
WHMS Times 2009

Seussical Jr. *by Téa Mottolese*

Seussical Jr. was recently performed on Thursday, December 3 and again on Saturday, December 5. This was an amazing production that was put on by the WHMS Drama Club.

Seussical The Musical was first performed on Broadway in New York City. The writers have now made a children's version, *Seussical Jr.* It's like a tribute to Dr. Seuss. The story is actually many stories, by Dr. Seuss, that have been combined together to make a single performance. The cast includes the Cat in the Hat, Horton the Elephant, Gertrude McFuzz, Mayzie La Bird, The Sour Kangaroo and her baby, The Wickersham Brothers, The Whos, Jojo, the Bird Girls, Yertle the Turtle and many others.

This production was directed by Suzie Dunn. Suzie is a great director and actress. She is an employee at Steamer No. 10 Theater in Albany, NY. She is in many productions there, where she plays many characters. She also directs shows that have been held at Steamer No. 10. She is currently directing *The Wizard of Oz*, a wonderful, classic production. *Seussical* was definitely a hit with the students. We hope Suzie will continue to direct shows at the school.



Volume 1, Issue 2

January 7, 2010

. The Team

Editor: Téa Mottolese

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Chief Photographer: Jonathan Crowell

Writing from You

Winter Morning

By Ogden Nash

Photos by: Conor McGinn

Winter is the king of showmen,
Turning tree stumps into snowmen,
And houses into birthday cakes,
And spreading sugar over lakes.

Smooth and clean and frosty white,
The world looks good enough to bite.
That's the season to be young,
Catching snowflakes with your tongue.

Snow is snowy when it's snowing
I'm sorry it's slushy, when it's going.

Ogden Nash is a well-known poet from America. He was born on August 19th, 1902. He was known for rhyming his words, which made him the "Country's best-known producer of humorous poems" He lived, what seemed like, a short life and died on May 19th, 1971.

Conor McGinn is a third grade student in Julie and Astra's class. The poem that Ogden Nash wrote may have inspired Conor to take a really nice photo of our "winter wonderland" when the snow fell.

Thanks for the beautiful photo Conor!
If you have a photo to contribute, email
Tea Mottolese at
bunny-boo@nycap.rr.com



The First Cell Phone *By Mairin Kelly*

The first cell phone was made in 1973 by Martin Cooper, the general manager of Motorola's communication systems divisions. Martin Cooper also made the first call on April, 3.

The first cell phone was called "The Brick."
"The Brick" weighed around two pounds!

Interestingly, the first cell phone was made after the first cordless phone! (as in house phones).

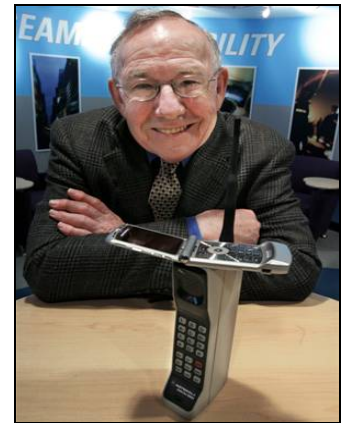
The first cordless phone was made in 1965, eight years after the cell phone. The cordless phone was invented by Teri Pall, but she couldn't market the product because it only had a two mile range!

Interesting fact about Teri Pall: She was a jazz musician

Interesting Fact about Catherine Sager: When the first cell phone was made Catherine was 9!

Interesting fact about Martin Cooper: He says that crossing the street and talking on the Brick was one of the most dangerous decisions he ever made.

A mobile phone or cellphone is an electronic device used for mobile telecommunications (Wikipedia). A UN report reveals that half the globe now pays to use one, with the fastest growth taking place in Africa



Warriors ~ A book review *By Mairin Kelly*

The *Warriors* series is a great series to read. It's about cats that live in the wild and think that housecats are ridiculous and they call them "kittypets." There are four clans. Anyway, the four clans are: ThunderClan, RiverClan, WindClan, and ShadowClan. StarClan is for the deceased cats who watch over the clan cats. If your first thought when you see this article is "No way! I'm not going to waste my time reading about cats!" You obviously are a book judge! Being a book judge is not a good trait to have. Well, news flash book judge! This is not your average book, you may think, "Whatever, it's just a book". Well this book is way more than a just a book! It is what I wait for to come

out, it has action, scandal, mystery and adventure! You can't judge a book by its cover, just because it has a cat on the cover doesn't mean it's not a great book! These wonderful books are written by Erin Hunter, who actually happens to be three different people. They chose the pen-name Erin Hunter so as not to confuse readers when their books fill up different slots on bookshelves. The three geniuses behind the "Warriors" series are Kate Cary, Cherith Baldry and Victoria Holmes. Victoria comes up with the ideas and makes sure the books stay consistent, while Kate and Cherith take turns writing the books. Maybe this will change your mind about this awesome series of books.

To learn more visit warriorcats.com.



Barnes and Noble Sinai Primary School Fundraiser

By Téa Mottolése

On Thursday, December 10 2009, the Water Club and African Drummers along with families from WHMS were at Barnes and Noble for a special performance to benefit The Water Project. They had laptops playing a continual loop of the Water Club videos and stickers that said "Play for Power, Play for Peace, Play for Water," a donation bucket and a special

performance by the African Drumming students. The African Drummers stay after school on Thursdays from 3:00 to 4:00, to learn how to play djembe 1-5, ashiko, and other rhythms. It was quite a crowd-pleasing event for visitors to Barnes and Noble.



Saratoga: First Night *By Téa Mottolese*

On the 31st of December, 2009, The Houstonettes, a figure skating exhibition team, traveled to Saratoga for the opening of First Night Celebration, “Starry, Starry Night.”

The Houstonettes had been invited to skate in the Saratoga Figure Skating Club Show on New Year’s Eve. Everyone was great! The Junior Houstonettes skated to “Send it On” by various artists of Disney Channel. The song has a good moral and that’s why the girls on the junior team chose it.

The Senior Houstonettes Team skated to “Sleep My Child,” more commonly

known as “Rama Lama Bang Bang” by Ruby Blue. It has a good beat and the girls seemed to be definitely having fun.

The Houstonette Teams have practiced for a long time. They have had only three performances, besides the Saratoga performance. Each of their

performances are special and well received.

Their success comes from all the long hours of practice they’ve put into the program. The girls and the coaches made the performances so great. Good job girls!



USS New York sets sail! *By Téa Mottolese*

The USS New York is a Navy assault ship built in Louisiana from 7.5 tons of steel from the World Trade Center. It was built in honor of the victims of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in 2001.

Shortly after the Northrop Grumman Ship Systems was awarded the contract in 2003, they immediately started building the USS New York. It was only recently finished and on Monday, November 2, 2009 it set sail for the first time. Commander Curt Jones, the Captain, and his crew sailed past the Statue of Liberty and the World Trade Center property in New York City. While there, the ship was saluted by 21 guns and was sprayed with water by fire boats.

The motto for the ship is “Strength forged through sacrifice. Never forget.” This is their badge.



Fencing

By Mairin Kelly and Jonathan Crowell

Have you ever thought about a sword fight? Well if you learn to fence you can duel with an opponent.

There are three different kinds of weapons: Epée, Foil and a Saber. Before you start, you raise your mask and put your sword forward in a salute.

En guard! In fencing this is how each bout begins. Face your opponent, with one foot in front of the other. With your sword arm raised and ready.

Fencing is a sport where you have to hit your opponent with a special sword. In some fencing classes equipment is wired to register touches. If it's saber, you are awarded a point for the touch above the waist of your opponent. If you're fighting with an epee, you score points when you touch any part of the body, even the feet. If you fight with a foil only blows to the trunk are counted. If you don't get it there the hit (or touch) doesn't count.

Tyler Ford and his sister Tasia Ford demonstrated this sport for WHMS students. Carolyn Washburn was also

here for the demonstration; Carolyn coached the Women's United States National team. During the demonstration, students were able to try on the equipment and try their hand at fencing. Mairin said "I got the chance to fence against Tyler and lost pathetically, but who can blame me! He has had way more practice."

There are a lot of rules like you can't cross your feet (going forward), or you'll get a yellow card. If you get two yellow cards you get a red card, every red card you get counts as a point against you! If you get a black card you get kicked out of the game.



Fencing is a brand new extra-curricular class at Woodland Hill and it is already proving to be popular.



Originally there was to be one class of ten, but when that filled up a second class was offered. That class filled up just as quickly. There is no room left in either class, but chances are it will be offered again.

Editorial

Hey Guys! It's the editor again back with some great news for you. It was quite hard to get this issue done because we had so many breaks! Still it is jam-packed with great stories. Jonathan worked really hard on his Fencing story and he completed it with the help of Mairin. Mairin on the other hand, was off the hook with her awesome headlines titled, "The First Cell-Phone" and, "Warriors~ A book review." Conor McGinn took some great pictures for us. The photo went well with a poem by Ogden Nash. We worked so hard on all the articles we have in the paper. We are hoping to get more **Writing From You** and some more people to help pull off the WHMS Times. Speaking of which, Thank You Grace Bossolini for joining the paper and adding to our already great team. If you would like to join please talk to Catherine Sager, or me. Thank you for reading this issue of the **WHMS Times**. From, *Téa Mottolese, the Editor.*

