

NAMS Gifted News



Nazareth Area Middle School

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Gifted Showcase K-12

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Special points of Interest:

- Please check the Middle School Gifted Ed. Website for updated information. This can be accessed by going to the NAMS site, click on **teams**, then **specialists**, then **Mr. Smith's website**.
- For a short list of summer gifted programs, go to the Middle School gifted ed. Website and click on the documents icon.
- This edition's recommended website: <http://www.windows.ucar.edu/windows.html>



On Wednesday, May 23, student work from grades K-12 was on display at Shafer Elementary School. Although the event was scheduled to open at 7:00 p.m., inquisitive parents and students began arriving a half-hour or so earlier. All grades were represented with a variety of material with the elementary grades displaying many of their "people and events that changed the world" projects.

The Middle School had individual and group projects such as a digital art display, Pringles Challenge information, and Rome Webquest examples. A scale representation of the Martian surface, by Troy Cimahosky, Planet Posters by several 6th grade

students, and an extensive Fashion Line portfolio by Tess Hamsher and Emma Pilker were also on display. There were three laptop computers set up for viewing Podcasts, PowerPoint presentations, and student-produced movies, such as the Beatles documentary movie produced by Colin Henderson, Rollercoaster Physics, by Matt Rohn, Japanese Animation by Katelin Penzes, and a very cool animated movie about the U.S. State Department, by Victor Bill.

Special thanks to Shafer gifted ed. teacher Susan Bostian for her help in organizing the overall event and her outstanding display and to Lauren Appert and Glenn Oberman, gifted ed. teachers at Lower Nazareth and Bushkill for their wonderful student displays, and Mrs. Rosemary Mentasana, Director of Pupil Services, for her support. Hope to see everyone next year!

Nazareth Students Participate in 2007 PACE Competition

A team of 8th grade students from NAMS took part in the 3rd Annual Pocono Academic Eighth Competition (PACE) which was held at Intermediate Unit 20, Monday, May 7, 2007. PACE is a general knowledge competition similar to Scholastic Scrimmage. The Nazareth team was comprised of students Tom Calzolari, Kyle Clauss, Caitlyn Gary, Kim Owens, Kristen Pearson,

Ryan Raesly, Rachel Smedley, Lessa Weaver and advisor Bruce Smith. The NAMS team was eliminated in the 8th round by Stroudsburg which went on to win the competition by defeating Pleasant Valley.

Special thanks to Mrs. Jill Smedley for her assistance in providing breakfast refreshments for the team and advisors.



The 2007 NAMS PACE team in action.

6th Graders Plan for Space Colony

The small group activity for the 4th marking period 6th grade Exploratory Class was to complete the Space Colonization WebQuest;

<http://www.coollessons.org/spacecolony.htm>

The lesson objective was for the groups to plan a colony in our solar system which can be self reliant for 600 people. The colony cannot be on Earth or Earth's moon. Student must also use existing technologies, and must complete an extensive set of questions of about ten pages in length. The groups had to compose a written proposal and construct a visual to present to the Solar System's Space Colonization board which consisted of 7th grade Science teachers Mr. Mark Atwood, Ms. Bethany Justice and gifted ed. teacher Mr. Smith. Students were evaluated by rubric on their oral presentation and space colony visual.

Washington D.C. Trip



Our Friday, May 4th trip to Washington D.C. was full of surprises—at least for some of us. The trip which had been planned for only the elementary grades, was able to accommodate our 8th grade students and most were able to make it on the trip. Although departing on time, heavy traffic caused us to arrive late, and we almost missed our planned IMAX showing at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. A cell call and request to the museum staff en route by teacher Susan Bostian enabled us to make a later showing, which turned out to be an excellent presentation on the Mar's rovers *Spirit* and *Opportunity*. Although one of the faculty advisors (you get one guess) was almost left at a rest stop along the way, save for a little hustle and a timely pause by the bus driver. Thanks kids for waiting.

After viewing the IMAX show, students queued for lunch at the enormous in-house fast food restaurant, and after a very long wait, were able to enjoy their meal, before viewing the numerous Air and Space exhibits.

Most of the afternoon was spent at the Museum of Natural History where one could view precious gems such as the Hope Diamond, and the prehistoric bones of a T-Rex, for example. They also had an awesome digital photo display!

A quick stop at the Lincoln memorial, and then the trip home, which was uneventful save for the renegade kitchen oven that decided to place itself in front of one of the buses as we merrily rolled

Where might the young colonists settle? One group decided to go to Titan, Saturn's largest moon. One group thought that a colony on the surface of Ceres, our largest know asteroid, would be best. Another group planned to settle on the surface of Mars, and another decided to put their colony in orbit around the Sun somewhere between Earth and Venus (at a lagrange point).

All groups made excellent efforts, but the Colonization Board recommended funding two settlements: the Mars and Orbiter groups.

These students definitely had a difficult and challenging task, but were able to submit intelligent and thoughtful proposals, and should be proud of their efforts.

down the interstate. Although the oven ended in about a thousand pieces, everyone was safe, and even the bus suffered only superficial damage. Afterward, I wondered what the probability might be for such an event?

Thanks to all of the parents who were kind enough to assist as chaperones, Mrs. Bill, Mrs. Marino, Mr. Charlie, and Mr. Taylor, as without them, we would not have been able to take the trip.

Individual Projects!

The following is only a sample of some of the outstanding individual projects that the students produced during the 3rd and 4th marking periods.

Grade 6

Beatles Music Movie Documentary by Colin Henderson

World War II Home Front PowerPoint by Emma Parrish

Dolphin Training PowerPoint by Vivian Hou

Chesapeake Bay Fish PowerPoint by Phoebe Wang

Destruction of the Coral Reef Movie by William Haunstein

Interior Design Room Poster by Courtney Redmon

Rats as House Pets PowerPoint by Zachary Esposito

Chernobyl PowerPoint by Troy Cimahosky.



As of June 9, 2007,
NASA's Jet
Propulsion
Laboratory
reported 242
exoplanets, or
planets orbiting
stars other than our
sun.

Although most
domesticated rats,
fancy rats, live 2-3
years, allegedly a
lab rat named
Rodney, lived over
7 years!

The Beatles had
more number one
singles (20) than
any musical group
in history.