

# The Blue Print

## Top Songs of 2007 Natalie Gilbert

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What is your favorite song? Well, I decided to see what songs the Pingry Middle School students enjoy listening to the most. I asked Middle School students what their favorite songs were, and here are the top five! The first song is **Crank Dat**, by Soulja Boy. "My friends and I enjoyed listening to it because it was a summer song that we all could dance to and it was fun. I wouldn't necessarily define it as 'real' music, but it was an 'in the moment' song... and it was the new craze." 6<sup>th</sup> Grader Monica Sun claims. The second song is **Girlfriend**, by Avril Lavigne. You can even see some people creating their own

moves and singing this song during free periods and recess! Many students have told me that they enjoy listening to this song because it cheers them up a little bit when they're sad. The third song that most Middle School students enjoy is **Thanks Fr Th Mmrs**, by Fall Out Boy. A few 6<sup>th</sup> graders have mentioned that they like this song because it reminds them of all the happy memories that they have had in the past. There are many other songs by Fall Out Boy that students have said were they liked. *Dance, Dance, 7 Minutes in Heaven, I've Got All This Ringing in my*

*Ears and None on my Fingers*, and more were some of the favorites. The fourth song is **Hey There Delilah**, by Plain White T's. "I love this song because it lets me relax when I'm stressed out after school!" 6<sup>th</sup> grader Kyra Walker explains. The last song is **How Far We've Come** by Matchbox 20. This song was the most popular song in the Middle School due to the fact that of the strong beat and rock and roll feel.

## Dumbledore is Gay? Mai-Lee Picard

On October 19, 2007, J. K. Rowling revealed in an appearance at Carnegie Hall that the beloved Hogwarts headmaster is gay. Some critics use this information as another reason to hate the books, but still more are wondering whether or not the information was necessary. However, Rowling's statement, "He's my character – I can do what I want with him" clearly states that she doesn't care what people think, it was her decision! Hardcore fans will simply use the information as an excuse to comb through the books for any clues that point to this revelation of Dumbledore's sexual orientation. Some people wonder, however, if the information slightly ruins the effect Dumbledore had in the books. Certain aspects that the reader might have viewed as nice might be overly analyzed to see if

they might point to the headmaster's being gay. The response I have to that is, "Who cares? The books are still amazing!" When the actors found out that J.K. Rowling had revealed Dumbledore's sexual orientation, they laughed. "I thought it was hilarious," says Daniel Radcliff after finding out, and Emma Watson says, "It never really occurred to me before, but now that J.K. Rowling's said that he's gay, it sort of makes sense." In truth, whether or not Dumbledore is gay does not matter to any true fans of the *Harry Potter* series. Their love of the books is still as strong as they were before the statement.



Harry Potter Series  
Books 1-6

Middle School News

**Middle School Sings at Carnegie Hall** Alyssa Baum

“Going on this trip was an amazing experience for me.”

On Friday November 9, 2007, fifty-five sixth grade students participated in the singing of Gustav Mahler’s Eighth Symphony at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Mr. Charles Dodsley Walker, the founder and conductor of the Canterbury Choral Society, conducted this piece, and the Pingry sixth grade sang as part of the youth chorus, along with many other schools and church groups. In addition to the youth chorus, there was a mixed adult chorus, a women’s choral group, which included the Pingry women’s glee club, a full

performing with them. Performing the Mahler at Carnegie Hall took lots of time, practice, and effort. In order to go on this trip, the sixth grade had to go to a rehearsal that took up a whole Saturday in a church in New York City. They left at noon on the day of the concert in order to go to a two and a half hour dress rehearsal. In addition, the class spent forty minutes every other day in music class working on the piece. Mr. Berdos, Dr. Moore, and Mrs. Runge all put a lot of

effort into teaching the sixth grade the music, and into organizing the trip. Going on this trip was an amazing experience for me and I think that the other students who went on the trip enjoyed it a lot. Singing at Carnegie Hall was something that I am glad I did. It was the chance of a lifetime for me and all the other sixth graders that went.

# Music is UNIVERSAL!!!

**Middle School Orchestra Performs** Julia Price

On November 14, 2007 the Orchestra performed four pieces for the Middle School from around the world. Ms. Cassidy, the conductor and teacher, selected these pieces to educate the performers and listeners about the different genres of music listened to by different people. The soloist, Dylan Sun, performed brilliantly in *Amadare*, but the favourite would have to be *We Will*

*Rock You*, originally sung by Queen. The orchestra put their own twist to it that brought the crowd clapping along. The Orchestra also performed *Ancient Aires and Dances* and *Mambo Incognito*. “I thought the performance went really well,” says eighth grader, Christine Kumar. Overall, the performance was a big hit.



A quartet of string instruments

## Teacher's Pets Jillian Ward



Do you know who this year's teacher's pets are? They are Kobe, Newton, Dublin, and Lucy

Kobe is Ms. Hartz's pet. Kobe is a chocolate lab and is four years old. He also loves to swim and fetch balls and sticks. In addition, he enjoys running through the woods with his dog friends. Kobe loves going in the car for any type of trip.

Dublin is Mrs. Seebald's pet. Dublin is a black Labrador, and his favorite toy is the duck in the picture.



Newton is Dr. Lowery's pet. Newton is 12-year-old cat, and She likes to sleep a lot and be comfortable.



Lucy is Mr. Williams' pet. Lucy is four years old, and she is very friendly. The cast on her arm is from a car that ran over her paw, but she survived and is fine now.

## Spanish Two Students Visit Dover Margaret Morash

On October 25, all Spanish 2 students took a trip to the Spanish restaurant Sabor Latino in Dover, New Jersey. Students in both 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade were required to speak Spanish for the entire trip, including the bus ride to and from the restaurant. On the bus, students spoke about sports, the trip, and school. At the restaurant, white rice, rice

cooked in coca cola with beans, chicken empanadas, roast suckling pig, yuccas, chicken, fried bananas, and Columbian soup were served.

For desert there were rice pudding and salpicón, a combination of tropical fruits. In addition, there were tropical fruit drinks such as

Rodriguez, and Mr. Paton, spoke Spanish to each other and the students. In addition they reprimanded any student who accidentally spoke in English!

It was a fun and educational

experience for all, and Eleni said

that "The trip was so much fun to go on!"

Students also learned a lot, Sarah Williams (II) said that "The trip was definitely a good experience because when I go to a Spanish-speaking country, I will go to restaurants and I will need to be able to order food, use good manners, and communicate with the people around me. The trip focused on all of those things." Students, like Mai-Lee Picard (II), also found out that "I knew a lot more than I thought I did!"

It was a great trip. Students not only spoke Spanish, but embraced the Spanish culture by trying all varieties of food served. The trip

"The trip was enjoyed by all and improved everyone's ability to speak Spanish"



Chicken Empanadas

**6<sup>th</sup> Graders Make the Jump to Martinsville** Natalie Gilbert

As you may have noticed, a little change was made to the history of the Pingry School. Since the year of 1861, when John F. Pingry founded this private school, he built a school that accepted boys from grades K-12. Years later, another Pingry campus was built in Short Hills (around the 1980's), which now accepts children from grades K-6. The Martinsville Campus then began to accept children only from grades 7-12. During the school year of 2007-2008, however all that changed. Now, the 6<sup>th</sup> graders have moved into the Martinsville Campus, leaving the 5<sup>th</sup> graders the oldest at the Short Hills Campus. Many of these 6<sup>th</sup> graders were excited to be sharing a new community with the rest of the

older students, and even the new students that had just applied to Pingry were overjoyed to be entering a new school and making new friends. "I am so happy that the 6<sup>th</sup> graders moved to the Martinsville campus. I have been here since Kindergarten and I think that there is going to be more fun activities that we 6<sup>th</sup> graders can be a part of here than at the Short Hills Campus. I think its time for us to have a little bit more fun around here", says Isabella Barrionuevo (6<sup>th</sup>). The age difference, however, is one negative aspect for the 6<sup>th</sup> graders in the Middle School. Many of the students in the 6<sup>th</sup>

*"I am so happy that the 6<sup>th</sup> graders moved to the Martinsville campus."*

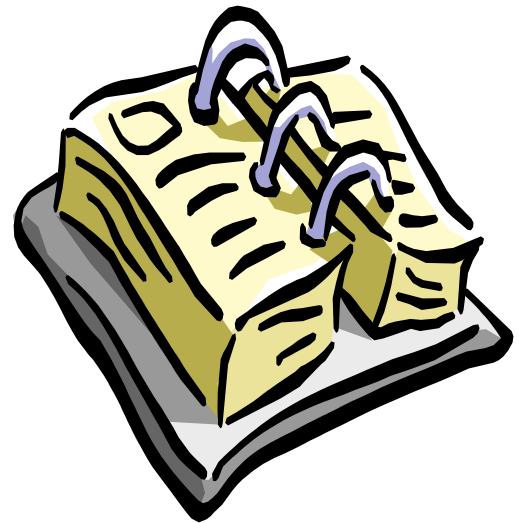
grade are mad that they get the least attention in the upper campus even if they are the youngest in that part of the school. "There were some events that the 6<sup>th</sup> grade took part in like the Pep Rally in the beginning of the year. A pep rally is an event that all kids should take a fair part in. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders didn't get to do anything except watch and shoot a few hoops. In my opinion, I think next time we have a pep rally, all the grades should have a fair part in the event", says Lauren Graves (6<sup>th</sup>). All in all, though, the change is very exciting and sure to be a great success in bringing the Pingry community closer together.

# The best way to go is FORWARD

**A, B, C...Huh?** Mai-Lee Picard

Recent complaints about the amount of tests, quizzes, or projects allowed in a day prompted the administration to an interesting change. Now instead of only two tests per day there are *A* and *B* days when only certain subjects can give tests, quizzes, or projects and *C* days when there are no tests, quizzes, or projects allowed. When first suggested the new schedule sounded like a great idea! Many students were excited by the thought that there would be days when no tests or quizzes would be allowed, but after only a week with the change many teachers and students are getting very frustrated. As said by Margaret Morash (II) "The *A* and *B* schedule can sometimes prove inconvenient for [the]

have to wait for a couple days before they can give them." In addition, because Health and Latin are not included in the new schedule a student is able to have three tests in one day! It is also difficult to make up or reschedule tests because no *A* or *B* day comes twice in a row. However, there are some plus sides to the new arrangement. It allows days during which no assessment or project can be given or be due, and gives 'stress free' days that allow the students to relax (at least somewhat). There are always plusses and minuses to every new plan suggested, and maybe it will just take a little getting used to, to make this one work.



"Instead of only two test per day there are *A*...*B*...and *C* days"

## Middle School Sports

### Girls Soccer Emily Haselton



This fall, the Middle School Girls' Soccer team had another wonderful season. They went undefeated in regular season games, with only one tie against Heritage Middle School.

Players such as Emily Damstrom, Corey Delaney, Annie Vreeland, and Carly Rotatori held up the midfield, while Molly Kandarian and Danny Temares led a strong offense. In defense, Margaret Morash, Ally Welch, Amanda Hulse, and Emily Haselton controlled the pitch. Finally, Amanda Haik and Hayley Advokat were brick walls as the final line of defense, the goalies Emily Damstrom, Corey Delaney, and Molly Kandarian not only led the team in scoring goals, but assisted many as well. Other key players were, Lisa Ulker, Katherine

Leah Greer, and Margot Marchese. After an excellent season, Coaches Smith, Vasquez, and Lewis are very proud of their team.

"Coaches Smith, Vasquez, and Lewis are very proud of their team."

### Field Hockey Madison Taylor

The Middle School Field Hockey team ended their excellent season 5-1-7. Coached by Mr. Paton and Senora Ortner, and lead by Captains Kyra Topor and Ashley Hough, the team played very well together and improved throughout the season.

While experienced players practiced and enhanced their skills, the new players on the team really stepped up to the plate by working hard to learn both the skills and the rules needed to play field hockey.

As a result of each person's dedication and hard work, everyone became much better by the end of the season, and the team was able to challenge tough opponents that they had lost to in prior years.

One of these teams was Harding Middle School, whom Pingry had lost to in the past two years by scores of 5-0 and 4-0. This year, the Middle School team was able to fend Harding off until the last fifteen minutes of the game, when Pingry was defeated 2-0. Even after the goals had been scored, however, the team did not give up and kept playing hard.

The Field Hockey team beat Newark Academy, Bernards Middle School, MKA,



*"The Middle School  
Field Hockey team  
had a great season  
and improved  
drastically  
throughout the fall."*

William Annin, and Kent Place this year, with a tie against Bridgewater Middle School.

The teams that defeated Pingry had a hard time doing so, because the Middle School team played very well and had numerous shots on goal in each game. Goalie Rebecca Wynne played extremely well in her first season in goal, blocking most shots sent her way. The top scorers for Pingry this year were Kaitlin Ulker and Kyra Topor, while many other players added goals as well.

The Middle School Field Hockey team had a great season and improved drastically throughout the fall.

Keep a lookout for the eighth graders next year on the high school team, and the seventh graders will be back leading the Middle school team.

Congratulations on an amazing season, Field Hockey

**Middle School Sports**

**GRADE 6**

	Boys Soccer	Girls Soccer
<b>RECORD</b>	0-2	0-0-1

**FORM I-II**

	Boys Soccer	Girls Soccer	Field Hockey	Cross Country	Football	Water Polo
<b>RECORD</b>	<i>A Team</i> 13-1					
	<i>B Team</i> 3-4	17-1-1	5-1-7	9-8	4-2	4-0
	<i>C Team</i> 3-0					

**World Issues**

**Hannah Montana: Teen Sensation** Natalie Gilbert

Recently, the Hannah Montana Concert Tour featuring the Jonas Brothers was made into a 3D movie! However, some people that went to the concert noticed something strange...there was somebody pretending to be Hannah Montana. Many angry Hannah Montana fans were all wondering, "Why is someone pretending to be Hannah Montana?" and "What's going on here?" Well, the paparazzi did some digging and found out that it was Kenny Ortega who had planned this. Ortega explains, " I hired another girl that looks just like Miley to lip sync and fill in for some of the songs in the concert. This concert was more than an hour, and I didn't want the real Miley Cyrus to get tired. So that's when I thought that I should let someone else that looks like her fill in

for a couple of the songs so Miley could have some breaks in between." This made sense to all of Hannah's fans, and many agreed that it was a good idea. The new Hannah Montana Live Concert tour is in theaters only from February 1<sup>st</sup>- February 6<sup>th</sup>! So hurry and get your tickets!

"Recently, the Hannah Montana Concert Tour featuring the Jonas Brothers was made into a 3D movie!"



World News

**The Great Toy Recall** Derek Hsue

Every year there are millions of parents that buy toys as holiday gifts for their children. The number of parents shopping is predicted to dwindle greatly this year.

The reason? The Consumer Product Safety Commission has recalled more than 25 million toys in the U.S. over the past 12 months. These toys include popular ones such as Barbie dolls, Elmo, AquaDots, Dora the Explorer Playsets, Thomas the Train sets and many more.

There are many reasons for this massive recall. Toys with tiny pieces are just one of the looming hazards. Toys with small magnets also have a potential to be deadly if swallowed. The biggest reason is excessive amounts of lead in the paint on the toys, such as in the Aqua dots case. They can all cause death or serious harm.

Many of the recalled toys are coming from China. China, however, is now starting to address the problem by signing an agreement that they will try to stop all lead painted toys from reaching America.

Yet families across the nation are still hesitant to buy the toys off the shelves. There are hundreds of choices and it's hard to tell which ones are safe.

Parents are now looking for toys that are not sharp, so there's no risk that children will be harmed by the tips. They are also looking for toys that are in one piece with no magnets. Parents are also reading the backs of the toys and the warning/danger labels on the

toys very carefully.

Some of you might wonder: why does this great toy recall matter to us? We are middle schoolers. We don't care about these toddler or little kid toys anymore. We are more interested in computers and game systems like the Wii, XBOX360, PS3, etc... Well... there are a couple of reasons we need to care:

1. Many of the middle school students have younger siblings. We should care because we can help our parents throughout the process of selecting toys for our younger brothers and sisters and can assist them by choosing toys that are safe.
2. During the holiday season, the Pingry Middle School was involved in many community service projects. Some of these involved donating toys for needy families. Middle school students should make sure to donate toys that aren't dangerous in any way.
3. Wherever students go, as long as there are little kids around, with this knowledge, they can help make sure kids are playing with safe toys.

By working together, Pingry Middle School students can create a safer and healthier environment for younger kids.

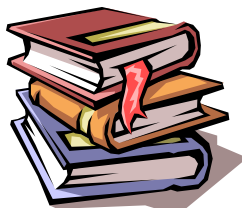
*Use this link to see a list of recalled toys*

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/category/toy.html>



**A collection of children's toys**

“All you need to do is take the first step and help make a difference”



**Get Involved in Your Library Today!** Andrew Hanna

One of the most unique, but often forgotten, aspects of a suburban community is its library. Libraries in our communities provide us with much more than books, and they build a sense of community identity.

Our libraries set up different programs and activities that people don't usually take advantage of. Why? Probably because they don't know that they ever existed.

Libraries are often neglected by government and town counsels;

Many libraries are too small and cramped, but nothing is done about them. That's why I urge everyone to become a more active member of a library.

There is some responsibility to having a library card you know. Make an effort to find out and attend the many activities, or even better, *volunteer*. You could help shelve books or even help run a program.

Most libraries in our area have variations of something called a Teen Advisory Group (sometimes known as Teen

Action Groups or Teen Advisory Boards). These groups allow teens to have direct input into their library by choosing books, organizing programs, encouraging positive teen participation at the library, and much more.

Needless to say, there are no lack of opportunities for becoming a true member of your community library. All you need to do is take the first step and help make a difference.

# Shout-Outs!

This will be the spot to post birthdays or comments about the Middle School that YOU want heard!

Hey guys!

It's Eleanor, one of the Blue Print Editors. We have great articles in this edition, and I am proud to announce we have a wonderful team this year. (F.Y.I. it is never to late to join, and we never run out of spots for potential writers for the Middle School.) And don't forget, we are not just looking for writers. The Blue Print also has spots for photographers and cartoonists and other artists. We are looking for everyone and their great talents. This year we also have a special \*SHOUT-OUT\* section where we list everyone who has a birthday in the month of the latest edition. So if you or your friend has a birthday coming up, send one of us (Eleanor Johnson, Margaret Morash, Mai-Lee Picard, Jillian Ward) an email, and we will put it in for you. That's it for now. Remember! *The Blue Print* still has spots open for anyone who wants to be in the newspaper.

Your Editor, Eleanor

## **DON'T FORGET!!!!**

The Middle School Dance is on Friday, February 22, 2008! It will be held in Smith Hall (Middle School) from 7:00 - 9:30. The theme is rodeo so buy tickets during MS lunch for only \$5.00 each!