



Maple Hill Jr. High School Jr. Pawprint Issue 1 November 2023

Welcome, Mr. Santarcangelo, our new principal!

By Emma, Sabrina, Megan, Abby, Zoeii, grade 7, and Liam, grade 8

Interview Q/A

1. **Why did you want to be a principal?**

“I have always been in leadership, and I've always been into teaching, and I used to teach social studies and when this opportunity came I kind of just went with it.”

2. **What was your first teaching/any job?**

“My first job in education was a social study and psychology teacher, but my first ever job was at Price Chopper.”

3. **What is your favorite thing about Maple Hill?**

“My favorite thing about Maple Hill is the kids and their parents and the whole community.”

4. **What's it like to manage a school?**

“Every day is different and there are many different things I encounter. It's a rewarding job.”

5. **What do you miss?**

“I miss teaching sociology and psychology.”

6. Favorite sport?

Football

7. How many years have you been teaching?

14th year in education

8. What roles/responsibilities do you have as a principal?

“The hardest thing is the schedule and a lot of meetings. I interact with the community and parents. There's a lot of things I have to do.”

9. How is being a teacher different from being a principal?

“Teaching is very structured, but the principal role is about things that need my immediate attention.”

10. What was the most memorable moment of the school year so far?

“Spirit week was my most memorable moment. The best part of that week was anything but a bag day.”

Thank you for taking the time to be interviewed for the Jr. High Newspaper.

Rugby

By Braden Severance, grade 7

Rugby is played with a ball a little bit bigger than a football and the same shape as a football. Unlike football, you can only pass the ball backwards. Rugby is played both with the ball in hand and by kicking the ball. Players have five touches to get the ball to the touch down where you touch the ball to the ground. Rugby is a full contact sport where defensive players are allowed to tackle the person with the ball.

Some students came from Rugby NY and a college to teach us about rugby. They taught us skills and tricks on how to play, and it was a very fun time for the gym classes.



ESPORTS

TJ Myers / Armaan Bhatti, grade 7: Esports is a club where you can show teamwork and cooperation with others in online games against other schools. Esports has around 20 members at the moment.

Weston Hathaway, grade 7: The match against Bouquet Valley was a 3V3. We used the username mhesports1, 2 and 3. They used “gingerbuckets, supreme goose and killer goose.” We won the first match 2 - 1. We won the second match 3 - 2. We lost the third match 3-2. The fourth match we lost 2 - 1. Then, out of nowhere, they had to forfeit because they had basketball practice. So we got the win! We are second in the league! We hope to hold last year’s title.

Kristian Earney: On November 15, esports played a match against Bouquet Valley School District in northern New York in a very competitive game called Rocket League. Rocket League is kind of like a soccer game but you drive cars to hit the ball. There’s a reason why there’s a rocket in the title, you use boost or “rocket fuel” to get around the field much faster as well as hitting the ball harder. During esports we will be playing a variety of games such as Rocket League and Minecraft. For now we will stick to Rocket League, Mr. Finney has yet to decide when we play other games as well as Mr. Mastracey but until then, have fun on Rocket League! [Esports Rocket league tournament schedule for the fall season 2023](#)

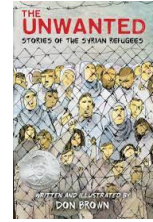
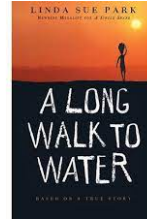


Gabriel, Aidan and Weston compete online against the Boquet Valley team. Photo credit: Mr. Finney

Book Comparison by Kane Myers, grade 7

as written by Kane and told to Mrs. Fowler, club advisor

In class, 7th graders are reading *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park. Kane finished it and then read *The Unwanted* is a graphic novel about Syrian refugees. Kane loves graphic novels. He said that the protagonist in *A Long Walk to Water*, Salva, is like the Syrian refugees because they all traveled across their countries. Kane also noticed that both books included refugee camps and had parts that were very sad. Now, Kane is reading *When Stars Are Scattered*, another graphic novel about refugees. This one is by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed.



Kristian Earney 8th grade : This book resembles the struggle of the people in South Sudan and what they did to over comprehend it. This book showed me that even the people who are not doing well in life can get back up and show the world that they can make a difference, this book reminds me of a similar book called *Water Princess*, they have something in common which is the way they get they're water to their families, gives an idea about how they survived. Salva shows the reader that even when life gets you down, you got to keep on moving and never give up. I would recommend this book to everyone interested in refugee topics. This book truly opened my eyes and is very inspirational. Go read it :D.

Jazz band

By Megan Van Apeldoorn, grade 7

Jazz band is looking for more people! The jazz band instructor is Mr. Streeter. Jr Jazz band will meet on Thursday, once a week, after school, usually on the stage. Go through the band room stage door. You don't need a specific instrument to play in a jazz band, You just need to know how to play/ use it. If you still don't want to sign up now, you can always sign up next year!



Kos, Greece

By: Emma Kullman, 7th Grade

Have you ever been to Greece? What do you think when you hear Greece? When you hear Greece you may think of the Greek gods like Zeus or Poseidon. Maybe you think of Mt. Olympus and Greece's large mountain range that runs the length of the country. You may possibly even think of some of the Greek islands like Crete, Rhodes, Santorini, Mykonos, or our main topic, Kos.

Over the summer I visited Kos. Kos is a twenty eight mile long island in the Aegean sea where you might greet someone with kalimera (kally-meera) or kalispera (kally-sp-aira). These words mean good morning and good afternoon in greek.

During my trip to Kos, I stayed at the Mitsis Blue Domes resort for eleven days. While we were there, we visited another island called Nisyros, rode around Kos in a dune buggy, and walked through historic Roman ruins.

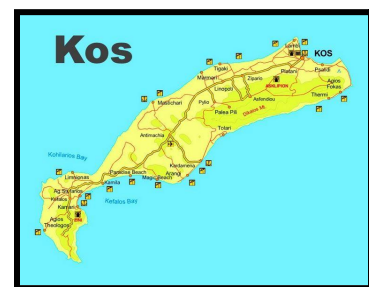
At 1:00am i'm woken from my peaceful sleep to get on a plane to Kos, Greece. My family and I hurry into Granny's red car, dragging our suitcases behind us. We drive for an hour while the sun continues to sleep and the moon's light guides the way to the airport parking lot.

Seconds become endless minutes that turn into hours as I wait for the plane. Finally, our plane begins its six hour flight to Dublin. In order to get to Kos, we now have to board a small plane that only fits two seats on either side of the aisle.

Soon I find myself descending from the world of clouds I had known for the last hour, to find a sea filled with islands of brown and green that rise out of the waves. The plane touches down on a large island with many mountains that reach towards the sky.

The dreary England climate of rain and cold was replaced with the hot humidity of Kos. My shirt clung to my arms and I got into the bus with gratitude for the cool air inside.

After a long trip through security, I got on to another bus that brought us to our resort. We walk into the main building, as this resort has separate houses or bungalows throughout the resort that are connected together to make smaller buildings with a hallway in the middle of them for everyone to stay in. Inside, a woven table takes the middle of the room with woven chairs that are shaped like snail shells around it. A chandelier hangs from the middle of the ceiling, made of more woven material. We are brought wet towels to wipe our faces to fight the heat. The white floors are spotless and opposite the doors we entered are floor to ceiling windows that show the entire resort.



Pools that could fit many trucks in them create a waterfall of separate pools that runs down the middle of the resort, and past this, the ocean gleams in the light of the sun as its waves smooth the sand on the beach that stretches the length of the resort.

My sister and dad run out onto the deck to see the resort. I join them by the railing and look at this magnificent sight. We are called back in to have bracelets put on that will show we have permission to be at the resort. The grownups all have white bracelets while I chose a blue bracelet and my sister chooses a pink one.

After checking in, we are brought to the place we are staying in. As I walk through the hallway and turn into our room, my jaw drops. The walls stretched more than twenty five feet high before joining the ceiling and when I walk to the other side of the room and turn around, I see that there is a floor, similar to a loft, that takes up half the ceiling above the main room. I run up the wooden stairs to find that the loft is a bedroom with its own bathroom. When I look over the railing I can see that there is a glass double door opposite from where we entered. I ran back down the stairs to help my sister, parents, and Granny bring the suitcases into the room.

Granny takes the loft room while I share the three beds that are in the main room with my parents and sister.

The next morning we head up to the buffet that is in the main building. In Greece it isn't unusual for you to have dessert in the morning, they even serve hot chocolate! Besides the desert and hot chocolate, you can find almost anything at the buffet. From croissants in the morning, to pizza that is made in front of you for dinner, you could find any type of food you wanted. Though in Europe you also have to dress fancy for dinner every night.

For a few days we explored the resort. Here the ocean water is clearer than the pools and if you swim a few feet out, you find yourself among large underwater rocks and fish of all shapes and sizes. The pools and ocean are a great way to cool down in the heat of the sun.

My dad rents a blue dune buggy on our third day at the resort and, unlike England, you drive on the right side of the road. Granny stays at the resort, but we drive all over Kos, seeing the amazing sights, even going to the Peacock Forest where we see a white peacock.



Near Kos are several Greek islands and although I don't know all their names, I did go to the island of Nisyros which is next to Kos. We have to get up early to get on the bus that will take us to the boat. An hour later I get off the boat at the volcano-filled island of Kisyros and get onto another bus that takes us to the volcano of Stefanos on the island. As I get off the bus, my nose is abruptly filled with the smell of sulfur. I realize that the unpleasant smell comes from the volcano crater. We all begin to head down into the crater except for Granny, who goes to the small cafe for people visiting the crater. Inside the crater I see the yellow of the sulfur that colors the walls and floor of the site. In the middle I see that a bubbling section has been roped off, as well as some places along the sides. We're going inside an active volcano!

When I reach the bottom of the crater the walls of sulfur tower over me. They are over a hundred feet tall and the crater floor is the same, though possibly larger. The surface of the crater feels hard under my shoes and bits of a stone-like substance seem to flake off it. I marvel at the magnificent size of the crater and the fact that I am standing in an active volcano.

I soon have to retreat from the crater's overpowering sulfur smell, and I breathe in the fresh air outside the volcano gratefully.

Here are some pictures of the Stefanos volcano.



For the rest of the day, we traveled around Nisyros with our tour group. At the village we stop at, we see mosaics that are created from small stones around the island. These stunning works of art are very common around the village and are one of a kind here.

The day begins to end, as does our tour. We boarded the boat to get back to Kos. From the front of the boat, I watch the waves lap at the sides of the vessel as they rise from the dark blue only to vanish again into the depths once again.

Read the next part of my trip to Kos, Greece, in the next issue!

Dear Community,

Unfortunately racism has been a thing for a very long time now. And I think people should start learning more about it and hopefully just see people from the inside and not out. What people don't realize is it hurts different communities.



According to statista.com, in 2023 70.4% of the NBA is black which is the second highest watched sport in America behind football. According to zippia.com, in 2020 American football had 69.4% players who are African-American. Popular music also has originated from African-American sources like jazz and rap.

One experience I saw was on the news when a middle school teacher was comparing an African student to a slave which he was immediately fired after. That shows that there's still racist people out there and it hasn't gone away.

I am telling you this because I know I've been through it and so have other people. My hope is that everyone considers that there's no point in shaming anyone for anything, especially people of color.

Sincerely,
Julian Valentine
Grade 7

Cross Country By: Liam Niemitalo, grade 8

Cross country is one of the sports played at Maple Hill. The modified cross country coach was Mr. Biehler. This past cross country season went very well. It was my first year doing cross country and I loved it. Cross country is a sport that involves a lot of running. To be the best that you can at cross country you need to run the most that you can at practices and you need to set personal goals for yourself. That is some of the reasons why this past cross country season was a success. During the cross country season I set many personal records. I had a great time doing cross country because I got to hang out with my friends while doing a lot of running which is something that I have not done much of in the past. Mr. Biehler was a great coach because he made running fun like for example doing free runs where we can go explore different trails in the woods and he let us do games that involve a lot of running. I hope everyone considers trying cross country because it is a fun sport that you can get a lot of exercise while doing it.



Bringing My Horse To School

By: Addie Kerner, grade 7

I brought my horse to school for a staff day. My horse's name is Thor and he is a 5 year old Thoroughbred.

I started off my day by attaching our horse trailer to our truck and making sure we had everything we needed for my horse. Then we drove the trailer to the ranch where my horse is staying. Once we were there we got Thor out of his pasture and fed him. When he was done eating we had to wait 15 minutes before we put him in the trailer so he could digest his food. Then we packed our brushes, hay, and water buckets and it was time to load him in the trailer!

I walked him in the trailer and attached him to it and closed the back of the trailer. Then we left. Once we got there we parked near the track and set up gates so he wouldn't get out. Then I set up a seat for myself.

My mom had to go inside to start her Equine Expressive Arts session with the teachers. Mrs. Delaney helped with this. Here are some projects the teachers made.

When they were doing that, I was staying with Thor and braiding his tail to keep me occupied. He didn't care because he had grass to eat. When my mom came out she brought me breakfast. While I was eating, Thor kept trying to eat my food too!



Then teachers came out and I was holding Thor while my mom was explaining everything to them. Thor knew I had treats on me so he kept trying to nibble at me and I couldn't hold my laughter!

Once my mom was done explaining, teachers came to pet him and he was probably enjoying it more than all the teachers were! Then it came time when I could show his tricks! His favorite trick I taught him is 'fist bump', where I put my fist to his knee and he hit my fist with his knee. Everyone loved it! But MY favorite thing I taught him is 'Smile', where he lifts his top lip up and that is how horses smile and it looks really funny.



I had to walk him around a lot during the day to keep him working and give him exercise. I also did ground work with him. Groundwork is where you get your horse moving in a circle around you at whatever speed you ask him too, to get him listening and respecting you. I did this so he would know not to be rude and so he would get some exercise.

At one point Thor ate all the grass on the ground in his fenced area so we had to move the trailer so he would get more grass.

That is what I did all day with every group and I really enjoyed bringing him to my school and having everyone meet him. I am so proud of how he was

considering he is still just a baby!

Mrs. Seymour, high school English teacher (in the blue shirt in the above photo), said, "It was very calming spending time with Thor. Our brains are always thinking about our "to do" list or how we constantly need to be productive, especially at school, so spending time bonding with Thor, petting him and appreciating his beauty was lovely.

Mr. Segarra, who is a high school Spanish teacher, said, “Thor is such a people person! It was fun seeing how interactive he was and his tricks were impressive. It’s obvious how much love and care he gets. Addie does a fantastic job with him.”





Thanksgiving Side Dishes

In Connections Class, we are using this argument/persuasive writing format to explain which Thanksgiving side dish is the best. What's your favorite?

Max Miller:

The best Thanksgiving side dish is ambrosia because I heard that it is very tasty and has a lot of flavor. Some people think that rolls are the best Thanksgiving side dish. They are mistaken because rolls are too plain and not good. Therefore, ambrosia is the best side dish to serve next to the Thanksgiving turkey.

Sabrina Simmons:

The best Thanksgiving side dish is rolls because rolls go with everything, have a pleasing texture, and have always been an easy and classic side dish. Some people think that mashed potatoes are the best Thanksgiving side dish. They are mistaken because mashed potatoes easily get old and boring, and have little ways to customize them. Therefore, rolls are the best side dish to serve next to the Thanksgiving turkey.

Ayva S:

The best Thanksgiving side dish is mashed potatoes, because you can add whatever you want to it. Salt, pepper butter, any type of seasoning. Some people think that stuffing is the best Thanksgiving side dish. They are mistaken because you can't do as much to it as mashed potatoes. Therefore, mashed potatoes is the best side dish to serve next to the Thanksgiving turkey.



Quinn Clark:

The best Thanksgiving side dish is Ambrosia because it's my favorite dish and has a lot of flavors. Some people think that rolls are the best Thanksgiving side dish. They are mistaken because it is not healthy. Therefore, ambrosia is the best side dish to serve next to the Thanksgiving turkey.

Addie Richards:

The best Thanksgiving side dish is mashed potatoes because they are creamy and melt in your mouth but also go with any vegetables. Some people think that mac-n-cheese are the best Thanksgiving side dish. They are mistaken because it is too cheesy and can sometimes be undercooked or flavored weirdly. Therefore, mashed potatoes are the best side dish to serve next to the Thanksgiving turkey.

Brady Gibson:

The best Thanksgiving side dish is mashed potatoes because you can put gravy on them which is pretty important with turkey. Also, they are pretty simple to cook. Some people think that candied yams are the best Thanksgiving side dish. They are mistaken because mashed potatoes are healthy. Therefore, mashed potatoes are the best side dish to serve next to the Thanksgiving turkey.

Lynx Sample:

The best Thanksgiving side dish is mashed potatoes because they are delicious and relatively easy and fun to make and share. Some people think that stuffing is the best Thanksgiving side dish. They are mistaken because stuffing is a very messy food. When you eat it, it makes a mess of crumbs. Therefore, mashed potatoes are the best side dish to serve next to the Thanksgiving turkey.

Addie Kerner:

The best Thanksgiving side dish is mashed potatoes because it is very delicious and it adds flavor to your meal. Some people think that stuffing is the best Thanksgiving side dish. They are mistaken because it could be very bland and you can't add anything to it. Therefore, mashed potatoes is the best side dish to serve next to the Thanksgiving turkey.

