

THE DRAGON

The Student
Newspaper for
Middlesex Middle
School!

DRAGON Debuts as First Quarter Closes

The following is a message from this year's student co-editors...

Dear Middlesex Students,

Hello to everyone, especially those who are here for the first time. From the youngest 6th grader to the oldest 8th grader, all of our paths have converged here at Middlesex.

As another school year is off and running, we are sure many of us are excited about the months ahead.

Thankfully, the new academic year has much in store. The magazine drive and the 8th grade trip to Boston may be over, but there is much more to come.

The Variety Show 3 is only 24 hours away. The 6th grade trip to Colebrook and Ivoryton is right around the corner. Local field trips will also be interspersed throughout the rest of the year.

Besides activities that take us outside of our normal environment, it is important to take advantage of outreach opportunities inside our community. Some examples of these at our school include Kindness Counts, Darien a Darien, UNICEF, and team service projects.

However, it is important to remember that learning is the most important part of any school year and the reason we're here in the first place. We have arrived here with different interests and hobbies. These may range from sports, to arts, to music.

Even though we may be different, we need to take advantage of what our school offers us. Middlesex provides so many op-

portunities. Balancing academic classes and concentrating on our talents is what makes us well-rounded people.

Sixth graders, you come from smaller elementary school environments, and are just beginning to realize that you are diving into a school where independence is more important than ever before. This is one of the key lessons that middle school teaches, as well as providing new friends, experiences, and teachers. We can assure you that it will be a memorable three years.

Seventh graders, you're not new to the school, but you're not the oldest, either. You're right in the middle. Some may say that you're entering the most academically challenging year of middle school and some of you may have already felt the burn. You've probably got the words responsibility and organization drilled into your head. You know that there isn't a trip to Boston or a super exciting field trip to look forward to, and will discuss this fact incessantly throughout the year. But don't worry; you'll still get breaks during fun team activities like Latin America Day, and field trips to Costco and the sewage treatment plant.

And now for the eighth graders, you've been here for two years now, and you know all the ropes. At times, we have the inclination to lord over the younger grades, but we encourage you to still be respectful. We're well on our way to our best year at Middlesex, and although we might already guess the highlights of the

year, it's still as much as a mystery to you as it is to us. We've been assured by older kids that eighth grade is a year to remember. Before we know it, we'll be at the promotion ceremony, and summer and high school will be just around the corner.

Regardless of how old you are or what grade you're in, we need to make the most of the school year. But being part of a team or a club is only half of it. This year, whether you're a returning student or a new 6th grader, look out for those opportunities. Each and every one of us can be powerful, but when we come together as a school and a community, we're unstoppable.

Sixth graders, even though you're new, don't let that get in your way. Go out of your comfort zone, because this is your opportunity to take a chance.

Seventh graders, it's your year to work hard in all your classes and excel in whatever you love to do. It may be a challenging year, but it will all be worth it once you make it to eighth grade.

Eighth graders, this is your last year at Middlesex; make the most of it! It's your last chance to make a name for yourself before you enter high school; you want to start off on the right foot.

And from all of us at *The Dragon*, we wish you a great school year and hope to see you around in the halls!

Sincerely,

Barbara Bell & Cameron Van de Graaf
Dragon Student Co-Editors

New Student Council Announced

On Monday, the Student Council elections took place. As in year's past, each candidate gave a speech making a variety of campaign promises.

The usual promises of spirit days and fundraisers were bolstered this year by calls for more variety in the cafeteria and a return to recycling. One 8th grader even performed a rap!

The Dragon is happy to announce this year's Student Council members. Check back in our December issue for profiles one the candidates and find out ways for you to get involved here at MMS.

The Dragon would also like to thank Ms. Warren and Mrs. Ascone for providing the following election results.

Your 2009-2010 Student Council

Grade 6

P. Adams

Laine Blummer

Will Collier

Grade 7

RJ Clasby

Brendan Ferguson

Taichi Kobayashi

Grade 8

Olivia Piazza

Matt Ross

Juliet Ruhe

Morgan Sawitsky

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Review: Find Adventure with Percy Jackson

By: Dominick Wood, Bronze Team

Looking to find adventure, action, a little romance and a lot of fantasy all rolled up between two covers? Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson and the Olympians series is a great choice for you.

Twelve year old Percy Jackson thought he was a not-so-normal kid because of his ADHD and dyslexia. He had no idea as to the extent of his abnormality.

It all started when his math teacher turned into a carnivorous servant of Hades. He thought it was a hallucination, but all is revealed when a vacation to Montauk turns into a half man-half bull fight. Some of this may sound familiar to some people. That's right; it is based on Greek mythology.

After the rodeo, he finds that he is not alone. ADHD and dyslexia are both signs that a person is only half human. The other half is pure power. The source? Gods.

ADHD is a sign that a person should be in the battlefield, not in the classroom. Dyslexia means that the brain is hardwired for ancient Greek, not English.

A summer camp full of mythological creatures and other children of the gods all come to train with the immortal Chiron and

camp director, the forever drunk Dionysus, god of wine.

Here's what one fan has to say about it, "When I come across a book I REALLY, really like, I have an annoying (well, annoying to my friends) habit of becoming obsessed with it. Fortunately or unfortunately, probably my top current obsession is the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series.

"There are hardly ever minutes where you just sit reading a page that the author put there just to be there- every page has a purpose; a purpose full to the brim with action. In the later books there is also some romance, but nowhere near enough to make you gag your head off, like a certain vampire romance series I've heard of," says one sixth grader.

Even adults will enjoy this action packed suspenseful novel, as did my aunt Donna, "A great book all around, with romance, action, adventure and mythological contents, all incorporated into one. The incorporation of Greek mythology was fantastically interwoven. A great book for all ages, from 10 to 110. I laughed at every chapter name. I highly recommend it for anyone who loves reading!"

Opinion: Give Kids "Credit"-We can handle it!

By Breana DelGatto, Bronze Team

Math, science, and social studies are all important subjects to learn. But what about managing your money? Should parents be responsible for teaching their kids about credit cards or should the school be?

First, what is a credit card? According to the dictionary, a credit card is a part of a system of payments named after the small plastic card issued to the users. The issue of a card grants a line of credit to the user, from which the user can borrow money for payment to a merchant or as a cash advance to the user.

Teenagers around the world are in style wanting designer clothes, cell phones, iPods and cosmetics. Video games like Xbox and Play Station require expensive software packages.

Being in fashion or having the latest video games is expensive. How do teenagers and pre teens get these hot items? Many rely on their parents credit cards.

This raises the question of whether MMS students are responsible enough to handle their own credit cards and what do they really know about how a credit card works.

MMS student Brandon DelGatto says, "I think the students at MMS are able to handle money, and if they can they should have their own credit card, but with a certain limit they can spend. I'm in the 6th grade and almost a teenager, and I feel I know how to

manage money carefully."

Although Brandon feels he is ready to have his own credit card, he wants it to have a limit that he can spend. Brandon learned about credit cards from his parents. But what if parents don't teach their kids about managing money at home? Should it be the job of the school?

Morgan Cockerall, 6th grader at MMS agrees. "It would be a good idea to learn about how to use credit cards at school. I would take (a credit card education) course because it could prepare me for when I'm an adult, and yes I think we are responsible enough!

MMS 6th grader Tina Glekas says, "I think students in MMS are responsible enough to handle money and credit cards. I would definitely take the course, because I think that it would help me get prepared to handle money for when I'm older. Practice makes perfect!

Although several MMS students feel the course would be worthwhile, others don't agree.

Sixth grader Claire Lincoln says, "I think the course is a good idea because it teaches kids how to handle credit cards when they get older, but I wouldn't take the course because I think it would be boring!"

Whether or not one agrees with taking a course, at some point everyone will need to learn how and when to responsibly use a credit card.

Opinion: iPod—A Persistent Proposition

By Brendan Ferguson, Gold Team

A controversy here at MMS has students concocting plots to change these halls forever. This idea is to allow iPods within the MMS fortress.

The school's present policy is to forbid the use of iPods or any electronic devices inside of the school.

This grudge match of David vs. Goliath has not sprouted recently; this controversy has been going on for quite a while. Winding the clocks back a year ago, a then 7th grader, Amanda Miller and friends, started a petition that received nearly 250 signatures to allow iPod while running the mile in gym class.

A 7th grader, Timmy Lochtefeld excitedly says, "It would be great if we got to run the mile with iPods. It would get me excited to run the mile."

In another event last year, now 9th grader, Timmy Sestak, produced a comic for the December edition of the Dragon about iPods being allowed in study halls. Though the purpose for this article was to entertain, it showed how much of a desire students have for their iPods. It is obvious that much of the student body agrees on allowing iPods in school.

I believe that students should be allowed to use iPods in school. However, they should only be allowed to in the appropriate situation. These times include while running the mile and in study hall.

Students would have to keep the volume at a level where they can hear the bell ring or a teacher's orders, and not disturb the fellow students around them. If the student can obey these rules, then he/she should be permitted to use iPods in school at the right times.

It is believed by many that when listening to exhilarating music, people can perform at a higher level of play, mentally and physically. Who doesn't want to do better on the mile?

This higher level of achievement can also apply to mental situations, including study hall. Art teachers put on music during art class, so why not in study hall? Some even say that they feel better with the music on.

One of these includes Noah Morgan, a 7th grader. He states, "The music relaxes me. I feel that I perform much better with it on."

If it is relaxing in art, then it can be in study hall also. My time here at Middlesex is becoming less and less by the second. Why not end on a good note?



Eighth Grade Staff Members Reflect on the Boston Trip

Compiled by our 8th Grade Staff

Whether you have an older sibling or not, the reputation of the Boston trip for the 8th graders is legendary and often the highlight of every year.

This year, *The Dragon* staff has put together their favorite memories from a truly great trip.

The Blue Man Experience

At a little past 7:30 the first night, the doors to the Charles Theater opened, and 400+ students rushed inside a theatre barely half the size of our own DHS auditorium.

From there, ushers lead us to our designated rows where we sat with our chaperones. But that wasn't all. I was sitting in the third row, so when I got to my seat, I found a poncho tucked behind my chair. My friends and I were all confused because we had no idea what was going on. By the time the show had actually started, all our hearts were pumping twice their normal speed.

That's when three men emerged in all blue face paint, staring out at our curious expressions. Throughout the show, they banged drums, launched marshmallows and Jello into the air, and even ate Twinkies. The show was unlike any other performance I'd ever seen.

I giggled along with my friends nervously, waiting for something to fall out of the ceiling or catapult off the stage. Thankfully, nothing hit us. For the grand finale, hundreds of rolls of toilet paper were dropped from the ceiling, leaving every audience member covered from head to toe.

Between their interaction with the audience and their crazy stunts, Blue Man Group was the highlight for many people that first night in Boston. By the time we stepped out into the cold again, you wouldn't believe that we'd been up for 15 hours by the shouting and laughter that filled the alleyway as we boarded our buses and headed to the hotel.

- *Barbara Bell*

Almost everything in Boston was a favorite moment for me, but there was one event that was above them all: the Blue Man Group.

My chaperone had told us that we were going to be in the first row of the balcony, I was relieved to know that I wasn't going to be pelted with any object flying in my direction.

Yet when we came in contact with our usher they guided us to the third row smack dab in front of the stage! Immediately my heart starting racing and adrenaline was running through my veins.

Through the terror I felt anxious to see what the show was like. When it finally began it was truly amazing.

One of the qualities that made it so fantastic was that they didn't say a word; they

just exhibited certain behavior that built suspense to keep the audience involved and attentive to their every action.

If you or someone you know gets the chance to go to one of their shows, you should really take the opportunity because it really is the experience of a life time.

- *Kelly Brustman*

Salem Experience

My favorite part of Boston was Salem. In Salem, we learned about the Salem Witch trials. We watched a short play on one of the trials, and it just made me wonder, how could the judge and other people have believed what the girls who accused other people of being witches!

The accusers were the ones who were going crazy. They were pretending to imagine things. They had no proof of the accusation they were making and their actions were having people imprisoned and killed. It was also so horrible to see what the witch prison cells looked like. So many people were kept in the dark in cells for so long, there were no toilets, no running water, and they were innocent the whole time. There were even some babies that were kept down there during the trials!

I can't imagine having to stay down there for even a day, especially knowing I wasn't guilty! I thought Salem was a very interesting way to learn about these trials; actually going to Salem made me realize what these people were actually going through at the time, and how hard it must have been.

- *Anna Leunis*

Bus Experiences

While on Bus #7, driving to the buffet restaurant on the second day, Mr. Heher suddenly raised his hand in a fist. He then exclaimed "Do what I do".

Most everyone on the bus followed. Next, he stuck his thumb up, and the, down. "Now shout boo!" he yelled. Unaware of our surroundings, the majority of the bus did shout "Boo"... and most were Red Sox fans. What they didn't realize was that this was while we passed Fenway Park. I'm just glad I'm not a Red Sox fan!

- *Austin McLaughlin*

Dance Party

It's Thursday night. Everybody was exhausted after a long day of visiting battlefields and witch dungeons. The last thing they could think about doing was going to a dance for two-plus hours.

Loud music, a hot room, and to top it off, teacher supervisors, didn't exactly make it seem any better. By 7 o'clock everyone was dressed up and heading down to eat some pizza, eager to share their various experiences on the bus that day.

Starving, the pizza was gulped down in no time, and students started to hang out in the ballroom, where the dance was being held. Soon, the music started and before you knew it, the teachers had started dancing and acting crazier than the 8th graders!

The highlight of the night was definitely when Mr. Sorensen started belting out 'Journey' along with everyone else, but always one key off. After a while, the DJ convinced the teachers to let him turn off the lights and blare the music even louder than ever, meant to wake up the entire hotel.

The dance at Boston was a nice way for everyone to just chill and let go of all their stress from the last two days. After all, what happens in Boston will always stay in Boston.

- *Sandhya Avula*

A Final Reflection

As I gaze upon the countryside while the trip draws to a close, I contemplate the grand scope of the world rushing by.

Rather than focusing on any one particular facet of nature, I take it all in. At the same time, I reflect on the historical nature of the trip, and all the sites we visited.

From Lexington to the Bunker Hill monument, it all represents an important period in our country's history.

- *Cameron Van de Graaf*

"My Boston Memories"

Boston memories, Oh, so sweet.

One of my favorites was when we got to eat, Plates and plates of steaming hot food, Where our mouths chewed and chewed.

I know when I look back I'll smile. I'll laugh at the time when Bryn and Alex made up the best "secret" handshake (they probably put it on Facebook). I'll laugh at Tegan and I trying to eat Smarties, and I'll laugh at the hot shower incident.

But another memory was at the dance, All the teachers were busting out their moves.

Mr. Heher wore my broken purple cheetah glasses and sweatpants, Ha, so cool. It reminded me that that teachers aren't vampires that sleep in coffins after school.

Thanks to my room mates, who made sleeping on the couch a little bit more bearable. Thanks to my chaperone, Mrs. Baldyga, I hope we weren't terrible. Boston memories, oh so sweet.

When I look back, I smile. I smile at all of the memories made in Boston.

- *Juliet Ruhe*

Variety Show 3: Fun for you and me!

By Mr. Smith, Special Contributor

The third fund-raising variety show, featuring both students and teachers, will be presented in the MMS auditorium this Thursday evening, November 5th, at 7:00.

All proceeds will benefit our sponsored Nicanor School in the remote province of Darién, Panamá - that portion of the Central American rainforest which gave our town its name.



This year's Variety Show hosts pose in their traditional garb. Check out all the great performances this Thursday! (Photo courtesy of Mr. Smith)

Our hope is to be able to acquire a playground for the Nicanor School, and possibly a fence to surround the property.

Because of student and faculty support for the first two variety shows, the small Nicanor School now has a computer lab, library, poultry facility, renovated classrooms with new tile floors, and both interior and exterior kitchen facilities. We hope to put the proverbial icing on the cake with this third big benefit performance.

Tickets for **Variety Show 3**, available for \$10 apiece, are still on sale at the time of publication in the main office and in the cafeteria during lunch shifts. The last two shows were completely sold out, and numerous people were turned away at the door.

Buying tickets early will reserve your seat for this exciting event. The program, which features instrumental and vocal music, dancing, and exciting vaudeville acts, is Middlesex's biggest opportunity to strengthen the virtual bridge we have constructed between our own Darién and the *original* Darién in the tropical wilderness of Panamá.

It's **Variety Show 3**...where we all ought to be.



Magazine Drive Comes and Goes with Many Changes

By Will Steintal, Green Team

This year's magazine drive brought a lot of change to MMS this year. The company changed from QSP to Great American, and with change comes opinion. All throughout the 7th and 8th grade hallways, there were discussions whether this magazine drive has become better, or worse.

One of the changes came in the form of weepuls no longer being a part of the magazine drive. Instead, ducks in different designs, like American flags and ladybugs, replaced them.

For each of the three turn-in days, if a student sold one magazine, that student received a duck at random. They would also announce the "lucky duck" and if you had it, you got a prize.

Another change was the prizes. This year there were an increased number of gift cards to places like Baskin Robins, Cosi, the mall, and more.

There were also a stunt BMX show that is coming to middle school. In order to see the show you needed three magazine sales by the first turn-in day. Six magazine sales earned you VIP seating for the show, twelve magazine sales earned you a t-

shirt, and with twenty magazine sales, you could meet the riders.

Austin McLaughlin, an 8th grader on the Green Team says, "I miss the prizes from last year, but I am interested in the BMX show."

For another group prize, the top selling homerooms in each grade get to play at the Games2U truck.

"The Games2U truck looks like a lot of fun, but what I really want is a flying alien!" says Coco Steintal, a 6th grader.

This truck holds many different video games including Mario, Madden, and Guitar Hero. Also they set up laser tag around the truck to enjoy. If you're homeroom wins but you don't sell, you can't go on the truck.

Change often times increases the discussions regarding opinion. This magazine drive was definitely unique this year, more so than any other previous drive. One thing for kids to remember is that this is the only fundraiser that funds the school, which they use for field trips, Boston, and Colebrook/Ivoryton, and with total figures coming in somewhere in the five-figure range, we at **The Dragon** hope you all participated and sold as much as possible.

Mrs. Kelly: Mountain Biker Extraordinaire

By Sarah LeHan, Red Team

What comes to mind when the words "English teacher" are mentioned? Reading, writing, correcting quizzes, quoting Shakespeare? Were any of those on your list?

I bet at least one thing was, like reading- that sure was on mine. (Though a teacher would have to be seriously obsessed to quote Shakespeare regularly...)

How about mountain biking? Did that happen to magically teleport itself into your cranium, as ideas sometimes do? If I had to guess, I'd say it never even flashed across your brain.

Well, I'm here to tell you about one very special English teacher.

In a recent discussion with my English teacher, Mrs. Kelly, we talked about her favorite sport: mountain biking.

When I asked Mrs. Kelly how she first took up mountain biking, she said that she once went on a bike ride with her friends where they strayed off the road and onto a nature trail. After seeing how much fun it was venturing off the beaten path, she was hooked.

Mrs. Kelly loves adventure. Also, she had never tried mountain biking before, so she knew it would be a challenge, as well as an adventure: a challenge she was delighted to tackle.

"And then," she said, "I heard there was a race, and I knew it was the sport for me."

Mrs. Kelly has participated in many

mountain biking races, and even come in first place once. When I asked about her favorite memory of mountain biking, she replied, "I'd never won a race in my life and there was a race where I was in fourth place for the whole race [and I was totally fine with that], and then one of the girls in fourth place had a flat tire, and I passed her, and then two girls in second and third struggled up a hill, and I was able to keep riding, and I passed them."

And then, in the final stretch of the race, Mrs. Kelly was just rounding the last bend in the trail, rapidly approaching the finish line. She was just coming out of the woods, with the crowd jumping into view, when she saw the biker in first place, right in front of her!

The crowd started cheering harder, and Mrs. Kelly thought, *Okay, I can do this*, and she pedaled as hard as she could. In the last stretch of the race, she passed the person in first place, winning the race.

The champion mountaineer said that her favorite place to mountain bike was a park in Trumbull, Connecticut called Indian Ledge. She says it's really beautiful, with an incredible river running through it, and every time you look down there are sweeping views of the water.

Mrs. Kelly's advice to someone anxious to start mountain biking is, "Be patient, like anything. You're going to get frustrated when you're learning something new. [Also,] You have to love biking, because you're on that bike for a long time."

Thanks for the interview, Mrs. Kelly!

MMS Post-it Writing Contest Huge Success

In celebration of the National Day of Writing on October 20th, Middlesex took part in the first ever Post-it Writing Contest. Sponsored by the Orange Team, this event took on a school-wide scope as participants from all grade levels, and even staff, took part. The idea was simple: create a piece of writing that could fit on a standard Post-it.

As a tribute to those winners and runners-up, we have posted their work here. A special thanks goes out to Ms. Sacks for organizing the event, Ms. Ryan and the library staff for hosting, and the various staff members who took time to judge the event.

Winners (in no particular order)

I stuffed my bursting bags into the trunk. My small, portable radio crackled. I only caught snippets of the broadcast, but I could tell that the announcer was frantic. "We will try to stay on air as long as possible," the announcer said. "Evacuate carefully—" That was the last thing I heard before a strange buzzing sound erupted from the radio. I heard a scream, and then it went dead. That was when I knew for sure. This was not a drill, and they were coming.
(Ellie Taney, 6, Red)

"Gossip"
Gossip has a snooty, sharp face
She envies everyone
Expressing it by whispers
Her mouth is always moving rapidly
While her beady eyes check for listeners
She appears behind every back
And
Doesn't
Miss
A
Word
(Grace Peter, 6, Orange)

La creatividad esta aqui todo el tiempo.
¿Pero donde esta? Esta en las chamacuitos y en ti. Pero en la escritura. Hay libertad para ser creativo.
(Ryan Hall, 8, Green)

Runners-up (in no particular order)

The morning sun rose bright and high
It triumphed over night
But in the pristine clear blue sky
The stars had lost their light
And as the sun sank back once more
The moon soon took its place
The stars came knocking at the door
To continue the lifelong chase
(Catherine Lacy, 8, Green)

I'm alone
What's that going down my cheek?
Oh, it's just a tear.
I watch, as it falls gently onto my grandfather's empty bed.
(Christina Boccadoro, 7, Gold)

I step into my house to see it looking like it's been ransacked. "Have I been robbed?" Then I see the robber. He wags his tail.

(Celia Rogers, 6, Bronze)

I am me—plain, simple
I am very imperfect but in obvious ways
I can be too trusting and forgiving
Too hyper when people want calm
And too lazy to do anything right
But I stand tall against
The wind of despair.

I laugh in the face of those who
Don't like me
And love with all my heart

So call me whatever
Do mean things to me
Because I don't care
I'm happy with myself
I'm comfortable in my own skin
And that will never change.
(Francesca Bottazzi, 7, Purple)

Success, big muscles, fanning himself with money. Behaves as if he is big, and the world is small. But when he is alone, he thinks of the tremendous sacrifices he has made, and wonders of it was worth it. His children are grown now, it is too late to change things.

(Kate Halabi, 7, Purple)

I woke up to find
Leaves falling swiftly
To the ground.
I woke up to find
A breeze gently
Swaying the trees
All around.
I woke up this morning
To find birds
Chirping one for
All.

I woke up this morning
To a beautiful
Fall.
(Katherine Culliton, 6, Silver)

Anything is possible in hot pink slippers!
(Sam Schrenker, 8, Tan)

A white and red ball is hit. By a Phillies' bat? Caught by a Yankee!
(Matt DeLora, 6, Silver)

School is where people go to learn. Too bad I already know EVERYTHING! Right, Mom?

(Julia Evans, 7, Gold)

The air is still, but I sense movement above. Then she was gone. Taken right out of my arms. I waited in my dark prison but she didn't come back. I'm cold and lonely like night without crickets or fireflies. My world just lost its sun.
(Claire Lincoln, 6, Red)

Bang! The office shook violently. Earthquake! Someone shouted. But it quickly died down. All of a sudden, the weather changed. It was raining, but not water. It was huge chunks of metal burning as they streamed down, passing the office windows. He quickly ran to the scene of the unusual storm. The metal hit the ground so loud that even he could hear it. He stared at the scene below for about half an hour. Until, suddenly, the second plane hit.
(Dedicated to all who died or had someone they loved die, Dylan Bravo, 8, Tan)

Pumpkins on the window sill
Sitting by a cat
A full moon coming.
(Isabelle Burke, 7, Gold)

Hay muchas memorias en la vida; a veces buenas y a veces males. Nunea pierdas tiempo porque todo el tiempo es importante.
(Jackie Brokaw, 8, Green)

Finding yourself is the biggest challenge.
(Corrine Taney, 7, Purple)

The fat stray cat
walked out of the kitchen
licking his lips
(Ben Rucquoi, 6, Bronze)

What would I try if I knew I could NOT fail?
I would write a best seller.
I would walk on a tight rope.
I would run a marathon.
I would climb Mt. Everest.
I would flirt with *him*.
(Savannah Blue Collins, 8, Green)

"Snowboarding"
Reaching top speed
Taking the lead.
My brothers are behind.
I'm getting ready to grind.
I jump on the rail,
I noticed the fresh white powder never looked so pale.
I finished my board slide.
My brothers and I had a great ride.
(Robbie Jutterbock, 8, Tan)

My fingers dance on the violin.
Music flows like a smooth river.
The song keeps going.
The true me lives.

I never want it to end.
(Monet Takeda, 6, Bronze)

Asked for a fish, got a sister.
(Megan Berry, 7, Purple)

This sticky note has endless possibilities.
Too bad one of them is writer's block.
(Jack O'Shea, 7, Blue)

***Congrats to these and all the others we could not fit on this page! Great work MMS!**

Writer's Spotlight

A section dedicated to creative writing from MMS students!

The Flip Side of the Amazon

By Oliver Burke, Bronze Team



The Way I Write

By An Anonymous Student Poet

The way I write
is a jungle.

A mess, a bungle,
unlike the clear cut city,
the residents of which
I sure do pity.

In the jungle
everything is free.
It is all the way it wants to be.

In the jungle
the point is easy to find,
although the details are somewhat
undermined.

In the jungle, a monkey swings,
looking for food,
then suddenly stops to brood.
After which he leaps back into action,
only to stop later at another faction.

In the jungle,
there are many creatures.
But for me it's hard to find the one
with all the best features.
I like the jungle best when it is teaming,
with plants and trees that have more
than one meaning.

The jungle
is the way I like to write,
creative and free, not black and white.
And the way I like to write is me.

The Spotlight Section is dedicated to publishing creative student writing!

The articles in this edition are from issues published last year, as a sample of what you can produce for us!

To go along with our website, we also have a Writer's Spotlight Bulletin Board right outside the main office!

Also, visit THE DRAGON website for more information, and email your original pieces directly to us at

TheDragon@darienps.org

Thank you for your continued support!

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