

Putnam Valley Middle School, Putnam Valley NY (845) 528-8101



Special Interest

<u>Articles</u>

- -New York State Student Music Association (NYSSMA)
- -Putnam Valley Historical Society
- -Baby Bonanza
- -Fifth Grader gets on board with technology
- -PVMS Blood Drive
- -National Junior Honor Society

Issue Highlights:

PVMS Club News

PVMS Sports

Technology

Puzzles

Contributing Writers

Emily Azcue

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Amelia Spittal

Taylor McLean

Vicky Hyndman

Sara Zadrima

Allison Saffo

Anna Shorto

Michaela Macquignon

Andreana Vazeos

In the Spotlight

Dear Readers,

It's hard to believe that another school year has passed. It has been a great year of trials and tribulations. We have pulled together as a school community to raise more than \$7,000 for St. Jude's Children's Hospital, over \$1,500.00 for the Go Green Initiative, we have raised money for the Putnam Valley Food Pantry, both students and staff have worked together raise over \$700.00 to memorialize a lost loved one in our school last December. There have been several birth announcements. It has definitely been a year of growing pains.

As we reflect on the events of the past year we can't help but notice the "Spirit" of our community. We had dances, pep rallies and color days, all without incident (Except for the 6th grade accidentally setting off the fire alarm while using a fog machine during Color Day, causing a school evacuation, OOPS.) We also had a record year of National Junior Honor Society inductees. The laptop program is in full swing and hopefully next year we should all have the capability to use the technology that is available. Student Government is under the direction of Dr. Fine and is improving our school spirit. On June 13th they are holding a Mini-Olympics after school and need everybody that is able to participate.

End of the year finals are now around the corner, starting on June 14th. After a week of buckling down and studying, each grade will then take off on the 21st for an end of the year trip. Sadly, that will be our last day with you. We promise to try and send you off with waves and bubbles, as we do every year. As each school year comes to a close it also carries with it the promise for a new year to come!

Most of you will come back in the fall. Our 8th grade graduating class of 2007 will be going on to the High School! Congratulations to you. We wish Mrs. Pratt a restful and gratifying retirement, we will miss you all! An early welcome to a new group of fifth graders who will be joining our school community in September. Most of all have a healthy, happy and safe summer!

Yours truly, Mrs. Pasquale and Mrs. Sherwood and Newspaper Club Members

Thank you to Mrs. Conlin and Ms. Meinch for organizing a successful Math-A-Thon. The 6th, 7th and 8th graders raised over \$**7,000.00** for St. Jude's Children's Hospital! That is an accomplishment to be proud of!

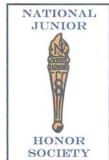
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STUDENT ACOMPLISHMENTS



National Junior Honor Society



Congratulations 2007 National Junior Honor Society Inductees A record number of inductees in PVMS Hstory!

Christine Alexander
Doris Baclija

Logan Bagarozy

Lisa Barone

Kelsi Biedermann

Serena Boshak

Matthew Brady

Barbara Casabianca

Kevin Christopher

Mace Coleman

Destiny-Ann Curran

Melissa DiRubba

Alyssa Durocher

Alexandra Gazzola

Quinn Gilman-Forlini

Cassandra Girvalo

James Hertzel

Jillian Kestenbaum

Austin Knoeppel

Karolyn Kroboth

Casey Leake

Chui-Miin Lee

Austin Levesque

David Lobo

Alexis Lussier

Dylan Mah

Steven Mazzarisi

Hugh McCann

Raymond Messinger

Lauren Mias

Alissabeth Minnich

Regina Nastri

Andrew O'Grady

Jacqueline Rainieri

Maria Rao

Maxwell Ringbom

Danielle Roberts

Bernard Sacco

Brandon Schmelmer

Jared Scolpini

Victoria Stanishia

Melissa Steen

Robert Tendy, Jr.

Shannon Todd

Tess Torregrosa

Stephen Velichko

Michael Venditti

Alexis Volpe

Kristen Weeks

Erica Wharton





STUDENT AWARENESS

PVMS BLOOD DRIVE



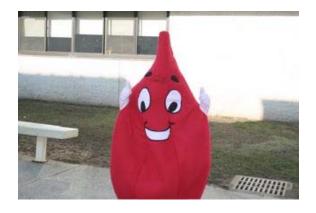
Every year the sixth grade runs a Blood Drive in March for the Blood Bank. It turns into a big project that all students become involved in. The sixth graders had to make a poster, a brochure, or give a speech. Also, they had to ask ten people to donate blood. Not everybody they asked is able to donate blood. In fact, the number one reason people don't donate is because they were never asked.

This year the Blood Drive was held on Tuesday, March 27, 2007 from 2:30-8:00 pm, at the Putnam Valley Middle School gym. During the blood drive each kid had a job. One of the jobs was to be an escort. An escort is a person who helps bring people over to the refreshments table after they gave blood. Another job was preparing blood bags. The people who did the blood bags had to get them together so they are ready to be distributed to the phlebotomists taking the blood. Another job was to sit at the refreshments table and ask people what they wanted after they gave blood. There was a greeter who stood at the door and asked people if it was their first time giving blood, and if it was they would give that person a sticker that said it was their first time giving blood. The job that most people wanted was to be the blood drop. The blood drop wore the blood drop suit in the parking lot and waved to people going into the school to get their blood taken. The blood drop person was also like an advertisement. They brought in people that had no idea that there was a blood drive.

We received over 100 pints of blood! One pint of blood can save five lives. We had a shortage of blood this year, so, thank you to every single person who took time out of their busy schedules to donate blood and save lives! Everybody on the sixth grade team would like to thank all who donated blood. There will be another Middle School blood drive next year, so please donate blood. The blood we received this year will not last forever.

By: Taylor McLean and Vicky Hyndman









STUDENT ACTIVITES

SING OUT

All County Chorus

5th and 6th Grade By Anna Shorto

In mid January, a few members of the chorus were selected to represent P.V.M.S. for the All County Performance at George C. Fischer Middle School in Carmel. The students selected from the 5th and 6th grade started to practice for this right away. Mrs. Craane started them off before she left for maternity leave and Mrs. DeMagistris came in to complete and perfect our performances.

All County is a program where children in 5th and 6th grade practice in their schools to sing a few songs in an All County Chorus performance. They practiced four songs, "We are the Young", "Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho", 'The Flyaway Horse" and "Shalom to you My Friend".

After a lot of practice, they traveled to Carmel, New York on Friday, March 2nd. They practiced with the other students from the county. When they got there they found themselves in a totally new building with new people and new places. It was exciting and very fun! They practiced with the conductor, who perfected them. In the end they sounded amazing! The following day, Saturday March 3rd they performanced. It was wonderful! The All County Chorus was a huge success. Congratulations on a wonderful performance!

Also, a big Thank You to Mrs. DeMagistris who came right in to take Mrs. Craane's place (who gave birth to a baby girl)! Thank you Mrs. D. for your hard work! Thank you to Mrs. Pratt as well.

The P.V.M.S. All County members were:

Chloe O'Connor Rae Gonzalez Sayaka Abe

Anna Gragert Julia Jerome Anna Shorto
Christina Lobo Kiani Alverez Briana Orabona

Taylor Forcelli Dylan Pait Persephone Alverez

Ali Pittman Jenna Leonard Vinnie Torsiello



STUDENT ACTIVITES







By Allison Saffo

The New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) was a fun occasion for band students. It is an event where fifth and sixth (and seventh and eighth) grade band students have the chance to go to a school and be judged on how they play. A song was assigned to each student by their band teacher and they practiced it until it was perfect. The band students went into a room where they would play their song to a judge. The student would also have to play three scales (that had to be memorized) and then lastly, they had to play a sight-read song that is about 8 measures long. The judges would write down grades and comments. The highest grade that you could get is a 28. If you got a 28 in NYSSMA or are hoping to next year, practice hard and when you're playing, try to throw away all nervousness.

NYSSMA was held on Friday, April 20 this year and ended on Saturday, April 21. All students practiced in March and the beginning of April until the big event. Practices took place during and after school. People signed up on their own for the after school practices. There could only be four or five students at a time after school though.

Well, that wraps up this article... Wait! Hold up! I almost forgot something very important. I almost (but didn't) forget to thank Mrs. Pratt for taking the time during and after school to work with the fifth and sixth graders. So, thank you Mrs. Pratt for taking time during and after school to work with the fifth and sixth graders. Also, I would like to say congratulations to all band students that participated in NYSSMA.

Here are our students that participated:

Nicole Raus	Taylor McLean	Eric Macher	John Messinger	
Allison Saffo	Jelani Bell-Isaac	Emily Montano	Kyle Kuttruff	
Emily Azcue	Patrick O'Grady	Vicki Hyndman	Alex Sciglio	
Jacob Santo	Joey Meslaner	Audrey Malek	Ryan Yetter	
Garret Ayling	Austin deMay	Max Levinson	Chris Brunke	
	Lauren Perritano	Sam Schecter		



STUDENT ACTIVITES

All County Band

By Vicky Hyndman and Taylor McLean

Hoops for Heart

By Andriana Vazeos

Sing One, Play Two It's All-County For Me And You

On Saturday, March 3, 2007, the 5th and 6th graders went to the All-County festival held at George Fischer Middle School in Carmel.

All County is an event where students from schools around the county who are chosen by their teacher participate in a festival. There, they can either sing, play an instrument in a solo performance or they may choose to play in the orchestra.

The band members that attended from Putnam Valley Middle School, were :

Vicky Hyndman
Sarah Sperling
Austin DeMay
John Messigner
Daniel Rodriguez

Taylor McLean
Chris Brunke
Kyle Kuttruf
John Meagle

The student band, comprised of students from all across the county, performed four songs:

Swashbucklers March
The Forge of Vulcan
Incantation and Ritual
Jamaica Jack

Mr. Clinton conducted these wonderfully talented kids.

Congratulations on a job well done!

Hoops for Heart is a fundraiser. This year the gym teachers held this event on March 6, 2007. The activity took place at the Putnam Valley Middle School gymnasium. Kids in the 5th and 6th grade participated in Hoops for Heart during their gym classes.

First you had to stand on the blue line near the bleachers. Then you got a number from one of the advisers. You had to remember that specific number. When your number was called you sat under the basketball hoop the gym advisor points at. Then the first two people of each line get a pen and a score sheet from one of the assistants. At this point you got a basketball and shot for two minutes. The object is to get points. To do that, you must stand on at spot that is numbered, 1,2,3,4. If you make the shot, you get the number of points that number of points that you are sanding on.

The 5th and 6th graders were the two grades that participated in Hoops for Heart. Together all students raised \$3,500 dollars! \$500 dollars MORE than our goal we made last year. We sent the money to hospitals for people who can't pay for medical help-to get them nurses, a bed, doctors and food. That was really thoughtful and nice of our school to donate money to hospitals.

Next year let's all try to participate in Hoops for Heart.





5th Grade Gets on Board



with Technology

By Sara Zadrima

Select a Subject

Math

Reading

Writing

Social Studies

Studywiz and Study Island are two eLearning applications used by teachers and students in our school. Studywiz and Study Island are great applications that offer a lot of different features. They can be used in many different ways. Some of the features, are eLocker, where teachers and students can upload things like homework, websites, and much more! Study Island is another great elearning tool to help students study and have a good time while studying.



First, I will tell you about Study Island. Teachers set up accounts for their classes. They assign each student a username and password. Once you are logged on, students

can follow teacher assignments or study on their own. Study Island has four main subjects, but there are other subjects on your grade's screen. Study Island is not all boring pretests. It has games and levels. Once you log in, you can set the session to different games and levels. For example, bowling. First, you get a question. Next, you select the bowling ball with the correct answer and then, you bowl!



Studywiz is another great eLearning application. Teachers can upload assignments to Studywiz for their classes using the eLocker tool.

On Studywiz, you can also create your own calendar, and settings to make Studywiz easy for you to handle.

There are features such as discussions and chats where teachers and students who have permission can set up a message board. There are other formats for projects, class discussions, and for other purposes as well.



On Studywiz, teachers can see how each and every student is doing, how long they have been on, what they have been doing, and other purposes. Studywiz has many other features, some in which I haven't even discovered yet. If you have discovered one that I haven't mentioned, please let the newspaper club know!



Thanks to Mr. Coleman for introducing these eLearning applications to his 5th grade classes! We really appreciate it and we sure the other students do, too! They are lots of fun! Thanks Mr. Coleman!







By Allison Saffo

Where in the U.S.A. is Munchkin?

Munchkin is short, smart, athletic, artistic and anything you want him or her to be. Munchkin is a troll, from Trollz, an imaginary land, that Mrs. Bowe/Mrs. Carvo's class took around the United States in the middle of the school year. The troll originated as Pinky-Sue, a pink-haired girl, going to Tennessee. But after that trip, Pinky-Sue's life totally changed, not being Pinky-Sue anymore! It soon became known as Munchkin Monday and turned into a Social Studies writing project.

Mrs. O'Brien, our great sub that was with us earlier this year while Mrs. Bowe was out, started it all. Every Monday this is what happened; a student would write a story about a Munchkin (with its own name and personality) who goes to visit a state. Mrs. O'Brien or Mrs. Bowe would ask the Munchkin (the student who wrote the story) to read Munchkin's journal. After they were finished reading in front of the whole class, Mrs. Bowe would pick a new person to be Munchkin and write about Munchkin's trip around the U.S. Munchkin would then either get the pink Munchkin journal to write in, or write the story up on lined paper.

Munchkin goes on many trips around the U.S.A. He or she did many activities and also meets new people! We wrote about Munchkin's trip, got pictures and facts about the state that they went to, then wrote about it in the pink journal. Munchkin Monday did not always happen on Monday, though. Sometimes the flight, or trip, got delayed!

As much as you may not believe it, Munchkin was a real doll! Chrissy Brennock (a student in Mrs. Bowe's class) is the owner of her. People got to take the doll home on week-ends. Kelly Sepa (a student in Mrs. Carvo's class) took care of Munchkin for about two months. Every time Munchkin came back to school, she had a different (freaky) hairstyle! Even though Munchkin is just a doll, some people treated her as a human being!

Mrs. Bowe's and Mrs. Carvo's class worked very hard on all of the Munchkin stories and I am sorry to say that Munchkin's stories and projects have been taken down. But, if you want to know a bit more about Munchkin's projects and trips visit your local student from Mrs. Bowe's or Mrs. Carvo's class and I am sure that they will tell you their story. I would also like to give a big **Thank You** to Mrs. O'Brien, for bringing Munchkin to our class. MUNCHKIN MONDAY ROCKED MY SOCKS!







By Sara Zadrima

Do you know what Earth Day and why we celebrate it? Each year since April 22nd 1970 people take time to celebrate the Earth. People don't only celebrate Earth Day; they take action, for example, turning this:



Into this:



When we release carbon dioxide into the air, it goes to the atmosphere. Too much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is bad. It drills holes in the ozone layer. This causes more sunlight to get through, which can cause global warming. Some examples of producing carbon dioxide are car exhausts, factory pollution, and burning coal for energy. Pollution and global warming are one big cycle! They will keep going around and around and keep getting worse until we take an action to reduce pollution and carbon dioxide gases.

Here are some things that you can do yourself to help. One person can make a big difference!

To start off, do something simple, like recycling at home and reducing the use of plastic and styrofoam plates and cups. Use products that can be used again and again. Don't leave the water running when you don't need it, for example when you are brushing your teeth or washing your hands. You can turn the lights off when you are the last person to leave a room, and make sure electrical appliances that can be unplugged are unplugged. If you can, try to get energy efficient light bulbs, they use less energy than normal bulbs. Try to do these things in schools, too! Start a recycling program or try to raise money for solar powered energy or energy efficient light bulbs, like our own Putnam Valley Middle School! If your school is willing, raise money for foundations that help stop pollution!

SAVE THE EARTH - Every Day Should be EARTH DAY!

POLLUTION IS BAD FOR EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE! IT AFFECTS THE WHOLE WORLD AND THE PEOPLE ON IT!



BABY BONANZA

By: Emily Azcue

Have you noticed an absence of teachers during the school year? Mrs. Gallello, Mrs. Parchen, Mrs. Craane and Mrs. Martino? Well, you probably know they recently had BABIES!!

Mrs. Parchen's baby's name is Drew Michael Parchen; he was born on March 6 at 4:54 pm. Mrs. Cranne's baby's name is Hailey Elizabeth Craane; she was born on February 21 at 10:45 am. Mrs. Maratino gave birth to Michael Christopher on May 30th, 1:22 am, 7lbs-1 oz, 21 in.

Mrs. Nicodemo is filling in for Mrs. Parchen until the end of this school year. Mrs. DeMagistris is filling in for Mrs. Craane until the end of this school year, and Mr. Anderson is filling in for Mrs. Martino.

Let's congratulate Mrs. Gallello, who recently got back to school after having her new baby boy, Christopher Jonathan Gallello.

Congratulations to Mrs. Bowe, who didn't have a baby, but did become a new grandma of a little baby boy! Mr. Glenn's wife also had a baby boy recently, his name is Caden Christopher Glenn. Even though he has a new son, Mr. Glenn is still in school. Mr. Heitman also recently added a son, Grahm Xavier, to his family.

We were sad to see them leave for a while, but we send them our love, wish them luck, and say. . .

CONGRATULATIONS!!



Tiger Times

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By Nick Scolaro

Many people don't realize how much history there is in Putnam Valley. It's incredible we have our own museum. The Putnam Valley Historical Museum was built in 1846 as a one-room schoolhouse before it became a museum on April 26th of 1968. The museum is located at Adams Corners at the crossroads of Mill Street, Peekskill Hollow Road and Church Road. The museum is open Tuesday and Wednesday 9 a.m. till 2 p.m. and on Sunday 1 p.m. till 3 p.m., from May until September. Each year there is a different display. This year the display is, "Ethnic diversity in Putnam Valley." If you would like to make an appointment to visit the museum, contact the director, Lisa Delfino at 528-1024. You can find all of this info and more on (www.putnamvalley.com) under history.

If you haven't had a chance to visit you should go. It contains old coal stoves, a book from 1845, geneology files and old Native American arrowheads, lacrosse sticks and other artifacts. The museum also contains old maps of property lines, iron mines and schoolhouses. In addition, there are a lot of old cemeteries that have old gravestones. Most people come in to check on family history and to drop off pictures. Did you know that Putnam Valley used to be called Quincy until February 13th 1840? Putnam Valley used to have five one-room schoolhouses. At the museum, they have old school books and diaries; even old lake passes to Lake Oscawana and Lake Peekskill. The founders of the historical society include Leigh Brenza, Fred Shaw, J. Willard Hanf, Bruce Adams and many others. If you have never been to the museum, you should go right away!





A POEM

Something

By Michaela Macquignon

There is something outside the window,
There is something outside the door,
There is something in my locker,
There is something by the store.

There is something next to the tree, There is something on my porch, There is something in my room, There is something on my tiki torch.

There is something standing on the railing,
There is something in the house,
There is something by the stream,
The something might be a mouse.

The something can be a mouse,
The something can be a bug,
The something might be a butterfly,
It might even be an ant in a mug.

The something can live here,
The something can live there,
The something can live anywhere,
But most importantly the something is not a bear.

The something is not an ant in a mug,
The something is not a mouse,
The something is not a butterfly,
The something does not live in my house.

The something is a cute little ladybug,
That can live anywhere,
The something is so cute and pretty,
That it can live here and there!





STUDENT ACTIVITES



Girl's Spring Sports

By Amelia Spittal & Emily Azcue

Did you know that many sports in the U.S. take place in the spring? It's a great season to get active and play sports. Spring is just the right temperature so you don't get sweaty hot before you even start practicing. The first day of spring was March 21st, which means spring is officially here!

Because of spring, many sports have started here at PVMS. Two of those sports are softball and lacrosse. The PVMS girl's lacrosse coach this season is Mrs. Darreff, while the boys lacrosse coach is Mr. Mello. If you have any questions about lacrosse ask either of these coaches. There is also softball; this season the girl's softball coach is Mrs. Nicodemo. If you have any questions about softball, you can ask Mrs. Nicodemo. Both of these sports are great! We encourage you to join one next year.

Sports are a fun way to get some exercise, work along side some new students, make new friends and learn a new skill in the spring.









By Nick Scolaro

- 1. Who is the all-time MLB home run leader?
 - a. Mickey Mantle
 - b. Hank Aaron
 - c. Alex Rodriguez
 - d. Babe Ruth
- 2. What number does Barry Bonds wear?
 - a. #25
 - b. #70
 - c. #12
 - d. #98
- 3. What baseball team plays in Pittsburgh
 - a. Yankees
 - b. Indians
 - c. Dodgers
 - d. Pirates
- 4. How long has it been since the Chicago Cubs won the World Series?
 - a. 56 years
 - b. 9 years
 - c. 99 years
 - d. 2 years
- 5. How many times have the St. Louis Cardinals won the World Series

- 20





Technology News

by Luke Liszewski

Handy widgets at your command.

DASHBOARD

Dashboard is an application that runs tiny programs called Widgets. It is a special tool available on the Mac. There are many different types of Widgets available for you to download on your Mac. You can also track flights, get a ski report and **MUCH MORE**. I use it to get Nintendo news, play games, look at

Here is a sample of the types of widgets:

The school computers disabled this amazing tool so there isn't much traffic on the web and to prevent kids from downloading inappropriate Widgets. On my Mac Mini, I downloaded some pretty cool stuff.

The widgets marked "freeware" is for free (obviously) everything else you have to pay for, so be careful!

Scrabble

constellations and get the weather.

ZA a pizza

Sudoku Widget

_	-	-	_	-	Н	6	H	H
1	_	5	_	8		-		9
2			1	9	4	5	7	
5	3						9	
4	8			2	6		5	
			7	5	3		2	
1			5	3		2		
							6	7
981	3			- 57	0	1		
0	- 1	2			5 6		8	9

Liszewski Dashboard

Dashboard Home Just Added Top 50

√ Select a category...

Blogs & Forums (270)
Business (121)
Calculate & Convert (150)
Developer (97)

Email & Messaging (87) Food (33)

Games (171) Information (78)

International (664) Just For Fun (148)

Movies & TV (144) Music (148)

Networking & Security (114)

News (203)

Radio & Podcasts (159)

Reference (209)

Search (129)

Shopping (155)

Sports (114)

Status (181)

Transportation (64) Travel (51)

Webcams (95)

UGH! I FORGOT MY HOMEWORK!

IT'S HOMEWORK TIME! WHAT if you realize that you left your assignment pad at school, or you forgot your assignment(s). What should you do?

On the Putnam Valley website you can get your homework on the Faculty Web Pages!

Some teachers have links to educational websites in the references area. Click and Enjoy.

How to find a teacher web page:

- 1. Go to the pvcsd.org website http://www.pvcsd.org/
- 2. Click on the Middle School tab
- 3. Click on faculty web pages
- 4. Click on your teacher

They are listed by Grade level and teacher name.





Technology News

COMIC LIFE

by Luke Liszewski

I have a special last issue treat for you! This article will show you how get your homework done and have fun using a special tool called Comic Life.

Comics and ELA: How to make homework fun using technology.

Suppose you have a vocabulary homework assignment. Your typical "write the word, write the definition, and write the keywords" type of assignment, the kind you make flashcards for. This ELA assignment could have 15-20 words! It's April and you need variety in your life. You could make a comic!

There is an application I discovered during the year that can make a comic for that kind of assignment. It's called " $\underline{Comic\ Life}$ ". This program will be available on the new Mac computers. Mrs. Byrnes, my 6th grade English teacher, let me make a comic for one of her vocabulary assignments using this program. It will be available on student laptops next year, grades 6-8.

First I got pictures from the Internet that matched the vocabulary word and put them in the comic slots. Then I gave the word a definition in the text box. I also used "lettering" to write the word of the definition. It's really exciting! Chris Lutz, a student in my class, and I are making a comic for our *class* newspaper. Mr. Hanna, our technology teacher, uses this program with his fifth grade students, too. Look for this exciting new approach to make learning vocabulary fun!







2007 Art Show

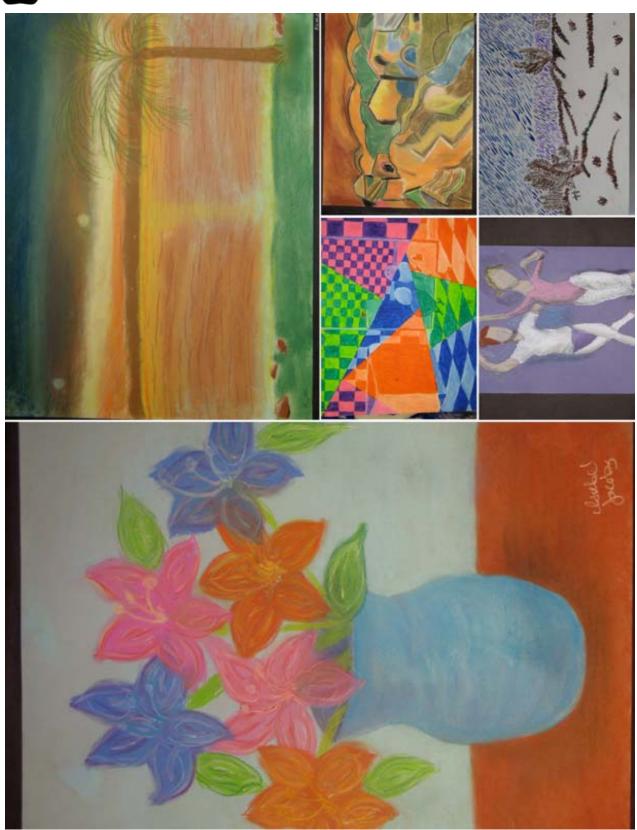






2007 Art Show









Games and Activities

NICK'S SPRING SPORTS WORD SEARCH

b

i

C

k

5

0

a

BASEBALL PRACTICE SPRINTS GAME RUNNING TRACK LACROSSE SOFTBALL

Answers to Baseball Trivia

1. B

2. A

3. D 4. C

5. D