

PANTHER PRINTS

P.S. DUPONT MIDDLE SCHOOL / WINTER 2014 / VOLUME 1

An Inside Look into School Violence

by Chinasa Emeribe, 7th

P.S. DuPont Middle School is an average Delaware school of over 950 students. The students come to school, learn, and most enjoy the experience of P.R.I.D.E. (Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, and Demonstration of Excellence in academics). Students, faculty, and staff are jovial, kind, and cooperative.

Unfortunately, this is not always the case across all Middle Schools in the United States. The number of Middle School fights in the U.S. has increased in recent years. The chants and yells of rings of students on their way to class surrounding people scuffling on the floor have become more commonplace. Parents are becoming concerned about the safety of their kids. Everyone is on alert.

So why are Middle School fights on the rise in schools today? I decided to interview Mr. Lewis Cheatwood, P.S.

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“Divergent” A Review

by Taryn Jenkins, 7th

Divergent is a smashing first book in the Divergent Series. Veronica Roth did an excellent job incorporating mystery, adventure, and romance into her story. In my opinion, I would rate this book a 5 out of 5 stars. The many twists and turns are very engaging and continue to pull the reader into the story all the way until the end. The story is from a futuristic point of view where the world is split into 5 factions: Candor, Dauntless, Amity, Abnegation, and Erudite. Roth also

has two other books in the Divergent Series. The second book is called Insurgent and the series wraps up with the final book, Allegiant. A movie based on the story Divergent is scheduled to premiere in theaters March 21, 2014. The trailer of the movie is very adventurous and enticing. I highly suggest reading Divergent prior to viewing the motion picture in the theater. This is a series you won't want to miss!

Q & A with our

2014 Talent Show Winners

by Amber Wang, 7th

Rakia Dallum, first place winner, danced to “Footloose” by Kenny Loggins

How long have you been dancing? -About 8 yrs.

How do you feel about dancing? -I enjoy it.

What else do you enjoy doing? -Gymnastics, ballet, hip-hop, jazz - mostly dancing.

What do you not enjoy doing? -Drawing

Do you have a favorite color? -Orange.

What is your Favorite animal? -Giraffe.

What is your favorite song? -“The Monster” by Eminem ft. Rihanna.

Any advice for people who are thinking about auditioning for the talent show next year?
- Don't stress, and enjoy it.

Julian Wahl, second place winner, first place from people's awards, played “Crystallize” by Lindsey Stirling on the violin

How long have you been playing violin? -7 years

Why did you start violin? -My mom encouraged me to play.

How much did you practice for the talent show?
-I started practicing a few months in advance.

Who is your best friend? How long have you known that person? -Evan Jerista, for four years, and Meagan Weldin, for a little over a month.

What is your favorite color? -I love green.

Do you have any heroes or mentors that inspire you to play violin? -As of right now, Lindsey Stirling.

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Science Olympiad

by **Zoe Boughton**

8th

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P.S. DuPont is participating in the Science Olympiad Competition at Delaware State University this year. Science Olympiad is a science competition for schools all over the country. The best teams of students go to the national competition, which is being held at University of Central Florida this year. Each team of students gets to compete in different events, against teams from other schools. Myself, Amita Chatterjee, Chinasa Emeribs, Abhinav Ratnagiri, and Amber Wang, are participating and competing against other schools in several events, which include Solar System, Entomology, Write It/Do It, and Robo-Cross. A parent of one of the students is organizing the events and helping us to study for the competition. The Delaware Division B (middle school) competition is being held on March 15th this year. The members of each team choose the events that they would like to compete in, but they do not necessarily compete in all the same events. There are six different time slots where three to five events are happening at once. The events can

focus on any branch of science, such as biology or meteorology. Each event can have one to three students from each team participating. The largest group that our school has competing is a group of three - myself, Amita, and Chinasa. The three of us are competing in Experimental Design together. This particular event has the participants conduct an experiment on site and gather results from it. Whichever team writes the

Who is your best friend? How long have you known him/her? -Max Ufberg, and I've known him for three years.

How much did you practice for the talent show? -I started about three months before it.

How did you feel when they announced your name as a winner of the talent show? - I was surprised.

Favorite color? -My favorite is Green.

What is your favorite animal? -I like Pandas.

Do you have a Favorite song? -R.O.D. by G-Dragon ft. Lydia Paek.

Do you have any heroes or mentors? -Lotus Chang, my most recent piano teacher.

Q & A TALENT SHOW 2014

How do you feel about playing violin? - I like to play for audiences of any size, especially a piece of music that I picked out.

What do you enjoy doing? -"Sometimes I put petroleum jelly on my earlobes and pretend I'm a carrot. Just kidding... I like to play Pokémon."



Tae-Hoon Kim, third place winner, played 'Nocturne' by Chopin on the piano

When did you start playing piano? -when I was 6 years old.

Why did you begin playing? -I tried out a lot of different instruments when I was 6 and I chose piano. I liked it the best.

WHAT DID YOU DO ON THE SNOW DAYS?

"I took a long walk in the snow with my kids and our dog, then we watched Smurfs 2, ate popcorn and sweets."

-Ms. Davis, 6th ELA



"I read books, played boardgames, cooked lemon broccoli chicken, cleaned, and shoveled the driveway."

— Mrs. Marcinkewicz, 6th Science

"I did laundry, watched T.V., played Monopoly with my two sons, and read books."

— Mrs. Elliott, Educational Diagnostician



Photo by José Marrero, 6th

Made Cookies -Mrs. Falls

Went to Mall -Mrs. Alivernini

Shoveled a lot -Mrs. Wilt

Studied José Marrero

Went sledding -Mrs. Acker

Graded Papers Mrs. Gilbert

Built a snowman Zoe Lucas

STUDENT



SPOTLIGHT

Photo by José Marrero, 6th

Name: Katie Wilson

Age: 14

Grade: 8th

Favorite Color: Blue

Extra Curricular Activities: Tutoring, NJHS, Math League, Soccer, Field Hockey & French Horn

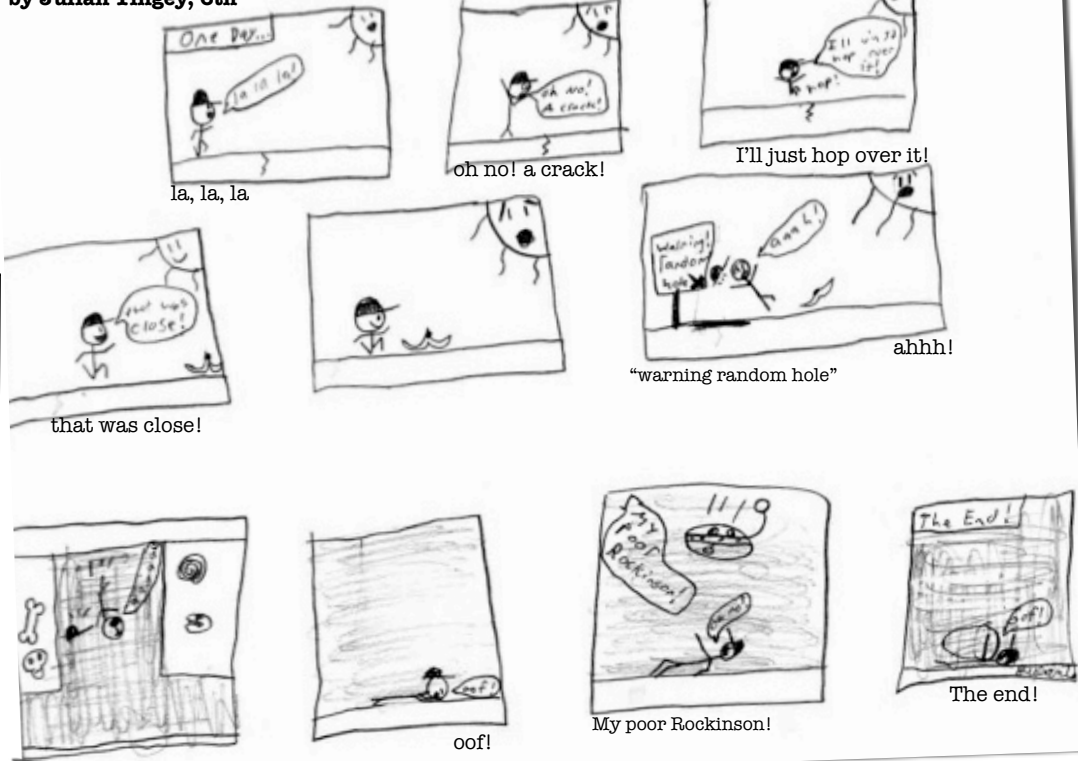
Interesting Fact: She has an older brother who is P.S. Alumni

Opinion of PS: "I like the diversity of PS."

Favorite Animal: Giraffes

Comic Corner "The Secret Life of Timmy McJimmy"

by Julian Tingey, 6th



A MOVIE REVIEW OF "DESPICABLE ME 2"

by John Dietz, 6th

Despicable Me 2 is a great family film that will certainly please viewers of all ages. The plot, just like in the prequel, revolves around Gru, the converted criminal mastermind who is now, apparently, making a line of jams and jellies. Gru is recruited by the Anti-Villain League to track down a villain who the AVL cannot identify. They believe that the villain owns a shop in a mall near Gru's house. Of course, there are more mishaps with the hilarious minions, who are as funny as ever. The movie has a very exciting (and suspenseful) ending. I won't give it away, so you'll have to see it! This movie will make you laugh, if nothing else.

Rating: PG

Directors- Pierre Coffin and Chris Renaud

Cast- Steve Carell as Gru, Kristen Wiig as Lucy, Benjamin Bratt as Eduardo, Miranda Cosgrove as Margo, Elsie Fisher as Agnes, Dana Gaier as Edith, and Russell Brand as Doctor Nefario.

Tip: You can also see the movie Minions about Gru's minions in July 2015 and a sequel, Despicable Me 3 is planned for June 2017.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CLASS?

GYM -Haley Wedin, 6th "I like to exercise."

MATH -Tyler Zebley, 6th "Math is easy."

GYM - Gavin Banks, 6th "it is muy divertida"

MATHCOUNTS

PSD Earns a 2nd Place Finish at the 2014 Competition!

RELAY FOR LIFE

Join PSD for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life on Friday May 30, 2014 @ 6:00pm

PSD is on Facebook & Twitter!

Twitter: @PS_DuPont
Facebook: P.S. Dupont MiddleSchool

Sports....



by **Chinasa Emeribe, 7th**

Ms. Campana became a cheerleading coach in 2008 when Hanby Elementary School was a middle school. She came to P.S. in 2009, and became a cheerleading coach. Past experience influenced her decision to become a coach here at P.S. She was once a cheerleader herself in middle school. Ms. Campana enjoyed it so much. Cheerleading was a way for her to connect with her peers.

So what does it take to become a cheerleader? Ms. Campana looks for new squad members each winter season. Her squad members need to demonstrate a positive attitude, good grades, and dedication.

P.S. squad members conduct sideline cheers, chants, field cheers, with pom-poms and signs. Squad members wear uniforms; have reserved seats at games, and have a special place in the yearbook.

Behind the cheers and pom-poms, there are important values cheerleaders learn. They become more involved in the school. They learn teamwork, cooperation, and how to work with others. P.S. squad members display qualities of enthusiasm, devotion, and self-responsibility. Being a cheerleader does not only help you become a part of something big, it can help improve character.

FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE.....

by **Zoe Lucas & Chianna Spencer, 6th**

Girls' Basketball Team

Mr. Ward coaches the girls' team. He works on both their defense and offensive skills on the court. Mr. Ward is always encouraging the girls to work and play hard. The cheerleaders of PSD cheer loud and proud during the games and practices, which helps to encourage the girls as well. The girls put their blood, sweat, and tears into each game. The girls demonstrate sportsmanship to each other and to their competitors. They have fun on the court.

J.V. Boys Basketball

The JV boys won their last game of the season against Springer on February 27th. Tyhir Harley led the team with 10 points. The team played tough defense and made their coaches proud.

BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

by **Zoe Lucas & Chianna Spencer, 6th**

Fierce like a panther, fast like a cheetah would describe the boys' basketball team of PSD Middle School. These boys have some major skills on the court. Like the girls' team the boys' team is learning the fundamentals of defensive and offensive skills to help improve their game. The coach works them, but ensures they are having fun while playing the game too. Sportsmanship is a very important part of the game. It is not about winning or losing, it is about representing and maintaining PANTHER PRIDE!

BOYS'

VARSITY BASKETBALL

Our boys varsity basketball team concluded their season with a win over Springer Middle School. Sincere Meades led the team with 12

points. After a first half appearance by Larry Tyler, Namir Tyler showed up in the second half and scored 11. Trey "the mad bomber" Dinkins added another 3 three pointers to his record

breaking shooting season. The team finished with a record of 9 wins and 1 loss.

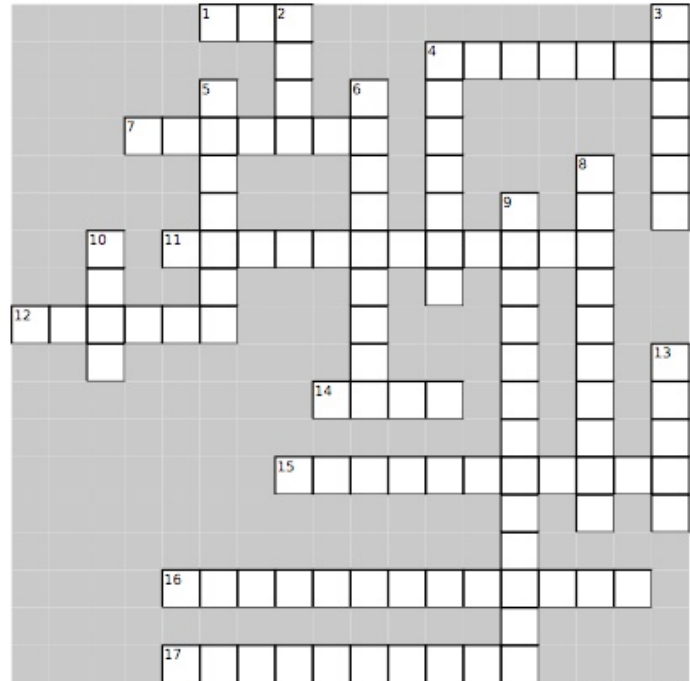


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DuPont's head principal to obtain his thoughts and opinions on the causes for the increase in fights. He identified multiple reasons why he believes school fights have become more common. One reason may be social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Tumblr, etc.) People can and have used these sites to start rumors and gossip about classmates in school. They then spread it to all of their followers on the site. Eventually the student the first one was trying to hurt would hear about the news, whether it was on the site or at school. If it got to the person in summer, if they knew who started it, they may wait till school starts again to "settle scores." Or if school is in session, they can spread to their followers about them "planning a fight." The next day in school they engage them and a fight could ensue. Although social media sites are not the only reason fights occur. There is also another scenario; horseplay. When students are horse playing, one of them could throw a real punch, or kick hard. The other person could become angry, and an argument could follow. Then, if a student becomes infuriated enough, the joking around horseplay could turn into a fight. This can also happen for jokes. Saying the wrong type of joke can hurt feelings, which could result in a fight, one of the many reasons it is important to think before you speak, choosing words

carefully. While some students can be impulsive and become angry easily, this is not the norm here at P.S. Mr. Cheatwood described fighting as "very abnormal for our school." Most students, when they fight are remorseful, and with consequences like 3-5 days of suspension, alternate suspension, and assault charges, students usually learn from their mistakes pretty quickly. It is almost always their first and last fight. The fact is, only a small percentage of students in P.S. have actually got into a fight or are interested in it. Most are passive and want to avoid conflict by peacefully talking things through. But this does not mean the school accepts fighting. Mr. Cheatwood assures that

teachers and staff are helpful, and encourages students to speak to them if they have problems. "We are here to help," he said. If you or your friends hear of an upcoming fight, whether it is in school or by social media, immediately tell a trusted adult. Your name will remain anonymous. If your friends are planning to fight, try to calm them down. Explain to them why fighting is not a solution to their problems. If they still won't listen, report about the fight to an adult. You do not need to name your friend's name, only about the fight. These reports can help to keep other students safe in school.



CROSSWORD: P.S. PRIDE

BY: JULIAN TINGEY, 6TH

ACROSS

1. Where we play sports
4. The subject Mrs. Acker teaches
7. Our school Mascot
11. What type of school is PS?
12. where we learn "bonjour"
- 14 We play instruments, like the trumpet here
15. The best principal ever!
16. the name of our school newspaper
17. The old PSD school mascot
18. we learn to paint in this class

DOWN

2. Where we learn $1 + 1 = 2$ and more
3. We sing "la-la-la"
4. We do experiments in this class
5. a class with lots of reading & writing
6. where we play the strings
8. where is PSD?
9. we learn about history in this class
10. science, technology, engineering, & math
13. perseverance, respect, integrity, determination, and excellence in academics