



**WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**

Holly Ridge Middle School **HORNET HEADLINES**

Pyeong Chang, South Korea 2018 Winter Olympics

By Kailee Hageman

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It may seem like the Olympics are very far away, but it takes a lot of preparation. The 2018 Winter Olympics is going to be held in South Korea. They hope that the Olympics will bring back the nations pride. The Olympics is the biggest sporting event of the year. It helps bring the entire nation together. Many people all around the world watch the Olympics. Every year the Olympics is in a different place, which makes it more special.

During the Olympics the entire world watches and people from all around the world compete in the Olympics. The 2018 Winter Olympics will be held in Pyeong Chang, South Korea. The exact date is February 9-25, 2018. The Olympics are held for entertainment and determines who the best athletes are in the world for each sporting event. The Olympics started in Greece. A Frenchman named Baron Pierre de Coubertin brought back the games or thought of the idea.

The 2018 Winter Olympics will include 3,000 athletes from about 100 nations. This will be the first Olympics held in South Korea. 102 gold medals will be given out. To build the stadium for the Olympics, it will cost \$78 million. The stadium will hold 50,000 people when completed in September.

The entire games will last seventeen days. Olympic.org said, "With Pyeong Chang's strategic position in Asia and it's access to a young and growing youth market, the 2018 Olympic Winter Games will no doubt expose new generations of potential athletes to the power of winter sports."



[<http://www.winterspelen.org/pyeongchang-2018/>]

It will take a while to prepare for the 2018 Olympics. It may seem weird to start talking about the Olympics now, but it's not that far away. Plus it takes a lot of preparation. A year goes by fast and these Winter Games will be here in no time. South Korea is excited to host the Olympics. They have a fair amount of snow perfect for all the snow sporting events. Everyone is hyped for the Pyeong Chang, South Korea 2018 Winter Olympics.

California's Constant Battle with Mother Nature

By Salma Mourad

The state of California has had the worst luck when it comes to nature. Over the summer the state was suffering from sweltering heat and major droughts. The Sacramento River in California shrunk twice in size during the drought. Since then the tales have turned majorly, and the conditions changed drastically. Residents in these California cities, Maxwell, Oroville, Santa Cruz, etc. have had to get evacuated from their homes, because of the dangerous conditions; and it isn't not just a couple of cities in California, it's a third of the state's population was forced to evacuate their homes. These residents were not evacuated because of droughts, rather because of the dangerous flooding that has been taking place recently.

The flooding has affected areas in California like their main rivers. One specific river this has taken a toll on the Sacramento River which has gone above the surface water level due to runoff caused by recent and relentless storms. Another areas are cities in California, specifically areas in north and central California. There has also been a crack in the Oroville dam. This has happened due to the recent Pacific Storm.

California is not the only state that has been dealing with these problems lately. Even North Carolina has been experiencing these strange behaviors in the weather. North Carolina experienced a reduce in rain but during the winter we had a terrible hurricane. Hurricane Matthew still has flooding damage even today. I asked a fellow student Pooja Surti this is what she said about the subject, "I'm not sure, and I heard it had something to do with global warming, maybe that's it?" According to Pooja it may be related to global warming but until it's proved it's just a theory. So all of our hearts go to the people in California and all over America who are going through all of these abnormal weather challenges.

Louisiana Tornadoes

By Ben Kingsland

On February 7th, 2017 tornadoes touched down in the southeast part of Louisiana. Seven different tornadoes touched down. At 11:00 A.M the first tornado touched down in Killian, Louisiana. Every tornado that touched down was part of one big storm that swept through Louisiana. There was major damage in some parts of Louisiana. Governor John Bel Edwards declared a state of emergency. At least twenty people were injured. No one died though. Fifteen thousand people were without power. There were gas leaks all around Louisiana. If fire touched gasoline it could cause an explosion.

There are different ways to protect yourself in a tornado. If you buy a weather radio you will get alerts if there is bad weather in your vicinity. When your local weather service issues a tornado warning, you immediately take cover in a small confined area on the first floor in your house. Kids should wear bicycle helmets to protect their heads from flying debris. If you don't have a bicycle helmet you can put pillows over your head. If there is a window in your bathroom you must move to a small closet. Flying glass can be dangerous. Meteorologists use a scale called the Fujita scale to determine how dangerous a tornado is. Refer to Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: Fujita Scale

SCALE	WIND SPEED	POSSIBLE DAMAGE
F0	40-72 mph	Light damage: Branches broken off trees; minor roof damage
F1	73-112 mph	Moderate damage: Trees snapped; mobile home pushed off foundations; roofs damaged
F2	133-157 mph	Considerable damage: Mobile homes demolished; trees uprooted; strong built homes unroofed
F3	158-206 mph	Severe damage: Trains overturned; cars lifted off the ground; strong built homes have outside walls blown away
F4	207-260 mph	Devastating damage: Houses leveled leaving piles of debris; cars thrown 300 yards or more in the air
F5	261-318 mph	Incredible damage: Strongly built homes completely blown away; automobile-sized missiles generated

Modern Day Slavery

By Claire Dates

Although slavery is now illegal everywhere, modern forms of it still exist. Between twenty and thirty million people are being forced into work. It is all over the world, but mostly in Asia. For many decades people have used this in order to make a better profit.

Every three out of one thousand people are modern day slaves. Although this does not sound like a lot, it rounds out to around twenty five million people. These people are forced to work through violence or intimidation, they earn very little to no pay.

You may be wondering what people are doing to help, in the year 2000 the USA passed a Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). It focused on prevention, protection for victims, and prosecution for traffickers. Then, in 2003, 2005, and 2008 the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA). The TVPRA made it so departments of labor have to publish a list of products produced by forced labor.



There are not just laws being passed to help this issue. If anyone is experiencing forced labor or even just seeing signs of it, they can call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center line, 1 (888) 373-7888. There are also people volunteering at anti-trafficking events. You can join current fundraisers for human trafficking. Human trafficking month is in January and human trafficking day is on January 11th.

Immigration

By Saniya Chambers

President Donald Trump signed an executive order on January 20, 2017 to deport criminal illegal immigrants from the United States of America. Trump is trying to ban traveling from the countries of Libya, Sudan, Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Iran and Somalia.

Immigrants are being deported from the United States back to Mexico. Immigrants started being deported on January 20th, 2017. Trump thinks that illegal immigrants should go back to where they came from and he has plans to build a wall to stop immigrants from illegally crossing the border.

Trump has planned to enforce more air security. There are already coast guards and border guards to monitor and stop illegal immigration. Trump plans to build a wall that is one thousand nine hundred miles long and would cost between 2.8 million and 3.9 million dollars. Trump believes the world would be a safer place without immigrants (CNN News). He thinks this will prevent terrorist attacks and any other problems that might be caused by immigrants. For example, around the world in places like Sudan and Iraq where several ISIS terrorists have caused issues and endangered the United States, as well as other countries.



[ABCNews.com]

Country Split over South Korean Impeachment

By Salma Mourad

On Sunday March 12th, 2017 the first woman South Korean president, becomes the first democratically elected president to get impeached. President Park Geun-hye was impeached by unanimous vote by the constitutional court. The cause of her impeachment stems from a bizarre scandal. The President and her friend Choi Soon-il both extracted bribes and asked big businesses for donations. Geun-hye leaked private information to Choi Soon-il, and then proceeded to lie about it to cover up her tracks. Samsung itself was accused of giving 37 million dollars to the pair. To make matters worse, Choi Soon-il is the daughter of a Shaman Cult leader, and convinced Geun-hye to stream millions of dollars into the cult, and won favors for her family's Shaman cult.

Outrage has erupted all over the country of South Korea. There has been a multitude in different types of protests some peaceful and others that have ended in fatalities. The more conservative members of society were in support of Geun-hye, while the others were very strongly against her. In the end the President was impeached by a unanimous vote. The citizens of the country were baffled of how Choi Soon-il, someone with no political experience or importance had such a ginormous influence over President Park Geun-hye just because they are good friends. Citizens were overall worried that Choi had a dangerous influence over Park Geun-hye. Half of the country was crying in triumph and others in devastation.

“The negative impact of the president's legal violations is serious, and the benefits to defending the constitution by dismissing her from office is overwhelmingly large” said the Chief of Justice about the subject. This is the country of South Korea's first impeachment after having thirty years of democracy, after breaking off from North Korea. The hope for South Korea is a stop to the violent protests, and for their president to finally find peace and for a new president that will give them justice.



South Korean President impeached

By Ben Kingsland

On March 10th, 2017, President Park Geun-hye of South Korea was taken out of office. The Supreme Court of South Korea came to a conclusion; impeach Park Geun-hye. The 8 judges had to make the final decision. Park is the first South Korean president to ever be impeached and elections are being held all over South Korea to elect a new president. A new president has to be elected within 60 days. Justice Lee Jung-mi announced the decision of the Supreme Court on national TV. After the announcement citizens immediately hit the streets of South Korea and people began protesting. Some of the protests were good and some were bad. A selection of people were happy that she was impeached, as many people did not like her methods of being president. Riots broke out and many citizens were injured. Three people have been killed. The other protests that took place were from people that supported Park. Most of South Korea thinks that Park is a common criminal. Park abused her power of president and violated her constitutional duties. The Prime Minister of South Korea, Hwang Kyo-ahn is acting as President until someone replaces Park Geun-hye. Many people were disappointed in her. Geun-hye's father was a former president of South Korea, and he was assassinated in 1979. The media is comparing Park to Trump. Some Americans think that Trump is going to be impeached like Park.

Fentanyl Outbreak

By Anthony Guevara

Officials are armed with a new outbreak which is occurring across the nation with an illness known to be called fentanyl. It is also blamed to cause deaths in Europe, Australia, and Africa. Hundreds of people globally are reported to be dying due to taking higher doses than needed to relieve pain. Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that is said to be the strongest painkiller right now and is highly addictive.



Reports have stated that sometimes fentanyl is stronger than heroin itself. Fentanyl used to be found only in pharmacies, but it is now found in many pills. Hundreds of people globally are dying because fentanyl is 25 to 50 times stronger than heroin and can even be 100 times stronger than morphine. The American black market makes the painkiller widely available.

Consult with a doctor if you are prescribed to use this pain reliever. If used in high doses, respiratory illnesses and death may most likely occur, because fentanyl is combined with other dangerous substances. Stiff muscles and a tight throat are common side effects this drug times into. If you are allergic to other narcotic pain medicines do not use this medication.

Overdose Epidemic

By Shannon Carroll

Why is there an overdose epidemic spreading across America in the last several months? Many overdoses have been recorded in 2015 and 2016. Drugs include heroin, cocaine, meth, etc.

The people demand for the drugs, use them, and overdose. There has been a huge spike in drug use resulting in an epidemic that has been going on since 2015.

The need for drugs is becoming greater, so the supply has increased.

In 2015, 55,000 deaths were recorded because of drug use and overdoses. The supply and demand factor has attributed to People are using too much. But the demand for drugs is high, which means the price is down, so the people are able to get more and eventually end up overdosing.

This drug problem has been covered before in *Hornet Headlines*, and it continues to be an ongoing problem across America. The government has not yet been able to stop this overdose epidemic.



Shaw University Requests Station

By Anthony Guevara

Leaders of the South's first historically black college want to request the city police to a perpetual home on property. Shaw University President Tashni-Ann Dubroy is asking Raleigh to open a police "substation" in one of its buildings downtown. The request comes through tense relations and the law enforcement due to the slaughter of Akiel Denkins. "We are in the process of analyzing space and cost logistics" said Dubroy.

Officer D.C. Twiddy, shot and killed twenty-four year old Akiel Denkins on February 29, 2017 on Bragg Street in Raleigh, because he feared Denkins had what appeared to be a handgun. He will not be charged with corruption. Denkins was wanted on felony drug charges, and was shot four times in the back.

Wake County District legal counsel Irving Joyner announced, "We have not had any witnesses who indicated Mr. Denkins had a gun."

Akiel Denkins' family responded that he was a brilliant human being.

Trailblazer Trip to Marbles IMAX

By Joshua Cubillos

The seventh grade Trailblazers team went on an exciting trip to the Marbles IMAX movie theatre to learn about extreme weather on February 14, 2017. On the morning of departure, there were three Wake County buses full of seventh grade students riding to the theatre in downtown Raleigh.

Once the 7th graders arrived, they split into two groups. Group 1 watched the movie first while Group 2 participated in the activities. The movie was grouped into three parts: the first was about melting glaciers and how people study them, the second was about tornados and how studying them is very dangerous. The way people study tornados is they have to place pods in the path of the tornado. The last part was on forest fires. The movie showed how to deal with forest fires from different perspectives and how people deal with these different extreme weathers. After the movie, group one and group two switched. The activities were “Can you out run tornado winds?” The different types of winds to try to outrun were the lower or slower winds, fast winds, and normal speeds that the tornado spins. Most people would get lower/slow winds or barely get over the speed of fast winds. Some other activities dealt with learning more about tornados. There also was a weather trivia. Some of the trivia questions were about tornados, hurricanes, huge waves and volcanos. Another one was “Can you build a building that can survive an earth quake?”

After all of the activities, there was only a five minute lunch break because we were short on time. The Trailblazers returned to school where they finished up their lunch. After the lunch they went to their 7th period. This trip was the culmination to finishing the unit on weather and extreme weather conditions.



Officer Nelson Visits

Hornet Headlines

Newspaper

By Aiden Fine

Officer Leon Nelson visited the newspaper publications elective during second period on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 to discuss school safety and why it is important to have a school resource officer. He came and talked about what to do when there is a code red or code yellow. Students asked a lot of questions about how to react and where to go during these drills. One of the questions was, “Where would you go if you are on the track or outside and there’s a code red?” Officer Nelson responded with, “Run and get as far away from the school as possible!”

During a code red or code yellow, Officer Nelson shared experiences he has had and talked about what he does in code red or code yellow. He will not leave the school if there’s a code yellow and he will make sure the threat doesn’t enter the school. If there’s a code red, he makes sure people are out of the halls and he will help remove the threat from school property or arrest any intruders. Officer Nelson is a big help to our school and will try to save us if someone is in our school that’s not supposed to. That is why resource officers are needed in schools.



Science Olympiad Team Earns Spot at State

By Sarah Hines

The Holly Ridge Middle School Science Olympiad team, coached by team captains Ms. Jesrani and Ms. Smyre, had an exciting and long day of competition on March 19 at Campbell University. The competition was tough with thirty teams participating in the middle school division. The team has met at school once a week as a group since October. Outside of school, team members meet often to practice and study for their events. Teams usually have two to three events they have to prepare for and it takes a lot of work!

The Hornets Varsity Team earned eleven medals and the Junior Varsity Team earned eight medals, totaling eighteen medals for the team. Out of the eighteen medals, Holly Ridge Middle produced six first place gold medals, one second place silver medal, and six third place bronze medals. Overall, HRMS came in fourth place, landing a spot in the State Science Olympiad Tournament! Also awarded was the Team Spirit Award given to the team who shows good sportsmanship and has a positive outlook on the situation.

The North Carolina Science Olympiad is an annual competition for K-12 students in our state to compete in all science areas. Events include anatomy, chemistry, geography, biology, medical science, math and engineering. Some tests are done with paper and pencil and others require students to engineer devices to solve problems. More than five hundred teams compete in regional competitions within all science areas, representing schools from all over our state. There are fifteen regional tournaments. For each regional tournament, the top five middle and high school teams advance to the state competition. This year, the state competition will be on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at NC State University.



Seventh Grade Dance

By Billy Knorr

The 7th grade dance was on Friday, February 24th. It went from 3:30 to 6PM. The DJ, Mr. Ron was epic. In the auditorium, Mr. Fulghum chaperoned the ping pong tables in the auditorium. There were tables for playing 2 on 2, if you wanted to play, you had to sit in the front row. Food and drink were \$1 and pizza was \$5 in the gym, the DJ was taking requests.



You couldn't bring food or drink in the gym or auditorium, but there were tables in the hallway. You had to put your stuff in the cafeteria for reasons. But, there was a lot of dancing.



The 51st Super Bowl

By Saniya Chambers

The New England Patriots and the Atlanta Falcons played in the Super Bowl. This was the 51st Super Bowl anniversary. The Super Bowl took place in Houston, TX on February 5th, 2017.



Tom Brady and the New England Patriots made the greatest comeback ever. During the second half they scored 31 points leading them to a victory. “They pulled off the greatest comeback ever,” NFL 360 said.

After the Super Bowl, Tom Brady said thankyou to his family and coach. The rest of the team were holding up the trophy and yelling. After that TV stations were talking to Tom Brady about the Super Bowl. Coach Bill Belichick did his signature victory dance. The final score was thirty four to twenty eight and the Patriots won the 51st Super Bowl.

Super Bowl 51 Half Time Show

By Allie Germann

At this year’s Super Bowl half time show, Lady Gaga put on a performance that was as big as the stadium itself. High above the ceiling was Lady Gaga. She sang “God Bless America”, and “This Land Is Your Land”. She made an extravaganza entrance by jumping off the one hundred foot high stadium. She sang her top hits and even made an epic costume change.

Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta, also known as Lady Gaga, performed at the half time show of Super Bowl 51. The Super Bowl was held at the NRG stadium of Houston, Texas. It was held on February 5, 2017 on Sunday. Lady Gaga was selected to perform because they needed someone who would put on a good performance. She had a dramatic and entertaining show and she sang all of her top hits including: “Poker Face”, “Born This Way”, “Telephone”, “Just Dance”, “Million Reasons”, and “Bad Romance”.

Lady Gaga is an American singer, song writer, and a record producer. She performed in theaters and school plays when she was younger. Lady Gaga studied at Capel through NYU’s Tisch School of Arts before dropping out to pursue her music career.



March Madness Gone Really “Mad”

By Grayson McMurray

The 2017 NCAA Tournament has been packed with drama, disappointment and defeat for many top rated basketball teams and the results have broken so many brackets that fans are going “mad”. Some of the lowest rated and seeded teams have upset the top rated and top seeded teams which has provided nail-biting entertainment and really good basketball to watch.

One of the biggest upsets was in the Villanova and Wisconsin game. The number one seed Villanova lost to the number eight seed Wisconsin. After the season Villanova had, no one saw that possibility coming. Another shocking upset was for local number two seed Duke that lost to the number seven seed South Carolina. South Carolina is a school that has never before in their history been to the NCAA Tournament. And their incredible performance is what basketball dreams are made of. They are giving fans a great ‘Cinderella’ story.

What’s to come as the Final Four teams come together to compete for the greatest title in college basketball? The final four teams are Gonzaga, UNC, South Carolina and Oregon. Gonzaga is a number one seed and so is UNC. They are basketball’s premier programs with great talent. But South Carolina as a seven seed and Oregon as a three seed have the heart and the drive to go all the way. Will it be victor or underdog? After weeks of madness and mayhem, many will tune in to watch as the drama unfolds.

AT&T American Gymnastics Cup 2017

By Allison Germann

The forty second annual AT&T American Gymnastics Cup was held on Saturday, March 4th for the men and women's divisions at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey. The Cup features eighteen of the world's best gymnast to compete for the all-around title.



Ragan Smith, the 2016 Olympic alternate won for the women's division with an amazing score of 56.099. A 14.400 on the uneven bars, a 13.266 on the balance beam with a fall on her standing back pike full twist, a 14.000 on the floor exercise, and a 14.433 on the vault. She won with nearly two points ahead of second place. Her teammate Riley McCusker had a rough meet with a fall on the uneven bars and a tremendous fall on the beam. She was doing a back handspring step out, back handspring two foot, double back off of the beam, but her foot slipped and on the second back handspring her foot slipped and she smacked her head on the beam, landing on her back. Luckily she was okay and finished off with the floor exercise.

Yul Moldaver, A sophomore from the University of Oklahoma had a win for the men's division. He won with an all-around of an 85.931. A 14.566 on the floor exercise, 14.000 on the pommel horse, a 14.300 on the still rings, a 14.466 on the vault, and a 13.733 on the horizontal bar. He won with three tenths ahead of 20016 Olympic gymnast Oleg Vernialev from the UKR. Sadly Samuel (Sam) Mikulak, former 2012 and 2016 Olympic gymnast, tore his Achilles at the winter cup and was unable to compete.

The Nastia Liukin Cup was the day before, on March 3rd. This was the 8th annual named after Nastia Liukin, a five time Olympic medalist, who competed at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

Match play:

Where anything can Happen

By Alex Ferreira

This here is the World Golf Championship or WGC. There are many golfers giving it their best in hopes of winning, going against each other to be able to have a chance to make it to the finals. The most popular players at the moment are Rory McIlroy and Sergio Garcia. They are going head to head. These are masters that have practiced and played for years. Anyone who dares to challenge these players, better be pretty 'darn good' to be able to get somewhere in this championship! If the athlete that is playing has a higher position, he will more likely be able to advance, and for those who are in a lower position, they will be most likely not be able to advance, no matter how hard they try. Which is sad for those who practiced 'Day n' Night'. This golf championship starts on Tuesday, March 20th, 2017 in Austin, Texas and will probably be blazing hot around that area, but the good thing is that the weather is good. The sun is out, no rain, no clouds, just perfect.



[pic.twitter.com/zPPYzgKsud]

Many people mention that the highest ranked players are the targets, who everyone needs to beat to be able to get somewhere in this game. The lower ranked people, are basically useless to try against because they are most likely not to advance at all. Most of the players are talking about how they think that believing is the key to success. Basically, to focus on what's important, the best players.

Dustin Johnson says his advantage is being able to play well at the moment. It looks like he has a lot of self-confidence, and believing in yourself gets you very far in life, because it can make a difference.

Lady Hornets Basketball Historic Season

By Savanna Coffel

With the win of a Championship Title, the Lady Hornets basketball team certainly had an unforgettable season. The team sported an 11-2 winning record at the conclusion of the season, making one of the highest in Hornet history.

The Lady Hornets played against rivals such as Holly Grove, Apex, West Lake, Fuquay, and Lufkin. Not only were they dominant at home, the Lady Hornets also upset teams in their own gyms. Part of this was attributed to their many different skills from the inside to beyond the arc, and even though there were struggles, they pulled through to win a Division Title.

Even though basketball season is over, those memories will never fade, no matter what happens in middle school, or beyond.



Track and Field Events

By Gibson Lussier

On Tuesday, March 7, 2017 Holly Ridge Middle hosted the first track and field meet of the season against Apex Middle School and West Cary Middle School. This sport is challenging, but electrifying. For this sport, you must try out and if you make the cuts, you have a spot on the HRMS Track and Field team. Many athletes tried out for the track team. Some of the events are the shot put, the mile, 4x4 and 4x1 relays, long and high jumps, and the 100, 200, 400, and 800 meter runs. These events require a lot of stretching to prevent injury to your legs and arms.



In track and field, there are many areas to compete. This is a fast pace sport and a lot of fun because there are many meets to compete in. To find out more about upcoming Track and Field meets, go to the HRMS web site.

Hornet Boys Soccer Season Start Up

Congratulations to the following players who made the 2017 team this year:

Eighth graders Logan Benninghoff #9, Hudaifuh Chahhou #11, Will Davis #3, Ashby Faulkner #5, Kendrick Grant #14, Danny Hamilton #6, Drew Lovelace #8, Grayson McMurray #4, Owen Mierison #15, Imad Sabiri #10, Calder Viney #7, and Ayden Zuromski #12;

Seventh graders Blake Benevento #19, Emanuel Corona #17, Jackson Dring #16, Daniel Hwang #20, Colin Lewellan #18, Josh Muralt #1, Trey Oldham #2, Seth Richardson #21, and Nick Tobin #13.

There are a total of 8 games this season to be coached by Hornet Band instructor Mr. Grimes, who also coached the girls soccer team with Ms. Copeland last fall. We wish them a successful season.

March 8 th @ Salem MS	March 15 th vs. Davis Drive MS	March 22 nd @ Mills Park MS	March 29 th vs. West Lake MS
April 5 th vs. Holly Grove MS	April 19 th @ Fuquay MS	April 26 th @ Apex MS	May 3 rd vs. Lufkin MS

Hornets Softball Team Starts Season with Two Blowout Wins

By Savanna Coffel

The Lady Hornets Softball team started their season off strong with two wins against Davis Drive and Salem Middle. Thursday, March 9, 2017 was the first home game where the Hornets hosted Davis Drive, and won 7-1. Their first game against Salem Middle was on Monday, March 6, 2017 and ended with 11-1 Hornets. So far, with these wins the team is very optimistic about the season ahead.

Led by Coach Porter and assisted by Ms. Casey Paonessa, the team stresses that hard work and being there for each other will lead to a successful season. Softball games themselves are not a crowded event. Spectators are provided with a bench, and they are expected to bring their own chairs. There is also no concession stand for spectators.



So why go to a softball game, beside the fact a reporter can get some awesome shots? The sport itself is actually quite exciting, and watching a player smack a pop fly into the outfield really rouses cheers from even the most silent of fans. And if you want to see a particular player (not naming names) run-dab after a home run, well, you're in luck.

The team wrapped up their most recent win with a huddle of motivation and congratulations. Adding to the euphoria was the celebration of Coach Porter's birthday, making it quite a poetic win. Today, the team travels to play against Mills Park, and we hope to see many more wins from the Lady Hornets softball team.

Hornets Lacrosse Club

By Gibson Lussier

The HRMS lacrosse club is an opportunity for boys and girls to learn the basic skills of lacrosse. This can help if you want to start lacrosse, but don't know the skills needed, but want to learn, or if you just want to do something fun outside of a sport you already are playing. The purpose is to teach kids simple lacrosse skills and how to play the game.

The club is for boys and girls that want to play lacrosse. It takes place at HRMS on March 1, March 15, April 19, May 3, and May 17. The club is from 3:15-4:30 on those dates. The purpose of the club is so you can learn skills about lacrosse by doing drills and playing.



Coach Wasley runs the meetings for lacrosse outside of school that you can try through HRMS. To participate in this club, you need to fill out an application, but you do not need previous experience. The club prepares you for high school lacrosse. For more information, go to <https://sites.google.com/a/wcpss.net/mjesrani/hornets-lacrosse-club>.

The Lacrosse Club teaches both girls and boys the skills needed and if you want to get more into lacrosse, they give you other options too. Here are the links to find out more: <http://www.hollyridgelax.com/v>, <http://www.ylslacrosse.com/Default.aspx?tabid=921865>, <http://www.919elite.com/919-elite-ladies-lax.html>

The Future of A.I.

By Josh Cubillos

Robots have been with us for a long time. Here is some information about the past and future of robots and what is believed. There is a Greek myth of Hephaestus the god of forges created a mechanical servant and bronze man named Talos. Then the next big time for robots was during medieval times. Automata, human-like figures run by hidden mechanisms, were used to impress peasant worshippers in church into believing in a higher power. The clock jack was a mechanical figure that could strike time on a bell with its axe. This technology was virtually unheard of in the 13th century. Robot continued to evolve over the years (hundreds of years) but it was not till 1900s when the robots truly turned to look good. It was 1921, when the first humanoid was created (R.U.R).

Now to present time, there may be some jobs that can be replaced by robots. Soon, there will be seen a net decline of more than 300,000 jobs from 2014 to 2024. The first jobs to be replaced by robots are car creating, marketing, warehouse sorters and house cleaners.

Is there a limit to a robots? Currently, there are no limits to robots. Some robots have even learned to adapt to certain stuff. Like a robot named Susan had a broken leg and so most robots would stop but this robots kept going but limping. According to computer scientist Ashok Goel, robots have the capability of learning beyond their programming. A team of UK researchers are working on project to ensure that the robots we build in the future will be safer, making decisions that are ethical. Research shows that people are trying to create robots that can bypass the limits of humans and animals. We want to get robots further into space and oceans so we can do more research.

How Does Artificial Intelligence Impact Us?

Soon there will be robots working in dangerous factories and doing jobs humans are unable to do. This is the revolutionary time for A.I. and soon they will be able to reason. But not all A.I. are humanoids or spider like robots; some will be Thermostats or work in a factory. These new technologies are doing much more than just eliminating repetitive tasks; they are supporting humans in complex and creative problem-solving ways by enabling analysis of vast amounts of data. Intelligent automation is clearly a game-changer when it

comes to improving complex problem solving, risk analysis and business decision-making and it enables employees to achieve significant productivity gains—as much as 30-40 percent—even in functions that are already automated. Some A.I will be doing daily chores like vacuuming. This will make our lives easier but not so we become the humans in wall-e.



Virtual Reality

By Claire Dates

Virtual reality is the computer-generated simulation of a 3D image/environment. Mostly youth of the world is interested in it. Surprisingly virtual reality has been around since 1956. Now, people are using it to experience things you might not be able to typically do. Virtual reality works by head mounted displays that that hold your phone in front of your face and track audio and motion.

Virtual reality has been used for many things. In 1961 it was a top-secret military project. It was called ‘Head-sight’ and used to remotely view situations that were too dangerous for close up inspection. It is also used in therapy to help patients to get over their fears. Virtual reality has also been used by car companies to get a sense of how customers experience their cars. It’s even been used to train astronauts!

Frank Biocca states, “Virtual reality is the first step into a grand adventure into the landscape of the imagination.” Marc Zuckerberg with Facebook claims, “We’re making a long-term bet that immersive, virtual and augmented reality will become a part of people’s daily life”- Marc Zuckerberg.

Virtual reality is an experience that can be used for many different things. It is still being improved and will be more realistic in the future.



ARMS™



By Samuel LaScola

The Nintendo Switch was announced back in 2016 on October 20th and we got a taste of some of the new games in its lineup. The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild, Super Mario Odyssey, and Splatoon 2 were all shown and it seems these games will be major sell points of Nintendo's new hybrid console. But, when faced with a new IP (intelligent property) Nintendo game developers had something different in mind. Splatoon was Nintendo's latest IP, which came to release in May of 2015. Now, in spring of this year comes ARMS! It is a boxing-style game, but you need to keep your opponent at far range, as in this game your character has extendible arms.

This will indeed change the way you play, and with different styles of arms to choose from, players can customize any fighter to their liking. The five characters shown in recent Nintendo Switch presentations include: Spring Man, Ribbon Girl, Ninjara, Master Mummy, and Mechanica. Spring Man and Ribbon Girl are both all-around fighters, who

would be great picks for players first starting. Ninjara is a more swift

and technical character, with moves allowing him to disappear and reappear in a certain location.

Master Mummy and Mechanica are two heavy-hitting characters, allowing them to take less damage from opposing hits and dish out more for themselves, at the cost of major speed decreases. Mechanica can also, briefly, hover over the playing field to give her a height advantage over her opponent. The game's controls are peculiar as well.



Two different play styles are available; motion will make an appearance prior to the game's official launch. Competitive play is also expected to appear in this unique title. The Nintendo Switch console will launch on March 3rd, 2017, and ARMS a few months afterward. Nintendo's fancy new console is sure to revolutionize 'gaming' history, and many will be seen out in public with their Joy-Con controllers playing this game together.



Welcome the Hornets new Spirit Rock...The name was voted on to be **"ROCKY!"**



SPIRIT ROCK

Before students were dismissed on winter break, the HRMS Spirit Rock was delivered to our carpool loop area. Voting occurred to select the name for the rock. Rocky was painted by three 8th graders who had earned the most character education points. Principal Mountford led the painting activity with the assistance of PTA volunteers.

The Warmth of the Blue Lagoon

By Kailee Hageman

The Blue Lagoon, located in Iceland, is one of the 25 wonders of the world. It is a giant pool holding 9 million liters of warm water from the depths of the earth. This giant spa is a place for relaxation where you swim and hang out in the warm water. In order to go you must book your visit previously. The air is cold and so it is nice to relax in a hot lagoon.



[<http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/365-photos/waitresses-blue-lagoon-iceland/>]

Anyone can swim and relax in the lagoon located in Iceland. The lagoon was formed in 1976 and people started to bath in it. It is a good way to relax and have fun. 2,000 meters underground freshwater and seawater mix together at really hot temperatures. Holes are then drilled which creates electricity for nearby towns and also creates hot water for the lagoon.

It costs ISK 5400, which is about \$50 in American money for the standard pass. Standard is if you only want to swim. There is also a Comfort, Premium and Luxury pass, which is more expensive. The water temperature is usually 98-104 degrees Fahrenheit. The water is self cleansing- it renews itself every forty hours. BlueLagoon.com states, “ The Blue Lagoon

is an oasis of relaxation.” The water is actually white but the sun makes it look blue. The water is 0.8-1.2 meters deep (2-3 feet) the deepest point is 1.6 meters deep (5 feet).

There are a few things to know if you want to visit the Blue Lagoon. Since the water is very warm drink lots of water so that you don’t get dehydrated. The water can dry out your hair so make sure to put conditioner in it before you go swimming. Remove jewelry because the water can damage it. It is not necessary to wear goggles because underwater nothing is visible. Bring sunglasses for sunny days, the sun can reflect off the water. There are many restaurants and places for dining. The Blue Lagoon in Iceland is a really popular place to visit.



[<http://realmomma.com/blue-lagoon-bus-travel-in-iceland/>]

WANTED:

**SPRING BREAK PHOTOS for
‘Around the Ridge’
2017**

“Where did you travel?”

Amur Leopard

By Olivia Lawrence

The *Panthera pardus orientalis* or in other words the Amur Leopard is one of the rarest big cats in the world. There are thirty-five left in the world that's in the wild. The Amur Leopard is going extinct because of habitat loss and poaching. The Amur Leopard is located in North East China, North Korea, and Far East Russia. Russia has prohibited killing the Amur Leopard because it's at the brink of extinction.



The Amur Leopard lives a lifespan of 10-15 years in the wild, it stands to 2.1-2.6 ft. its mass for males is 71-110lbs, and for females it's 55-94lbs. In length for the male Amur Leopard is 3.4-4.5 ft, and for the females its 2.4-3.7 ft. The coloration for the leopard is a pale color with dark rosettes, which are large and widely spaced with thick unbroken rings. The coloration also changes depending on the season, in the winter it can vary from a fairly light yellow to a dense yellowish-red with a golden tinge or a rusty-red yellow, while during the summer the coloration is brighter with a vivid pattern. Their coat has fairly long and soft fur that is also very thick. Also they have very long limbs that way they can walk around in the snow.

The Amur Leopards diet is roe deer, sika deer, badgers and hares. The Amur Leopard mainly hunts at night and normally have large territories that way they don't have to compete to get food. They silently watch their prey from a distance and then ambush them using a burst of their energy reaching speeds to 35 mph. They then carry their prey, sometimes up a tree where they sleep by it that way no other leopards or other carnivores can take the prey away from them.

Climate Change Effects

Glacier National Park

By Sarah Hines

Glacier National Park is famous for its glaciers. What if climate change threatened to strip it of its identity? The glaciers in Glacier National Park are melting, fast. In fact researchers say that by 2030 if we do not slow climate change, all of the glaciers will disappear. Over the years the temperature has risen 1.53 degrees Fahrenheit. It seems like a small amount but that increase can throw off the delicate balance of the Earth.

The increase of the temperature is not just affecting the glaciers. It is also effecting the animals that live in the snowy climates. There is an animal called the Pika that is being forced to move. Depending on where they live they are being forced to move higher up the mountains to stay at the right climate. Many other animals are also being forced away from their homes.



There are many different reasons that climate change is happening. It is effecting not just humans but also the animals, animals such as the pika. They are being forced to move to find the right climate. If we do not fix climate change soon, many animals may go extinct. We have the Paris agreement however America has left the agreement. Climate change effects used to be in the future. Now the effects are coming into play. By 2030, all of the glaciers in glacier national park will have melted. If we do not act soon, these effects will be doubled.

Undertale: Not to be Underrated

By Billy Knorr

Warning! Spoilers ahead! Read if you already completed the game, or read on if you are not able to play the game!

Undertale came out on September 15th, 2015 and was released on the steam platform for \$10. The game was made by Toby Fox and Temmie Chang with a Kickstarter goal of \$5,000, but reached \$51,000, because the game sold about one million copies in approximately twenty-four hours.

The game takes place in the Underground, where the monsters were sealed in many years ago. The game's year is 201X, and a cut scene shows us a child climbing up Mt. Ebott, and they see a hole that leads to the Underground. They go towards it for a closer look, but they trip and fall in. You, the player, wakes up on a bed of golden flowers, which broke your fall. You control Frisk, a human with a lot of DETERMINATION. You decide to find a way to get home, so you go deeper. You meet flowey the flower, a nice, somehow alive, flower that "teaches" you the ways of the underground. Flowey tricks you by saying to collect his "friendliness pellets" but they do 19 damage to you. Flowey then says "IT'S KILL OR BE KILLED!" Before he kills you, you are rescued by Toriel, a goat mom. She is like the game's tu-Toriel! Her name is a pun, and she tells you that killing is wrong, and asks you to talk to a dummy. This determines which path you go down: the mercy, neutral, or no mercy run. On the mercy run, you don't kill anything. After that, you come into the first fight of the game against a froggit, which is a frog. You either complement it, threaten it, or you can see its stats. Toriel comes and makes the froggit go away.

The game takes six hours to complete. The game is great, but people are forgetting about it. There are theories, YouTube channels about it, and a lot of fan games (about seven truckloads). My favorite fan game is still in development, but there is a demo on GameJolt, the game is called UNDERTALE YELLOW, and the main character is Clover, AKA Justice. The demo is only the dark ruins, which were only made for the game. Check the game out! It's

free! Back to Undertale. You exit the Ruins, and enter Snowdin, there, you meet sans and Papyrus, the skele-bros (but if you watched Mat Pat's 3 part theory on the many sides of W. D. Gaster, you will know what I think they are). Papyrus wants to capture you so he can be part of the royal guard, aka the underground. Undyne, the head of the royal guard, wants your soul, which is the 7th soul that their king, Asgore, needs to get the monsters out of the underground. Papyrus' traps are easy, and sans' 1 trap is 100% easy. You can just walk past it. Stuff happens, and you end up on a date with papyrus. It's weird, but funny. Next is waterfall, which is super long. Waterfall has a lot of puzzles, but they are easy. There are some special rooms, which you will know by your character being in shadows. These rooms I like to call Undyne rooms because Undyne tries to kill you.

When you finally meet Undyne when she doesn't try to kill you. She starts to tell you the lore, until she screams "SCREW IT!" and takes off her helmet. And, apparently, she is missing an eye. She chases you, but she collapses because you run into Hotland. You pour a cup of water on her, saving her, because she is a fish. You become friends with her by cooking. In Hotland, you meet Alphys, the royal scientist, who made a human-killing robot named Mettaton. He tries to kill you, but you come out fine, a lot of stuff happens, and you end up in the core. You fight Mettaton, and you flip his switch, transforming him into Mettaton EX. You defeat him, and go to Asgore, and apparently, he literally DESTROYS YOUR MERCY BUTTON! So you need to fight him. You almost kill him, but then you can mercy him. If you do, flowey kills him and absorbs the 6 human souls Asgore has so far. And flowey literally ALT-F4 CRASHES YOUR GAME. When you restart the game, you fight Photoshop flowey, which is hard. You beat him, and you go to the true lab. In there you met amalgamates, which are made of monsters. You turn the power back on, and then you, go back to the barrier. Finally, you fight asriel dremur, the god of hyperdeath. After that, you win. Game over.

THE LEGEND OF ZELDA BREATH OF THE WILD

By Sam laScola

“Link...you are the light, our light that must shine upon Hyrule once again.” E3 of 2014, the date Nintendo officially announced their new game that would give the Legend of Zelda franchise a new perspective. It was said to release in 2015, then delayed to 2016, and the final delay pushed it to March 3rd, 2017 along with launch of the Nintendo Switch. The Wii U would also be able to run this title at 720p and 30FPS. The Nintendo Switch version is the definitive version and the version that more consumers would go on to buy. This claim is further proven as Nintendo has announced it selling over 1.34 million units worldwide.



When beginning the game you will immediately notice something that separates this entry from previous titles; voice acting. A series first and an amazing addition, every main character has their own unique tone, perfectly fitting their personality. Link on the other hand was not given a voice (other than his usual grunts) which fans were pleased to hear. The game is far-beyond visually pleasing, running as smoothly as any PS4 software. The land of ruined Hyrule is massive this time around, taking Link around thirty three minutes to span its entirety. Different regions exist throughout becoming available when Sheikah Towers are activated. As you traverse Hyrule shrines will be found. Activating these will open up a mini-trial for Link to complete which awards him with a Spirit Orb. Receiving four of these orbs from the slum of 120 different shrines will grant you the option of exchanging them for an extra Heart Container or Stamina Vessel.



A maximum of thirty hearts can be obtained along with three full stamina wheels. Hearts allow Link to take more damage without dying and stamina allows Link to perform more actions before becoming tired, such as when climbing or sprinting. Dungeons can now be completed in any order the player chooses, and a unique item is NOT found throughout your exploring, such as the previous Clawshots or Whip. Link is always equipped with a shield, sword, and a bow and arrows. Each of these items have durability, so using them mindlessly is not an option this time around. Materials will be found when exploring Hyrule which can be cooked towards meals for Link to consume or be used to upgrade armor. Bonuses from dishes are quite helpful, only certain foods unlock these abilities. Damage increases, defense increases, stealth increases, speed increases, and heat, cold, shock, and fire resistance are all bonuses that can be cooked into dishes or found in elixirs.



I don't want to spoil all of the game, and secrets need to be found solo, so go out and find them for yourself. Reviewers are rewarding Breath of the Wild a perfect rating, and the game is now said to be the most reviewed title in history. Discover the land of Hyrule in this truly breath-taking video game full of mystery and adventure.

Dodgeball Banned

By Bryan Moreno

Dodgeball has been disapproved by Wake County Public Schools. A high number of injuries have prompted this decision. However 70 percent of all gym activities happen when running, basketball, football, volleyball, soccer and gymnastics. Dodgeball is not on the list. That means that if dodgeball is banned than other sports are liable to be banned. However dodgeball has not been entirely banned. Wake County will not help if a lawsuit is filed when playing dodgeball.



[<http://stcloudmn.airmaxxtrampolinepark.com/images/bigballs.jpg>]

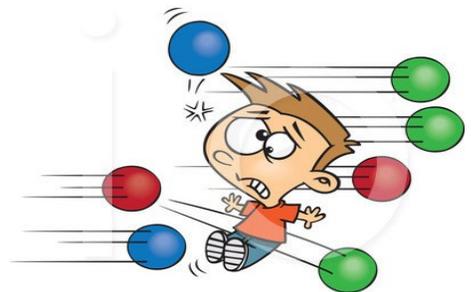
Dodgeball has a very long and rich history. The game was originally played by African tribes as an intense workout. Players would throw rocks and petrified stuff at opponents. When a player was eventually hit they would try to finish him off with more while his team defended him. Even older possibly was the game played by opium addicted Chinese. They would throw heads at each other so hard that they would explode and the person would decapitate themselves.

A missionary by the name of James Carlisle saw the African tribes doing it and attempted to make it popular in Britain. He replaced the rocks with a hard leather ball which was softer than rocks. It was played in a large field and was played almost like chess where you would flank and attempt to knock an opponent down with repeated blows. Soon however there was a set area. This idea was founded by Phillip Ferguson in an attempt to make the game faster paced.

For a long time dodgeball was moderately popular. However the film "Dodgeball" increased the popularity and it was played by schools and churches across the country. The only place that the original sport is played is at St Mary's college. It is played as a testament to the original creators of the game, the African tribes. The game has been played for a long time but has been stopped by a ban. The game has been played for a long time in many places by many peoples.

Football which is a far more violent contact sport is liable to be banned. Schools may be able to come up with stupid reasons to stop dodgeball, but any sport can be stopped that way. Middle schoolers across the county hate this decision as dodgeball is not the reason for almost any of the injuries. The game was far more violent years ago when it was played with rocks.

Children are not encouraged to be more violent when they play dodgeball. It is in fact quite the opposite. They are encouraged to get faster and stronger. When you complain that their self-esteem is threatened by this it is the same with any sport. While any injuries could have a lawsuit, the sport is played with soft balls in a gym. There is plenty of space and you could just opt out of the sport to go outside.



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