



The Owl Hoot

January 2009

Getting to Know Mr. Williams

By Taylor Wright and Sarah Bleau

Some kids think that Mr. Williams is a strict guy, but we don't. We interviewed him and found out tons of interesting things. When asked why he wanted to be an art teacher, his response was, "My art teacher in high school was a really good teacher and inspired me in many ways." We also asked him some questions about his job. He said, "It's a lot of fun being an art teacher; I can't picture doing anything else. I originally wanted to design cars, but I wasn't that good at math."

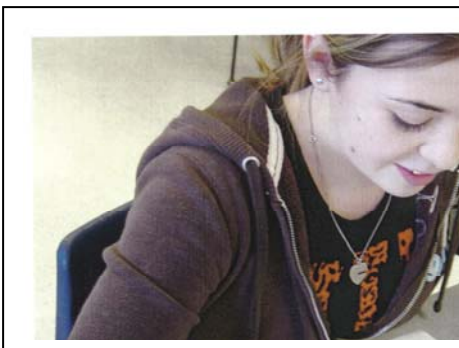
Mr. Williams has been fascinated by art at a young age. "My great-grandfather and I would draw when I was younger."

Mr. Williams enjoys drawing pictures of places he would like to be. "I like to draw a lot of mountains and scenery." He's especially interested in Alaska. He says there are a lot of nice people there and the lifestyle "makes you put your life in perspective." That's probably why he looks forward to returning.

As for his art, he doesn't like to just draw in pencil. "I like to do it all. One day I can be happy drawing in pencil and the next day I'll be happy doing something else like making clay figures. I like to change things up 'cause after a while doing one thing just gets boring."

Every school year, Mr. Williams has an art show for the whole school. An art show is when students' art is put on display for all to see and enjoy.

There will be a Night of Enrichment on January 29th where you can come see what Mr. Williams' students have created.



Students Honored for Their Writing

By Mary Ruby

Recently, there was a VFW sponsored writing contest called "The Patriot's Pen." The contest was open to all middle school students. The topic of the writing contest was "Why Veterans Should Be Honored."

On Thursday, January 8, 2009 the VFW members held an awards night for the participants of the contest. The 1st place winner, Austin Patterson (8th grade), earned \$100. The second place winner, Lauren Skidmore (6th grade), earned \$75, and in third place, Ian Lynch (8th grade) went home with \$50.

This contest is an annual contest and is a great opportunity for students. It is also a great way to thank the soldiers that serve our country.

Moving Upward

By Breyonia Hough and Jessika Bickford

Everyone knows that moving up to middle school is scary and a challenging event. To tell you the truth, it doesn't have to be. Recently, REMS 5th graders were surveyed and were asked questions like, "How do you feel about moving up to the middle school?"; "Are you scared? If so why?"; "How do you feel about having to remember a combination?"; and "What are your expectations about moving up to the middle school?"

One fifth grade boy responded by telling us that he thinks middle school, "will be hard because the stuff that we do right now is hard."

His classmates seemed to agree. Another student told us, "I feel proud that I have made it this far in school. I'm scared that the work is going to be harder and I might not understand the new class work. Yes, I am so scared of going to middle school. I am scared because I might not understand the class work. I'm also worried that the teachers might not know me. I am a little worried about bullies but I know the teachers won't let that happen. I'm not that worried about a locker combination because I am good at remembering number combinations after a while and I know the janitor will help me if I forget. I expect the middle school to be a little harder and a lot more homework."

She wasn't the only one. "I'm kind of scared because you get five teachers," a fifth grade girl told us. "Also I am kind of scared because you go with older kids in the middle school. You have five classes. I feel petrified about having a locker combination because I'm not that good at remembering".

Still another fifth grader said, "How I feel about moving to middle school is freaky. It's kind of freaky because there will be a lot of bigger and older kids around you in the halls. Also sometimes the older kids pick on you if you're small. I'm not scared at all. If people tease me I just ignore them, because I have other things to worry about. I'm kind of scared that I'll get confused and not know what things to bring to my class. I'm glad that I'll get some kind of locker. I'll probably be one of the shortest kids there. Also what if I don't know the teachers I have to go to next after every hour. I know that I'll probably have homework to do on the weekends too."

Not all are worried though. One fifth grader stated that going into the middle school will make him "feel real good because I will become a man."

That is how some of the kids feel about moving up to the middle school. Some feel happy and excited, but some feel scared. Some of the kids are scared because of all of the different teachers and classes. A lot of the kids in 5th grade feel very good about having a locker though. Surprisingly, most of them like the idea about having a locker because people can't steal any of their stuff and we thought that was a good reason to have a locker. We can relate to their fears as many of us felt that way, too, and many of us feel a similar way about going on to high school.

Otters Swimming

By Heather Daddario

Swimming is a sport for kids of all ages and is very enjoyable. To find out what people like about the sport, I interviewed a few people in eighth grade at REMS. Among those interviewed were Mary Ruby, Katie Anderson, Melody Kaiser, and Carly Hurlbert. Most of them say it can be a very exhilarating sport. From what they said, three out of four of them plan on being in it for a lot longer. All of them started when they were younger and have been in it for a while, from five to seven years! Katie, Carly, and Melody all practice with the high school team and say this is a difficult challenge.

Swimming is an individual sport, as well as a team sport. At swim meets, some specialize in the following strokes: backstroke, breaststroke, freestyle, and butterfly. Swimmers compete individually and as a team, like in a relay with three other people. At a swim meet, winning is a very difficult challenge. Katie Anderson told about this. "The most upsetting thing is getting disqualified when you think you've won."

Even with the upsets and challenges, our Otters seem to think swimming is the best sport around.



Tae-Kwon-Do

By Mac Hunter

Tae-Kwon-Do's roots go back thousands of years ago. The name Tae-Kwon-Do comes from the Korean words "tae" (foot or kick), "kwon" (fist or punch), "do" (art or way of life), and it literally means "the art of hand foot fighting." Tae-Kwon-Do became official medal sport at the 2000 Olympic games in Sydney, Australia.

Here in Oscoda, Tae-Kwon-Do is held from 5 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. on Mondays and Fridays. The administrator is Mr. Roche. Sign-ups are in the middle school lunchroom on practice days, or by calling 820-7309.

Activities include learning patterns, moves, sparring, and sometimes breaking things like boards. Austin Potts, 13 years old, said, "I like Tae-Kwon-Do because I get to break things. I suggest it for people ages four and up."



7th and 8th Grade Cheerleading

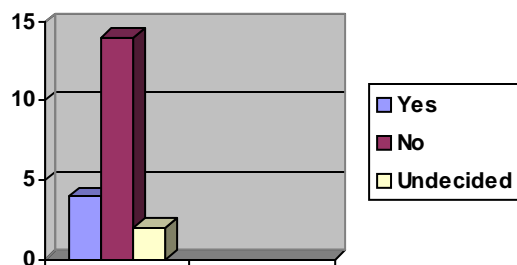
By Bryanna Wiltfong

Our cheerleaders have a fun cheerleading for the 7th and 8th grade basketball teams. Some 8th grader cheerleaders say that middle school cheerleading is just practice for when they go to the high school and cheer. Amanda Wolosonowish said, "When I get to the high school, I'll already know how to cheer well." Others say it's too hard, so they are not going to join high school cheerleading.

The cheerleaders joined cheerleading for different reasons. For example, Debra Parris said, "I joined because I'm a loud mouth." Candace Fifield said, "I joined because it's just fun." Breyonia Hough said "I joined because I love sports, I'm a good athlete and I have great school spirit." Also, Amanda Wolosonowish said, "I joined so I can practice, for when I go to the high school and cheer for my brother in basketball and football."

Even though the cheerleaders are practicing their best, some people think it's unnecessary to cheer. I asked a few students what they thought and the chart below indicates their responses.

Do you think we need cheerleaders for the basketball games?



Even though many feel cheerleaders are unnecessary, cheerleader Breyonia Hough knows what to say to them. "The cheerleaders represent the team. They also represent the school."

Boys' Basketball *By Dyreck Young and Nick Dehmel*

In the boys 7th and 8th grade basketball season, both teams worked very hard. It wasn't quite enough for a winning season since we were probably the shortest team in our conference. We actually did pretty well with all the good and tall teams. The 7th grade went 2-9 throughout the season and the 8th grade won 5-9. The teams played Tawas, Standish, Whittimore, Surline, Rose City, and Alcona.

The 7th grade team was coached by Greg Mellor. There were 9 players on the seventh grade team and they were Eric Dennis, Brandon Franks, Travis McNickle, Jared Little, Dakota Eberhardt, Timmy Ashmore, Jamie Brinn, Logan Miller, and Nick Priebe.

The 8th grade team was coached by Kirk Franklin and assisted by Mark Wygant and Mike Poland. This team had 13 players: Kevin Levielle, Tony Weed, Nick Dehmel, Dyreck Young, Ian Lynch, Tyler Harlan, Kenny Bickel, Jesse O'Dell, Jason Bissonette, Partrick Maher, Jacob Lamrock, Kyle Griffin, and Nathan Przybylinski.

We are proud of our players and all their hard work!

Editorial—Learning About the Holocaust

By Mary Ruby

In Mrs. McDougall's class we are learning about the Holocaust while we read *The Devil's Arithmetic*. I, personally, think it is very important to learn about this topic for many reasons. Someone who explains it well is the president of The American Historical Association, James Sheehan. He says, "We want to know about the past because we find it challenging, frustrating, exciting, exhilarating, and depressing, and all of us believe by expanding our experience to the lives of men and women in different times and places, history teaches us valuable things both about others and ourselves." Mr. Sheehan says this perfectly in my opinion. Learning of the Holocaust also helps us recognize the millions that died in the concentration camps.

The Holocaust was a very tragic period of time when Hitler and his men tried eliminating the Jews by sending them to concentration camps. In these camps, the Nazis would sort prisoners. Many children younger than twelve were killed right away. If the Nazis considered them strong enough, then they were put to work. If they refused, then they would not get fed and would eventually die of starvation.

I don't really understand the reasoning that Hitler and his men had for doing this to all these innocent people.

I really feel that it is so important that we are learning about the Holocaust so we can prevent this horrible event from ever occurring again.

Basketball Word Search

by Dyreck Young and Steven Guregian

P S L W O A D O C S O L H R T
 T O W O R H T E E R F L A E O
 B H I P O S T Z R H L A L V H
 N A R N F F B L G S B B F O S
 M L C E T O U I L O K T C S K
 K A T K E G U P T O G E O S N
 M E F M S P U L R W N K U O A
 S N K O X P O A X S I K R R B
 L K N L F Z I I R H W S T C D
 A S Z H X Q G N N D P A S R D
 M J U M P S H O T T P B I R V
 D C N D Q H G F V U E B U V Q
 U L N G Y H C L Y U B R P X C
 N T W L P J D A V L G B D S Z
 K W E K V A L X E Y F X L B B

BACKSPIN
 CROSSOVER
 FREETHROW
 LAYUP
 POST
 THREEpointer

BANKSHOT
 DRIBBLE
 HALFCOURT
 OSCODAOWLS
 SLAMDUNK
 WING

BASKKETBALL
 FOUL
 JUMPSHOT
 POINTGUARD
 SWOOSH

See pg. 6 for answers

Top Toys for Christmas

By Jacob Wood and Austin Beckner

For our recent survey, my partner and I found the top toys according to a web search. We wanted to see what the most-desired gift was in our school, grades 5th-8th. We found that the most popular toy on the list was the Apple I Pod Touch “because of the cool features like Internet access,” stated one student.

In second-place we had a tie between the Nintendo Wii and the Apple I Phone. A student stated that he would like a Nintendo Wii because “it’s not like most video games you would normally sit and play. The Nintendo Wii is a game where the whole family can be active.”

Another student I Phone because you can lot more things on this text and listen to

Whatever the wish-list, we hope you



said, “I would want an Apple search the Internet and do a kind, of phone. It’s easier to music.”

desired gift was on your had a jolly holly Christmas.

Our Town, Oscoda

By Tony Weed

Oscoda, in the summer, is a warm, fun, place to hang out. There are beaches and parks to visit to have parties and go swimming. In the winter, our town is a cold, snowy blizzard of ice. There are hills to sled down and have a blast. It seems like an alright town, right? Our school system is good and our sports are decent, too, but even though there are all of these things, Oscoda is still an empty town.

Every since the base was abandoned, the town has seemingly come to an end. Most of the elderly have moved into the condos out on the base and a lot of people have moved away to a bigger town. This is because lots of employers because the township and the school are buying things we don’t need, like that big electric sign in front of the police station. Unfortunately, I don’t think there is anything we can do about any of this and I’m afraid we’re just going to turn into a ghost town. Maybe in the future, Oscoda will go back to the town it used to be, but until then, everyone will have to live with what it is now.

REMS Poetry Corner (Courtesy of Mrs. Blamer and Mrs. Wrona)

Will walk weepingly in a winter wonderland.
 In the snow the moon will glow.
 Nice the ice is as cold as a Popsicle
 The snow is a hoodie covering your body.
 Eep! It's very bitter and cold Eep!
 Rose posed, posed, posed in the snow for a show.
 By: Hannah Wallin



Winter is as cold as a freezer.
 Ice is a shiny mirror.
 Noon, noon, noon is cold.
 Tiny Tim trampled in the snow.
 Eek, squeak went the wet boots.
 Run and have fun in the snowy sun
 By: Joey Kennedy

Winter went widely west
 Ice is as shiny as a mirror
 Never go in the snow when the wind is blow low.
 The cold is ice cream on a frozen stick.
 Everyone will swish and crunch in the snow.
 Roll, roll, roll in the deep snow
 By: Nicole Hill

Snowflakes falling down
 Little children play around
 Winter's come to town.
 By Taylor Moore,
 7th Grade

Winter is a winter wonderland
 Ice goes crunch and snap
 New snow is a refrigerator
 The snow is like a bowl of ice cream
 Everyone will run, run, run in the snow
 Really cold and bold wind will blend
 By: Caleb Jonseck

The snow is falling
 Frosty snowman is dancing
 People are freezing.
 By Travis Comstock,
 7th Grade

Wild wind whirls wildly in the weather
 Icy icicles are in the igloo
 Never go in the snow when the ice is cold
 The ice is as cold as an ice cube
 Eagles go glide, glide, glide in the sky
 Rabbits are thumping and sniffing for food.
 By: Rebecca Parker

Windy weather went west in winter.
 In the snow comes a show that will glow.
 Nelly walked in the snow as slow as a turtle.
 The snow is the middle of a banana split.
 Eek! There is a blizzard.
 Robin played in the cold, cold, cold snow.
 By: Amber Hammac

Snow days are coming
 Winter is time for hockey
 Main roads are covered
 By Brady Huffmaster
 7th grade

Answers to Word Search from page 6

P S L W O A D O C S O L H R T
 T O W O R H T E E R F L A E O
 B H I P O S T + + H + A L V H
 + A R N F + + + + S + B F O S
 + + C E T O + + + O + T C S K
 + + + K E G U + + O G E O S N
 + + + + S P U L + W N K U O A
 S + + + + P O A + S I K R R B
 L + + + + + I I R + W S T C D
 A + + + + + N N D + A + R +
 M J U M P S H O T T P B I + +
 D + + + + + + + U E B + + +
 U + + + + + + + Y + B R + + +
 N + + + + + + A + L + + + + +
 K + + + + + L + E + + + + +

Over, Down, Direction
 BACKSPIN(1, 3, SE)
 BANKSHOT(15, 8, N)
 BASKETBALL(12, 11, N)
 LAYUP(7, 15, NE)
 OSCODAOWLS(11, 1, W)
 SWOOSH(10, 8, N)
 THREEPOINTER(1, 2, SE)
 WING(11, 9, N)

CROSSOVER(14, 9, N)
 DRIBBLE(15, 9, SW)
 FOUL(5, 4, SE)
 FREETHROW(11, 2, W)
 POINTGUARD(1, 1, SE)
 POST(4, 3, E)

HALFCOURT(13, 1, S)
 JUMPSHOT(2, 11, E)
 SLAMDUNK(1, 8, S)

Ask Giggz

Every day, teens are faced with problems in their lives and questions come to mind that they are scared or apprehensive to ask someone. Well I have the solution it's called "Ask Giggz" . . .

- Q: What do I do if someone is bullying me and I don't want to be a snitch?
- A: Even though you might not want to, it is important to tell someone. If you don't tell someone, that person could do something even worse to someone else.

- Q: What do I do if my best friend and I are fighting?
- A: Talk to your friend even if you are mad at them; it's better to be the bigger person. You'd be surprised how much can be worked out when you get to talking.

- Q: What do I do if my parents are fighting and they argue constantly?
- A: Remind yourself that it isn't your fault. At the moment of the fight you might want to go to your room and ignore them--even though it's tough. Listen to music, read a book or a magazine, or even play a video game. Remember there is always someone to talk to—your school counselor is a good place to start.

- Q: How do I get a girl/boy to notice me?
- A: Just be yourself around them and don't make the mistake of changing who you are. Talk to him/her and kind of flirt with them without being obvious.

- Q: What do I do if I found out one of my friends is hurting himself/herself on purpose?
- A: This isn't something you can handle on your own. Talk to your friend and explain that a responsible adult has to get involved, and then get help.

Intervention Newspaper Staff:

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