

# Home of the Braves

Miscoe Hill Middle School

Fall 2015 | Vol. 1, Issue 1

## Home of the Braves

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### Want to be part of our staff?

An email will be sent with information about our next issue after the first of the Year.

*Be on the lookout!*

## Extra, Extra! Read All About It!



*The Home of the Braves fall newspaper staff is made up of 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders. The students chose to work as either a writer, editor, designer or photographer.*

I see that you have stumbled upon the first edition of the *Home of the Braves* newspaper. This is the first time Miscoe Hill has had a newspaper club. This is where a group of fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth graders write about what is going on or coming up in our school. Each student has a job, either a writer, designer, or photographer. The eighth graders in the club work as the editors of the paper. All of the students have worked long and hard on each of their jobs. We would like to give a special thanks to Mrs. Meyer for her support of the newspaper and to the local Cultural Councils for their financial support. For our next issue starting in January, we would love for more students to join if you are interested. Enjoy the *Home of the Braves*!

## Into The Library

### By: Luke Venable

A library holds many wonders. Ms. Arnold, our new librarian, has recently bought a large assortment of new books. There are both fiction and nonfiction, monsters and fairies. She bought books such as "The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel" and "Robin

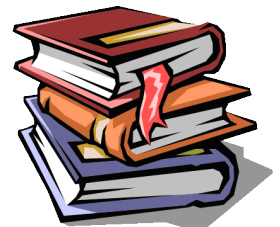
Hood." These stories have monsters and magic.

But not all books have dragons and warlocks and witches. There is also poetry, history, biography, and autobiography books. You can learn about the heroes of history or the most horrid villains. You could learn about

George Washington or Niccolo Machiavelli.

In a library, you can find books on anything. You can find books set in the past or in the future. I have grown up reading and I know how much books can teach you. The library can help you with homework or you could just go to read a good

book. So go to the library. It's a great place to learn and have fun.



# Nature's Classroom — She Says, He Says

## By: Madison Orff

In October of 2015 a group of fifth graders drove down on a big yellow bus to Charlton, Massachusetts to attend Nature's Classroom. Here is the opinion of me, Madison Orff:

### Food

The food at Nature's Classroom was amazing. When we first got there we had chicken patties with potato chips. Dinner that night was an awesome take on lasagna, it was called stuffed shells. They had this thing called waitrons. They are technically waiters for your table. Breakfast on Tuesday was eggs and sausages. Lunch that day was tacos and dinner that night was chicken breast. On the last day we had brunch; there were waffles, bacon and a cereal bar.

## By Luke Venable

It was Wednesday at lunch time and the fifth grade had just rushed off the buses. We thundered up into the dorms and started unpacking until we were halted by the Nature's Classroom staff calling us to lunch.

### Food

We went to lunch where we had sandwiches with soup and salad. At dinner we had stuffed shells. They had a system where you had to drink two cups of water before you had milk or juice. After dinner we had dessert. The rest of the meals were a lot like that. We had tacos and chicken patties and other things.

### Fieldgroup

Everyday we had fieldgroup. On the first day, my fieldgroup chose activities. That night we went to the science fair. At the science fair we did a lot of cool things.

On the second day, my fieldgroup went to the blowouts. The blowouts is a field filled with trees that had been ripped up from the ground by a tornado. That night

### Activities

There were many fun activities at Nature's Classroom. We dissected a pig, a rat and a snake. I dissected the snake, I thought it was pretty cool. There was also an activity where you could make your own goo. I didn't take this, but people have told me it was fun. There was an electronic dissection and a biomes class.

### Field groups

The field groups were very entertaining. At one point we went on a night hike and did a bunch of awesome experiments. For example, we made light with two crystals, we made sparks with mints, we made a tiny flame thrower. Carly (my group leader) took a flash photo of herself and when we closed our eyes we could see the face that she made.

Overall, I would say that Nature's Classroom was probably the best experience I have ever had.



*A group of students at Nature's Classroom.*

we had the Night Hike with our fieldgroups. We found a deer trail in the woods. As we followed it we heard another deer. One of us scared it away. We followed the deer trail to a path. My fieldgroup leader stuck his hand in dung to decide how recent the trail was.

On the last day we went down to a lake. A tree had fallen in the water so we walked across it to get a better view of the lake. Some of us climbed up the roots of the tree. I really liked fieldgroup.

### Activities

Everyday we had activities. On the first day I got a goo making class. We mixed an assortment of materials to make the goo. It was a struggle to make it a good consistency.

On the second day I got the micro hike and the atle throwing as my activities. In the micro hike we made tiny little hikes for ants. After we talked about what happened on the forest floor and how changing things could have a disastrous effect.

At atle throwing we threw atles, a long spear like weapon. You hook the atle onto a launcher and swung to propel the atle through the air. At the end of class we threw the atles like spears. Nature's Classroom had great activities.



# Miscoe Hill Youth Theater

**By: Sophia Piekarski**

On November 6, I went to see the Miscoe Hill Youth Theater Production of "Charlotte's Web." If I were to give this a score from 1 to 10 I would give this a 10, definitely. Some of the main actors and actresses were Abby Paul (Charlotte), Sydney Vanasse (Wilbur), Miranda dos Santos (Fern), Chet Simpson (Homer Zuckerman), and Darryl Lubin (Lurvy). The directors of the play were, Stacy Appleby, and Dan Rogers. I was very impressed with how this play came out; all of the costumes and props were amazing. I wish they were still performing this play because I would tell anyone who asked me to go to see it. I'm really excited for the coming plays in the future. I hope that this review has inspired you to go and see some or all of the plays from the Miscoe Hill Youth Production in the future.



*The leads Charlotte, Abigail Paul and Wilbur, Sydney Vanasse.*  
Photo by Jenna Meleedy



*The Barnyard Ensemble: Sheep, Paige Allcot; Lamb, Cicely Dunster; Goose, Annalise Curl; Gander, Elijah Crosby; Rooster, Jacob Collard, Goslings, Emma Offord, Chloe Terrell, Gabby Murray, Danielle Jolie, Natalie Kurze, Alexis Lavigne and Cecelia Van Norman; Horses, Jessica Gibbs and Elizabeth Pontzer; Owl/Uncle, Gunner Witham; Chicken, Alison Beaupre; Mouse, Erin Toomey; Goat, Kendall Willis.*  
*Missing from photo: Goat, Felype Limas.*  
Photo by Jenna Meleedy.



## MONEY FOR MISCOE

### Miscoe Hill PTO Annual Giving Campaign

A no-sell fundraiser where 100% of your donation goes to support the PTO and the programs it runs for the students and teachers at Miscoe Hill.

Each and every gift makes a difference! Please fill out the attached form and send the form and payment back to school in an envelope marked: PTO Money for Miscoe, 148 North Ave., Mendon MA 01756. Make check out to Miscoe Hill PTO. All donations are tax deductible.

### Money for Miscoe Donation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Child(ren) at school (list name, grade, and homeroom)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ HmRm \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ HmRm \_\_\_\_\_

# Sports

## Cross Country

**By: Katelyn Cote**

This year's cross country team was one of the best seasons of the sport and was really fun. I asked Mrs. Pike, the coach, some questions and I thought you would like to hear the answers.

**Q.** Do you think the team had a great season?

**A.** Mrs. Pike said that it was an excellent season.

**Q.** Did the boys or the girls have more wins?

**A.** She said that the boys did but the girls had a lot of wins.

**Q.** Did you have fun working with the kids?

She answered "yes, they were really nice and had good sportsmanship".

**Q.** What was the best meet and where?

**A.** Mrs. Pike said it was the meet in Hartnett Invitational.

**Q.** What was the most nail biting meet?

**A.** She answered, "it was the same meet" and Miscoe won 1st and 2nd place.



*The Miscoe Hill Cross Country Team. Photo by Mrs. Pike*

**Q.** What was your final record for the year?

**A.** Mrs. Pike answered 8 and 0 for the boys and 5 and 3 for the girls.

**Q.** Are you excited for the next season?

**A.** Mrs. Pike said that she was very excited for the team, the team girls are getting stronger but they will be losing a lot of 8th grade boys next year.

## Patriots Quiz How well do YOU know the New England Patriots?

**By: Kara Johnson**

**1. Who weighs the most on the Patriots?**

- a. Patrick Chung
- b. Marcus Cannon
- c. Nate Soldier
- d. Bryan Stork

**2. How many times have the Patriots made it to the Super Bowl?**

- a. 8
- b. 4
- c. 6
- d. 5

**3. When did the Patriots start playing in the NFL?**

- a. July 30, 1960
- b. August 6, 1960
- c. July 30, 1988
- d. August 3, 1966

**4. Who was the Patriots first quarterback?**

- a. Tom Brady
- b. Drew Bledsoe
- c. Babe Parilli
- d. Steve Grogan

**5. When did the Boston Patriots become the New England Patriots?**

- a. April 1971
- b. March 1971
- c. May 1974
- d. April 1969

**6. Up until the end of October, how many touchdown passes has Tom Brady thrown throughout his whole career?**

- a. 400
- b. 404
- c. 408
- d. 410

## App Review

**By: Ben Hardcastle**

Do you like football?

Then maybe Madden Mobile is the thing for you.

Last year when I was in 6th grade, you couldn't go anywhere without being

asked what your team's average "overall" is.

The goal of Madden is to try and build the best team with the best players from around the league. Yes, that means you can have Aaron Rodgers passing to Gronk and Richard Sherman playing for the Pats.

Now let's get into the game itself. When you open the app for the first time it asks you to link an account (Facebook, Game Center and Google+) or if you don't want to do that you can just play as a guest. There are main sections like season mode, auction house, head to head, leagues/league tournament.





## Music Teacher Interviews

By: Kara Johnson

# Music Program at Miscoe



**Mr. Ferrari (Choir)**

**Q.** What is the most successful song you've been working on and what grade?

**A.** Hmm, I can't say there's one particular song that any grade is doing better than any other, so I'll name one for each grade. 5th grade Firefly, 6th grade Lightning!, 7th grade Elijah Rock!, 8th grade September, and Accapella Drag Me Down.

**Q.** Why did you bring accapella to our school?

**A.** Ok, that's a good question, umm, ok so, I guess I have a couple reasons. 1. Pretty popular style, like, it's in Pitch Perfect and on YouTube. 2. It's one of the most challenging types of a chorus, but middle school kids are totally able to do it.

**Q.** What is your favorite song you've ever taught to students?

**A.** Hmm, I will say, let's see, I will say, when we did counting stars with the class of 2019.

**Q.** Will there be any accapella concerts throughout the year?

**A.** There will, so, we are going to do an in school performance before winter break, so we have an accapella festival in February, we also have another concert in March and

then in May we have our pops concert.

**Q.** How did you meet Mr LaPete before you started working here?

**A.** So, Mr. LaPete and I, so we met in college (UMass Amherst) and we were both in the marching band and we also took some classes together when we were studying to become music teachers.



**Mrs. Amitrano (Music and 5th & 6th grade band teacher)**

**Q.** To you, what is music all about?

**A.** Umm, I think music is a place to learn a lot and to

have fun. It's a place to get together with all kinds of people, meet new friends, and you can play any type of music you could ever imagine.

**Q.** What is the most favored instrument in band?

**A.** Well, it's different for each grade, for 5th grade alto saxophone and 6th grade, probably the flute.

**Q.** When did you start working at Miscoe?

**A.** I started working at Miscoe in 2006.

**Q.** What is your favorite instrument?

**A.** Well I play the flute, but if I could play any other, I would play the euphonium.

**Q.** What is your favorite type of music?

**A.** I like almost all types of music. I like to play classical, different band songs, and pop music because it's fun.



**Mr LaPete (Jazz and 7th & 8th Grade Band Teacher)**

**Q.** Why did you become interested in becoming a jazz teacher?

**A.** Umm, I have wanted to be a band

director since 6th grade and I have always loved music.

**Q.** Based on your classes, what is the difference between jazz and band?

**A.** Well, the style of playing is different in jazz, rhythmically and harmonically

and the concert band is much bigger and is during the school day and jazz band is before school.

**Q.** What is the most favored instrument in band?

**A.** Saxophone is usually the most played.

**Q.** What is your favorite instrument?

**A.** My favorite instrument is the trombone because it's the one I chose in 4th grade.

**Q.** Do you have to try out for the Miscoe band?

**A.** You don't have to try out for the band, but for the jazz band you have to try out to determine which jazz band you are in. (There are two jazz bands.)

## A Capella Rehearsal at Miscoe



# Miscoe Misc.

## HOLIDAY RECIPE

### Pumpkin Pie

By: Katelyn Cote

If you don't know how to make pumpkin pie, you can follow this recipe. You should do this recipe because it's easy and it tastes great.

These are the ingredients you will need

3/4 cup of sugar

1 teaspoon of ground cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon of salt

1/2 teaspoon of ground ginger

1/4 teaspoon of ground cloves

2 large eggs

1 can (15 oz.) LIBBYS 100% pure pumpkin

1 can (15 oz.) NESTLE CARNATION evaporated milk

1 unbaked 9-inched ( 4- cup volume) Deep dish Pie shell

Whipped cream

MIX sugar, cinnamon, salt, ginger, and the ground cloves into a small bowl. Beat eggs in a large bowl. Stir. Add pumpkin and the sugars and spices gradually. Stir in evaporated milk.

POUR the filling into pie shell.

BAKE:

Preheat oven 425°F. Put pie in for 15 min. Then reduce heat to 350°F. Then put it in for 40 to 50 minutes until knife inserted comes out clean. Cool on wire rack for two hours. Serve immediately or refrigerate it. Top the pie with whipped cream.

There may be a lot of steps but that's what makes a delicious pumpkin pie.

## The Miscoe Hill Greenhouse

By: Zachary Condon

An interview with Mrs. Grant.

**Q:** What plants will be in it?

**A:** "The kids who participate in the beautification program get to pick which plants go into the greenhouse. I am hoping to have lots of support from teachers who have knowledge of maintaining a greenhouse."

**Q:** What will it be used for?

**A:** "The greenhouse will be used to grow herbs, vegetables and fruit that students and teachers may use."

**Q:** When do you think it will be done?

**A:** "I am not sure when it will be done, definitely by spring. Since the ground has so many dips in it we now have to find someone to find someone to build a cement foundation for it."

**Q:** When was it started?

**A:** "It was decided in September that Rachel's Challenge would take on that area in the center of the school to beautify it and add some raised beds for the



Spring."

**Q:** Is there any other teachers helping?

**A:** "Yes, Ms. Tinio, Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Appleby and Mrs. Raposa have all been helping me."

**Q:** Is it going to be a class, if so who will teach it?

**A:** "It is not necessarily going to be a class. It is a project taken on by Rachel's Challenge but I am hoping teachers will take the opportunity to use it as a teaching environment and help maintain the greenhouse."

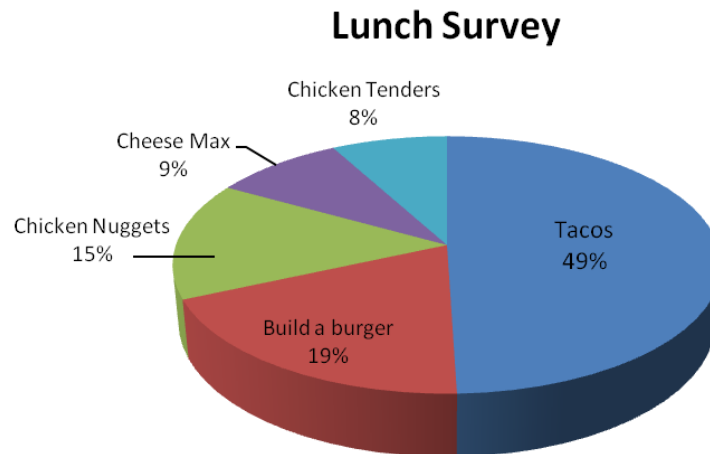


# Miscoe Misc.

## LUNCH SURVEY

**By: Jack Watchmaker**

Do you want to know about cool cafeteria cooking? Then read this! We surveyed 25 kids from each grade on what their favorite lunch was out of Build a Burger, Tacos, Chicken Tenders, Cheese Max or Chicken Nuggets.



## ART CONTEST



**By: Jack Watchmaker**

Hey kids in 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. Are you good at art? Do you want people to see your drawings in

THIS newspaper!? Then enter our contest! Submit your drawing by Wednesday, February 10 to Ms. Arnold in the library. All drawings will be on display in the library and one lucky winner will get their artwork printed in the next issue of the *Home of the Braves!* You may draw whatever you like, but it must be on an 8 1/2 by 11 inch piece of paper. It has to be a pencil drawing. Email [karnald@mursd.org](mailto:karnald@mursd.org) with questions. Good luck and happy drawing!

## Winter Concerts!

Let it show! Let it show! Let it show!

### Winter Concert Dates:

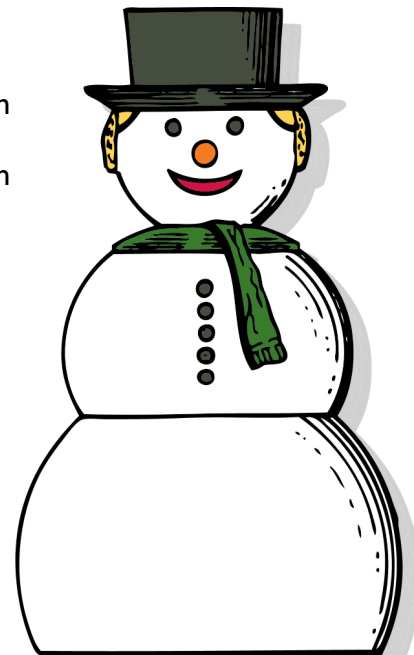
7th Grade— December 16th

8th Grade— December 17th

5th Grade— January 19th

6th Grade— January 20th

All concerts take place  
In the **lower gym.**



## Poetry Corner

### Stars Taking Flight

By Jenna Meleedy

They streak through the sky,  
leaving a trail of light

Stars taking flight

They dance past the planets, a  
flame of blazing light

Stars taking flight

They weave their way to the  
heavens, all through the night

Stars taking flight



## Walk for Giving Tree

By Ann Meyer

Principal  
Miscoe Hill School

Thanks to the 8th grade team and students for the First Annual Walk for the Giving Tree. The 8th grade wanted to raise at least \$200 for the Giving Tree but exceeded their expectations and raised \$1,800. What a great job motivating the students to do something good for those in need. I am so proud of the 8th grade staff and students. This is the first year of a great tradition.



Photo by Emma Cote

It was so nice of Jan Gallagher, principal of Clough, to invite us into her school when we reached Clough. She had all the students out in front of their home-rooms waving, high-

fiving and wishing us Happy Thanksgiving as we walked the hallways. I think both the Clough and Miscoe Hill students benefited greatly from this wonderful day!

## Home of The Braves

Check out Home of  
The Braves on the  
Miscoe Hill website!

Got a question about school?

ASK THE EDITORS!!

Submit your question in the  
box at the front office to be  
answered in the next issue!

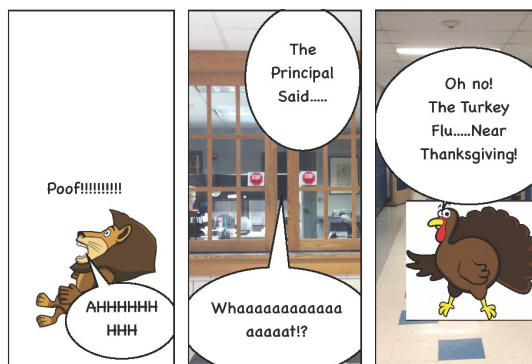
Special thanks to the Upton and  
Mendon Cultural Councils and  
to Microprint in  
Waltham.



Questions or comments?  
Contact us!  
[karnold@mursd.org](mailto:karnold@mursd.org)

## Comic Corner

By Cameron Hagan and Zach Condon  
using Comic Maker HD app.



## Teacher Contest



Who is this teacher?

Hint: This teacher likes to wear  
Chuck Taylors on Fridays.

Tune in to the next issue of Home  
of the Braves to find out who this  
mystery person is!

Answers from Patriots Quiz  
on page 4

1 b  
2 a  
3 a  
4 c  
5 b  
6 c