



Maple Hill Jr High School Jr Pawprint Issue 3 March/April 2024

Baseball By Liam Niemitalo, grade 8

Spring is the best time of year! Why? It's baseball season. It got off to an early start thanks to our coaches holding early morning workouts in the month of February. Maple Hill Junior Varsity (JV) and Varsity baseball started March 11th this year and it got off to a rainy and snowy start.

This year, we have a young JV baseball team. The team consists of 12 players, half 8th graders and half 9th graders, with 5 returning players. While we are sure to face older, bigger opponents, we have lots of experience and athleticism. The coaches have been impressed with the dedication, effort, and sportsmanship shown already this season.

The JV team is led by physical education teacher, Coach Biehler. Biehler also coaches the Maple Hill Cross Country modified team. Former Maple Hill Varsity baseball player, Coach Lensink is the assistant and works with the team on fielding and hitting. Both coaches work closely with the JV team and Varsity team along with the Varsity head coach, Coach Frese and Assistant Coach, Coach Monuteaux.

While the rain and the solar eclipse impacted our scrimmage and game schedule, we will hit the ground running this April playing anywhere from 2 to 3 games a week. The cold weather didn't stop us from getting out to do field practice and using the school's great outdoor facilities in March.

Come out and smell the freshly cut grass and enjoy the sounds of applause and baseballs hitting off bats this spring. Your Varsity and JV baseball teams are hosting home games on Canonica Field and the modified baseball team gets started at Chatham on April 18. If you are interested in trying out for baseball next Spring, there is no better time to start practicing than now!

Maple Hill is always looking for more players for baseball and for every sport.



Iron Giraffe Challenge Elevator Speech - WFSS

By: Emma Kullman, 7th Grade

This school year Maple Hill Jr. Sr High School aims to bring hope to the communities of South Sudan. The Iron Giraffe Challenge helps donate to Water For South Sudan, or WFSS, which is a non-profit organization that drills wells for the people in South Sudan so they can have access to clean water. An Iron Giraffe is what the drill used to dig the wells is often referred to by the villagers. They see the drill as having a resemblance to giraffes, though red and made of iron. The challenge has therefore adopted the name "Iron Giraffe."

The efforts of WFSS have improved the economy of the villages in South Sudan in ways that range from being able to have markets in the area, to giving school opportunities to girls that were destined for dull futures carrying water for their families. New schools are even being built because of the efforts of WFSS. Despite their accomplishments, WFSS can't do all of this alone. So far, WFSS has drilled six hundred twenty eight (It's ok to use numerals for numbers over 100.) 628 wells that now provide safe water to villages, but that number can be so much bigger than what it is.

In South Sudan, the villages often don't have access to safe water like we have in America. Because of the lack of safe water, opportunities are scarce. According to WFSS's website, girls in South Sudan have to walk about 3.7 miles to find water every day and carry up to forty pounds of water on their heads as they walk. Every day they carry out this never ending chore, meaning they aren't able to go to school. Only boys have the access to education, and even then, sometimes there isn't even a school for them to go to.

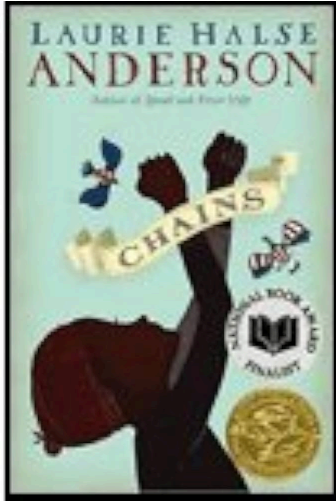
You can find that this project is unique to our community. The founder of Water for South Sudan, Salva Dut, was once a lost boy, trying to escape the destruction and horrors of the Sudanese Civil War. Now he lives only a few hours from us in Rochester, where he was resettled when he was brought to America, which you can learn about in the book, *A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park*. Salva founded WFSS to bring safe water to his home country, and we can help him in his journey.

Donate now to help us reach our goal of one thousand dollars and join us in the Iron Giraffe Challenge to give the people of South Sudan a better future.

We raised \$458.55!

Rotary is going to make a donation from the April 14 Bowl-a-thon as well!





Chains Book Review

Sabrina Simmons, grade 7

The 7th grade ELA class has recently finished reading the historical-fiction book *Chains*, a revolution-era work of literature by Laurie Halse Anderson, author of acclaimed books such as *Fever 1793* and *Speak*.

We started the unit by introducing the book, author and the system of roman numerals used to mark chapters. We then began reading about the protagonist, 14-year-old Isabel, a slave in 1776. The book begins in Rhode Island, where Isabel and her five-year-old sister Ruth have been taken into the possession of Mr. Robert Finch, whom Isabel compares to a snake, on the recent passing of their previous master Miss Mary Finch. On her passing it was said that she freed Isabel and Ruth in her will, but due to the cruelty of Robert Finch, who will not take word from a girl like her, they are sold to a harsh and pernicious New York City residing loyalist couple, the Locktons.

Thus Isabel is drawn into the heart of the Revolutionary War, where she meets a Patriot slave named Curzon who convinces her to help the Patriot side by spying on the activities and correspondence of the Locktons. Anne Lockton and her husband, however, are completely loyalists, so Isabel felt a bit uneasy about spying in on their house when they could have her severely punished. Still, she does, and helps to stop a famous assassination attempt on G. Washington.

During this same time Isabel also faces her own personal problems, many revolving around how Madam treats her slaves. Madam also thinks that Ruth, who suffers from epilepsy, is inhabited by a demon and therefore wants to sell her. Another conflict Isabel faced was her own battle to become free.

While many treat Isabel as hardly human, the master's rich aunt Lady Seymour is one of the few who gives Isabel kindness and respect, even going so far as to help Isabel cover for one of Ruth's seizures when she could have easily turned away. About when Isabel is finally starting to settle in, something quite awful happens . . . But I wouldn't spoil it. By this point, the war is in full swing and there have been several important battles that you may have heard of, such as the Battle of Brooklyn or Battle of Fort Washington, both of which resulted in massive Patriot losses and fatalities.

The book itself is historical fiction, so that means that many of the characters are fictitious but places and events are likely to be real. Some examples include characters like Isabel, Ruth, Curzon, Lady Seymour, and the Locktons, who are not real and created for the book. Real events and places, however, are scattered throughout the book.



Photos from the Grade 7 - 12
Pep Rally!



Maple Hill's International Club Visits Spain!

By:Quinn Coffey, grade 8

Over the past April break, (March 29th-April 6th) ten members from the Maple Hill community embarked on a ten day tour of Spain. We visited seven cities, Barcelona, Zaragoza, Madrid, Cordoba, Seville, Granada, and Malaga in that order respectively. Here is a short overview of our trip!

Our first day was mostly traveling. We took a bus from Maple Hill to Boston Logan International Airport. We were flying via the airline Lufthansa, with a short layover in Frankfurt, Germany. After no time, the next day we were in Barcelona because of the time change.



For our first day in Barcelona (second day of trip) we walked La Ramblas, a walking street with a plentiful amount of shops and restaurants. For dinner, we indulged in a Paella Dinner, a traditional Spanish rice dish with shrimp. The next day, we went sightseeing through Barcelona seeing most of the major attractions such as Mirador del Palau Nacional, Parc Guell, and La Sagrada Familia, a church that has been under construction since 1882.

We only spent a half day in Zaragoza. We saw a Roman basilica, and inside there was a stone that is supposed to be magic if you kiss it. For the rest of the day, we got time to walk the streets.

Our group spent two days in Madrid. On the first day, we arrived fairly late, so we got to walk around the city at night, which was really cool. On the second day, we went sightseeing. We saw many things such as the Las Ventas (Bull Fighting Ring), Columbus Square, Calle Mayor, the Spanish Royal Palace, and so much more!

The next day, we rode a bullet train from Madrid to Cordoba which was one of my favorite parts. We were going so fast, it made everyone sick looking out the window! We only had a half day in Cordoba. We got to see a mosque-cathedral which is something you will not see anywhere else in the world. The muslims used to rule over the south of Spain, but when the christians came in and pushed them out, they built a beautiful cathedral inside of the Muslims mosque. This is also the final resting place of Christopher Columbus. For the rest of the day, we just walked around the stunning small city of Cordoba.

We arrived in Seville late at night so, the next day, we toured around Seville. We saw landmarks such as Plaza De Espana, Casa De Pilatos, the Seville Cathedral and ascended the Giralda Tower, which has a beautiful view of the wonderful city of Seville at the top.



We then were in Granada on Day 8. We got to walk the streets, then see the beautiful Alhambra. It was a muslim fortress and it was one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen with a massive amount of finely kept gardens and water features.

For our final last day in Malaga, we had time to rest at our hotel and visit the beach and spend some time there. It was overall a pretty uneventful day. Though, other groups got to go to Morocco but we decided to stay back.

Before we knew it, our time was up. It was an absolutely life changing trip. I definitely want to go back again! But tentatively, join Maple Hill's international club and come along with us for a trip to Australia in 2026!

Cubing Club

By Brian Berg

A new club is coming to Maple Hill! Introducing the "Cubing Club," a club where students can learn how to solve Rubik's cubes such as the 3x3, 2x2, and more. March 7th, after school, was the first meeting, where we will introduce ourselves, have a snack party, and overall have a good time. We will meet every other Thursday from 2:00 to 2:45, and, if needed, cubes and other puzzles we will use can be provided. If you would like to join, please email Brian Berg or Mrs. Lapp. If you need a cube for the club, please let Brian know at the first meeting.



Thank you and good luck to Miss Byrnes and Mr. Metzner!

We loved having you here at Maple Hill! We learned so much from you and we will miss you.

Mrs. Fowler, Mr. Mastracy and Jr High Students

Authors are Coming!

By: Emma Kullman 7th Grade

In June, six authors will be coming to the Junior Senior High School! These authors include Emma Otheguy, Lilliam Rivera, Celia Perez, Pablo Cartaya. The illustrator, Raul the Third, will also be coming to the school in June. There will be author interviews at a community event on June 12th. Come down and meet the authors that evening!

On June 21, Christina Wyman is visiting just for the junior high students.

Here a list of books that these authors have written and links to their websites.

Books by Pablo Cartaya:

[website](#)

- *The Last Beekeeper*
- *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora*
- *Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish*

Books by Emma Otheguy:

[website](#)

- *Sofia Acosta Makes a Scene*
- *Silver Meadows Summer*
- *Secrets of the Silver Lion*

Books by Lilliam Rivera:

[website](#)

- *Barely Floating*
- *Never Look Back*

Books by Celia Perez:

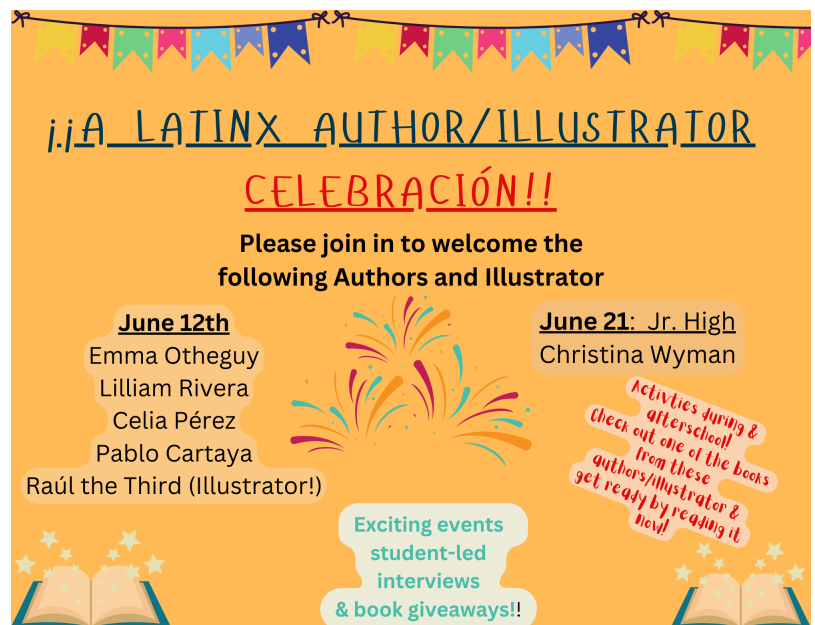
[website](#)

- *Tumble*
- *The First Rule of Punk*

Books by Christina Wyman:

[website](#)

- *Jawbreaker*
- *Slouch*



Poster designed by Mrs. Lattimore

Book Spine Poems By Sabrina Simmons, grade 7

The 7th grade recently began a unit into poetry, starting with poems such as sonnets, haiku, limericks and ballads. We created our own free verse and tricube poems.

After that, we went down to the library to construct our own book spine poems. Book spine poems are created by stacking books so that the titles on their spine spell out an interesting message or a creative poem that speaks for itself. Below are some pictures of a few 7th graders standing with their own book spine poems. You can additionally see how the spines letter out a free verse poem.

