

The Charger

Volume 6, Number 6

MAY 2003

www.thecharger.org

Student leaders prepare for next year

BY AMY E.

The school year is coming to an end and among many spring activities is the student council election. Unlike other years, this election was not close enough to require a run-off.

Our new president elect is Kevin H. and vice-president elect is Evin S. The new secretary is Alex D. and the treasurer is Nick P.

Kevin's primary goals are to purchase more microwaves, have longer dances, and allow more time in between classes.

Evin intends to learn from the student body what they think should be done.

They both said that they would try to make school a more enjoyable place to learn.

Kevin offered some tips for next year's

candidates including: try your hardest to advertise, let everyone know your ideas, and have some goals that are popular with both the students and the teachers.

Some of the other candidates who ran in this election were Frank C. and David Z., Sammy M. and Alissa D., Nicole M. and Emily G.



Photo by Valerie K.

Student Council president elect Kevin H. and vice-president elect Evin S. gave their candidate speech before the incoming sixth grade class on May 14.

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Collage! p.8**

All this and more!

Future of the Stock Market Game in jeopardy

BY PAM R.

The Stock Market Game is a program designed to teach kids about the economy and investing. It is sponsored by the Securities Industries Association for Economic Education, the Chicago Tribune, the Illinois Secretary of State and Northern Illinois University.

This game improves students' math, reading, and research skills. Students buy, sell, and trade stocks.

They learn the key concepts of the economy, which probably explains why Peacock Middle School has beaten out the

other schools eighteen times in nineteen years.

This year, seventh graders Jimmy B. and Zack F. won first place in the region, beating even the high schools.

Julia N., Julie P., and Heather N. came in second.

The Stock Market Game also teaches persistence and variability, because students are put in groups that range anywhere from three to five people, and are given \$100,000 to buy stocks.

See **Stock Market**
Page 2

Students study particle physics at Fermi Lab

BY KAITLYN L.

On April 23, 2003, the eighth grade class went to Fermi Lab located in Batavia, Illinois. This was a science field trip where they explored the world of protons, neutrons, and electrons.

After riding on a bus for quite some time, the class was separated into groups.

One group went into the labs, while the other group went into an activity center.

In the activity center, they learned things in

a more "hands-on" setting. Many students thought that this part of the trip was more exciting and fun than the other part.

One popular activity used a sort of pool table to demonstrate how particles move and bounce off each other.

One of the most fun activities was one where you would "freeze a moment in time." In this small room you were able to freeze your shadow like a picture.

After the activity center, the eighth graders had lunch outside. Many students thought that was fun too, because everyone got to run around a little.

Then they slammed it down on the desk, and the lettuce shattered into many small pieces, just like glass.

The students also toured the labs and business center where everyone works. They learned about the smallest particles in matter called quarks, different machines used to combine different particles, and many more things that went

straight over some students' heads.

After the whole tour they met up in a classroom where the scientists talked about their

work and answered their questions.

They also showed the students what nitrogen could do to different objects such as lettuce. They placed the piece of lettuce in the nitrogen for almost a minute and then took it out. Then they slammed it down on the desk, and the lettuce shattered into many small pieces, just like glass.

Soon after the scientists



Photo by Kaitlyn L.

answered all of their questions, the eight graders left to return to school. Many felt that the trip to Fermi Lab was fun and fascinating.

Stock Market game teaches value of persistence

Continued from page 1

Students learn that diversification and persistence are crucial. Diversification is important because it is safer not to put all your eggs in one basket. Persistence is key because you never know when a stock is going to rise or fall.

Mr. Peel does not know if the Stock Market will be played next year because of a lack of funding from the state of Illinois. So all concerned students and parents should write letters to their legislators to try to get the game played next year.

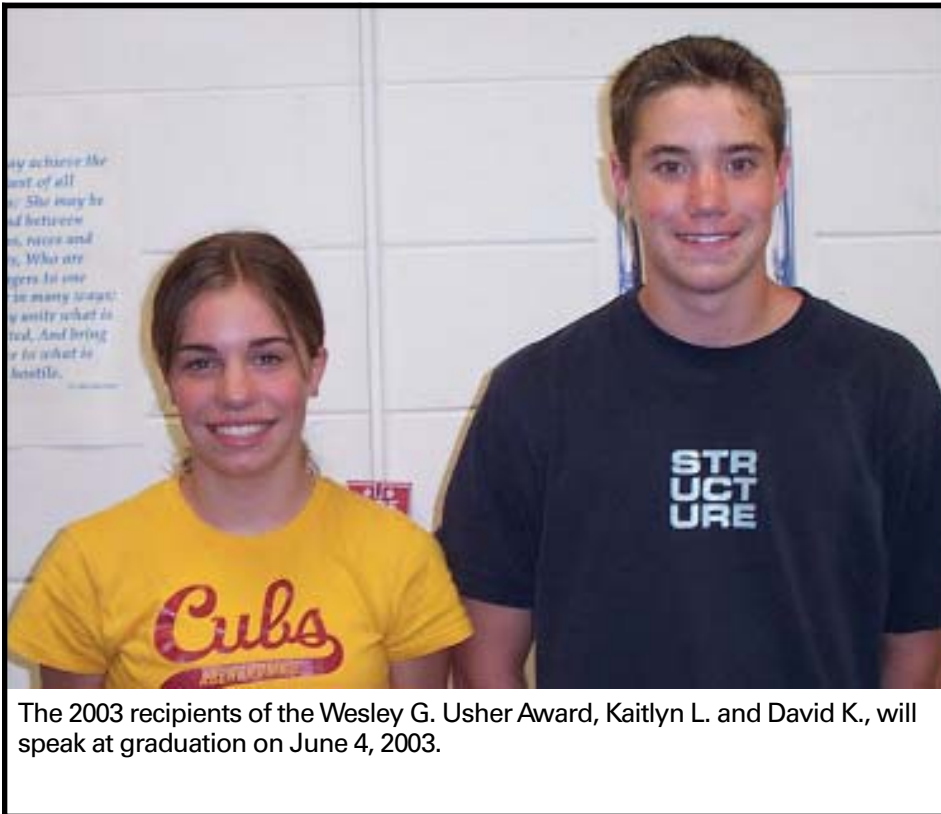
Mr. Peel's advice for investors is to follow the P.E.E.L principle. Pennies a day, Ease in, Ease out, Learn all you can about the historical market.

Feel free to contact Mr. Peel if you have any questions about the future of Stock Market Game.



Photo by Mr. Peel

Seventh graders Zack F. and Jimmy B. won first place in the region with a \$31,494 profit.



The 2003 recipients of the Wesley G. Usher Award, Kaitlyn L. and David K., will speak at graduation on June 4, 2003.



May 2003

Citizenship

- Laurie C.
- Adam D.
- Eric A.
- Wil V.
- Megan S.
- Elizabeth R.
- Valerie K.
- Rachel K.
- Charley C.
- Abigail R.

Responsibility

- Radvile R.
- Chris R.s
- Megan Z.
- Sara Z.
- Dana Y.
- Victoria C.
- Paulina T.

Respect

- Jose S.
- Liz P.

Fairness

- Crystal K.

Annual arts show showcased student talent

**BY JOANNA M.,
FINISHING EDITOR**

You may have noticed that a few weeks ago some pieces of art started to pop up in the hallways. At first it seemed like no big deal, then the next thing you knew, wherever you went, you were surrounded by art. What was going on?

Well, if you paid any attention to the morning and afternoon announcements or looked at some of the flyers posted up you may have noticed that something was coming. That's right, the Fine and Applied Arts Festival.

The event was held at school on Thursday, April 24, from 6-8 p.m. Parents, teachers, students, and anyone else who would have liked to look at the types of art the students did, were welcome to come.

The pieces of art that hung up included photos, drawings, clay ceramics, and weavings. Each piece of art was hand made by a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd quarter 6th, 7th, or 8th grader.

But, art wasn't the only thing that the guests could enjoy. Down in Mrs. Mann's room, cheese cake, cookies, lemon bars, and drinks were being served, which were made by the 4th quarter students. Also, in the gym there

was a jazz band performance followed by a chorus concert. All these things were available to the parents, teachers, and students that attended.

Although the parents came to look at the art made by the Peacock students, they also came for another reason. To pick their favorite piece of art for this year.

With over 300 pieces of art hung up around the school, and each one just as well done as the next, the decision was not an easy one.

Finally, at the end of the night the winners were announced. Each grade had three winners and they are as follows: 6th grade- 1st: Brianne F. 2nd: Morgan V. 3rd: Rachel R. ; 7th- 1st: Acaisha B. 2nd: Jessica L. 3rd: Amy E.; 8th- 1st: Mark G. 2nd: Nicole D. 3rd: Katie P.

From concerts to watch to cheesecake to eat, the Fine and Applied Arts Festival was something that needed to be visited this year.

Ken Majkowicz

Touch of Beauty Carpeting

Cleaning & Installation

410 Catalpa
Itasca, IL 60143

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BY LAURA B.
COLUMNIST

Sharks

It is incredibly ironic Peacock has been teaching us about the cruelties of war and about death and all the horrible things going on in this crazy world, but not once do they mention sharks. No, not the “safe strong and free” sharks we only read about, but the ones who grow up on a farm with nothing to live for except for the day that they die. You know, “the prime of their life” as some so heartlessly say about when we dissect them.

As every student at Peacock knows by the awful stench of death roaming the halls of Peacock for days, the whole eighth grade class is expected to dissect a shark. But what do we learn from dissecting the murdered sharks? How to breathe through our mouths as not to smell death? Not only is it wasteful, but it is completely ignorant to support the murder of the sharks.

Once in a great while, you see an article in the newspaper about how a shark killed a person out of self-defense or fear, but not ONCE do you see an article about the millions of sharks raised to die by inhumane “humans.”

Teachers are constantly trying to “reassure” us that dissecting a shark is not a big deal because they were at the prime of their lives anyway. Humans can be at the “prime of their years,” but we don’t raise them on a farm and dissect them in an inexperienced eighth grade classroom by the hundreds. Dissecting both sharks and humans is wrong on so many levels, and offensive.

See Sharks
Page 5

History is being made

So why aren’t we learning about it?

BY TRISHA H.,
ADVERTISEMENT EDITOR

Why is it that history is being made, but students aren’t learning about it in school?

We heard about the war in Iraq and now the occupation everyday on the television, in the newspapers, and on the radio, but we aren’t discussing it.

Does it make any sense that our country has just been at war and students don’t have a clue? It’s understood that what we learn about in Social Studies class is important to know.

But current events are also important.

Why should we have to wait twenty years

for “The War in Iraq” events to be printed in text books if we could learn important details now by just opening a newspaper and discussing it with our peers?

If we would learn about it now, we could grow up and say that we lived through the “War in Iraq” and saw it on TV and know the facts about it.

Instead, we’re learning about stuff that happened centuries ago.

Don’t get me wrong, history is very important, but so are current events.

Does it make any sense that our country has just been at war and students don’t have a clue?

Why can’t I wash my hands?

BY ERIC A.,
ASSISTANT FINISHING EDITOR

Do you know what kind of problems there are in the bathroom? Well there are toilets and sinks, but what goes good with the sinks...Paper Towels!

Every time I go into any bathroom of the school I have a very good chance of seeing no paper towels. I am tired of walking around with wet hands.

I also don’t want to go walking around wiggling my wet hands looking like a fool.

I am also tired of interrupting Mr. Koenig’s

class to ask for a paper towel. Many other teachers and students have been complaining too.

Sure this isn’t the worst possible problem in our school, but if this is not fixed soon people will start wiping their hands on the walls

I know the school is short on janitorial services, but at least have the faculty take turns fixing what can’t be done. I mean it isn’t that hard to take turns every week going around to replace paper towels in the restrooms.

Come on, you can easily fix this. Can’t you?

The Charger

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Write the editorial board with questions, comments and complaints. Correspondence must be signed.

Guys and Dolls

A cast member reflects

BY MICHELLE S.

Anyone who saw the show “Guys and Dolls” or heard the conversations about the play, knows who the main characters were and who played them.

Most people don’t give a thought about all of the hard work that went into it. The actors had to work hard to learn the lines and dances, not to mention finding fedoras (hats) and police costumes that fit.

The stage crew worked hard to set everything up; the make-up crew made sure everyone looked their part; and the set and props people made sure that the right background was set up at the right time with the right accessories in the right places.

WHEW!! Yet, most people just go to see the show and leave.



Photo by Mr. Peel

Eighth graders, Mark G., Kaitlyn L. and Mariana D. perform Fugue for Tin Horns in the opening scene from Guys and Dolls.



Joanna M., seventh grade, plays bass drum in the “Save a Soul” Mission Band in Guys and Dolls.

Photo by Mr. Peel

They don’t give it a second thought.

I’m not saying that after every movie, show, or book people should ponder on what it took to make it. I’m just saying that I think most entertainment is under-appreciated.

Before someone comments on a movie, saying something like “that was awww-ful,” they should think of how they would have done it.

Mrs. Carmona was a patient, understanding coordinator. She helped us work out conflicting schedules; she was flexible about scenery production; she was always enthusiastic and excited.

The whole show was a success because of her dedication, knowledge and resourcefulness. It was one of the most fun experiences I’ve had at Peacock so far!

Sharks

Continued from page 4

People might find my comparison offensive, but I am using it to express *my* sense of outrage at the pointless murder of sharks. This slaughter is going on in schools throughout the country. Now really, how many students who dissect a shark in eighth grade grow up and use their knowledge to do something good for sharks—a minuscule percentage at best!

To think of all the evils that humans are capable of is revolting. To think of all the evils that a close-minded human is capable of is scary. For those of us who think animals are the lower beings, we need to open our eyes.

“We” as the future, are being asked to carry on so many things. We are learning about how to speak out against drugs and make a difference. We are told that it [the dissection



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEXANDRA B.

of sharks] doesn’t even affect us, so why bother trying to change it!? The majority of us don’t do drugs but we are being taught to speak against that!

Someday, I hope that we, the so-called

TESTING

BY CALLIE S.

- T esting
- E ating away my brain
- S o long
- T iresome
- I gnorant
- N ever ending
- G ood riddance

“bright” future, can put a stop to the mass murder of sharks. Dissecting sharks is like stepping on an anthill. It’s wrong, but it is easy to stop. Yet most of us “high-class” humans could care less.

Advisor thanks students and staff for another great year

I would like to thank all the students who contributed to *The Charger* this year and helped to make it a success. I would also like to thank the editorial staff for all their work and creativity.

I was particularly impressed with the increased responsibility the editors took for getting *The Charger* to print, from new ideas to layout. Their individual efforts as well as their ability to work together set a new standard for our editorial board.

I was also very happy with the quality and variety of stories produced by the whole staff.

I would like to mention five students who merit special recognition: Jackie S., Alexandra B., Acaisha B., Amy E. and Trisha H.

As an entertainment editor, Jackie S. really helped set the new tone for the editorial staff this year, working hard at her editorial duties as well as taking on any job she was asked to do.

Alexandra B. and Acaisha B. have been our awesome art editors, whose work in every issue has helped give *The Charger* its characteristic bite and great look.

Amy E. was a great addition to our news staff. Her polished articles, from interviews to original ideas for stories, really improved our news section.

Finally, our advertising editor, Trisha H. kept our ad and revenue department thriving through another successful year. She was responsible for the purchase of a large glass-enclosed display case for *The Charger* and its advertisers. It will be installed in the cafeteria next year.

The editors will receive a CD-ROM version of *The Charger* as a token of appreciation. Any student

who contributed to two issues of *The Charger* will receive a certificate of merit.

I wish the eighth graders luck in their high school careers and hope to see the rest of you again next year.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the administration and teachers for their support, and Mrs. Denise Doyle and Mrs. Linda Purtell for all their help and patience in copying *The Charger* each month.

Charger staff

Eric A.
Alexandra B.
Daniel B.
Laura B.
Acaisha B.
Sarah B.
Caitlyn C.
Mariana D.
Laura D.
Nicole D.
Cassandra D.
Amy E.
Stephen G.
Steven G.
Tricia H.
Trisha H.
Andrew K.
Valarie K.
Eddie K.
Jessica L.
Carly L.
Kaitlyn L.
Jessica L.
Briana L.
Megan L.
Nicole M.
Veronica M.
Michelle M.

Urszula M.
Monica M.
Joanna M.
Samantha M.
Amanda M.
Brittany O.
Amanda P.
Paul P.
Kyle P.
Shannon P.
Pamela R.
Christopher R.
Evin S.
Susan S.
Alexander S.
Michelle S.
Jaclyn S.
Kenneth T.
Shannon T.
Rena W.
Christopher W.
William W.
Emily W.
Carmen Z.
Megan Zaubi
Sarah Zaubi
Agnes Z.
Kristyna Z.

I was particularly impressed with the increased responsibility the editors took for getting *The Charger* to print, from new ideas to layout.



The Charger on CD!

The entire year of *The Charger* on a CD-ROM, \$5.00. See Mr. Travis if interested, or call (630) 773-1232, Ext. 587.

<http://thecharger.org/cdrom.htm>



BY SARAH Z.

The Computer Guy

BY STEVE G., NEWS
EDITOR

You know "The computer guy." He's the computer technician who walks around talking to teachers or who is busy computing in the office across from the social studies classrooms.

I wanted to know what he really did, so I interviewed him. The computer guy's name is Mr. Fath. He supports the computer software and hardware at Peacock, Franzen, and Benson. Ms. Michelle Davanon, the other computer technician, does the same thing.

So basically, if the computer hard drive fails, the monitor goes out, or the drive has problems you'll probably see them. You probably don't see them too often because most of the things

they do are in their office or at the master computer.

Their job is different from Mr. Weidman's. Mr. Fath's job is more on the technical end, whereas Mr. Weidman deals with floppy disks, printer jams, and the infamous ID checking.

Mr. Fath likes rock music such as Cold Play. His favorite kind of movies are science fiction like *The Matrix*.

The last book he read was *The Universe in a Nutshell* by Stephen Hawking.

My last question was how he felt working in a room with no windows? He responded, "It's depressing at times but you get over it."

Bob Chinn's Crab House is a mouthwatering delight

BY KYLE P., SPORTS
EDITOR

I went to Bob Chinn's Crab House (393 South Milwaukee Ave. in Wheeling IL) on April 21 with my family.

Bob Chinn's opened in 1982 and was an immediate success. On average, Bob Chinn's Crab House serves 175 thousand pounds of crab meat, 650 thousand pounds of ahi tuna, 50 thousand pounds of lobster, and 360 thousand mai tais in one year.

Bob Chinn's also serves about 3,000 plates a night "even on weeknights" and has a yearly income of 21.7 million dollars.

Bob Chinn's is also known especially for their promise that their food is the freshest seafood in the state.

To prove that they do, they show their air delivery tickets in the main hallway "which is changed everyday" showing exactly when the food left, wherever it came from, and arrived at the restaurant. When I went on April 21st, I saw a ticket that left Alaska on April 20th in the afternoon, and the shipment of crab legs arrived at Bob Chinn's the morning of April 21st.

I ordered their most popular dish as well as the rest of my family; the 16 oz. Alaskan King Crab Legs. For a very crowded restaurant I was surprised that we received our meal pretty quickly. It took about 15 minutes to get 4 huge meals along with hundreds of people ordering at the same time.

While you are waiting though, they serve their famous homemade oil and garlic buns that literally melt in your mouth.

My mouth was watering before I even sunk my teeth into the food. Just the aroma of the food could have satisfied my hunger.

I can't describe in words how good the food was just that I could eat there everyday. That's no joke.

The only complaint anyone could have from eating at Bob Chinn's Crab House would be is that the food is a little pricey. A 16 oz. Platter of Alaskan King Crab Legs are \$22.95 and a 20 oz. Platter is \$27.95.

The cheapest entry on the menu is the New Zealand Green Lip Mussels, which are \$13.95 and the most expensive entry is the 30 oz. Australian Lobster tails which are \$70.95. Bob Chinn's also has a kid menu, so yes the restaurant is okay for younger children who don't like seafood, etc.

I would most definitely recommend Bob Chinn's Crab House to anyone young or old who enjoys seafood and is willing to pay a little bit extra for really fresh food.

Food: 5
Atmosphere: 5
Service: 5
Cleanliness: 5
Value of money: 4
Kid friendliness: 4
Overall Experience: 5

Off the Shelf

Novel News from the
Itasca Community Library

By Lori Craft

The library is pleased to have a spot in the Charger in which to recommend great books and to let you in on any upcoming library activities for teens.

Summer Reading Club
Have you signed up yet for "Lights! Camera! READ!" - the library's Summer Reading Club? If you haven't, there's still time. Participants earn fabulous prizes just by reading books.

Have a Sequel Summer
Excited by all the great movie sequels this summer? Well, the theaters may have *Matrix Reloaded* and *T3*, but the library will have newly released book sequels. Check out one of these great sequels (and if you haven't read the originals, give them a try!):

Second Summer of the Sisterhood sequel to *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* by Ann Brashares

Artemis Fowl: the Eternity Code third in the Artemis Fowl series by Eoin Colfer

Princess in Waiting fourth in the Princess Diaries series by Meg Cabot
And, of course, after June 21, we will have the fifth Harry Potter book.

Have a great summer!

Class of 2003

There have been good and bad times, but either way, it was fun and I won't forget it. Good luck at LP everyone! Love, from Skyler M.

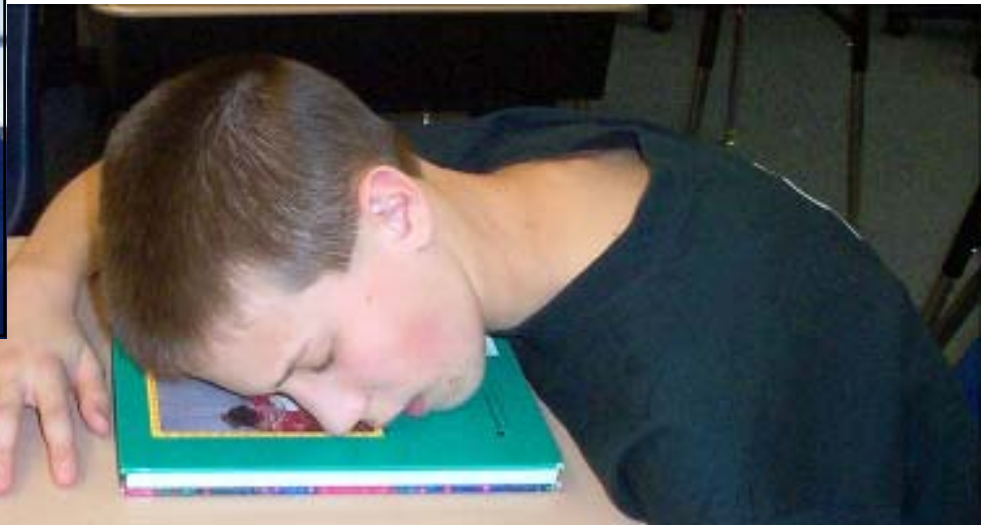


I went through many pencils...way too many pencils... Andrew K.



Paying people to do my homework = \$10.00
Buying TVs for no reason = \$3,000.00
Leaving Peacock = Priceless!
Bye, Agnes Z.

I don't know what to say, but thanks! That is, thanks for nothing! Goodbye Peacock! I hate you...people were okay though... Monica M.



8th grade was ok. Mike W.



Thanks for all the great times... Mark G.



High School should be fun. See ya there! Love, Shannon T.



Thanks to all of my friends, I love you. Good luck to everyone in LP! Paige is the best! Bye, Samantha C.

Peacock was an all around great school. There were fun times and really bad times. But I'll always remember the days. Samantha C. is the best! Love, Paige P.



Thanks to all my friends. For all 7th graders... You're getting the best teacher (Ms. Hepp) You're the best Ms. Hepp... Don't change! Love, Joanna D.



Life's awesome! I can't wait until high school. I love all my buds! OXOX forever! Yay! We're grads now! From, Lara P.



The teachers were really nice and I really enjoyed my 3 years at Peacock. I will miss it. Kelly P.



Peacock was the worst three years of my life. Teachers are quick to assume and I dread every moment spent here. (Wash your hands kiddos) Laura B.



I'll remember the memories, good times and bad! Good luck at LP everyone! From, Sara M.



Rock on this year's eighth graders! *Makes "rock on" symbol with hand" Rachel W.

Even though I got in trouble a lot, it was pretty fun year, sixth grade flew by, seventh grade was slow, and eighth grade flew too. Stephanie U.



There's so much to say about Peacock... the crazy teachers, the overload of homework, the silly rules we never followed. Thanks for making us the worst grade ever and sending us to be Lake Park's problem. Emma H.

The only thing I learned is that every week is a red ribbon week in a blue ribbon school, or we're too lazy to take the sign down.
Carly L.



Peacock's been great! Good luck everyone. It's been real! "Go Chasing Fame!" Erin M.

Super, Oh Great, we're gonna graduate! C-ya, Oh My, It's time to say Buh Bye! Just kidding.
Jaclyn S.



We are the coolest... the non-conformists who hate anyone who doesn't conform to our conformity. Time for our road trip...farewell Peacock!!!
Gizardens Rule!
Nicole B.



Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined. I LOVE all you guys so much!
Thanks! -
Riddler XOx



Thanks for all great times and memories. Had a blast! Cya 'round.
Shannon P.



Eighth grade sucked, make it better.
Marcel M.

I had a really great time at Peacock and I'm sure that a lot of other kids did too.
Joe F.



Over my three years at Peacock, they have made my life miserable. I am indescribably happy to be leaving. THANKS FOR NOTHING! I hate Peacock!
Jessica L.

This was the best year! I don't want graduation to come, because I don't want to leave my friends. I had fun this year!
Katherine V.

There's no problem too big or complicated it can't be run away from. And I love Kristen Maros cause she is the coolest!
Danny R.



The strength of one individual may be greater than the criticism of many.
Kelly B.



Peacock was fun, but pretty stupid! So many rules... Everyone have fun in high school!
Sarah B.



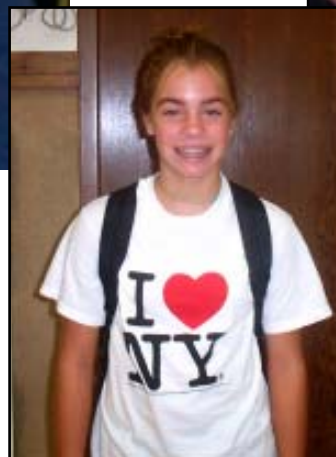
That cat is crazy He bald! They're lying to us all. You sunk my battleship! C! C as in kitty! Thank goodness I'm leaving...yay!
Nicky H.



Trying only makes failing worse.
Paul P.



Eighth grade is over, now it's done. Lake Park is coming, let's have fun!
Ashley C.

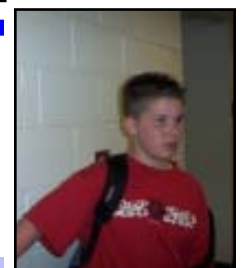


Everyone brought joy into this school, some by entering, and others by leaving! Luv ya class of 2003! Yea!
Kaitlyn L.



Yo,yo,yo homie G, triple OG, OG triple. This ya boy D Money. Shout out to all my homies, Keith, Chris, Nummer, andTupac. Daniel K.

This year was great even though we got in trouble a lot. Hope everyone does good and has fun at LP!
Hannah O.



Going through Peacock has been a long journey! To all eighth graders, live it up and have fun at LP! I'm going to miss everybody!
Michelle M.



Hey everyone! I had lots of fun. To all my friends-love ya! Good Luck next year!
Cathy C.



Life's awesome! I can't wait until high school. I love all my buds! OXOX forever! Yay! We're grads now!
Lara P.



I'll remember the memories, good times and bad! Good luck at LP everyone!
Sara M.



Eighth grade has been fun, but now it's over and high school's time has already begun. Good luck to everyone at LP and everywhere else.
Jennifer O.

This year was fun, can't wait 'til high school. All my friends I love you all!
Megan G.



Good luck everyone! Have fun!
Mari D.

I hate you all, I won't shed tears when I leave (maybe tears of joy, not sorrow though) I'll miss my friends though.
Ashley D.



2Pac will come back September 7, 2003. Don't forget who told you.
Keith M.



Here are a few words of encouragement: Pncumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoniosis, Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch, antidisestablishmentarianism, floccinaucinihilipilifacation, horoificabilitudinitatibus, conunicylcetrunshappiness, and one quote any more than 12 steps away isn't worth getting.
Mike K.



Hey everyone its been fun and I won't forget the memorable things. Love you all, well most of you J cya later! Christy G.

It's been really fun!! I'll miss all of you this summer but I hope to see you at Lake Park. Luv C.



Overall this school was ok. Hey to all my friends you're the best. And the seventh graders who get the best teacher ever. (Miss Heppeler) Lidia T.

Hope everyone has a great 4 years at Lake Park! Sorry I couldn't be there! I'll miss you all and I love you all! Angela W.



Thanks for all the good times guys. I'm gonna miss then. I love you all, and I'm gonna miss you guys. I'll remember you always. Susie S.

Eighth Grade Survey results

COMPILED BY SUSAN S. AND SHANNON P.

Category	Boy	Girl
Best Personality	Brendan T.	Ana N.
Most Outgoing	Dave K.	Katie L.
Most Common Sense	Steven G.	Kelly P.
Most Predictable	Paul P.	Paige P.
Least Predictable	Marcel M.	Ashley D.
Smartest	Alex C.	Shannon P.
Funniest	Erik S.	Colleen M.
Preppiest	Phil L.	Rachel R.
Class Clown	Marcel M.	Ashley D.
Sweetest	Matt V.	Meghan H.
Happiest	Brendan T.	Rachel R.
Most Mature	Phil L.	Kristen M.
Best Laugh	Joe F.	Susie S.
Toughest	Dan R.	Shannon S.
Quietest	Mike R.	Katie P.
Loudest	Keith M.	Jessica L.
Most Admired	Paul P.	Jenny O.
Most Athletic	Dave K.	Colleen M.
Most Social	Dave Keyworth	Katie L.
Most Independent	Nick D.	Jessica L.
Best Singer	Mark G.	Rachel R.
Best Actor	Mark G.	Lara P.
Best Dancer	Mike B.	Kaite L.
Most Talented	Alex C.	Katie L.
Best Handwriting	Martin Z.	Samantha C.
Fastest	Dave K.	Colleen M.
Most Likely to Become President	Kenny T.	Jenny O.
Most Likely to Succeed	Paul P.	Shannon P.
Gives Best Advice	Dan R.	Sarah B.
Best Hair	Mike K.	Megan G.
Best Dressed	Phil L.	Paige P.
Best Smile	Phil L.	Radvile R.
Coolest Eyes	Matt V.	Kelly B.

Make new friends, but keep the old, One is silver and the other's gold! Peacock's been great through good and bad times. Meghan H.



COLLAGE COMPILED BY TRISHA H., MARIANA D. AND SHANNON T.

The Matrix: Reloaded

Not as good as the first, but close

BY PAUL P.,
LAYOUT EDITOR

The Matrix: Reloaded was a great movie. This sequel to 1999's *The Matrix* is not as good as the original, but it is still better than some other sci-fi/action releases this year. (*Cough**Dreamcatcher**cough*)

First of all, I'd like to say that the special effects are fantastic. I found myself looking twice during some of the fight scenes to see what was real and what was CGI.

I've heard some people refer to the plot as a recycled version of the first film. It still focuses around Morpheus, Neo and Trinity.

This one, however, deals with the machines digging down to the last human city of Zion, deep beneath the surface of the earth.

To complicate matters, the powerful Agent Smith (Hugo Weaving) is back to kill Neo, but this time he is working on his own, outside of the system.

The human resistance is fighting for survival and there is a power struggle between those who believe that Neo (Keanu Reeves) is the "one," a messiah type character, and those who don't.

This leads to a long, drawn-out scene in

Zion where everything is explained. The second half of the movie contains most of the action that should've been dispersed throughout.

Most of *Reloaded's* fight scenes are the same type of stylized kung fu that made the series famous.

I was rather disappointed when I realized that there were no "John Woo" gun battles like in the lobby shootout of *The Matrix*.

This is due to the fact that Neo can stop bullets with his mind. Working this element into the plot kind of backed the Wachowski brothers into a corner.

The climax of the whole thing is a fourteen-minute car chase along the highway.

Many new characters are introduced in *Reloaded*. The usual cast of Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss, Lawrence Fishbourne, and Hugo Weaving return, and the new characters include Niobe, (Jada Pinkett-Smith) the captain of a resistance ship, and Link, (Harold Perrineau Jr.) the new systems operator aboard Morpheus's ship.

There are many more characters introduced but these are the only ones who play major roles in the plot's development. The



<http://matrix.com>

acting is usually very strong.

I would strongly recommend *The Matrix: Reloaded* for fans of the first movie. It doesn't reach the same level of quality, but it gets close.

Rating: ***

Genre: Sci-Fi/Action

Holes digs up intrigue

BY CASSANDRA D.

Holes is an excellent movie that has lots of excitement, action, mystery, and intrigue.

It is about a boy named Stanley Yelnats who is falsely accused of stealing a pair of shoes. For his punishment, he is sent to Camp Green Lake.

The thing is, there is no lake at Camp Green Lake. It is in the middle of the desert.

The boys there are required to dig one hole a day. They work in the hot sun and the food is terrible.

All the boys there have weird nicknames,

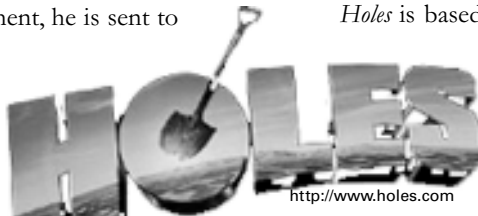
such as Armpit, Zero, and Caveman.

Caveman is Stanley's nickname. Stanley has many adventures and solves a mystery while he is there.

Holes is based off of the book by Louis Sachar. It is rated PG.

Anyone who enjoys a good mystery or has read the

book *Holes*, will think it's good, and it's definitely the movie for you.



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Ghosts of the Abyss

An exciting IMAX 3-D movie

BY CARMEN Z.

I went to see the new IMAX 3-D movie, Ghosts of the Abyss. It is a favorite for all you Titanic buffs. But if you think the movie is a cartoon, you'll be disappointed because it's a non-fiction movie based on footage from the wreck.

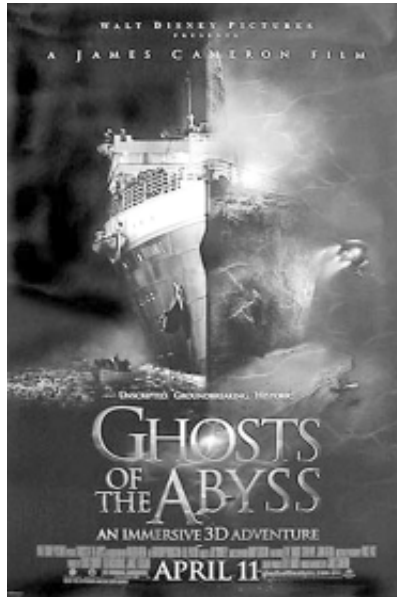
It all began when James Cameron (producer & director) asked a friend of his (Bill Paxton) to come along with him on an expedition to see the extraordinary wreck of the Titanic.

At first, Paxton was nervous about going beneath the ocean under tons of pressure. He was queasy the first few seconds of going down under, but then he felt better.

When Paxton first saw the Titanic he gaped with awe and couldn't believe they were just hovering over parts of the ship only a few inches away.

The next trip down was better and they got to use Jake and Elwood (2 mini subs controlled by joystick). They went inside the decks of the Titanic and James and his crew were able to see all the remains of the ship.

Some of the most amazing things that remained when the Titanic hit the ocean floor were a vanity glass bottle, a glass, the reception cranks in the Marconi Room and a davit that had lowered a lifeboat.



Some of the neat effects were the realness of it. Sometimes it felt like you were on the Titanic or right in the deep waters of the north Atlantic.

I think this is a great historical movie that would satisfy anybody and everybody!

RATINGS:

Overall (On a 1-4 scale): 4

Genre (type of movie): Historical non-fiction

Movie rating: G (General Audiences)

Wolverine's Revenge

One of the coolest games out there!

BY ALEX S.

There are many good games out there that you can either buy or rent for X-BOX, but one of the newest games is "Wolverine's Revenge".

Most websites give it a four-and-a-half-star rating, but I think that it is even better than that.

You can hide and unsheath Wolverine's claws, use his mutant senses, slice, jump, kick, and use many more of these cool moves.

In the first level, you fight, using Wolverine of course, your way out of the lab in which you were mutated.

Then you, in the second level, find out that you are going to die soon unless you find an antidote for the poison that was injected into your body.

On a scale of 1-10, I'd give it a 9 and 3/4. If you want to find out more play the game. "Wolverine's Revenge" is a great game.

"Read To Succeed" A Success!

Sixth graders at Peacock once again had the opportunity to participate in the "Read To Succeed" reading program sponsored by Six Flags Theme Park. This year numbers were up, and thirty-seven students participated. For their efforts, the following sixth graders earned a ticket to use at Great America, or another Six Flags Theme Park, this summer. Congrats to all participants readers are winners!

- Eric A.
- Kelly A.
- Molly C.
- Christopher C.
- Ben C.
- Megan C.
- Jack C.
- Phil C.
- Stephanie D.

- Peter D.
- Camille D.
- Anthony D.
- Adam D.
- Brianne F.
- Tricia H.
- Cristhal H.
- Steven J.
- Charlie J.

- Rachel K.
- Val K.
- Nicole K.
- Urszula M.
- Brian M.
- Trisha M.
- Brian M.
- Kelsey M.
- Brittany O.



- Elizabeth P.
- Matt R.
- Taro S.
- Alex S.
- Michelle S.

- Callie S.
- Jose S.
- Jessica T.
- Chris W.
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Heart of hockey

Nick Difalco plays from the heart

BY JACKIE S., ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Peacock eighth grader Nick Difalco recently finished a hockey season at Franklin Park. He was on the Franklin Park Panther Bantam 3 team.

A few weeks ago he was told he had made the Lake Park Lancers Junior Varsity hockey team. Nick is very happy he made the team. Nick said, "I need a lot of practice to get used to the differences."

Nick started playing hockey four years ago. He got inspired to play hockey in 1998. "I went to a hockey game and liked it so much I decided to play," Nick laughed. He chose to be goalie because he thought it was the easiest position.

When he was with the Panthers, Nick was in four tournaments. In the Christmas Tournament at Franklin Park and the Spring Tournament in Holland, Michigan they placed second.

Nick has won two trophies with the Panthers.

Practices at Franklin Park are two days a week for an hour. At the practices, Nick and the other Panthers skate laps, practice stick handling around cones, checking, and face-offs. They also scrimmage sometimes.

Nick liked to going to Holland, Michigan. Nick said, "I got a chance to hang-out with my teammates more and we had fun and played hockey."

This was Nick's first time out of state. The other fun part for him was that he got to stay up as late as he wanted.

Nick also got to play at the United Center. They won at the United Center too. Nick said, "It was a lot of fun to play on, but it's a lot smaller than it seems."

When Nick was playing with the Panthers he got along with his teammates well. He said,



Photo courtesy of Nick D.

Eighth grader, Nick D., plays with the Franklin Park Panthers at the United Center.

"The captain, Tim Lightiser, was good most of the time, but you don't want to get under his skin."

He liked Josh Misewicz and Chris Gordon, the assistant captains as well. One of Nick's teammates, Steve Zachar, said, "Nick would do this crazy roll across the net to save a puck, almost like a Martin Brodeur or Patrick Roy. Nick was a good goalie too."

Nick plays hockey everyday whether it's on the ice or outside. "I like to play hockey just for the fun of it!"



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Girls track team places third at conference

BY EMILY W.

The track team had a hard working season but not the best conference results. The DuPage Valley Conference Meet was held on May 12, 2003.

Peacock's girls came in third place out of seven teams. The boys came in a disappointing sixth place.

"The track season was successful in training and performances. The kids worked hard and showed signs of improvement," said Mr. Anderson, the head coach.

Mr. Larson and Mrs. Jomarron also coached the team.

All the runners really enjoyed the coaching staff this season.

"They were really encouraging and without these great coaches, our team would have fallen apart," said seventh grader Pamela R.

Starting right after Spring Break, the team practiced sixty to ninety minutes a day.

At the beginning of the season, the team



Seventh grader, Nicole M., competes in the triple-jump during the conference meet at Lake Park West on May 12, 2003.

Photo by Emily W.

practiced together and had time trials for the running events.

"After we figured out our events, we had our own individual workouts," explained Pam.

There are three main categories of events for track: the running events, the jumping events, and the team relay events.

Seventh grader Randy P's best event is the triple jump. "I like doing triple, its fun and I jump pretty good" he explained.

There were two practice meets before the Conference this season. Peacock hosted both of them.

"My best meet was the first meet we had, because I placed second in my heat for the 200 and my relay team got first in our heat for the 200x4 relay," said Pam.

"The track team didn't do the best at Conference, but they tried their hardest and that's all that matters," commented Mr. Anderson.

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