

# Maple Hill Jr. High School

## Jr. Pawprint                      Issue 2

## February 2024



The Girls JV Basketball Team warms up before their home game on Tuesday, Jan 30, 2024.



### **The Girls JV Basketball Team**

by Halle Feldman, grade 7

The JV girls basketball team has had some big wins recently and have a current record of 14 - 0 during their most recent game getting another win against Taconic Hills. Five players on our team have been leading scorers during our games.

Being a seventh grader on a JV basketball team means a lot to me knowing that I'm good enough to play with the high schoolers. I'm not the only middle schooler on this team though.

Ayva Spar is a seventh grader and she plays a big role in our team. She is our best player to have under the hoop, helps us win the tip off and is very unselfish with the ball, whenever she sees an opportunity to pass to an open player she always takes it.

Another middle school student is Abby Palmer, Abby gets a lot of our team's points during games. She is not afraid to drive to the hoop and also takes a lot of outside shots.

The last middle school student is Lexi Gibson. Lexi plays a big role on our team under the hoop and has great defense! Lexi scores a lot of our team's points. Lexi gets our team so many rebounds and is not afraid to take the ball from the opposing team.

We also have two team captains, Haylee Spar and Skye Swartz. These two players leave it all on the court. They are great captains and always pick us up when we are down. They always find ways to make us laugh and help us keep going during our games.

One other student on our basketball team is Faiel Glasheen-Haase. She is a 9th grader on our team and helps us a lot on defense. She also helps us score a lot of our team points. She is always so supportive of our team and always makes us laugh on the court.



Pregame introductions get the team psyched up!

Abby for the free throw!



## Modified Basketball

By: Liam Niemitalo, grade 8

The modified basketball season so far has been great. The coaches are Mr. Marino and Mr. Connelly. The modified basketball team has been doing very well. The modified basketball team is 8-0 so far this season with 6 games still left to play. Last year's modified basketball team went undefeated at 14-0. If you want to give modified basketball a try you can try out next year. Modified basketball is very fun because we have fun practices where we have competitions. Modified basketball is also very fun because our coaches give us drills that make us better and we have fun while doing the drills.

Modified basketball is open to any 7th or 8th grader at Maple Hill. If you are a 7th or 8th grader at Maple Hill you should consider trying modified basketball next year. The modified basketball team's most recent game was on Monday, January 29th at 4:30 against Hudson at the CES gym. Come on out and support the modified basketball team someday soon.

## *The Boy and the Heron* – Movie Review

by Armaan Bhatti, grade 7

**Summary:** *The Boy And The Heron* is an anime movie directed by Hayao Miyazaki. The movie is based on a boy named Mahito that moved out of Tokyo because his mother just died. He gets a new mother when they get to their new house where he encounters a heron. As Mahito goes looking for the heron he finds a tower that was sealed. As Mahito tries to get in he smells fire burning. Afterwards, Mahito had to go home. Some time goes by and the heron comes by and says, “We are waiting for you.” As Mahito goes to the tower and is inside of it he is teleported to another world.





## Kos, Greece Part II

By: Emma Kullman, grade 7

Welcome back for the last part of my trip to Kos, Greece! In the last issue I told you about visiting Stefanos Volcano, the Peacock Forest, and arriving at the Blue Domes Resort. Now, I will bring you to the ancient Roman ruins that can be found all over Kos.

A few days after where the last issue ended, we rented a van and visited Kos Town. We see many Roman ruins and ancient mosaics from the time that the Roman Empire ruled Greece.

You may be thinking, “Why are there Roman Ruins in Greece?” During the rule of the Roman Empire between (146 BC and 324 AD), Rome controlled Greece which is how these ruins came to be.



The pictures above are all places I saw when I walked around the ruins. The first picture (On the left) shows the Roman Odeon. This ancient site could hold up to seven hundred people, and it served as a place for musical competitions.

The middle picture displays an ancient mosaic. The picture doesn't capture its full beauty, but there are squares of different patterns that are all put together to make this large and intricate mosaic. The last picture is one of an old village or town with the remains of buildings made of large blocks of stone.

My family and I explored the ruins, discovering many more unique mosaics. Each mosaic was thousands of tiny, colorful tiles that were pieced together to end up with the outcome we saw.



In Kos Town you can also find the Tree of Hippocrates. Hippocrates was a physician in Ancient Greece and is considered the father of modern medicine. According to legend, it is believed that he taught his students about medicine under this tree.

After seeing the ruins, I set out in search of this 500 year old tree, which is supposedly a descendant of the original that lived 2400 years ago, with my family. An hour later we finally came across the tree.

The trunk of the ancient tree splitted into huge branches that splayed outwards towards the sky, their ancient wood covered in knots. Spots of the bark fall away to reveal that the inside of the historic tree is hollow.

A short, stone wall surrounds the entire tree to keep everyone from getting too close, and a green square frame helps support some of the older branches. In front, a stone drinking fountain in the shape of a hearth, greets people as they approach the Hippocrates Tree.

Afterwards, we concluded our trip to Kos Town with ice cream and made our way back to the resort.



Every night at the resort, a different entertainment event is held, from musicians to a fire show. My family and I got to see both of these events during our time at the resort.

The musical events that we got to see were during dinner. We only saw the same musicians perform, but they were still great! There were three singers, two men and one woman. They performed in front of the main hotel, facing the ocean and pools while me and my family watched them from the balcony where we were eating.

“Halo” was one of the songs they sang and I think that I liked the song better when they sang it than when the actual song artist sings the song because they were so amazing!

The other event we got to see was the fire show. The fire show was in the theater, which isn't what it sounds like. It was basically an outdoor area with a stage and a lot of plastic folding chairs set up in front of it. Either way, the show was awesome!

Three performers did tricks with fire. They lit these special poles that would contain the fire at the ends. One of the sticks had something similar to bicycle spokes on both ends, and they spun them to create cool designs.

Fire wasn't the only thing that the performers used, they used lights in their performance as well! Some of their costumes unfolded to show a display of hundreds of tiny lights that changed color with the beat of the music. They also had glow in the dark swords and poles with lights on the end that they spun in figure eights and circles. The darkness caused the lights to imprint in my vision, making the performance all the more dazzling.

All too soon the show had ended, and a few days later, I was flying across the sea back to England and, after that, America.

I really enjoyed my trip to Kos, Greece and I hope I get the chance to go there again!

## **7th and 8th Grade Band's Winter Concert**

By Thomas Myers, grade 7

On December 11th, 2023, the Jr High band performed their winter concert consisting of 3 songs: "The Pit And The Pendulum," "Santa The Barbarian And The Pirates Of The North Pole," and finally, "We Wish You A Klezmer Christmas." For the song "Santa The Barbarian And The Pirates Of The North Pole," I played the suspended symbol and the chains. The chains are what you expect them to be, just standard chains you would have at your house. In fact, Mr. Hanrahan found the chains in his shed! The part for the chains was difficult because we had to find a way to really capture the sound. Mr. Hanrahan and I tried many different ways to get the chains to ring and stand out. We tried just dropping them on the floor but it didn't make much sound, then we tried to drop them on a chair when they were balled up but that didn't work either. Eventually we would find out that dropping them on a chair when they were folded in half twice would create the effect we were looking for. It was more difficult than you would think because every time I would drop one on the chair, I would have to pick it up and fold it up again.

We have also received two new songs for our next concert so far, one of them being "Champions Of Our Future" and the other "Aladdin" which is composed of multiple songs from the movie "Aladdin" such as "Arabian Nights," "Friend Like Me," "Prince Ali" and "A Whole New World."

## **7th Grade General Music**

By: Armaan Bhatti grade 7

In general music we are learning about Chuck Berry. Mr. Hanrahan is the music teacher. Chuck Berry was a rock and roll Artist. Chuck Berry also was one of the first people to use the electric guitar. One of the songs we listened to was "Maybelline." It was sung in 1955.

# 7th grade Connections Class Volunteering

By Sabrina Simmons, grade 7

The seventh grade quarter two Connections class has done a variety of different volunteering activities, including field trips and at-school projects. The point of Connections class is to serve the community by providing both supplies, and, as we have done in several field trips, meeting with people and providing cheer and company.

The first place we went was Riverside Nursing Home, where we crafted, ate donuts, and played games with the residents. All of us gained valuable experience and had a great time.

Near Riverside Nursing home, the volunteers at the food pantry that serves our community, the Anchor, recently asked our class to publicize their sock drive so as to increase donations for the holidays. Thanks to the efforts of the Connections class, we were able to raise over 100 sock donations.



Closer to school, we then took a trip to the VFW post, where we talked with veterans who served in foreign wars.

Castle Hill is a resident home for senior citizens that is located in the village, and we participated in a variety of activities, such as games and no-sew blankets, the latter making two blankets which will be donated to the Anchor.

We are also designing service learning projects on a variety of subjects, including helping endangered animals to address climate change.

Thank you to all of the adults who accompanied us on our trips and came into school to teach us. We very much appreciate your time.





## Argument Essay:

### Walking While Using Devices

By: Emma Kullman, grade 7

Do you think that distracted walking is so dangerous that we need a law to prevent it? Some people think we do, but there shouldn't be a law against distracted walking. Most deaths are due to distracted driving which is a far bigger issue than distracted walking. We

need a law for distracted driving more than we need one for distracted walking.

A law for distracted walking isn't needed. According to the audio, "Texting While Walking May Be Dangerous," Dr. Angela Gardner, an emergency doctor at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, speaks of the time she had a patient that had been a victim of distracted walking. After falling off the curb, the patient was hit by a car. The driver of this car had been a distracted driver who hadn't been paying attention to the road. This presents proof that if the distracted driver had been focusing on the road, the incident could have been avoided, and shows that a law for distracted driving is needed more than one for distracted walking.

Cities have taken precautions, other than passing a law, to limit the amount of injuries there are from distracted walking. Another audio, "Philadelphia: Texting While Walking is No Joke," shares that in Philadelphia, a lane was created just for the purpose of distracted walking, which helps keep pedestrians safe. The article, "Would You Ban Texting While Walking?", mentions that cities have also taken precautions to limit the injuries of distracted walking that include padding lampposts, holding campaigns about public awareness of the issue, and engineers at Rutgers University are even working on creating an app to warn distracted walkers when they are nearing a

crosswalk. With these measures in place, there isn't that much of a need for a law against distracted walking. While distracted walking may not need a law to help prevent it, the same can't be said for distracted drivers.

Some people may believe that a law is needed to fix the issue of distracted walking, but they are wrong. According to a magazine article, "Should Texting While Walking Be Illegal?", in 2016, 6,000 pedestrians were killed in the U.S. When you look at the numbers of pedestrians that were killed in 2016, you may think that is a huge number and we need a law to lower that number. This may be true unless you consider the 40,000 plus people in the U.S. that were killed in car crashes the same year. It can also be found that distracted drivers kill ten people per day in the U.S. Therefore, we don't need a law for distracted walking because if we focused more on distracted driving, a lot more lives would be saved.

In conclusion, a law against distracted walking isn't needed, but one against distracted driving would make a big difference. With a law against distracted driving, less people would be killed each year.



## Water For South Sudan and The Iron Giraffe Challenge

Maple Hill was highlighted by Water for South Sudan because of our efforts to help Salva build wells since 2015. You can read the article and see pictures over the years at this [link](#). The 7th graders are collecting money for the Iron Giraffe Challenge now! Every dollar helps! Read more by Megan.

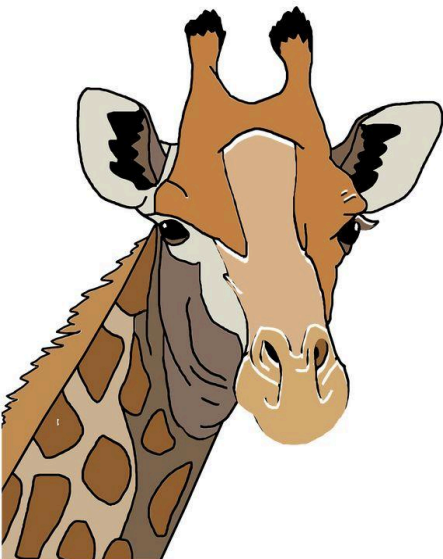
## The Iron Giraffe Challenge

By Megan VanApeldoorn, grade 7

The Iron Giraffe Challenge is a competition where schools see who can donate \$1,000 to the group called "Water For South Sudan." Water for South Sudan is a group where they make wells, teach about hygiene, ect for South Sudan.

South Sudan is in Africa and does not have clean water that's easy to get. The owner of the organization's name is Salva Muwien Dut Ariik, Salva was in the war that took place in Sudan. The war was brutal and terrifying, many died during that time. But Salva survived and told his story to everyone. You can read about his story in the book called "*A Long Walk To Water*."

If our school manages to get 1,000 donations, then we have a chance to win stuff like a google meet with Salva himself or we could get a chance to meet Salva in person. So far our school has over \$100 donated. If you donate \$10, you will get a bracelet as a "Thank you for your help" gift. If you want to donate or want to learn more about the challenge, please go to Ms. Fowler, any 7th grade student or visit the website [Water For South Sudan](#).



Thank you!