Mama and Papa Story Time
General Herkimer’s Book Fair

By Adrianna Cieslak

November 5th, the halls, auditorium, and library were buzzing with excitement. It was the night of our FALL BOOK FAIR and “Mama & Papa Bear Story Time”

At this event parents could read with their kids in the library, or kids could listen to a teacher read to them. In our auditorium, parents and kids were picking out books from the book fair. Cookies and milk was served to all who attended. One student who I met in the library said, “I really like mystery books, and I picked out The Dead of the Night, 39 Clues by Peter Lerangis.” Also, he told me the reason why he picked it out to read was because it looked interesting.

Mrs. Grieco, who organized the book fair with our GH PTO said, “It was a night to remember!” Also she felt the whole night went perfectly. “It went very well, and there was a large number of people who attended,” she added.

If you missed this wonderful event, we are having another one later in the year. Mrs. Grieco mentioned it was much more successful than she expected. You will not want to miss our next “Mama and Papa Story Time” and GH BOOK fair.

GH’s Blend of Book Magic

Holiday Concert
Wednesday, Dec 10th 6pm.

Holiday Dance Dec 12th
4th, 5th, 6th grades

Holiday Happenings
Shop opens
Mon Dec 15th

Thursday Night
Dec 18th
6—7:30 pm

Winter Recess
Dec 22 to Jan 2

Pennies for Pets
Jan 5 to 15
Now put your hands together for the North Utica Raiders!
That is the scariest sentence I’ve ever heard. We run to the mat with eyes on us, music starts and we’re on a roll. What you just heard about was my cheerleading competition that was held at Onondaga College on October 8, 2014. Students from GH such as Marlo DeAngelo, Alyssa Stacks, Jhanayree and Jhennifer Romero, Mia DeAngelo, who is now in her first year of JFK, and of course, myself were there to compete. Even the wonderful teacher Mrs. VanDusen came to support us!

“The Performance”
When we performed, it was so scary. One of our older girls took a video of us. I watched it and my jaw dropped to the floor. We were great! As we watched other teams, I knew what was in everyone’s minds… “what’s our score?” I was hoping first place and our routine looked a lot like first place.

“The Awards”
For the awards, we all got pink pom-poms and formed a breast cancer ribbon with all the teams. We held up our pom-poms and made an amazing picture. They called JR. peewee medium 2nd place. My whole team held hands, it wasn’t us all. Then they said, “the champions for that division… “North Utica!” We all jumped up and screamed. It got a little emotional. We got our trophies and took a few team pictures. What a great day that was!

SUZY’S TIP OF THE DAY
Written & Illustrated by Mayla Semaia

Mayla Semaia
Creator of Suzy’s Tip of the Day
**Friendly Giants, California Whales by Sanjay Patel**

**Review**  By Rosemary Rodriguez & Fardosa Mohamed

Did you know that grey whale babies are called calves? We discovered this reading **Friendly Giants, California Whales** by Sanjay Patel. The book is a science genre and the information is amazing.

Did you know that there are about 26,000 of them and they range from 35 to 50 feet long! Also, they weigh from 40 to 80 thousand pounds!

If you want to know more about these amazing creatures, check your library or ask Ms. Farda.

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**Percy Jackson, The Lightning Thief**

**By Edina Hasic & Haden Ward**

Sixth Graders have all been reading **Percy Jackson**. We had to work a long time to finish it. Percy had ADHD and he was troubled in school. He goes to Yancy Academy, but he figures out that he is a “demigod.” A “demigod” is half human and half god.

Percy goes on a journey with his friend Grover, and along the way he meets Annabeth. Percy must face challenges, but we will only tell you one. He fights a minotaur and he got really hurt. He ends up at Camp Half-Blood.

Now we don’t want to give away all the challenges, so go read them! We would advise you to check it out of the library if you enjoy the genre of mythology, but remember you will be reading this book in sixth grade.

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**In fifth grade, you will be reading Esperanza Rising. Our teachers blended it with the UDHR, which is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Esperanza and the other characters faced many struggles and challenges in this book. Many times, their human rights were violated.**

We don’t want to tell you too much now because we want you to enjoy the book in fifth grade. However, you will meet many interesting characters, most very nice and hard working. Also, a few not so nice who made Esperanza and her mother’s life miserable.

We learned about life in Mexico, the type of work and planting seasons that took place during a growing season. Oh! We also learned about strikes! But we have already given away too many details. Trust us, you will enjoy

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**“The Beauty of Being Ugly”**

(from an issue of Storyworks)

**By Julianna Heredia & Tajanae Miller**

Not every animal is cute, but ugly animals make up for looks by having some interesting features.

An animal’s ugliness can help them survive by protecting themselves. For example, we learned that the African War Hogs triangular snout is a powerful tool. It is able to dig through rock hard dirt to find nutritious roots. Also, its strange looking flat skull is so tough that even a lion can’t bite through it.

If you wish to learn more about UGLY animals who are really beautiful, check out the star nosed mole. It has 22 tentacles! Wouldn’t you like to know why? Also, the proboscis monkey’s nose will amaze you. Either google or go to the library to discover some ugly animals. We should not laugh at them for looking funny, but admire their protective features.

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**By Savannah Johnson & Christian Winston**
Dick Miller

Basketball

By James Treen

Dick Miller has started, and we had our first game last week. We got to Columbus School and met up with the coach. He asked us to do some lay-ups for a warm up. Then the referee said, “Let’s go!” The jump ball was won by Jones School.

The Jones Team scored 2 points in the first 10 seconds, very impressive! That is when my coach put me at center. Jones was really making lay-ups and were up to 12 points in the 2nd quarter.

After this, the coach gave our whole team some tips to improve our game, and we lined up and practiced our press break.

This was only our first scrimmage, and games will be starting soon. So be ready to hear all our Dick Miller news in upcoming issues of the HJ. By the way Jones won, 33 to 9 and at the end our team all got in line to high five, and we told them, “GOOD GAME!”

After a practice, I chatted with Alvin Morrison, our coach. He told me he really liked teaching kids basketball, and he feels good when kids learn.

He then said, I have been teaching basketball for five years.” He also said, “I have been playing since I was in 4th grade.” He told me he used to also play baseball.

Coach Morrison is really teaching all of us to work and improve our game. I am looking forward to becoming a better player and working with my team to improve every week, but also have fun.

Meet Ms. Paladino

By Fardosa Mohamed & Rosemary Rodriguez

Do you want to know about Ms. Paladino’s life? We were so pleased to meet her. She is single and has a sister and brother. She also has a few nieces and nephews.

Ms. Paladino grew up and lives in Utica, NY. She attended the University of Montana and has taught in many area schools. She has taught at JFK, Proctor and came to General Herkimer to teach younger students. She is our new 6th grade teacher.

Her hobbies are photography, and she loves to cook. She also enjoys spending time with family and friends.

We are very happy Ms. Paladino came to our school. The whole staff of the Herkimer Journal welcomes her and wishes her a great year at GH.

Cross Fit Fun

By Natalie Brewer

Cross Fit is a great exercise program that helps you stay fit. The coaches there are very nice. The thing that I like best is the ropes and bars.

You won’t even realize you are working out, because you are having so much fun. At first they will just explain the basics. I just started a few days ago. I climbed the rope, and on the bars I did 2 pull ups. Then I did 2 flips on the rings. Also, I did 20 sit-ups, and there are 30 second stations with many other activities.

If you are interested in an enjoyable, fun place to work out, come to Cross Fit. It is right next door to Empire. Classes are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:15pm. Just ask me, Natalie Brewer, if you need directions!