

JANUARY 2017

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# CHESTER CHATS



2016 - 2017 DIGITAL EDITION

OCTOBER - JANUARY

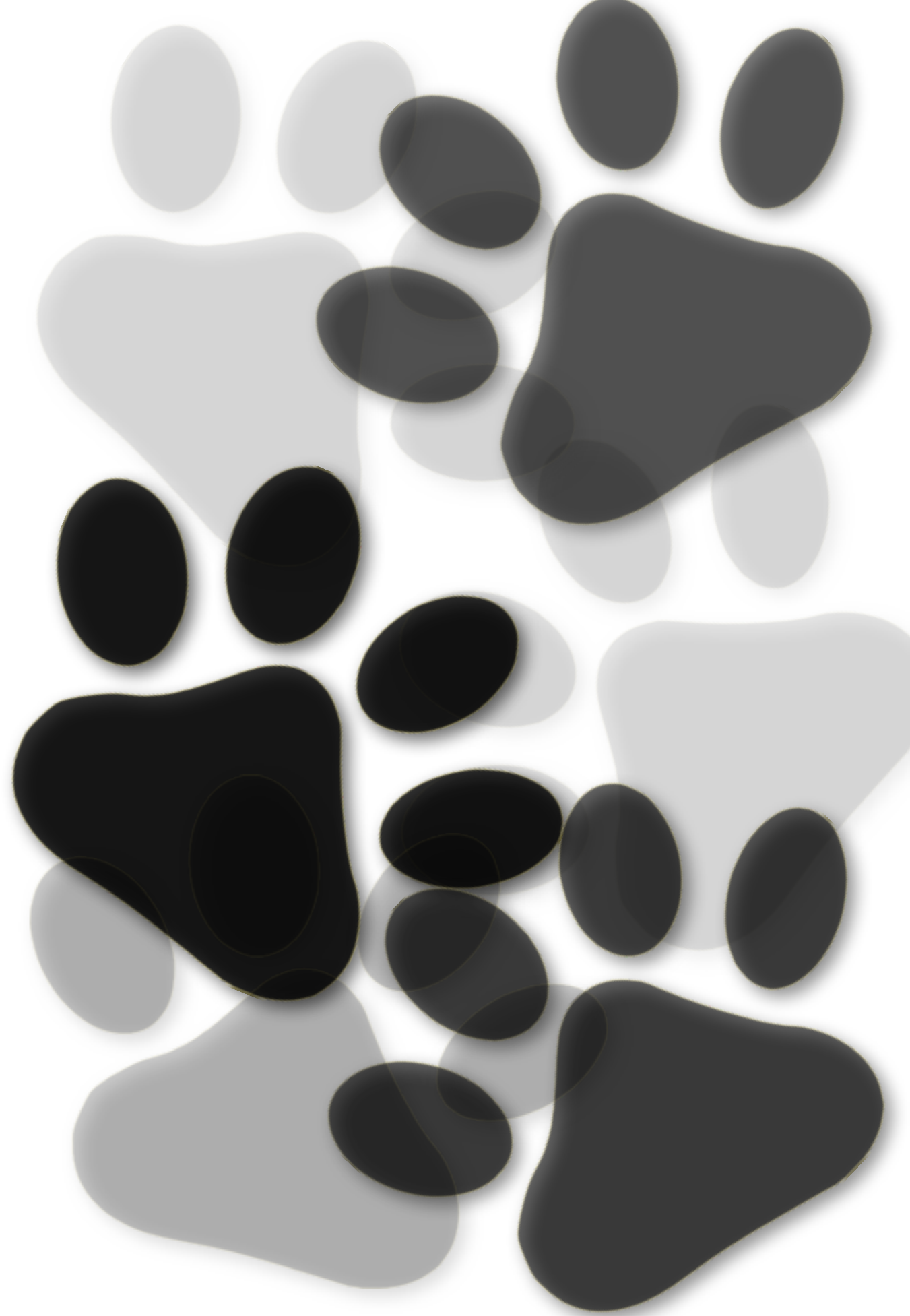
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# Chester Chats

## January 2017



3rd - 5th grade news writers have spent the last few months compiling facts, interviews, quotes, and photos for the following news articles.



# Parade of Pumpkins

DANIELLE LITVAN & JUSTIN MILLER



On Friday October 21, 2016 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM students, parents, and staff gathered at Chesterbrook Academy in West Chester, PA to view all the amazing pumpkins for the 13th annual Parade of Pumpkins. Everyone ate baked goods, pretzels, and hotdogs. Kids ran and played, and parents talked. Everybody loved all the pumpkins they saw that night. The carved pumpkins were glowing and sparkling in the moonlight. Even though the rain came in, the parade still went on! All of the money raised from the food stands and bought pumpkins will go to Bringing Hope Home (BHH).

The beautiful pumpkins were the spotlight of the show! As parents and kids walked through the food stands, into the haunted house, and out of the haunted house, they were able to view all of the amazing beautiful 120 pumpkins. It was a wonderful scene on how the pumpkins were laid out. The pumpkins were carved in many different shapes and sizes including things like different emojis, animals, skulls, and monsters!

At one of the stands at the Parade of Pumpkins was Bringing Hope Home. At the stand there was an employee with a poster board informing the school about who they are sponsoring. While interviewed, Bringing Hope Home said, "So they are actually going to be celebrating their 9th anniversary coming up this upcoming year, so close to 10

years they've been doing this. When needed, the families get nominated from the hospital by a social worker and will run into BHH let them know who they are working with and help them out. I am not positive on how much money we raised but they raised a lot because we've helped over 3,000 families. And the Parade of Pumpkins are sponsoring Mary Ann and she is 51 years old." There were also two more stands, we had Liliana Pagano at the goody stand and Jesse Costalas at the food stands. There were treats at the stands including "candy, cookies, cupcakes, other baked goods, and glow sticks." Liliana noted.

“It was really nice that the school chooses to support this cause and hopefully the families who need it use it wisely.”

Chesterbrook hopes that next year's Parade of Pumpkins will be as fun as this year's. Mrs. Capotrio, the third grade teacher and organizer of Parade of Pumpkins at CBA says, "There was about 120 pumpkins at the parade." At this fundraising event, the Chesterbrook Academy raised \$1,200 for BHH. 5th grade student, Rhett Bower, states, "It was really nice that the school chooses to support this cause and hopefully the families who need it use it wisely." Katie Mina was quoted, "I was very happy that

the school put that much effort into the Parade of Pumpkins, and I hope that the third grade will do it again." The school is very proud of the third grade this year and can't wait to see what the following third grade will do in the future. The school never knew that a small fundraising event can help stop such a big problem.



An Interview with Mr. Rodia, Principal at CBA Click on the video to view the interview

# Bringing Hope Home

EMMA NIEHOF

On the night of October 21st 2016 the 3rd grade students of Chesterbrook Academy ran the 13th annual Pumpkin Parade trying to raise money for Bringing Hope Home. Bringing Hope Home is an organization that raises money for people and family's that are suffering from cancer and need financial help. Chesterbrook Academy and Parade of Pumpkins have been connected with BHH for 3 years. This year 3rd grade raised \$1,200 for BHH.

Paul Isenberg the founder of the Bringing Hope Home started the charity because of his experiences when his own wife was diagnosed with cancer. During her battle with cancer Mr. Isenberg and his wife's friends were very supportive. When Mr. Isenberg visited Chesterbrook Academy he told students about how helpful his friends were with cooking, cleaning, and helping out. When his wife passed away, he wanted to share the generosity with other people than needed help when they were sick.

To raise money for his organization, Mr. Isenberg gathered all of his close friends and started to raise money with a fundraising event. This event was named the Great Guys Dinner. According to BHH's website, the first Great Guys Dinner

took place in 2001, gathered 100 guys and raised \$13,000 that was donated to various cancer charities. Also according to the website "Nicole's "small idea" of having a dinner with close friends has now evolved into Bringing Hope Home. The Great Guys Dinner continues to be Bringing Hope Home's largest event, and raised over \$395,000 in 2015 alone.

To help this local organization that does a lot for families in need we focus on one family and raise money for them by selling pumpkins, candy, food, glow in the dark bracelets and drink with this money they can pay for mortgage, groceries, medical bills and whatever they need help paying for.



# Cherry Crest Farms

ALLISON WERNER & GRANT HARRINGTON

**O**n the morning of Wednesday October 12th, the 1st through 5th grade students of Chesterbrook Academy Elementary School boarded 3 school busses to go to Cherry Crest Adventure Farms in Ronks, Pennsylvania for a whole school field trip.

When students got off the bus they lined up with their class and the workers at Cherry Crest gave the teachers football flags so the students could always find their teachers. Students had free time in the morning. 4th grade student Michael Ryerson said his favorite activity was the dark hay maze. Other activities students could do were a spider web climb, an obstacle course made of hay, and the big slides. After a morning free time, everyone started to head toward the tables to eat lunch at around noon.

After lunch, students traveled to many learning stations. Students travel from station to station to learn about many farm chores. Classes rotate through stations like bee hive education. Students learned about what different types of bees are in a hive. They also learn about different jobs bees do.



When asked about what he learned, 1st grade student Joey Mingrino said he learned the bees have all different jobs to do. Students learned about the different pieces of corn and what corn is in. Students also learned how to make butter and even got to taste the butter that they made.

After the students finished their lessons they got to play on hay bales and then they got on the bus and went back to school. When students got back they enjoyed apple cider donuts purchased for them by Mr. Rodia.

**“It is such a special trip, and everyone was so well behaved.”**

Mr. Rodia said he bought the donuts because it is a very special trip that the school gets to go on every year and everyone was so well behaved and I was in a really good mood and I thought I would reward them for being a great school community. They had a wonderful day. They hope to go back next year.

# NYC Trip

MADISON HUNSBERGER

**O**n December 2nd, 2016, Chesterbrook Academy's 4th and 5th graders went to New York City. About 18 students came on the trip and about 16 parents came along with them. The seats had armrests on them and plastic bags that acted as trashcans for the students.

The students went to various areas like The Rock Building, the Oculus, The Intrepid Air & Space Museum, and the 9/11 Memorial. They also went on the Staten Island Ferry to see the Statue Of Liberty, and even skated in Central Park's Wolman Ice Skating rink.

The first place they went was the Intrepid Air & Space museum. The museum was on a boat named the U.S.S. Intrepid. There was a lot of information about the boat and its history. The boat was very big, and was in a lot of wars including: World War 2 and The Cold War. On the top, there were various planes, one that looks like a sneaky spy plane called the "The Blackbird". There was also the space part of the museum that had the Space Shuttle Enterprise in it.

Next, students and parents went to lunch at Essex Café which is known as a place where first responders ate and

rested during 9/11 cleanup. After that, they went to the 9/11 memorial, the memorial for when someone ran their plane into the Twin Towers and they fell down. Now, there are two giant indents into the ground with waterfalls like a fountain in the towers' places. Bordering the fountains, there are metal plates with all the names of the people who passed away. This is a place where people can go and honor those that were lost. Just around the corner is a place called the Oculus that is shaped like a giant eye. It used to be a subway station (it still is), but was changed into a mall. The giant white structure was supposed to close and open, but they didn't have the funds for it.

Next, the travelers went on the Staten Island Ferry to see the Statue of Liberty. They got to see the Statue of Liberty from afar. There was a Coast Guard boat next to the ferry that some of them got to see. After the boat ride, they went to Central Park's ice skating rink to ice skate. There was a lot of traffic, so they didn't get there in time, but they still got to go.

The final stop of the day was at the Top of the Rock. Students and parents headed to the Rockefeller Building and boarded a speedy elevator that lifted them to the top. As they headed out on the observation deck, they could see the entire city even the now tiny Statue of Liberty. There were 3 observations decks each one higher than the last. Seeing the city from so high was a great way to end the day. After such a busy day in the city, the bus ride home was very quiet because everyone was sleeping.



# Principal for a Day

ALEXIS NUSSBAUMER

The 20th of October turned out to be a hard day for 5th grader Rhett Bower. On October 20th 2016 Rhett Bower was Principal for a Day at Chesterbrook Academy Elementary School in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Each year students can win the chance to be Principal for a Day by winning it at Bingo Night. Rhett Bower won during 2016's spring Bingo event. When a student gets to be principal for a day they get to make the rules for the day and act as Mr. Rodia.

“I like that we got to end school early.”

When Rhett was the principal, he let everyone dress down in pink or red for Breast Cancer Awareness month. At recess and lunch, Rhett took the 5th grade boys out for lunch at Shake Shack, while the girls stayed behind to work on an art project. When Rhett was asked to comment about the lunch he said, "I picked the boys because they are my friends and I really like to eat at Shake Shack."



day, fourth grader Allison Werner said "I liked that we got to end school early."

When asked if it was hard being principal, Rhett said,

“It was hard being principal because Mr. Rodia kept giving me jobs to do.”

Another change Principal Bower made to the day is that the school day ended at 3pm instead of 3:30 pm. From 3:00 to 3:30, students were invited to a dance party instead of learning.

At the end of the day at the dance party, a couple of the songs that were played were Can't Stop the Feeling and Happy. When asked about Principal Bower's



# The Philadelphia Orchestra

ROBERT EMBERT

**T**he morning of Tuesday November 1st, 2016 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students from Chesterbrook Academy Elementary School in West Chester, PA got to go to the Philadelphia Orchestra. According to the school's music teacher, Ms. Moser, she wanted to plan the field trip because she thinks it is important for kids to experience the Orchestra. The schools favorite family of instruments was the string family.

The Orchestra is a yearly field trip that 3rd 4th and 5th grades take. They go because the orchestra has a theme every year and most of the time the theme is what they are learning in music class. This year it was about "how music moves you". First the orchestra played the star spangled banner; then the students stood up and sang along with the orchestra. Next, the musicians played the "Can Can". During the chorus the students got to clap and stomp their feet. The next song was a waltz. The students learned that sound is also called dynamics and that the speed is also called tempo. Then the musicians played the "Marriage of Figaro" by Mozart. It got very loud and then soft, it changed tempo a lot.

After that they played "In the Hall of the Mountain King". It is about a kid named Peter who is chased by goblins after going into a house in the side of a mountain.

Students had to do different movements for different parts of the song like moving their hands like they were windshield wipers, tip toe in place, crouch over and over and over again, and shrug their shoulders. The faster the tempo the faster they did the movements. The next song they played was the "Toreador Song". P is about a Bull Fighter and is played by the brass family. Students got to sing along at the chorus and a real Toreador came out to sing the rest.

The faster the tempo the faster they did the movements. The next song they played was the "Toreador Song". P is about a Bull Fighter and is played by the brass family. Students got to sing along at the chorus and a real Toreador came out to sing the rest. They talked about how Beethoven can make drama without a singer and then they played 1st movement of the 5th symphony by Beethoven. Lastly they played "Cidade Maravilhosa" it was an upbeat Portuguese song and had a singer.

The theme "how music moves you" was represented by how the music changes to set different moods. They taught students the faster the tempo the more intense, the louder the dynamics the scarier. This year's orchestra according to students was the best ever and they can't wait to go back next year.



# The Cooking Club

PETER CARR

**O**n Monday October 10th at 3:30 p.m. Mrs. Shepherd, school Admissions Director and former cook, rolled out a new club called Cooking Club. Cooking Club is an after school club that happens from 3:30 to 4:30 on Mondays for 3rd - 5th grades and Tuesdays for K - 2nd grades at Chesterbrook Academy Elementary School in West Chester, PA.

Cooking Club is a new club where students use different ingredients and tools to prepare dishes. Since the school does not have an oven the students bring their prepared dishes home and have to cook it there using the directions that Mrs. Shepherd gives them. Mrs. Shepherd said that her inspiration to create Cooking Club was, "Because our students here are so creative, so I thought that I could take their creativity in the

## mise en place

/miz ɑ plas/

noun

1. (in a restaurant kitchen) the preparation of equipment and food before service begins

classroom and bring it out in the kitchen as well. And our students are very brave to try anything, so I thought that they would do well with the club."

The motto in cooking club is *mise en place* (mees-on-plas) that means to keep your work space clean because that will make everything easier. One dish that students made in Cooking Club was Meatball Parmesan Bombs. These "bombs" consisted of a marinara covered meatball, surrounded in cheese, wrapped in the center of a biscuit. During this session, students learned the process for making this dish. Students took their "bombs" home with the directions to bake them at 350 degrees for 18-20 minutes. That night some Cooking Club Families tweeted pictures of themselves eating the student created dish.

### MOVIE 1.1 Mrs. Shepherd Interview



Click to watch a video interview with cooking club leader, Mrs. Toni Shepherd.



Students were interviewed and expressed that they all love Cooking Club. 5th grader Kyle Knoebel said that his favorite part of cooking club is, "Probably actually making the real food." 4th grader Michael Ryerson said that the favorite dish that he cooked was, "The meatball bombs." 3rd grader Jesse Costalas said that he wishes, "There was an oven here at school." Obviously all the students love Cooking Club! Great Job Mrs. Shepherd!

Cooking Club is great for all ages and will leave a mark on this school that nobody will ever forget. Mrs. Shepherd deserves all the credit for this club and will be the Cooking Club

instructor for years to come. Students are looking forward to learning the new recipes to come.

### **Check out Mrs. Shepherd's Cooking Club Below!**

## **MEATBALL BOMBS RECIPE**

### **INGREDIENTS:**

- 1 can (12 oz) refrigerated biscuits
- 8 cooked Italian-style meatballs
- 1 cup marinara/pasta sauce
- 1 cup shredded cheese
- 4 tablespoons butter, melted
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- pinch of salt

### **DIRECTIONS:**

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone baking mat. Set aside.
2. Using your hands or a rolling pin, flatten each biscuit into a 4 inch round.
3. Place 1 meatball and 2 tablespoons marinara in center of each dough round. Top with 2 tablespoons of cheese.
4. Wrap dough around meatball and cheese, pressing edges to seal. Place seam side down, leaving room for spreading on prepared baking sheet. Continue until all biscuits have been completed.
5. In a small bowl, whisk together melted butter, garlic, Italian seasoning and salt. Evenly spoon on top of each biscuit.
6. Bake for 18 to 20 minutes, or until golden brown. Serve warm!

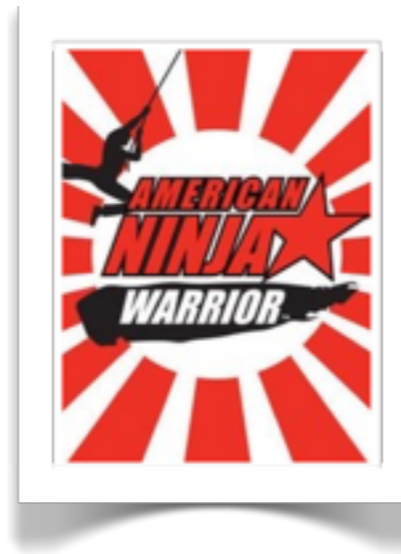
## American Ninja Warrior Elective

RHETT BOWER

The morning of Tuesday, October 11th the 3rd-5th grade students at Chesterbrook Academy Elementary School started school electives. Electives are 40 minute classes that allow students to participate in one of four classes of your choice. The 4 choices this year include, American Ninja Warriors, Digital Photography, Lego Robotics, and Sculpture. This is the second year electives have been offered to students.

Since students have a new PE teacher, Mr. Eric Bottmeyer, the previous elective called Boot Camp was changed and revamped and called Ninja Warriors. His goal was to model the television show American Ninja Warrior! This elective is held in the Gym from 8:40 to 9:20 and lead by Mr. Bottmeyer. According to Mr. Bottmeyer, the goal of Ninja Warriors is to have students work together to get through every obstacle in a fast time period. A few obstacles students try are the wall jump, the Toobeez tunnel, the rock wall climb, and the rope pull. For example the Toobeez tunnel is a tunnel made out of blocks called too-beez. The object is to find a way to crawl through the tunnel as fast as you can.

When students come to the elective everyone goes through the obstacle course once, then if students notice something that



their classmates could have done better they give advice on what they could change. Mr.

Mr. Bottmeyer said, “I’ve changed some of the obstacles depending on the success rate of some of the students and I also introduced new obstacles every session to continue to challenge the students.”

Mr. Bottmeyer also stated, “That the reason I thought the students would want to choose to do this elective is because I think students watch this show and these students see these athletes jumping and running through challenging obstacles.

“The goal of Ninja Warriors is to have students work together to get through every obstacle in a fast period of time.”

Sometimes they see athletes fall but then they see that the ones who fall never give up.” Liliana Pagano from 3rd grade is in the Ninja Warriors elective and said, “My favorite part of ninja warriors is doing the wall jump and working together as a team. I also think Ninja Warriors is hard but fun at the same time. You learn more things, you get stronger, and you accomplish things that you used to not be able to do.”

As this elective was coming to an end the students were learning tricks and short cuts to master the course in the fastest time they could get. Students had fun at this elective and learned more on never giving up, they got stronger, and more skilled.

# Treats for Troops

KATIE MINA

The kindergarten classes of Chesterbrook Academy Elementary School collected leftover Halloween candy from November 1st through November 10th 2016 for the charity organization Treats for Troops. The students showed a video on October 26th in the gym at Pride Time to show what Treats for Troops is. Treats for Troops is an organization that collects donated candy to send to the troops deployed and stationed around the world. Kindergarten had boxes outside of each classroom door so when you had your candy ready to donate, you could go and drop it off in the box. On November 10th they collected all the boxes and packaged them up.

The kindergarten classes have been collecting for Treats for Troops for the past 6 years. Each year they have been extremely successful and collected hundreds of pounds of candy for donation. Mrs. Trout said “We do treats for troops to support the troops and to show them that we care about them



and want to thank them for their service. The kids have a lot of fun. They run the whole project. They collect the candy they create posters for the project, and they sort the candy, Non-chocolate and chocolate. They have a ton of fun.” When interviewed students and teachers expressed shock when asked if they knew how much candy was collected. Will McLean 5th grade student said, “I definitely did not. I did not expect us to collect this much candy! It was a huge surprise!” Mrs. MacMe-namin, the art teacher, said “It was a huge turnout. I was amazed at just how much candy we collected. I was happy to see the bins filled with candy outside the classrooms.”

CBA is very proud of kindergarten. The kindergarten students collected 340 POUNDS of candy! The students all showed their pride by clapping and cheering when they announced how much candy was collected. Mr. Rodia made a little speech after they announced the total candy count. He said “Great job kindergarten! That candy will probably make a troops day!” The kindergarteners worked super hard to collect and ship the candy to the troops. Chesterbrook can’t wait to see how much candy they can collect next year! Congratulations kindergarten classes of CBA!



# Halloween Parade

WILLIAM MCLEAN AND TWISHA DUDGUNDI

On Friday October 28, Chesterbrook Academy students and staff attended the Halloween parade and party at their school. This is a fun event for kids to dress up as who they are for Halloween.

Students walked through the parking lot and around the blacktop showing off their costumes. There was also a dance party and stations that kids could participate in. At the dance party there was a D.J named D.J Joe. 3rd grader Anabella Vitelli was asked what she liked most about the Halloween parade, and she said “I liked about the dance party that you can win prizes.”



Some of the songs at the Halloween dance party were “The Monster Mash”, “The Whip and the Nae Nae”, and “Can’t Stop the Feeling”.

At the fortune teller station students put their hands on a ball then the fortune teller would look into the other side of the ball and see their future. After that they would wave their hand above rocks and feel which one brings the most power to their hand. Under the rock, there is a fortune.

In pumpkin chunkin students pick a pumpkin and put it in a sling shot, then hope to fling it forward. The pumpkins this year were larger than normal, so every time students tried to fling them, they flew backwards instead. 5th grader, Katie Mina said “I liked Pumpkin Chunkin because none of the pumpkins would fly, so you would fling them backwards instead of forward.”

At the Halloween picture station kids would stand in front of a green screen with their class and get pictures taken. After that the photos were edited to make a spooky background.



In corn hole there were 2 teams that tried to toss a bean bag into the hole on the boards.

Another popular station was the mystery touch station. At the mystery touch station students stuck their hands in a box with a mystery item in it that they couldn't see. Some of the mystery items were a hand (a plastic hand), ring pops, eyeballs (slimy Orbeez), and even brains (wet spaghetti). Odiase from 2nd grade was asked what his favorite part about the stations was and he said, "The mystery touch because we did not know what was inside, and the last one was candy."

**“We did not know what was inside, and the last one was candy!”**

At the end of the party there was a mummy wrapping competition. Every class gets rolls of toilet paper to wrap around their teacher, the teacher with the most toilet paper wrapped around

them at the end of the competition wins. The fourth grade teacher Mr. Leibowitz won the competition.

The day ended with the best costume competition. Every teacher comes to school dressed up in a costume; every student goes to a station to vote for their favorite costume. At the costume voting station kids got to vote for their favorite teacher costume, students also got a snack and a drink. At the end, the teacher with the most votes is announced. The 2nd grade classroom's aid Ms. Robyn won the competition in her Little Red Riding Hood costume. Ms. Robyn will be the reigning champion until next year's party.

Students at C.B.A. had a great time at both the Halloween parade and party. Next year the Halloween parade is surely going to go very well, kids will definitely have a great time!



# The Election

HOPE KNOEBEL

On Thursday October 20 the Chesterbrook Academy 4th grade held a class election. They elected students to positions such as vice president, secret service, treasurer, campaign manager and class president. The 4th grade class had been learning about United States Government and the positions elected and decided to hold their own classroom election

Mr. Leibowitz, the fourth grade teacher, spent 3 weeks teaching students about government and how different positions work together and how important they are to make government work. Students researched the position they were running for to better understand the job they were hoping to win. For example, students researched what a campaign manager does and learned that they have to keep a schedule and control the budget of the campaign.

“I was hoping my students learned about the importance of elections and about some of the important things candidates have to think about.”

One of the people running for class president is Allison Werner. Allison had to give a speech and she had to research about campaigning and the history behind our country. Allison had to choose a campaign manager to help her with the election process. Hope Knoebel was chosen and she quickly got to work. Allison had to go out and convince the students that she was going to be the best president. Allison had a slogan and she would always write "Vote 4 Allison" she would always make sure that it is the number 4 on the posters and flyers. Michael Ryerson ran

## MOVIE 1.2



Click on the image to view an interview with Mr. Leibowitz, 4th grade teacher at CBA





for Treasurer. To be Treasurer you have to keep all the money for the school safe. He also manages all of Chesterbrook's taxes. To run for Treasurer he had to support Allison, and convince the

rest of the school that he was the best one for the job. Michael created a flyer that he handed out to each of his classmates. Alexis, Twisha, and Justin ran for Secret Service. The Secret Service protects the President by standing near by and making sure Allison doesn't get hurt. Alison chose them because she trusted them to have her back.

“Running against someone is hard, especially someone that is interesting.”

Allison the newly elected President, was interviewed and asked three questions. When asked if she felt comfortable in her new job she said "I did, the fact that I had people in my campaign that I trusted was good." When asked

what she learned from the position she said " Running against someone is hard especially someone that is interesting." When asked if she had fun she said "I did!" In the end this election was fun, some parts were challenging but the students learned a lot.

