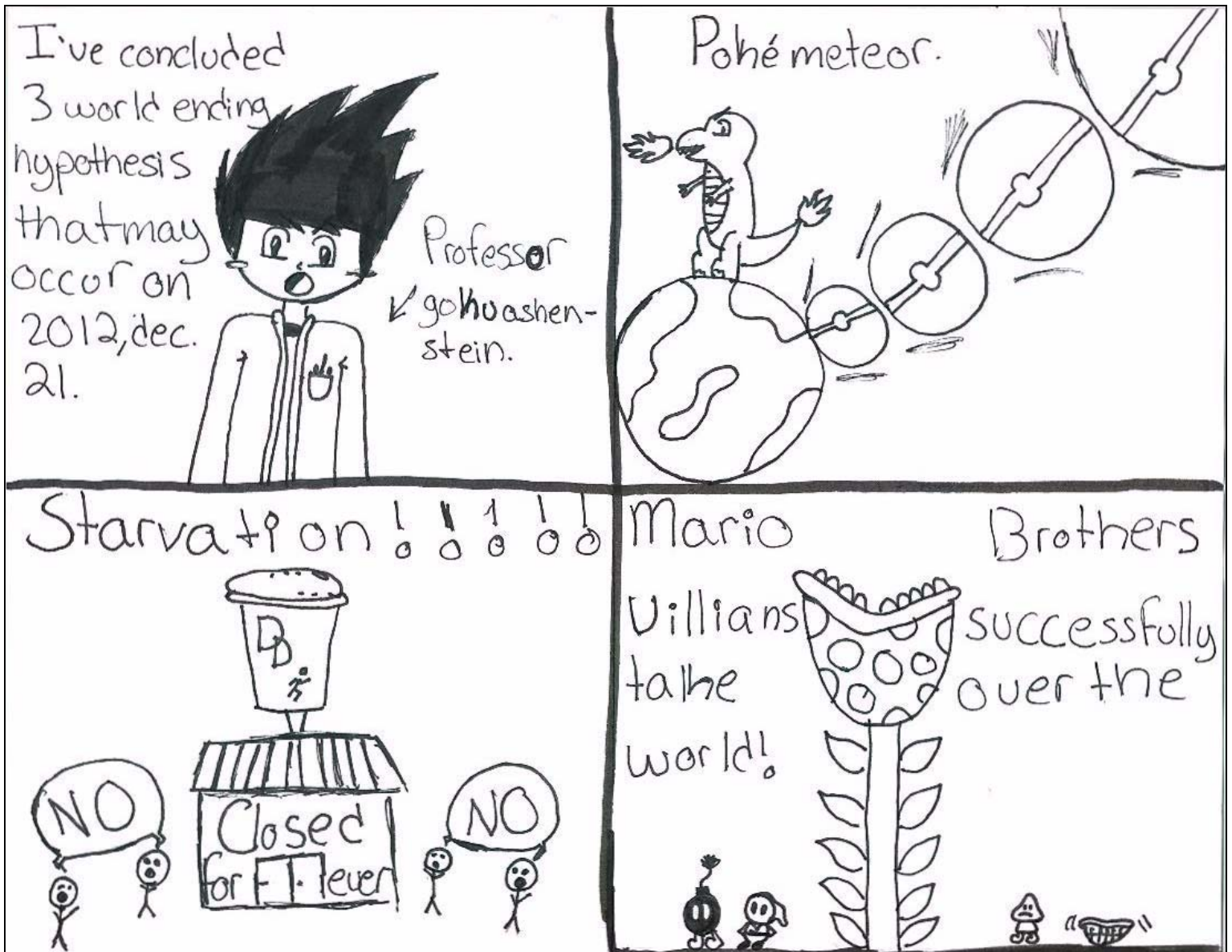
People seem to like the whole bad-vampire thing, too! Honestly, I don't care, whichever works for me. What's it with these writers and changing the whole vampire concept?

See Vampires, page 18



between 1941-1970, 1971-1980, 1981-2010. "Interview with a Vampire" was a start on how people really looked on vampires. It was the more adult version on

Into the minds of Ambur Ringler and Cubby George



Shedding some darkness on vampires

Vampires, from page 17

To what I've seen they are just looking for a new way to write vampires, to experiment with the "Vampire World." Now we have book writers changing the vampire outlook. Like in the "House of Night" when you're a vampire, you are considered *marked*. A

hunter comes to your school and announces in front of everyone that you are to be moved to the "House of Night." In "Twilight" you are changed into a vampire by venom and they don't have fangs.

There are *so* many more concepts that I would go into. I don't like the way they are changing the world of vampires, but I think I

will just settle for it!

I mean, it can't be that bad. They do have some really good ideas, but I think if they went to the more original version of the vampires, everyone would understand more and would know that there are many ways into the vampire world.



OPINION

It's OK to do what *you* feel is right

Peer pressure has no place in a confident young person's life

I'm sure everyone has been pressured into doing something. Teenage years are rough. It's all about fitting in and getting things right.

Between middle school and high school, everyone is going to change. Whether it's a tiny bit or a whole lot. I mean, nothing stays the same forever, but the reasons we're going to change have a bunch to do with the groups of people we are friends with.

Many more people are going to get into drugs and alcohol next year. I asked my older brother about high school the other day.



Cat Maniscalco

He told me it is only fun for the parties. He wasn't a partier and he said he hated high school. I guess it is different for everyone.

For instance, I am the type of person that *doesn't* need drugs or alcohol to have fun.

I think I'll like high school just because it's four more years I get to spend with my best friends.

Another example is Anna Barnett. She has a natural high. She lives life to the fullest. In all honesty, I don't think she will ever touch drugs. If someone tries pressuring you to do things that

you really don't want to do, just say no. If that person ends your friendship because of it, so what? If they leave you because you have morals, they aren't even worth your time.

Alcohol, drugs, and all of that other stuff have consequences. Besides the fact that you're "dead" if you get caught, it is super unhealthy, not that I even have to say that. There is a reason smoking and drinking is illegal for us. It's your life and you'll do as you please with it, but think before you do it.

I'm 13 and happy to say I haven't touched drugs or alcohol and I don't plan on it anytime soon.

CPR, intramurals and volleyball winners

CPR Certifications

Congratulations to the following students who earned their **American Red Cross CPR certification** last January 2011. The NLMS is a safer place because of their knowledge: Cassie Zaleski, Bryce Greene, Nichole Henritzky, Kasey Wayda, Kayla Belles, Rebecca Blocker, Taylor Duplaga, Meghan Miller-Brown, Jarret Berger, Alex Krotzer, Nina Schnyder. Mothers:

Sharon Schnyder, Donna Lobach-Berger.

NLMS sports intramurals

The following after-school net sports intramurals, including volleyball, badminton, ping-pong and tennis, will be held from 2:15 to 4 p.m. on the following dates: March 28, 30; April 4, 6, 11 and 13, with a pizza party on April 18. Permission slips must be given to

Mrs. Raber.

Volleyball Winners

In 7th grade, the victorious volleyball teams were: Period 1: Monsters; Period 2: Pretty Princesses; Period 3: Synergy. In 8th grade, the victorious volleyball teams were: Period 4: Anonymous; Period 6: Crazy Ballers; Period 7: Quack Attack.



OPINION

Don't be afraid to just love on Valentine's Day

Why is there just one Valentine's Day? Because if you love someone, you should express your love to them every second of your life. So to us, and hopefully everybody, Valentine's Day is every day.

We know not everybody has somebody in their life, but whether it's a true love or your family and friends, you should express your love to them all the time.

You have to know words aren't everything; you have to prove yourself and prove your love. If you tell your friend you love them, prove it. Don't go and talk about them behind their



Alex Garcia & Anna Barnett

backs. If you do that to anyone, you don't totally love them.

When you are in love, you have to gain confidence, stand up, and be strong for the person you love. Showing your love is impor-

tant so prove that you aren't like everyone else.

Stick to your opinions, your passion and your love. That is what we think Valentine's Day is all about: proving yourself.

Doing something you never thought you could do, it should give you a confidence boost; and when everyone tells you how that person isn't good enough, and you can do better, just stand up.

Prove why you love them and how they are your life.

Trust us, eventually they realize what you're doing. So every Valentine's Day, prove yourself: build the confidence and don't be afraid to just love.

Random gripes from a particular eighth-grader

Man, it feels good to be back writing for the paper. I've got some exciting stuff to talk about, so let's get rolling!

The thing that irks me the most is when people try to help you with stuff and then they wind up not helping you at all. Sure, they are trying to be friendly but c'mon, man, let me do my work the way I want to do it and get it



Ryan Rubio

done. Some people just want too much control.

Another thing that just gets at me is when people never shut up. For instance, if you're in class trying to take notes and someone near you is messing around and talking to someone or making noises, I can't concentrate. Dude, shut up!

It's one thing when the teacher

is talking and then the teacher realizes this and tells that person to be quiet.

It's different when you're trying to do something and people just keep talking and talking like they can't stop.

Seriously, be quiet and do your work. That's what you're here for; to *learn*, not socialize.

So that's what irks me about people. I'll be back with some more good stuff later. For now, peace people!



OPINION

Everybody needs somebody to love

February 14th – everyone knows the date, right? Valentine’s Day: a day made just to celebrate all of the love in our lives. Whether it’s your family and friends, or that special someone, I think Valentine’s Day is the perfect day to let the people in your life know just how much you care.



Julie Knerr

Those three words that Valentine’s Day is based on can mean so much.

Although Valentine’s Day isn’t the biggest holiday of the year, I think it is a really great holiday. Not only is it an important holiday, but I have to admit it: it’s a really sweet holiday, too.

I’m sure some of us have imagined that unbelievably roman-

tic moment that could only happen on Valentine’s Day. But just because Valentine’s Day seems to be all about your boyfriend, girlfriend, wife or husband, doesn’t mean you should forget your family and friends.

Think about all the people who have been there for you, said or did something nice for you, or just let you know that they would be there no matter what.

These are the people that Valentine’s Day is all about. Everyone needs someone to love, and that is what makes Valentine’s Day so great.

No one can get through February 14th without realizing there is

someone that they love, and someone who loves them back.

But just because Valentine’s Day is all about love does not mean it cannot be a lot of fun, too. There is the candy, the flowers, and plenty of Valentine’s dances and parties. Our own school sells carnations to students, and we hold a Valentine’s dance every year.

Even if you don’t have a Valentine, you can still treat yourself to a box of chocolates or a carton of conversation hearts, and spend the night at a Valentine’s party or dance with all your friends.

So, no matter what you think the meaning of Valentine’s Day is, we all know the best way to celebrate: make sure to let that special person in your life know that you love them!

Fountain

On the other side
of the mountain,
There’s a lady
who owns a beautiful fountain,
Where the water’s so clear,
That no one has to fear
To drink from
this beautiful fountain,
Owned by the woman
over the mountain.

~ Abigail Hillegas ~

They...

They laugh and taunt and tease.
They have no feelings for anyone
but themselves.
They don’t understand.
They’re harsh and cruel like a
storm sparing nobody’s feelings
but their own.
They don’t know what it’s like to
be ridiculed by their kind.
They are harsh and cruel like a
thunderous storm.

~ Amanna Bradley ~





OPINION

Loving the turtles, but not in a soup

Turtles are the best reptiles ever. They're cute, green and overall amazing. Turtles are more than cute, little playmates though. They're also protectors.

When a turtle bites, it hurts. They don't have teeth, but they still know how to bite. They're more protective than dogs are!



Taylor Duplaga

All turtles are amazing but my favorites are sea turtles. These turtles are hardcore! Right after they're born, it's like a race to live. When they cross their salty finish line that is the ocean, you know they're going to have a long life.

There are many appealing qualities about sea turtles. My favorite is the fact that they (obviously) live in the sea. The ocean is one of my favorite things in the world. That's why I love sea turtles so much. Turtles are the best reptiles in the world. They are protective, funny and adorable. Turtles will help you and also be your best friend. Just don't eat turtle soup because then you will be their number-one enemy.

If a picture paints a thousand words...

By Cassie Zaleski
West Team

I'm a worthless wreck. Who cares about me? Nobody loves me... I'm worth nothing. My name is Janie. Right now, I am underwater with one of those lightning shock balls.

They have always looked and felt so amazing when I put my hand on the shiny, purple zaps of energy. Why not put it under the water?

What would it matter if anything happens to me? That's why I'm a foster; not even my stupid parents loved me. Right before this picture was taken, I was walking onto a beach with the majestic ball in my hands.

I dipped my toe in the ice and cold water. It felt so good on my bare feet. I went in knee-deep. No second thoughts whatsoever. A small fish swiveled across my toes. Right now, I am waist-high in sweet, salt water. I went in the sea as far as my shoulders. I flipped the switch and the shots of energy zapped my palms.

I took in the biggest breath and sank down into the ocean.



The above picture was shown to inspire a writing prompt in Ms. Binder's English class. To the left is Cassie's "inspiration."



OPINION

Our bathrooms are a messy situation

NLMS students seem to have trouble with aim and common courtesy



C.J. Young

According to the Internet, the average person goes to the bathroom three to four times a day. I think that an average Northern Lehigh Middle School student goes to the bathroom three to four times just during school!

I wonder if they really need to go or if they are just trying to get out of class.

I am sure that some students may need to use the bathrooms that often but others just go to the bathroom to horse around and to get out of class. In my opinion, teachers should let you go three or four times per day but if they find out that a student is just fooling around, then they should not allow them to go that often.

Now let's talk about the

bathrooms. The middle school boys bathrooms are not very clean and it is not the custodians' fault. The most unclean bathroom is the one near the art room.

Some of the people that go in this bathroom do not flush the toilets all the time. That is disgusting, right? Why do people think it is funny when they go to the bathroom and don't flush and then other people see it? Or when they splash water all over or leave paper towels lying around, do they not have manners or are they just too lazy to pick up after themselves?

The bathroom near the gym is fairly clean. The last time I went in there, some of the toilets did not have people's "waste" in them. This bathroom is not nearly as bad as the one near the art room. The cleanest boys' bathroom is the one near the auditorium.

Every time I go in there, the toilets are the cleanest of all the bathrooms and people do not mind using this bathroom. We should all do our part to keep all of our bathrooms clean!



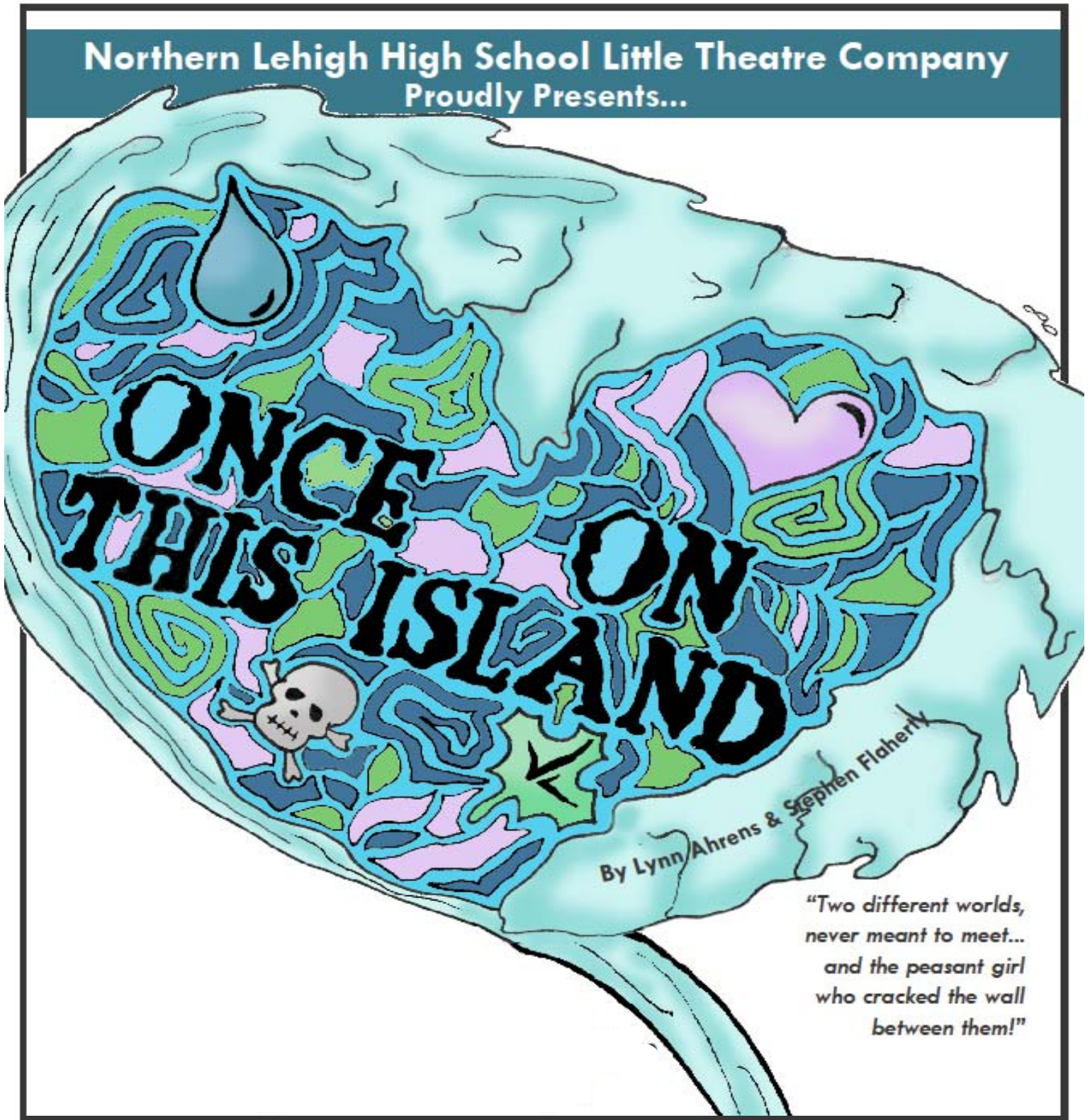
Shannon Begley

First of all, the bathrooms are disgusting! At least the girls' bathrooms are. There is never any soap in the bathroom. We want it to be a clean school but how can we when we can't even wash our hands?

Also, the floor is always dirty. I mean, it's not that hard to keep the bathrooms clean for everyone.

And, people, you really should keep the stalls clean. This is not your house, it's a school. Other people use these things, too.

The point I'm trying to get across is the bathrooms are in desperate need of help and it's you, our peers, who are making them a mess, so please keep them clean!



The Bulldog Bark proudly congratulates Northern Lehigh Middle School students who rocked the stage in this year's musical, "Once On This Island." Participants were Jacob Heintzelman, Matthew Pender, Nathan Rex, Noah Freudenberger, Veronica Green, Rebecca Blocker, Amanna Bradley, Emily Clements, Meghan Miller-Brown, and Mrs. Reiter as vocal director. You were all awesome and made the middle school proud!