

Arcola Apache

Arcola's School Newsletter



MSD

June 2012

Vol. 1 Issue 3

MAINE EXCHANGE: A CULTURAL GIVE & TAKE

by Megan White

The Maine Exchange is a fun opportunity for the 8th graders at Arcola. It has been going on for about ten years and will hopefully continue for many more. The Maine Exchange is an opportunity for the students here to “exchange” with the students in Farmington, Maine. From Wednesday, February 1st to Sunday, February 5th, 27 of Arcola’s 8th graders went up to Maine. In the past, up to 35 students have gone. Many fun things were planned for the students and they got to experience the differences between Pennsylvania and Maine. “Maine was very different from Pennsylvania. Everyone lives really far apart from each other and the school was almost half an hour away from their houses,” says Kathleen Dempsey.

On Wednesday, February 1st, the students left for the ten hour bus ride up to Maine. The students got to work on homework, watch movies, and have fun during the ride. On Thursday, everyone went skiing or snowboarding at Sugarloaf Mountain Resort. Danny Seitz says, “The skiing was definitely my favorite part. It was a lot of fun.” On Thursday night, the Maine par-

ents provided a “Maine Style” dinner which included clam chowder, venison stew, and boiled dinner. Whoopie pies, vanilla ice cream with maple syrup, and blueberry pie were offered as dessert. On Friday, there was a wider variety of activities planned. The Sugarloaf Outdoor Center offered snowshoeing, ice skating, cross country skiing, and the anti-gravity center. Finally, on Saturday, it was Family Day. The students stayed with their Maine partner’s family and did many different activities including things like attending a dog sled race, ice fishing, moose tracking, tubing, skiing, and shopping. On Saturday evening, there was a goodbye party and a huge bonfire.

From April 25th until April 29th, the students from Maine came to Arcola. There were

a lot of amusing things planned for the students and everyone seemed to have had a very fun time. On Wednesday, the students arrived and met the families. On Thursday, everyone went to the Baltimore Aquarium, where they saw a dolphin show and a 4-D show. They also got to walk around the Inner Harbor. On Friday, the group went to Philadelphia, saw the Liberty Bell, and went on a “Ride the Duck” tour. On the way home from Philadelphia, the students and teachers stopped at the Philadelphia Museum of Art to run up the steps “Rocky” style. Finally, on Saturday, the kids got to choose to do whatever they wanted to do in our area like going to Dorney Park, golfing, or sightseeing. On Saturday evening there was a going away party.

The students at Arcola and the students from Maine had a great time. They made new friends that they will never forget and memories that will last forever. Tears were shed as the students said their goodbyes on Sunday, but they will always remember the limitless fun they had, and the wonderful people that they got to spend those times with. “I am very

glad that I went. I got to learn about a new area and meet some really cool people,” says Britney Hartzell. Michael Wust had a similar opinion on the trip: “If I had the opportunity to go again, I would definitely go! It was an amazing experience!”

As you can see, the Maine Exchange is a great experience that everyone should try. Students got to experience some things that they may not have experienced had they not participated on this amazing trip. The Maine Exchange is truly something spectacular!



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Saving the Earth

By Sean Strayline

Planet earth is a wonderful place. It's filled with plants, animals, lakes, rivers and all sorts of things to enjoy. Could you imagine these things going away? Well, it could happen because of pollution hurting our environment.

Some people don't realize what's happening to the earth and the environment; they need to know! We are currently harming the environment; it's causing more trees, animals, rivers and lakes to become polluted. We need to help the environment stay healthy.

Since 1970, Earth Day is celebrated every April 22nd of the year. That's only one day of the year. Earth day shouldn't be the only day to help the earth. However, if we made an attempt to make Earth Day every day, we could make a difference. People need to be reminded that our environment needs constant care. The

earth takes care of us; we need to take care of it.

What else should we know about pollution and our earth? About **2.5 BILLION** plants die each year due to high pollution rates. Could you imagine? A billion! That's a lot. Plants are important to us because they give us oxygen to breathe and make our air clean. Plants are living on this planet too and it's not fair that we are harming them.

Air, land and water pollutants are the three types of pollutants that are harming the earth. Air pollution pollutes our atmosphere from things like burning fossil fuels, cars, smoking, and more. Land pollution is the pollution of our soil or ground. Things such as industrial and domestic waste are being dumped into our soil, and these chemicals are

seeping into aquifers and harming our water. That leads to our last type of pollution, water pollution. Water pollution harms our water supply and living things that live in the water. This can be caused by plastics and waste products being dumped into our water, harming and killing things in the water. This also contaminates some water we drink.

We should create programs in our community to help fix this problem. You might say building programs for the environment costs a lot of money. We can ask people for donations or even conduct a fundraiser. People can even start small too. If you want some simple ways to help the environment, try planting a tree or riding a bike. Visit www.50waystohelp.com for more ways to help. The earth is a wonderful place, so make a difference and stop pollution.

Originality Rules by Ryann Davies

There are many words to describe the *Hunger Games*, but not one word can suit it perfectly. Many people have been sucked into the hype of the *Hunger Games*.

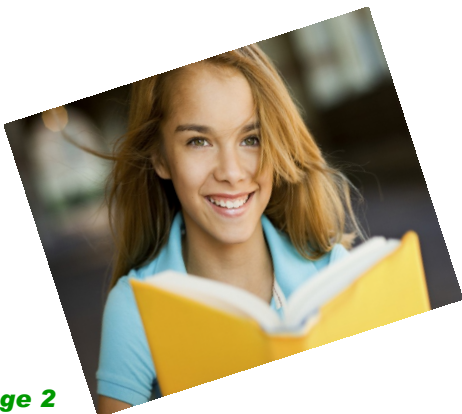
There are many differences between the book and the movie. One of those differences is that in the book, Katniss is given the Mockingjay pin from Madge which she takes to the Hunger Games. The second difference is Haymitch is introduced at the reaping ceremony; Katniss is visited by Peeta's father after her mom and Prim went home. During the interview, Katniss's dress is covered in jewels. When the light hits the jewels, it appears on fire. In the game, Katniss is blown back when she blows the Career's food up and loses hearing in her left ear.

Another difference is the cave scene when Katniss slips Peeta a sleep sedative, gives Peeta a kiss then heads out in the forest to get his medicine. How Katniss handled Rue's passing by covering her in flowers to show her respect for her partner is another difference. Finally, when Cato falls off the cornucopia, Peeta and Katniss listen to Cato cry all night after being mauled by a mutant.

The movie had many differences from the book. Some differences are that Katniss trades at The Hob and gives Prim the Mockingjay pin. Madge is never seen in the movie. By contrast, from the book Haymitch is introduced on the train and Peeta's father never talks to Katniss. However, during the interview, the edging of Katniss's dress has synthesized fire that's only activated when she spins. Unlike the book, when Katniss is blown back after exploding the Career's food, it doesn't mention her losing her hearing.

The cave scenes are shortened as well. When Katniss and Peeta are in the cave, Katniss just waits for Peeta to fall asleep and the cave scenes are shortened. As a result of Rue dying, Katniss does what she did in the book, but in District 11 the people start a riot. As a last difference, when Cato falls off the cornucopia Katniss immediately shoots him.

The many differences between the book and the movie are what make each other good because not everything is expected. There are many unexpected parts in the movie and for those who only saw the movie, the book would probably hold some surprises. The craze of the first movie might be dying down, but as soon as the sequel movie *Catching Fire* comes out on November 23, 2013, everybody will be pulled back into Katniss's next adventure.



VS.



BE A HERO.

by Albany Brown

These majestic creatures are the most playful animals that you could ever find. They are in high risk of being extinct. These mighty creatures are in a lot of trouble. We can help them if you decide to make the change. The destruction and degradation of the tropical rain forest in Borneo and Sumatra is the main reason orangutans are threatened with extinction. This has been caused primarily by human activity such as intense legal logging, illegal logging, conversion of forest to palm oil plantations and timber estates, mining, clearing forest for settlements, and road construction. Additionally, the illegal animal trade has been a factor in the decline of wild orangutan populations. Finally,

orangutans are occasionally hunted and eaten by some of the indigenous peoples of Borneo as well as migrant loggers and plantation workers who do not have dietary prohibitions against eating primate bush meat.

Some ways you can help are by buying sustainable wood, paper and palm oil. By purchasing **certified sustainable palm oil** and **FSC-certified forest products**, consumers, retailers, and traders can help protect orangutan habitat. Manufacturers can limit illegal logging and palm oil production by avoiding the purchase of palm oil. Please help these creatures so

that their legacy can grow on. They need your help. **Make the change!**



Ready! Set! Go!

By Cam Sibora

Imagine standing on the track. You have been training for this for three months. Only one thing stands in the way of you and victory. Your competitor stands next to you, both waiting with anticipation for the starting gun. BOOM!!! The gun fires and your off. You pump your arms, strain your legs in only lasts a few seconds, and you emerge victorious. This is the story of the Arcola Track teams. Both of the teams have been successful in almost every year that they have existed.

The boys' team has been extremely successful through the course of the team's history from the recent win at the Kiwanis Relay, where the boys won seven out of fourteen events, to the four out of five unofficial Pack 10 Championship victories. In fact, the boys have only ever lost two meets in the past five years.

The girls have also been acknowledged. They have won every meet in the last 10 years save for one. In addition, they have won every Championship that they have participated in. On April 4th the team went to the Penn Relays and the relay team of Alanna Dodson, Caroline Duffy, Marisa Autiuori, and Angela Ramsden broke the record for the 4-by-100 meter relay in their division, their time was

51.01 seconds. Also at the more recent Kiwanis Relays on May 5th 29 members of the Arcola girls track team went and each and every one of them won a medal. The team won a total of 48 medals, of which 32 were gold. They also brought home the First Place Team Trophy. Sarah Lebold won the 2 mile run with time of 13:38, and Tyler Gray was 3rd. Sarah's time was the 2nd fastest time in school history. Lauren Engelman, Alexa Casanova, Sarah Byrne, and Abby Konkoly were third in the Distance Medley Relay. The hurdle relay teams of Emily Sayre, Megan Casey, Lauren Earnshaw, and Lea Dungan, Emma Wierzel, Chade Darby, and Abby Dungan won their event. Lauren Engelman, Sarah Byrne, Hope Kim, and Abby Konkoly placed 3rd in the 4x800 relay. Alanna Dodson, Caroline Duffy, Marisa Antinori, and Fa'Timah Boyd set a new meet record winning in the 4x100 relay with a time of 50.77. Kelly Groth, Tianna Crippen, Irina Purcell, and Gianna Fazio set a new meet record in the 105lb 4x100 winning with a time of 54.38. Alanna, Caroline, Marisa, and Fa'Timah also teamed up to win the 4x200

relay with a 1:52.38. 7th graders Rainah Dunham, Mariam Eleskandarani, Abbey Dungan, and Angela Ramsden won their 4x100 relay with a 55.06. These girls also teamed up with Gianna Fazio to win the 4x200 relay with a time of 1:57.78. Fa'Timah Boyd, Paulina Lowery, Angela Ramsden, and Caroline Duffy placed 2nd in the 4x400 and ran the 2nd fastest time in school history with a 4:22.44. In the field, Hannah Moran and Peri Niskey finished in 4th with a combined shot put throw of 58 feet 6 inches. Emily Sayre and Lea Dungan tied for 1st with a combined high jump of 9 feet 4 inches, and Lauren Earnshaw and Marisa Antinori won the long jump with a combined score of 28 feet. Special thanks to Emily Wenczek and Sarina Krantzler for their awesome job of keeping all the stats for the team.

After so much victory and success you may wonder, how have they achieved so much? Well, to answer that question we went straight to the coaches, Mr. Schnabel for the boys and Mr. Merscher for the girls. Their responses?...hard work and determination.



One, Two, Three Strikes... You're Out!



By Gabrielle Doran

The softball season has started again, and now we have new players to help us win. Karly Kaminsky, Sarah Park, Natalie Damato, Sarah Sterchak, Danielle Duda, Megan Stauffer, Annalese Oliveiri, Alyssa Kearney, Miranda Reube, Emma Lisenbigler, Randi McClune, Lizzy Hedrick, Sydney Thompson, Sydnie Markowitz, Brianna Dadazio, Gabby Zackiewicz, Ryan DeOrio, Hannah Gallagher, Amanda Sassi, and Lauren Rhoads. These girls play hard with the help of their coach, Coach Kozlowski!

Now, time for a chat with Coach Kozlowski. Here are some questions:

Q. What inspired you to be a coach?

A. I had played softball all through college

and wanted to continue to help girls with their skills. I also wanted to contribute to Arcola in another way than teaching.

Q. How long have you been coaching at Arcola?

A. This is my first year coaching, but I am hoping to have many more.

Q. Who is your star player, if you have one?

A. They're all stars in some respect, but Megan Stauffer, Natalie Damato, Annalese Olivieri, Sarah Park, Gabby Zachiewicz, Danielle Duda, and Miranda Reube.

Q. What is your record so far?

A. 3 wins, 1 tie, and 4 losses. (As of

May 9th)

Q. Have there been any injuries during a game?

A. Luckily, we have not had any injuries.

Q. Do you enjoy coaching the team? What is your favorite part?

A. Yes, my favorite part is getting to meet other students at Arcola and sharing my favorite sport.

The Arcola Apaches work hard, and their performance proved it. Great job girls, keep the good work going!

Hmmm....Did you figure it out???

1. What mountain was the tallest mountain before Mount Everest was discovered?

Mount Everest

2. A hippo, elephant, and a rhino were all under an umbrella. Which one got wet? **None, it wasn't raining.**

3. How many seconds are in a year?

There are 12. January 2, February 2, March 2.....



4.) I can be seen when it's cold, but not when hot. You need me to live- take your last and you're not. **Breath.**

5.) I sound like a word of one letter, but I'm actually three. Look the same from both ends- I'm a palindrome you see. **Eye**

6.) Take me from there and I end up here. **T**

7.) Add a letter to one, place it with care. Use the right letter- no longer there. **None**

Olympians Can Be

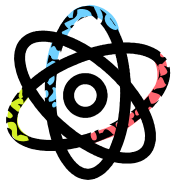
More Than Athletes

March 26, 2012 was the night of the Reading Olympic competition held at Wissahickon Middle School. Over 900 students from surrounding middle schools competed. Teams are asked a total of 40 questions during three heats to score blue (1st), red (2nd), green (3rd) and yellow (honorable mention). Arcola succeeded in capturing two first prizes and one second

prize in their three rounds.

Each student on the Reading Olympics team is required to read 5-10 books from a list containing 46 books. Arcola kids are preparing for this event beginning in the first marking period through the third marking period in the Reading Olympic club. They read the books and enter information on a blog that was created by Ms. McKenzie and are quizzed on facts of the books.





Arcola Students & Science Fair Competition: The Perfect Combination of Elements by Tara Mehta

Though I am only thirteen years old, I was headed to Penn State University for my second year, my bags packed for the dorm. I was making the three-and-a-half hour trip to State College, Pa for the state-level science competition. Last year, when I was in sixth grade, I came as a technician, or timekeeper, to get a flavor of the competition. Traveling on comfy coach buses, our team left on Sunday morning of May 13 and came back that Tuesday in the afternoon.

One of the things that added to the college experience was living in the dorms; I really felt like a student at the university. The lobby of our dorm had vending machines, tables, couches, and a TV where everyone could hang out. We roomed on the first floor, and each floor had its own bathroom with showers. Each dorm could fit two people and had a desk

and a closet for each person, a mini-fridge, a microwave, and a window.

Another thing that makes everyone look forward to coming to Penn State is the food! We had dinner on Sunday, all three meals on Monday, and breakfast on Tuesday. Each participant received a meal card that gave access to the dining hall. Every meal included a buffet line with a few hot dishes, and there was always a salad bar, fruit, ice cream from the Berkey Creamery, and a dessert bar. There were choices for everyone!

Monday was presentation day, with the high school kids presenting in the morning and the Arcola kids presenting in the afternoon. All of us had to have received first place at the regional fair to come here. It was raining very hard when we left for our presentations, so we all had to run to our presenta-

tion building. There were ten to fifteen presenters with two to three judges in each room, and each person gave a ten-minute presentation on their science fair project using transparencies put onto an overhead projector. Later in the afternoon, we went to the awards ceremony, and almost everyone from our school district got first place.

In coming to the competition for two years, I have learned that there are some things that everyone just has to do at Penn State: go to the Berkey Creamery, order pizza to the dorm, walk downtown and shop, visit the Nittany Lion Shrine, go to the PSU gym, and play cards with friends. There's so much to do at Penn State and not enough time to do all of it! This competition is a great way to meet other people from different parts of the state and to get to know people from your school better.



Here is a summary of Arcola's 2012 Winning Team at PJAS:

Shawn Farmand, 7th grade: 1st Place and Perfect Score

- Julia Conser, 8th grade: 1st Place
- Matthew DuPont, 7th grade: 1st Place
- Vikrant Gokhale, 8th grade: 1st Place
- Vaibhav Gupta, 7th grade: 1st Place
- Kian Jamasbi, 7th grade: 2nd Place
- Elaine Ma, 8th grade: 1st Place
- Tara Mehta, 7th grade: 1st Place
- Felicia Zhu, 8th grade: 1st Place



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Arcola Apache
4001-A Eagleville Road
Eagleville, PA 19403
Classrooms 255/161

Visit us on the web at the Methacton
Website, click on Arcola, under
Activities. Happy Reading!

This is the third edition of the *Arcola Apache*, Arcola's school newsletter. We are pleased to announce its homecoming to Arcola's 7/8 building under the guidance and instruction of Ms. Sharon Branca, Mrs. Lynn Gureck, and Mrs. Maria Brittingham.

There were three newsletters this year. The Arcola Apache team is aiming to summarize important events of the school, academic and athletic updates, book reviews, trivia, and many other fun things. The Arcola Apache will be posted in every homeroom when completed. There will be an online edition, as well, on the Methacton website.

~The Apache Newsletter Team



Arcola Apache Staff~

Andrea Arici	Rachel Hepp
Albany Brown	Lukas Noller
Isabel Cabrera	Gayatri Pillai
Megan Casey	Cam Sikora
Ryann Davies	Sean Strayline
Gabe Doran	Vicky Travitsky
	Megan White

The Great Summer Olympics by Rachel Hepp

Everyone has a favorite sport. Most of the sports are held in the Olympics. The Olympics started long ago in Athens, Greece. They had multiple sports, but mostly involved running. Greece continued hosting the Olympics until it was finally decided to have a worldwide game. The games took place in Athens, Greece on April 15, 1896. There were 245 people that came and 200 of the spectators were from Greece alone. However, fourteen countries participated.

Now, the Olympics are held every four years in different locations. It's a big honor to represent your country when selected. It is a long and tedious process to present your country to the Olympic panel, but well worth it if chosen. This is because a great deal of money is brought into your city, and it enhances the economy tremendously.



This year the Summer Olympics are held in London, England. This is London's second time they hosted Summer Olympics. This was in 1952 from July 14 through August 2.

Training for the Olympics can be very difficult. There is a training center just for the athletes. Athletes work every day and very hard. The summer Olympics are very important, and they are fun to watch. I'm sure the athletes love it too.