

MLK Day at DSMS

By Stephen Cone



Artwork by Cynthia Xiong

Normally when people think of Martin Luther King Day, flash mobs don't come to mind. After many months of hard work, and planning, the MLK Day festivities arrived at Dover Sherborn Middle School.

The fun began with a morning assembly, complete with a film about Dr. King, and choral music.

Following this fun and educational gathering, students went to assorted classrooms to meet with other students that they may not otherwise talk to. Questions such as, "Which would you rather do, raise chickens or use a computer" Allowed students to understand others in new, and sometimes amusing, ways.

Picking from a list of preselected traits, kids also selected a quality that was meaningful to them. Everything from kindness to humor were selected.

As if the day couldn't get any better, students participated in assorted artsy classes, such as acting and drawing. Kids who were in the dance class however, participated in the genuinely surprising, and fun

flash mob at the afternoon assembly.

Also featured in the afternoon was the George Russell Band. Performing numbers such as "This Little Light of Mine" brought the students together as singers and soccer players sang together. Furthermore, they talked about what it means to "be a king", and how little actions can make a big difference in the world.

Overall, students learned about Dr. King's morals in many ways. In the morning they learned about each other, and how we all are one despite having different interests. Following lunch, students learned they could accomplish huge tasks as a group during the 'flash mob' class. Finally, when the students saw the video of everyone holding their trait-card at the end of the final assembly, they realized that their fellow Raiders were proud of themselves in many different ways. Martin Luther King Day was not only fun and exciting, but educating in a very deep way that affects all of us in our everyday life.

De-Stress DS: A Success!



Recently, on Tuesday January 23rd, the 7th grade at DSMS participated in a new activity for their flex day period. There were multiple activities including team challenge games, dodge ball, Legos and Play-Doh, gardening, reading, yoga, Zumba, and free draw. Students were told to write down their first, second, and third choices on paper. Team leaders then placed students into one of the groups that they had written down. All of the activities were sought after.

Chris Devine said, "It was really fun to work with your classmates to complete in different challenges!" He had participated in team challenge games. One challenge was a game where a blindfolded student needs to find a tennis ball. The people giving him directions cannot see him. They were being given signals by people who cannot talk, but could use their hands to make signals.

Greg Thisse said, "Dodge ball was great! Everybody had a good time." In dodge ball the teams played 3 games during the period and the teams were relatively large. It seems the teachers did a really great job with these activities.

AJ Ryan participated in reading, and said; "It was cool to read and drink hot chocolate."

Students in reading got to read and drink hot chocolate throughout the period. The teacher who ran the activity was Ms. Moy. Students were welcome to bring towels and pillows.

Caroline Quinn participated in free draw. She said "It was a great experience! I drew a troll."

D-stress DS was an instant success; all students need a chance to drop the books and have a little fun. I'm sure the 7th grade hopes to do this again for their next flex day.

Inside...

- DSMS students enter Hunger Games writing contest
- Movie and book reviews
- Opinions on school lunch and Aspen
- Poetry, sports, and a new riddle!



News

DSMS Writers Create Dystopian Worlds for Hunger Games Contest

By Alice Galley

Recently, a number of DSMS students took part in a writing contest to celebrate the upcoming premier of *The Hunger Games* movie. The contest asked students to write a story set in a dystopian future – one characterized by suffering, chaos, and oppression. The students have submitted their stories, and await the announcement of the winners on March 5th. The grand prize winner gets an all-expense paid trip for two to the Hunger Games movie premier in March. The ten runners-up of the national contest win two ten-book dystopian collections.



Here's what our DSMS writers had to say:

Q: What do you think of the contest?

Jarred's answer:

"That's it's a great way to challenge the comprehension of the literal mind, and the prospect that an individual can achieve the best of their abilities."

Hannah's answer: "I think I am going to win. It's a good topic to have a writing competition that can use the subjects in The Hunger Games"

Nicole's answer: "I think this is a great way

for Hunger Games lovers to be able to show their own image of a dystopian society."

DSMS Dispatch - Editors

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The DSMS Dispatch is a student-led newspaper for the Dover-Sherborn Middle School community. We are happy to accept articles from students and faculty. Please be aware that not all submitted articles will be able to be published, and that all articles are subject to editing prior to publication. The views represented in the articles are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of DSMS or the Dispatch. The DSMS Dispatch meets in the library after school every Thursday. If you wish to submit an article or let us know what you think, e-mail us at dsmnews@dsmsmiddle.com!

Q: What are you writing about?

Jarred's answer: "A solitary man who lives in a seedy, trash ridden town undergoes a mind changing problem when his two roomed house is broken into by an ominous figure. Though escaping his near death experience, David takes a bullet to his chest, which lands him in the hospital for weeks. David appears in a white room and questions the meaning of his life to uncover the truth behind his mysterious and unwilling disappearance".

Hannah's answer: "It's about the future, and how the sun gets so hot it turns blue and people are forced into sunglass bubbles and are only allowed to move to a different bubble once in their life. The main character is Hans and the hovercraft is being taken to his new bubble in crashes. As he comes out of the craft he sees that the sun is as yellow as it is now and the government has been keeping a gargantuan secret."

Lauren's answer: "I believe that I should not share my magnificent mind blowing idea, because you might steal my intellectual property. But I'll give you a sneak peak. I'm writing about two sisters who live in the streets when an opportunity comes along. A world wide flu killed their parents. The government took all of the medicine from the populous for money. The poor couldn't get the needed medication because the government sold it off for a large profit."

Q: Do you want to get published eventually?

Jarred's answer: "I previously tried to publish a story and was rejected, but I hopefully will get a chance to portray my writing in the future"

Hannah's answer: Funnily enough, I was rejected as well. But I think being a poet would be fun.

Lauren's answer: "Yes, but not for this writing contest. I would like to write a memoir later in life, and have that published, instead of this silly kid stuff."

Opinion

School Lunch: Better Than You Think!

By Sam Gray

The school lunch is one topic with varied opinions from several students. It has been described by some as “greasy,” “unhealthy,” and “unappetizing.” However, before you condemn the school lunch and begin to think of it as any of the aforementioned descriptions, consider this: while we feel that we may possibly deserve healthier alternatives, we might be lucky to have a school lunch at all.



And while many students think that the pizza needs less grease, the pizza has less grease than most restaurant pizza. Also, according to several sources, in a couple of years, the health guidelines for school lunches will be dramatically altered, with a focus on higher quantities of whole grain, no low fat or whole milk, and increased amounts of leafy green vegetables while limiting those with starch.

Along with the fact that the school offers vegetarian options, cold-cut sandwiches, bagels, and milk, and the student council has been formulating a

plan to create lunches that students will like, and that contain healthier options. This movement has been going on for 4 years, is done by surveying students and asking them what they like most about the school lunch, improving its taste, and figuring out ways to increase its nutritional value. Student council president Stephen Cone clearly states “it’s a time-consuming and difficult process, because we need to take into account

what kids like, the nutritional value, and several other factors, yet it is progressing at a decent rate.” Plus, a lot of places are definitely less healthy than the school lunch, so has it become the scapegoat of such criticism for no good reason? The school spends some of their budget providing us with our noonday meal, and yet we shun it, and complain for something better, rather ungratefully at that. This is rather insulting to our hardworking lunch ladies, who donate part of their time spending at least an hour or more preparing good healthy lunches.

Also, very soon, federal government will be passing a mandate stating that every U.S. school has to improve the nutritional value of their lunches, which means, hopefully, there is more on this topic in store very soon!

How to Improve Aspen Portal

By Amberly Lerner

Login ID	<input type="text"/>
Password	<input type="password"/>
Log On	Clear
I forgot my password	

The Aspen Portal is where your grades are stored. If you ever manage to log onto it, though, you’ll notice that instead of holding all of your grades, it only holds the most recent two or three midterms and/or report cards, so if you want to keep a certain report card and put it in your mom’s box of memories, you have to print it out or it’ll disappear forever. The Aspen Portal is a new, ingenious way to view your grades. It’s very eco-friendly and less expensive, as it helps waste less paper and envelopes, as well as printer ink, but the Aspen Portal does have its faults as well.

It’s not very easy to find the Aspen Portal. The school doesn’t give you a certain address to find, and the only link I’ve found is on the Middle School website. Once you find it, you find yourself facing a site that’s requesting for your login ID and password. You don’t pick either of them. Instead, your family is mailed the login ID and password, and the school trusts that your parents won’t lose that important piece of paper. Even if they don’t, the login IDs and the passwords aren’t something that you can easily remember, as they are random and a tad complicated. What would be easier for everybody is if they let the families choose something more personal and easy to remember, then somehow inform the school (perhaps via email, phone or letter). Or instead of mailing the login IDs and passwords for Aspen, they could email them. Some people have forgotten their login IDs, or they lost the paper, which results in people not finding out how well their doing in a class, or having people head down to guidance.

It’s also a little difficult to find the link to your actual midterm reports or report cards. The first time my family used Aspen, it took us ten minutes to find my report card. Even now, it’s a little confusing. I think that if the setup for Aspen could be fixed, they should make the links to the reports a little more obvious to families visiting Aspen, let people choose their login IDs and passwords, and put the link to the actual website for the Aspen Portal in more than one place. Overall, though, Aspen is a good thing, it just could use a couple of improvements.

Nooks and Kindles Take Over DSMS

By Caroline Quinn

You may see many students in the halls or in class carrying either a Nook or a Kindle. These are now very popular because of all of the functions they can complete. They are very similar as well as different. The difference between the two electronic devices is the fact that the Kindle Fire is a very new model, while the Nook is “old news”. These two modern devices can go online, download apps, and most importantly, download “eBooks” you can read. There are thousands of unique apps including games, board games, and much more. A student who owns a Nook Color tells the Raider Dispatch, “I like how you can look up a

word you don’t know while you are reading. It is so helpful!”

A different student who owns a Kindle Fire says, “I think the Kindle Fire is just like the iPad, but smaller and much more convenient. The only problem is the fact that it is very delicate. I remember opening the package to my Kindle Fire and looking down at the cracked screen.”

Students find little problems with their Kindles and Nooks, but overall they are great devices to have, and it can help you read day by day.

Arts and Entertainment

What's New in Boston's Museums?

By Mariam Sharfi

Coming soon to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston is the new art exhibit called Silver, Salt, and Sunlight. It will be on display from February 7, 2012 until August 19, 2012 in gallery 169. Silver, Salt, and Sunlight is a piece on early photography in Britain and France. The painting takes you back to the past as you explore the amazing and wonderful piece. It is all black and white colored and is a scene looking out onto the ocean. It features some rare early photography from the museum's collection.



The Boston Children's Museum will be featuring a crazy fictional animals exhibit. Perhaps Raider Dispatch artist Elsa Gnann's "Evil Fluffy Rainbow Gecko Dragon of Death" will make a showing!

Coming soon to the Museum of Science in Boston is an exhibit featuring geckos of all kinds. It is opening on Sunday, January 22, 2012. It is called Geckos: Tails to Toe pads. Over sixty exotic live geckos are

coming to the Museum for their own exhibit. So get ready to expect some cool kinds of lizards. Also coming to the museum is an exhibit including information about lost Egypt which is opening on Sunday, May 27, 2012. It features archaeologists uncovering the city of the first skyscrapers, pyramids, the people who built them. This exhibit takes you to an ancient Egyptian city. So be careful not to run into some mummies!

Coming soon to the Boston Children's museum is an odd animals exhibit with crazy fictional animals such as zebraeagle or a cheeseasaurus. Which brings out the silly in animals from the power of imagination. This amazingly creative exhibit is coming to display on March 1, 2012. This display created by Jeff Czekaj brings to life a world of fantasy and imagination as you have a laugh.

James Patterson: Bringing the Action

By Nicole Fiore

James Patterson wrote many successful series including Maximum Ride, Daniel X, and Witch & Wizard. Maximum Ride is about 6 kids, Max, Iggy, Nudge, Angle, Gasman, and Fang. Who were experimented on by genetically altered people called erasers, who can turn into wolves. The kids were taken away from their families at a very young age and given wings, the erasers are still trying to re-capture the "flock" to conduct more experiments. The books that have been published are The Angel Experiment, Schools Out Forever, Saving The World and Other Extreme Sports, The Final Warning, Max, Fang, and Angel there will be another book coming out this year Nevermore. The Dangerous Days of Daniel X is about a boy with the best superpower: he can create objects or people. Daniel must take the place of his parents as defender of the Earth. The books published so far are, The Dangerous Days Of Daniel X, Watch The Skies, Demons and Druids, and Game Over. Witch & Wizard is about a brother and sister Whit, and Wisty were taken from their home in the middle of the night by armed soldiers being accused of witchcraft. The books that have been published so far are Witch & Wizard, The Gift, and The Fire.

Poetry Corner

Longing to forget

By Jarred Gustowski

Forever after, oh how I wanted to let
Go, but to remember what I wanted to forget.
My mind is gone, I couldn't even say
How I wanted to forget - but I couldn't; not that day.
But how? Tell us all. Tell, tell, tell.
How could you forget the days you spent in hell?

In the Land in My Mind

By Elsa Gnann

In the land in my mind,
Time flows slowly.
In the land in my mind -
A place which nobody knows.
In the land in my mind,
Islands hold thoughts.
In the land in my mind,
Where dream fish are caught.
In the land in my mind,
Where the sky is light blue,
And the land in my mind,
Is now open to you.

Fortune Cookies

By Hannah Bruce

Their crinkly wrapping
Sweet folded shells that nobody ever eats
The slight worry that you may rip the rectangle
Of paper that tells your undoubtedly false future
Or possibly how you must react
To something entirely impossible to relate
To your life and
The lives of many others
But don't deny when
Later in life
When you reach into the pocket of your pants
And find the crinkled quadrilateral with your destiny
Written in 8 point font
And realize that exactly that
Which is written
Has happened

Arts and Entertainment

Ripple — A Review

by Mandy Hubbard



A curse runs in Lexi's family. Two hundred and fifty years ago, in medieval time, a woman was cursed by the lady she worked for having the man her worker was engaged to fall in love with her.

This curse reappears when the female descendent of this woman reaches the age of sixteen.

At age sixteen, Lexi killed for the first time. She's a siren, and her song traps any man that happens to be near, lures them irresistibly into the water. So Lexi closed herself off to the world, refusing to make friends or fall in love.

Why? Because she killed the boy she loved.

The book Ripple opens when Lexi is at her secluded lake that nobody seems to know about. Except this night, the night before her first day of her senior year of high school, the best friend of the boy she loved, Cole, is skipping rocks on the lake. She knows she can't swim that night, and that will make her first day of senior year unbearable.

As if it isn't already. Her ex-best friend, Sienna, the most popular girl in the school, and her friends, tease Lexi relentlessly. Even though they don't know she really killed him, she was there when he died, and that makes her guilty in their eyes.

This book was really creepy, but had great romantic tension. Lexi thinks she's falling in love with Cole, until a new boy named Erik shows up to her school. He's the male version of a siren- a nix. And his curse activates on his eighteenth birthday. He tells her that if they fall in love, both of their curses will end. Lexi wants this, and she must decide between freedom from her curse and the boy that she thinks she loves. The whole falling-in-love thing seemed a little bit clichéd to me. Most YA novels have two people falling in love, although it was great otherwise. I highly recommend you read it.

The Adventures of Tintin

By Declan Rocket



The adventure film genre is a genre we all love. These movies have really cool characters, and exotic locations that make us all want to be a treasure hunter. However, good action films are hard to come by these days. Lucky for us Steven Spielberg has outdone himself with the recently released film, *The Adventures of Tintin*. Based on an incredibly popular comic (in Europe), the film follows Tintin (played by Jamie Bell), a young reporter and his dog Snowy tracking down the secret of the lost merchant ship, the unicorn. His investigations get him kidnapped, taken aboard the ship with a crazy captain, Haddock, (played by Andy Serkis), and a motor cycle chase in Northern Africa. This film definitely feels like one of his classic adventure movies that we all know and love. The film is beautifully animated through motion caption technology, which was primarily used by Robert Zemekis in the *Polar Express*. For any fans of the comic, it is a must see. Even students who have never heard of Tintin should check this movie out. It is a great film for everyone, and I highly recommend viewing. A 9 out of 10.



Riddle Time!

With David Kennan



In medieval times, a cruel king was a ruler of a huge kingdom. One of his poor servants, named James Giles, finally got tired of his cruel commands. He decided to lead a revolt. The king had a very powerful army and he could have quickly stopped the revolt, but he didn't want to give people ideas about starting an even larger revolt. He requested to conference with the James.

"What can I give you to stop this revolt," he said

"I want nothing from you," James replied.

"I am the most powerful man in this world and I do not intend to let you lead this revolt," the king bellowed.

"Very well. There are two things that I request. The first being my freedom from you and a severing of my oaths of loyalty to this kingdom," James stated.

"And the second?"

"That you take a chessboard and put one grain of rice on the first square. Put two on the second square, four on the third square, and so forth, doubling the amount of rice on the last square to the next."

"Is that all?" the king laughed. "I thought I would have to pay money to the people of the kingdom or some other sort of other expensive payment. All you want is some rice? I will give you your wishes."

How much rice did the king have to put on the 64th square of the chess board?

Sports

February Gym Activities

By Nicole Fiore



The gym teachers, Mr. McLaughlin, Ms. Johnson, and Ms. Wesoly are looking for students to sell t-shirts during lunch, the shirts will be 15 dollars. February is also the month of the DSMS students vs. teachers' basketball game. The gym classes will break up into groups for a basketball team, and whichever team proves to be the best will get an opportunity to face off against the teachers of DSMS. The gym teachers will be handing out logs to get donations for the hoops for hearts association. There will be prizes for the amount of money you collect for this important cause. The gym teachers would love for the entire DSMS students to wear red t-shirts on the in honor of the American Heart Association.

7th Grade Boys Basketball

By Christopher Devine

This year's 7th grade basketball season consists of two teams. I decided to follow up on one of those two teams, Coach Jeffries team. This team consists of thirteen players, including, Michael Jeffries, Christopher Devine, Will Tierney, John Dakoyannis, Johnathan Howland, Andrew Dipetrillo, Jake Budd, Ben Browne, Oliver Morton, Zach Gustafson, Sean Doherty, Joe Beninati, and Greg Thisse. They are five games into the season, and their record is 4 wins and 1



Chris Devine takes the ball to the hoop as four defenders look on helplessly. As in all other aspects of life, you cannot stop Chris Devine - you can only hope to contain him.

two teams that set them on their 2 game winning streak was Dedham and Canton. The game against Dedham was an 8 point lead, ending the game with a 41-33 point win some highlights were; Ben Brown went 4 for 5 with 8 points, Greg Thisse had 8 points, Jake Budd went 3 for 6 with 6 points and Joe Beninati had 5 points, and Christopher Devine went 2 for 4 with 4 points. The game

loss. You can watch this team play every Sunday, times vary. Their first game this season was a very close game against Mansfield. Mike Jeffries and Andrew Dipitrillo both had 3 pointers. They started off their season on a bad note, which was the one game they lost. Their next to games were pure victories. The against Canton was not as easy a win, but DS fought it out until the end where they could walk away with a victory. The ending score was only a four point lead.. The DS basketball season is only 6 games into it, so you still have plenty of time to go root on your fellow classmates.

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submissions! Come to our meetings each
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