



NAMS Gifted News

Nazareth Area Middle School

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Commercial Airline Pilot Visits NAMS

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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, specialists, then Mr. Smith's website. Or click: <http://teachweb.com/PA/NASD/bsmith/h0.stm>
- This edition's recommended website: <http://www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/K-12/airplane/index.html>
- See the results for the PA Middle School Computer Fair regional competition which was held at IU 20 on Tuesday, March 25 by going to Mr. Smith's teacher webpage and click on "Announcements."

Captain Michael Parrish, a commercial pilot for American Airlines, was our guest instructor during the second marking period. In connection with the grade 7 flight unit and the Great Andoranian Air



Captain Michael Parrish

Race (see last edition for complete article), Captain Parrish provided the students with some ex-



McDonald Douglas MD-80

pert information. He explained to the students that he started flying as a teenager and was able to get his student's pilot's license, then worked his way up to becoming a commercial pilot. Along the way, Captain Parrish flew various models of aircraft including stunt planes. He eventually was hired by American and is currently the captain of a MD 80 and has over thirty years of flight experience. In addition, Captain Parrish gave the class a brief history of American Airlines and indicated that they are the largest commercial aircraft company in the World with about 700 aircraft in operation. Captain Parrish also possesses a degree in aeronautical engineering and was able to explain the fundamentals of flight to the students. There were a few questions by the students to which Captain Parrish easily answered. Then the students wanted

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Book Review Webpage: By Kids for Kids!

Some of Mrs. Hartman's grade 7 Reading class recently completed the first part of a project, an online multimedia book review website, designed to provide information about books which they've read for the Accelerated Reader (AR) Program. Students each submitted a review of one book complete with title, author, genre, AR reading level, summary and recommendation based on one to five. The review was then sent to the project's editor, 8th grade student Abby Bayda. Abby's job is to read the review and suggest

changes which would make the review more polished and professional. Students also took a picture of each book to be used as a thumbnail image and are in the process of reading and recording a short selection of the book which will be added to their review page as a sound file.

The completed reviews, images and sound files were then placed on the web and can currently be viewed by going to <http://www.nazeaglesnest.us> or to Mrs. Hartman's teacher webpage and clicking on the book review icon.

The website allows viewers to access books using an alphabetical list or by clicking on the thumbnail image of each book.

So far, the students have produced about twelve reviews, with the intent of producing more before the end of the school year.



7th Grade Debate: Illegal Immigration



Illegal immigration in the United States has been a serious topic for discussion for some time and particularly during this presidential election year. On Thursday, March 8, the Opal Team met in the school library to hear a formal debate on the subject. In front of about 130 of their peers, teachers and some parents, nine Opal team students debated the topic. Each team had spent time preparing for the meeting, and was instructed to discuss three major points; what to do about existing immigration law with respect to the southern borders; how to deal with the estimated 12 million illegal aliens currently in the United States, and how to provide businesses which rely heavily on illegal immigrants needed labor.

The issue is extremely complex and identifying the teams as either pro or con was difficult. One side, identified as the “fence team” was generally in favor of maintaining and strengthening existing border security including that of border fences, walls, and guards and enforcing current immigration laws. The opposing side, the “no fence team,” favored taking down these barriers and establishing a system whereby people could enter the United States but in a controlled manner. The debaters included nine members of the Opal Team who debated for about one hour. Audience members asked a number of relevant questions and there was a vote at the end of the debate to try to determine a winner. Both made very strong points in support of their side, but in the end, the students and faculty vote favored the no fence team by a close vote of 51% to 49%. Debate members included Richard Liao, Colin Henderson, Courtney Redman, Anthony Trainello, Emma Parrish, Max Shevalier, Oliver Migliori, Chelsea Ritter and Katie Frace.

Wood vs. Aluminum Bat Experiment

During the second marking period, one of our 8th grade students, Derek Charlie, set up an interesting experiment to determine if the velocity of a baseball after being struck with a given force with an aluminum bat would be greater than that of a wooden bat with an equal amount of force. With the assistance of our tech ed. teacher, Mr. Whitley, he engineering and constructed a device that would assist him in testing the bats. Each bat was given ten trials at a distance of 10 meters with the time recorded for each trial. Using a simple rate \times time = distance formula, an average velocity was determined for each bat. The wooden bat produce an average of 3.93 meters per second, and the aluminum bat 4.71 meter per second. Derek’s experiment confirmed what others had done using more sophisticated equipments and clearly demonstrates the aluminum bat’s potential on the baseball field.



Derek conducting the bat experiment

Pringles Challenge 2008!



Nazareth Middle School took part in this year’s 2008 Pringles Challenge Competition. The objective of the competition is to construct a package that will hold one Pringles potato chip while trying to maintain the smallest mass and volume of the package but getting the chip to arrive in perfect condition. The packages are mailed to the partner school, this year Nativity of Mary School in Bloomington, Minnesota, using regular first class mail-no insurance or special handling. Our team was comprised of William Haunstein, Zach Esposito, Olivia Migliori, Clarissa Hoke, Spence Thomas, Andrew McFarland, Mario Lamaestra, Amber Grello, Jason Metzger, Richard Liao, Vivian Hou, and Elizabeth Ibarra. The students devised some creative designs and many were very small and light. Unfortunately, only Richard’s chip made it in perfect shape, with all others suffering at some damage.

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Pilot

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to see Captain Parrish in action and urged him to fly the same flight simulator which they do in the flight race. To their great delight, Captain Parrish took control of the simulator Cessna 182 and performed a series of maneuvers including a barrel roll! Thanks, Captain Parrish, for the lesson!



There are more than 87,000 flights in the United States on any given day.

The patent for the first metal baseball bat was issued to William Shroyer in 1924.

The United States Mexican border is approximately 1,969 miles long.