

Monhagen Middle School

Monhagen Middie Times

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GRADE CONFLICTS

Kimberly Vazquez

Many kids have had trouble at some point with grades in school. Some kids have learning disabilities like dyslexia and others just give up easily. You know some kids have gotten sent out of Enriched Math, or take classes like AIS math or reading. This doesn't mean you're dumb. Sometimes it just means that you need to step up your game, but sometimes students try as hard as possible because

they want to succeed in life. On the other hand are kids that really are bright in the inside, but don't know how to show it on the outside. In English, Mrs. Wapnick and her classes were reading a story called, "Two Frogs and the Milk Vat." It's about two frogs who fall into a milk vat. One frog said, "Oh, I can't make it and I'm going to give up." Meanwhile the other frog didn't quit and kept swimming as long as he had life inside of him. Soon he was out of

the milk and on top of a vat of butter. The message of this story is to never quit or give up because when things get really hard and

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PEACE BUILDERS GIVE PRAISE

Harrison Dominique
Abraham Merino
Kimberly Vazquez

A peace builder is a person that shows respect for others. They also make the community better by noticing people's hurts and praising people. Now our school has a new thing called praise notes. A praise note is when you do something good and the teacher notices you. You can also give praise to a friend by showing peers what you like about them



Photo by: Anthony Santiago
Praise notes are displayed on a large staff in the music wing.

and how you appreciate them. If you get a praise note it gets displayed around the building. You can build peace in many ways and in many places besides in our school. For example if someone drops their books on the floor you can help pick them up. You can praise people by giving them compliments. Even the smallest actions of kindness can lead to a better world.

PREVENT BULLYING

Crystal Gayton

Bullying can happen anywhere at any time. It can happen during school or just while you were walking a calm walk in the park. You may be a bully or a victim yourself. Being a bully is bad because it can make someone get very sick or stay home from school. If you think bullying is a fun thing to do then you are need to rethink your behavior because according to researchers,

2.4 million kids have committed suicide due to bullying.

Victims of bullying should stand up for themselves instead of just letting the bullies bully them like that. If the victim is shy they can have a friend help them. Or they can just ignore that person or tell a teacher about the bullying that is

happening.

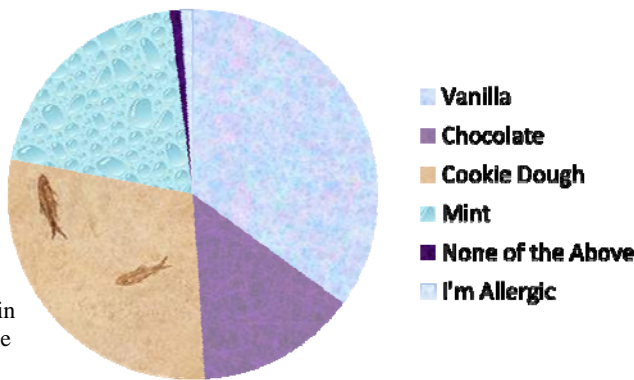
Bystanders are people who just watch the action without doing anything. Bystanders should tell a responsible adult or stand up for that person no matter if they are friends or not.

Don't start bullying; prevent it.

MONHAGEN'S FAVORITE ICE CREAM

Julissa Godinez-Manzie

Flavors of Ice Cream



*responses appear in the graph clockwise from the top

GRADE CONFLICTS (continued from page 1)

heavy and you fall, you can choose if you want to get back up or not. My friend Natalia told me that, "nobody understands how I feel." Thanks to her I realized that life has its ups and downs but you can make anything out of it. So what are you going to make out of it?

THE YEAR AHEAD

Mariela Pichardo

The ball has dropped, signaling the birth of a new year. It's easy to see that time has gone by while we watched with open eyes, marveling at its speed. With the holidays behind us and a promising year ahead, we look to the winds to guide us. It's time to get back to work and succeed happily. School should come naturally, as you should be familiar with your study tactics and should know how to handle your classes.

Now may be the most important time of the year. 8th graders should be meeting with people from the high school to set up their scheduling for the following year. We will soon begin furiously practicing for the NYS testing which will come along later this year. Thus, you must remember to find your common ground, feel comfortable with your work, and your school's environment.

The beginning of the year may have been frustrating, but if you apply yourself, set goals, and stick to them, you should be able to achieve them as well.

It's easy to find yourself feeling overwhelmed, but take a deep breath and speak to your teacher. You should be able to bring your scores up. Remember that one bad grade or a grade below your standards is merely a sign that you may have to work a little harder.

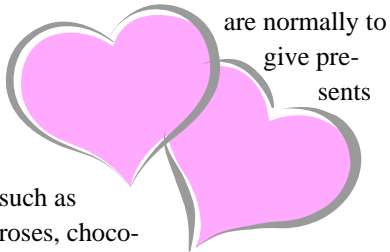
Ultimately, your reason for coming to school is to get an education. Although this may be true, you mustn't forget to enjoy the time you have with friends. Lunch is a perfectly good example as are glances at a friend which cause an outbreak of smiles from an inside joke. Keep your eyes on the prize and get an education, but enjoy school as well.



VALENTINE'S DAY

Maia Harrison-Perez

Valentine's Day is a time spent together with loved ones. Traditions



are normally to give presents

such as roses, chocolates, flowers and cut-out hearts. Some signs of Valentine's Day are hearts, cupids, doves, and candy. If you're looking for the perfect gift for that special someone you can't go wrong with those presents.

HOW TO: MAKE HONOR ROLL

Addie Rodriguez

If you need tips to get on honor roll you're at the right place. Sixth grader Kimberly Vasquez said, "Study more and also focus on your weaknesses." Don't give up; honor roll is here to stay. Just don't stop trying.

Sixth grader Keyanna Gilyard said, "Do good, try getting your grades up. Stay when you need to." Honor roll is a good way to reward kids for all their hard work. It is okay if it takes awhile to get on honor roll.

So just try. Keyanna herself took a while but it's okay; all her work paid off.

Take Keyanna and Kimberly as an example and don't give up. Keep trying!

Top six ways to make honor roll:

- 1.) Get to your class promptly
- 2.) Bring homework to class on time.
- 3.) Try not to get in trouble.
- 4.) Try your hardest (it'll pay off).
- 5.) Be organized!
- 6.) Positive behavior.

HOBBIES

Angel Vasser

Everybody has a hobby, whether it's after school or during. Many people have hobbies, such as art, writing, sports, and dancing. Sixth grader Vallerie Bernard says that she loves to draw because "it helps me express myself in art." Another student said, "I play sports because I am good on my feet." Why do you like your hobby? Most kids like to do what friends do even when they don't like it. So, here is a piece of advice: just be yourself!

VIDEO GAME ROUND-UP

Vincent Prince

WWE 12 came out already and I heard it was one of the best wrestling games ever. It has some of the best wrestlers like Randy Orton, John Cena, The Undertaker, The Miz and John Morrison. Also you get to play for different championships and play a superstars road to WrestleMania.



Keyanna Gilyard

GETTING TO KNOW: MRS. SEKO

Mrs. Seko (Ms. Franch) is a sixth grade math teacher at Monhagen.

Question: What is your favorite thing to teach?

Mrs. Seko: I like teaching everything, but if I had to choose, fractions are my favorite.

Question: Last year you were a science teacher now you're a math teacher. How do you like the change?

Mrs. Seko: I like it a lot because I really enjoy teaching math.

Question: Why did you become a teacher?

"I became a teacher because I love working with kids."

Mrs. Seko: I became a teacher because I love working with kids.

Question: What advice would you give kids to get into enriched math?

Mrs. Seko: Study and practice the topics you're learning in math.

Question: What is it like being an enriched math teacher?

Mrs. Seko: I feel the same teaching enriched math as I do all my classes.

Question: Do you love teaching?

Mrs. Seko: Yes, I love teaching.

Question: What inspired you?

Mrs. Seko: My mom inspired me because she is also a teacher.

Question: Do you love reading?

Mrs. Seko: I love reading. I don't have a favorite book at the moment.

MOVIE REVIEW: MY SISTER'S KEEPER

Natalia Hernandez

Have you ever heard of a couple having a baby and a few years later he/she is diagnosed with cancer? Well it happens every day. Did you know that sometimes couples have babies so they can donate their organs and blood to their siblings? There is a movie called *My Sister's Keeper*. It is an excellent and touching movie. It is about a girl named Kate Fitzgerald and when she was little she was diagnosed with Leukemia (cancer in the blood). She was going to die because the cancer was killing her. She needed organs fast! Her parents had a donor child. Her name was Anna Fitzgerald. Ever since she was little girl or shall I say a newborn they started doing surgeries on her. When she was five years old she was poked and prodded with needles. Kate's blood counts were low.

Years, years later...Kate was 15 years old and her sister Anna was 11 years old. Kate had kidney failure. Anna was the first to be looked at to donate a kidney to her sick sister. The sad part is that she refused. She wanted to have the rights of her own body. It was called medical emancipation. She got a lawyer and she was going to sue her parents. Eventually, Mrs. Fitzgerald got the letter stating the court date. Months, weeks, hours passed and Kate was getting sicker by the minute. The court date was here! Anna and Kate's doctors were put to the stand, then her mom. Anna's lawyer was telling her mom: was it okay with Anna that they took her blood and organs? Was it true that the nurses had to hold her down? Her mother's

reply was yes, this is all true. Next, on the stand was Anna Fitzgerald. Her mother said, "why are you here today?" Anna said, "I am here for the rights of my



body." Her mom said, "no you're not! If you don't tell me the truth then I do not know you at all."

Anna and Kate had a brother named Jesse. Jesse said, "tell them the truth; tell them why we are here." Anna did not want to tell them and she said, "YOU PROMISED YOU WOULDN'T TELL!" Jesse said, "KATE WANTS TO DIE!" Mrs. Fitzgerald

said that's not true; Kate would have told her. Mr. Fitzgerald said, "she has told you a whole bunch of times. You have never taken the time to listen to her. Kate was dying slowly, slowly, and slowly."

It was the night before the surgery. There was no kidney at all. Kate had made a photo album. She had given it to her mom. Her mom started crying and couldn't help herself because she knew it was the end. That night Kate died and her mom was in Kate's arms. She had stopped breathing that night. Years and years later they all try to cope with the fact that Kate is gone but not in their hearts. They all proceeded with their lives. Mrs. Fitzgerald

went back to her job (lawyer). Her dad took an early pension, and her brother went to college. Every year for Kate's birthday they go on a vacation! The same one every year, somewhere that Kate likes to go. Anna said, "Once upon a time I was brought on this Earth to save my sister's life. But, at the end I couldn't save her."

To see a colorful electronic version of the Monhagen Middle Times, visit the Monhagen website at www.middletowncityschools.org