

Fall/Winter

2008-9

Issue 1

The Insider

Van Antwerp MS



The First Half of the School Year – In Review

A lot has happened this year already. Wow! Time is flying! Look inside and see all of the cool things that have been happening. Let's work the make the rest of the school year just as great.

Historic Election

What Matters to Niskayuna Citizens
By Rajiv Kommareddy

The 2008 election will certainly go down in the history books. The 73 team surveyed 113 Niskayuna voters. The issues that they mainly based their votes on were taxes, healthcare, the war in Iraq, the economy, and foreign policy. Apparently, many people agree, the taxes are too high. Also, the people really want healthcare but they don't think that they can afford it. The war is very controversial because not many people are sure whether America

should take the troops back or they should keep them in Iraq. Many voters weren't sure about foreign policy or other country's policies.

Some changes that Niskayuna voters want to make are changes to the Electoral College and campaign finance reform. Campaign Finance Reform is about how candidates get their money. Many people think that the candidates take too much money from special interests. What they want to change about the Electoral College is that they want to count every vote as its own.

Niskayuna Voters were informed and shared similar concerns.

The Joy of Giving

VAMS students and staff experienced the rewards of giving to others through the green bean collection, Adopt-A-Family, Alex's Lemonade Stand and other many events during the first half of the year. Remember the true reasons for these good causes and keep up the good work VAMS!

Remember—**Alex's Lemonade Stand** is for an important cause and it works on the honor system. All items should include a donation left at the stand. We trust that your "good honor" will keep you honest and the lemonade stand successful. Thank you.

REMEMBER TO KEEP
GIVING WITH BOX
TOPS!

Another Successful Pasta Dinner By Dan Nicoletta



Alex's
Lemonade
Stand
Is
Open!

The second annual Van Antwerp pasta dinner was held on November 6, 2008. From wonderful pasta to wonderful homemade desserts. As some customers said, "There was amazing baked pasta with tasteful

marinara sauce." Profits from the dinner went to the VA scholarship fund.

Thank you to all who helped make it possible.

BOOK CORNER By William Moore

Recently, I went to the Borders book sale and bought the Warriors box set. I have been reading the first few books and thought that I would type up a quick review... It starts out with a house cat named Rusty who leads a soft life but longs to live a life of adventure in the forest. He gets his chance when he is sitting on a fence post bordering the forest and meets some wild cats that offer him just what he is looking for. Rusty becomes a warrior among the clans of cats. Over all, I give this series a five star review and would recommend the book to anyone, but especially to people who love wild adventures and cats!

BOOK REVIEWS BY ANDREW

BRISINGR This book is well worth the high price tag and the long wait. I am a veteran inheritance cycle fan and this book is good. There are many twists and turns and it is very, very good. But this book will only be of interest to fans of these books. You should read the first book and then decide if you want to shell out the money for this book. But be warned you will have to read the first two books if want to follow the story line. This book is not for those who are looking for a light read because this book is a whopping some 700 pages.



Wall Of The Yankee

By Marcus Flores

I, Marcus Flores, asked Mrs.C-S some questions on the Yankee's.

- Q. "Why do you like the Yankees?"
A. "Because my Dad liked them and so it was like a bonding experience."
Q. "Who is your favorite player?"
A. "Bernie Williams, but since he left, now it's Derek Jeter."
Q. "How long have you liked the Yankees?"
A. "Since I was little."

Do you have fun writing, drawing comics or making puzzles? If your answer is yes, then come join Newspaper club.

You can hang out with friends while writing articles the whole school can enjoy!

Newspaper Club meets almost every **Thursday** at **3:30** in Mrs. Newell's room **244**.

TIPS For The New Year by Teddy

1. Stay on top of things, if you're absent make sure you get everything and get new assignments so you don't miss anything and have a zero.
2. If you get an assignment, do it gradually, let's say you get an essay on Friday and it's due Wednesday, start on it Friday or Saturday and work through it step by step.
3. Stay clean, you will feel a lot better and at ease.
4. Recycle, saving the environment is good for the soul. Pieces of paper, plastic and the already read newspapers.
5. Be careful choosing friends, make sure they will be friendly; you can trust them and they are long term.

A Restroom Crisis!

By: Dan Alfeo

Attention all guys!!! The restroom in the 73 wing is being locked at eighth period every day. If you're a guy, you know why. If you're a female, then I'd rather not tell you. So, if you are the reason for this, then please confess. Unleash your inner honesty. And do it fast, because boys really have to use the bathroom! And I have to go ASAP!!!!

PLEASE STOP AND CONFESS!

SNOW DOESN'T STOP GEOGRAPHY BEE!

On January 8th Van Antwerp hosted the school-wide competition of the National Geographic's Geography Bee. The winner, Connor Chapman will take a test to qualify for the statewide competition in Albany.

Congratulations Connor and to all of the participants listed below:

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Tyler Hanft | Robert Kaucic | Luke Miller |
| Kelsey McDermott | Andrew Palmateer | Olivia Mancusco |
| Sonja Dahl | Reshmi Kurup | Maura Griffith (picture p.6) |

"Unleash your inner honesty..."

Did You Know These Fun Facts?

**By: TaY TaY &
Craspity
laBoods**

Did you know... That girls have more taste buds than boys!
-Braxton learned this from National Geographic Magazine.

Did you know... That Alaska is 1/5 of the 48 states?
-Bell learned this from Google.com... YAY!

Did y'all know... The first woman who ran for president was Victoria Woodhull in 1879?!
-Madeline learned this from her parents!!

Did you people know.... People used to be so afraid of the evil eye. They would dress their sons up in dresses to trick the demons into leaving.

Did you know... The Weather Underground was a group formed by William Ayers that was against the government and bombed buildings in 1970. -An anonymous student learned this from the New York Times!

Did you know... That hockey was invented in 1885 by British Soldiers stationed in Canada.
-Gabe learned this from... His ASSIGNMENT NOTEBOOK! Do you use yours?

All these facts were totally given to us by the 7th grade 7-3 team!

"I didn't know that!"

Join *The Insider*

By Dan Nicoletta

Do you have fun writing, drawing comics or making puzzles? If your answer is yes, then come join Newspaper club. You can hang out with friends while writing articles the whole school can enjoy! Newspaper Club meets almost every Thursday at 3:30 in Mrs. Newell's room 244.



Photo of a fun day at a Newspaper Club meeting!



What Do You Look For In A Leader?

When you're electing and supporting a leader, what do you look for? Do you want the person to be brave, strong and confident? Or do you want a kind, compassionate, and respectful? If you ask middle school students, here's what you can expect.

Some students look for a leader who won't let others make decisions for them. They stick by their ideas and are responsible, respectful, and trustworthy. These attributes make them strong and sure of themselves. They often have an air of confidence about them. Others want leaders who makes promises that are realistic and who are willing to listen to others' points of view and change their own. These leaders accept other's ideas.

Many attributes are honored and respected for leaders. Some of these attributes are integrity,

honesty, and loyalty. Most people want a leader who will follow through on promises and solve problems, not just talk about them. Integrity is also important because people want a leader they can trust to be honest and not be "double faced". They want some one who won't say they will do something and then walk away and do something else.

Although being very serious is important, being able to have fun is important too. Many people want a leader that is able to make things fun and always put a positive spin on everything that happens. Although it's important to be strong and stay with your views and opinions, a leader should also be kind and thoughtful and stay open to opposing ideas.

Are you a leader?

**"...INTEGRITY,
HONESTY,
LOYALTY"**



Geography Bee winner, Connor Chapman poses with parents. From page 4.

The Great Debate... Is Water Wet? By David Etkin

It has been a question haunting the world for years. Some say water is not wet. When you get wet, is it water or another liquid on you? If a liquid is on something, that thing becomes wet. But is the liquid itself wet? Let's see what some people think....

“Water isn't wet. Wetness is a description of our experience of water; what happens to us when we come into contact with water in such a way that it impinges on our state of being. We, or our possessions, 'get wet'. A less impinging sense experience of water is that it is cold or warm, while visual experience tells us that it is green or blue or muddy or fast flowing. We learn by experience that a sensation of wetness is associated with water.” For example, “There must be a leak/I must have sat in something.”
Jacqueline Castles, London W2

Any fluid could be said to be wet if wetness is a result of the sensation caused by the movement of a fluid over the skin. Have you ever noticed that you can't feel wetness if you hold your hand perfectly still while it is submerged, or that a drop of water on the skin doesn't feel wet?
Chris and Shevvy Ould, Chesterfield, Derbyshire

Water /sWet! By Rajiv Kommareddy

I think that water is wet. Forget David! Don't even read his article! David's is lying about some “professor” that claims that water is not wet. IT'S A LIE!! Water is wet, if it's not, then what is it? Dry? I know that water is wet so don't believe David! Vote for water that is wet! DO IT!

You decide....

IS WATER WET? (CHECK ONE)	
YES	
NO	

**Submit
your vote
today!**



We're on the Web!
See us at:
niskyschools.org

Holidays Are Worth Learning About

By: Irene Kulbida

Thanksgiving! Good food, family, football! What's not to love about this amazing holiday? Thanksgiving was started by pilgrims, but it wasn't made a national holiday until Abraham Lincoln made it one. Why is it so important to learn about holidays like this? Here is what some students had to say:

"All holidays have certain significant aspects and it is important to learn about the different things people do because it makes you understand the ideas that other people have or it lets you appreciate why they celebrate it." - Hailey Golub

It is important "to learn about other people's cultures and traditions because it might give ideas to add to your own culture or tradition." - Dimple Permaul

I feel it is important to learn about other cultures and traditions for two reasons. It broadens your knowledge when you learn about what other people celebrate. It also makes you sensitive to other cultures. I get disappointed when people say "Merry Christmas" because I celebrate Hannakah. However, some of the holiday cards I have received this year say Happy Holidays and over time, people have been saying "Happy Holidays". This means that people are becoming more sensitive to other people's religions and customs." - Aaron Gordon

"With tolerance, everyone can respect on another. And, in respect, everyone can move forward." - Sonja Dahl



Our Visitors From Another Culture – Mongolia



See our
Puzzles
And
Cartoons
At The
End
Of
This
Newsletter!

