



Government and Water Club Trip to the State Legislature

By Julie Ehrlich

On Monday, April 20 our Government and Water Club got to visit the State Legislature and meet with Members of the Assembly and Senate. When we arrived, we had to walk through a metal detector just like the ones at the airports. No one was stopped and we all headed up to the meet our chaperones in the Conference Room on the 6th Floor.

Our first meeting was with Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari. Before he came in to meet us we met his aid, Kevin, who told us about the different kinds of issues the Legislators work on. When Assemblyman Canestrari came in he spoke to us and then we had our pictures taken with him. He was very nice and his office was cool.

We then broke into Group 1 and Group 2 and went to different offices to visit. I was in Group 1 and we went to see Assemblyman McEneny. He once worked as the Albany County Historian and he told us some very cool and funny stories about the architects who built the Capitol. He said that they had a fight with each other and that some of the faces in the stone around the Capitol were made to tease the other architects who got fired. He also gave us a signed copy of his book: *Albany, Capital City on the Hudson*.

Next we met with Assemblyman Bob Reilly, who told us that he taught for three years in a school in Uganda, which is near Tanzania. He also asked us to figure out this riddle: A hen lays one egg for eight days and on day 30 they all hatch. How is that possible?



We have to write to him and tell him the answer we came up with. It is because they are all fertilized on the same day. We got to see my friend, County Legislator Tim Nichols, who works for Assemblyman Reilly.

We all met for lunch in Assemblyman Felix Ortiz's Conference Room. After lunch we had Senator Roy McDonald, Assemblymen Marcus Molinaro, Jack McEneny and Robert Sweeney, the Chair of the Assembly Committee on the Environment, come and watched the films on our Playground Project. We got pictures taken and they talked to us about our Water Project. After lunch we went on a guided tour of the State Capitol. There we met Senator Neil Breslin and had our pictures taken with him on the Million Dollar Staircase.

Then we went to the Assembly Chamber where we met the Speaker of the Assembly Sheldon Silver and had our pictures taken with him. We were taken to the balcony of the Chamber and when the session began we were each introduced by our Assembly representatives. It was very cool. Afterward we stopped by the Senate Chamber and I saw my dad, Josh Ehrlich who is Counsel to the Senate Finance Committee. He said we couldn't go into the Chamber because the Senators were busy debating a bill, so we went on a Tour of the Capitol War Room instead.

Most of the students then got on the buses and went back to the school. Others went home with their parents who were on the trip with us. It was a great day and we had a great time.

Wii™

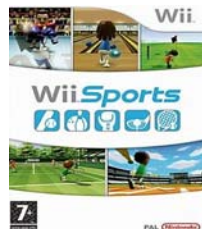
By Rebecca Carlson-Lee and Tori Gemert-Dott

First developed by Nintendo, Wii hit North America on November 19, 2006. Since then virtual sports has exploded and invaded living rooms across the world.

Do you like playing tennis, baseball, bowling, boxing or golf? Do you get bummed when the seasons are over? With Wii you can play all of your favorite sports even when the season is over. You can see everything that you would normally see when you play in real life, but in a virtual version; no wind, no rain, no snow, just plain old fun you can have anytime. You can play solo (yourself) or with multiple people, up to four players. In nursing homes and rehab centers, they are starting to use Wii Sports to rehabilitate people because it stimulates the senses. Many libraries and public centers are also holding tournaments; you can see if there is one near you!

Do you wish you could play almost any instrument? Well, now you can! The solution is Wii Music. They have many instruments including violin, marimba, bagpipes, galactic horn, and jaw harp. You can meet your virtual music instructor, Maestro Sebastian Tute, and practice and perform with his virtual brothers and sisters. The Tutes join a band with you and you can make music videos, you can be in a band with your friends, too. You can choose an instrument or have it randomly picked; you can also pick a song to play or have one picked for you. Get ready to make music - it's REALLY FUN!!!!

See, Wii is a really awesome thing. If you don't have one and you really want one, which you KNOW you DO, beg and plead, do extra chores, save your birthday money, do all of your homework, read this story to your parents, and maybe, just maybe...We can play Wii at your house!



Locks of Love

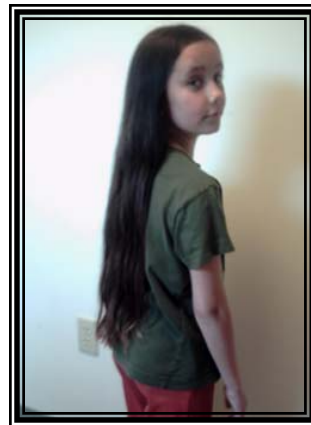
By Isabella Phayre-Gonzalez

Some of you may know about the organization Locks of Love (LOL). Locks of Love is a non-profit charity that provides hair pieces to children suffering from cancer. The way you can help is to donate hair for the people who lost their hair because of cancer treatments. What are cancer treatments, you ask? Cancer treatments use chemotherapy and radiation to kill cancer cells. That's the good news. The bad news is that it also kills healthy cells like bone marrow and hair follicles.

That's where Locks of Love comes in.

Next time I get my hair cut, I am going to cut ten inches of my own hair and donate it to Locks of Love. Locks of Love accepts donations from men, women, and children from the U.S. and Canada. The hair pieces and wigs are custom made for the children from the donated pony tails and braids. I imagine that the children with no hair feel very uncomfortable about the way they look. What if you had no hair? Imagine what it would feel like. You can help. Donate your hair. If you have more than 10 inches of hair, you can send it to Locks of Love.

For instructions on how to donate, go to locksoflove.org.



~ Mystery Photo ~
What could it be?

If you know, put your guess in the
WHMS Times mailbox in the
main office.



African Drumming ~ With John Dickson

By Téa Mottolese

On April 2nd 2009, many classes came to an African Drumming performance.

African Drumming is a great way to express yourself and have fun. I especially enjoy it. Our teacher, John Dickson is a very fun teacher and it's a delightful experience to be in his class. He shows you how to drum on an African drum – not a marching band drum. There are two kinds of African drums that we use in the class. One is Ashiko (a-she-co) and the other is Djembe (jim-bay). There are also five parts to a rhythm; Djembe one through five. I can play all of those parts, along with a special drum called the Djun-Djun (june-june). The Djun-Djun is a large drum with a bell played sideways with drumsticks.

Ashiko and Djembe drums are played upright and with your hands. There are no bells or sticks. There are special ways you have to hold your hand so you don't hurt it because there is metal under the smooth animal skin at the top of the drum, which is hard and can hurt your hand. There are also two hand places where you hit your drum and it makes a different sound. One is the bass (base) which is placed in the middle, and the second is the tone, which is placed on the bottom of the drum.

African drumming is so awesome, and you have fun. If you want to try it, you can sign up for next year's classes.



Don't smoke

By: Mairin Kellyp

You should never ever smoke. There are so many reasons why not to smoke! Here are just a few: One: it blackens your lungs. Two: it makes blood clots! (This could end up in your brain and kill you.) Three: you can easily get hooked. Four, YOU CAN DIE! Those are all great reasons to either quit or never even start. It is a VERY bad idea.



Saratoga's Synchronized Skating Seminar

By Téa Mottolese

Figure skating is a very hard sport. You can skate solo or in a pair, but the hardest type of skating would be synchronized. Synchronized skating is hard because you have a number of people doing the same thing all at once, and if judges can see one person fall they give the whole team a point off. Yikes!!

I went to a synchronized skating seminar in Saratoga on Wednesday, April 1. On that afternoon at four o'clock, the other skaters and I had a specific itinerary to follow. At 4:00 p.m. we had to be on the ice for training. We had three different classes - an artistry class, a synchronized class, and a synchronized moves class. Classes didn't end until about 6:00 p.m. Next, we went to the Holiday Inn for a dance class at 6:30 p.m.. We danced to "When I Grow Up" by the Pussycat Dolls. At seven, we would have an off-ice presentation and dinner. The dinner was really tasty. We had pizza, soda and cookies - Yum!!

This seminar helped teach us to skate as one team. My figure skating club went to this seminar and discovered some great ideas for next year's synchronized team. This was a very fun experience for me - I really liked it!!

WHMSTimes
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Editor
Brandon Zhou

Production Manager
Erik Saulnier

Chief Photographer
Erik Saulnier

Columnist
Téa Mottolese

Photo Editor
Lucas McBath

Photographers
Isabella Phayre-
Gonzalez
Rebecca Carlson-Lee
Tori Gernert-Dott
Erik Saulnier

Reporters/Features
Isabella Phayre-
Gonzalez
Rebecca Carlson-Lee
Tori Gernert-Dott
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Mairin Kelly
Julie Ehrlich

Puzzlers
Rebecca Carlson-Lee
Tori Gernert-Dott
Julie Ehrlich

Cartoonists
Lucas McBath

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whmstimes@gmail.co
m or by leaving a note
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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
A MIDSUMMER
NIGHT'S DREAM
PERFORMED BY THE WHMS
UPPER ELEMENTARY

GLOBE:	ROSE:
MAY 13 12:45-2 P.M.	MAY 14 12:45-2 P.M.
MAY 14 6:30-7:45 P.M.	MAY 15 6:30-7:45 P.M.

TICKETS FOR EVENING PERFORMANCE
ADULTS: \$6.00 CHILDREN/STUDENTS: FREE

EDITOR NEWS

*Don't miss it!!! The upper el's performances of
A Midsummer Night's Dream.*